

Newsletter November 2020

Thank you to our governors

Thank you for the applications made for our parent governor vacancies. Our new parent governors are Felicity Jackson and Natasha Durbin. We look forward to welcoming them both at our next full governing meeting and hearing about the experiences and skills our parents can offer. Our governor meetings are presently taking place using zoom ensuring the safety of all governors. Many of our governors do feel confident to meet with staff in school for monitoring reasons. Staff are very grateful for the support provided by our Chair and governors whether virtually or in person this term.

Change in the weather

Remember to send your child in warmer items of clothing. NAMED waterproof coats and shoes are definitely needed for the playground.

After school

Thank you for keeping a safe distance where you can and for wearing face masks on the premises. This is very much appreciated by staff and other parents. Please can you keep your children with you when waiting for classes to come out, please keep younger siblings with you at all times. Once you have collected your children, again keep them with you, reducing the risk of contamination. During the day areas of the playground are zoned to support safe play of year group bubbles. This includes all play equipment and climbing equipment. We appreciate that you have so many challenges during this pandemic time but we do need your support with our concern of so many free wandering children!

Children in Need

Hooray! Pudsey Bear is coming to visit us here at East-the-Water School on Wednesday 11th, Thursday 12th and Friday 13th November. If you intend to wear something with Pudsey on or wearing spotty clothes you will need to give Pudsey a donation of at least 50p. Have your coins ready to pop into Pudsey's bucket. You can meet Pudsey inside the Alverdiscott Road gate where he will meet early years and KS1 children each morning. Pudsey will meet KS2 outside the Mines Road gate each afternoon. If you are not wearing spotty clothes or Pudsey merchandise, please note that this is not a dressing up or non- uniform day. We are taking an opportunity to raise funds for Children In Need.

Unauthorised holidays and holidays outside UK

While the vast majority of families are considering holidays local around the adjoining regions of the South West, we are aware that some families continue to plan their holidays abroad. Please reconsider leaving the UK for holidays at this present time. Staff, parents and governors are working incredibly hard each school day to ensure that all our children are safe. This is a challenge for all of us. Keeping safe at this present time is very much about keeping local. Please do not put the health of staff, parents and pupils at risk.

Book Amnesty

Thank you to those of you who have returned reading books from home, please continue to bring them back to school.

Forehead temperature monitors

Free forehead temperature monitors will be sent out to all reception and Year 3 pupils, you may want to have a look in your child's book bag from Monday 9th onwards. These are not accurate but give a confident and immediate guide to body temperature, helping you to make an informed decision whether your child has a worryingly high temperature or not. Before taking your child's temperature remember take off any additional layers of clothing as they may just be too hot. Sit your child down, slip off their socks and shoes and give them a glass of water. This enables overheating not to be confused with a high temperature. Normal temperature is between 36 to 37.2 degrees.

Parent Consultations by telephone

We have already updated parents in KS1 about their child's progress providing an opportunity to talk with their new teacher. We hope that this has provided you with the opportunity to discuss your child's needs and gain more understanding of their next steps in learning. If your child's year group hasn't taken place yet- watch out for the year group parent mail notifying you of dates.

Year 6 pupils

Please ensure you have made a secondary school application for your child. The closing date is this term. Details were sent by parent mail to year 6 parents week 20th October.

Safety on the road

We continue to monitor safety at the end of the school day. Thank you to those walking every day to school. You are doing a great job reducing the traffic on our roads. However we do need to make sure that families walking to school are safe on the pavements and crossing roads. We are trying once again to raise awareness with the Council and Highways.

There are a number of reasons why we experience a traffic problem;

- Alverdiscott Road is quite narrow and doesn't allow space for parked cars and two way traffic. Inevitably cars are pushed onto the pavement
- Parents continuing to park cars in the restricted area opposite the school gates
- There is no patrol officer of Gammon Road to ensure a safe crossing for children
- There is a pooling of water on rainy days outside the BT box, pushing pedestrians onto the road
- Non-school heavy plant traffic and trucks travelling from both industrial sites located at each end of Alverdiscott Road
- Parents continuing to double parking or park on the zigzags in Mines Road

Option 1 Highways

It's very easy to log a highways complaint on line.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

Option 2 Police

In a non-emergency, you can report crime to Devon and Cornwall Police via 101, webchat or on the [online crime reporting form](#) – more information at devon-cornwall.police.uk

School Council Members

School Council have been meeting in year groups to consider the following concerns which have been raised whilst remaining under COVID guidance. Can we have a Christmas lunch? Can we collect for the Food Bank? Are we celebrating fund raising events such as Children In Need and Red Nose Day? The members have already discussed some good ideas.

Reporting a COVID related self-isolation absence

Please contact us for advice prior to reporting your child's absence as 'self- isolation'. If you suspect your child is displaying symptoms of COVID you must contact the school office immediately and remain at home until your child is tested. Your child can only return to school once we have received a copy of your confirmation, negative or positive. Children who remain off without contacting the school or having a test will be marked as unauthorised.

Email, mobile phone and address

Please ensure we have your most up to date emergency contact. All information will be sent to you by text or email during this year.

Dates for your calendar

Parent consultations

Consultations this year are taking place by telephone due to COVID restrictions. Thank you to all parents who have taken part so far. The following consultation have still to take place during the school day;

Mulberry Class Mrs Huggons Monday 16th November

Hawthorn Class Ms Baker Tuesday 17th November

Maple Class Ms Mower Thursday 19th November

Walnut Class Mrs Jackson Tuesday 24th November

Willow Class Ms Hurrell Wednesday 25th November

Viburnum Class Thursday 26th November

Unauthorised Holidays

Please remember that requests for holidays without exceptional circumstances will not be authorised. The school calendar for 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 can be printed off the school website.

2020

Christmas break Mon 21st December –Fri 1st January 2021

2021

Spring term begins Mon 4th January 2021

The school is closed for INSET on Fri 12th February

Spring half term break 15th -19th February

Bank Holiday - Fri 2nd April

Easter Break Mon 5th – Fri 16th April

Bank Holiday - Mon 3rd May

Summer half term break Thurs 27th May- Fri 4th June

The school is closed for INSET on Thurs 27th and Fri 28th May

Summer break begins Mon 26th July

Autumn term begins Wed 8th September 2021

Autumn half term break Mon 25th – Fri 29th October

Christmas break Mon 20th December – Mon 3rd January

2022

Bank Holiday Mon 3rd January 2022

Spring term begins Tues 4th January 2022

Spring half term break Thurs 18th -25th Feb

The school is closed for INSET on Thurs 18th February

Easter break Mon 11th - 22nd April

Summer term begins Mon 25th April

Bank Holiday Mon 2nd May

Bank holiday Mon 30th May

Summer half term break Tues 31st May –Tues 7th Jun

The school is closed for INSET on Mon 6th June and Tues 7th June

Summer break begins Wed 27th July