

## **February 2021 Newsletter**

### **Thank you for being kind!**

Firstly I hope this finds our families safe and well in a worrying time.

Staff have received so many compliments and kind words supporting their hard work from all of you. There have been so many supportive comments said about staff and the school posted on Facebook which has been wonderful. This feedback has kept us all going through this very hard time.

To the parents of children attending school, thank you for the key work you do in our community and for ensuring your children arrive ready for the school day. For those of you supporting children at home each day, we know lockdown is incredibly challenging for you in so many ways, not just home learning - you are doing an amazing job! Mrs Smith has prepared a letter with interesting links which I know that you will find very useful. The links provide many different ways to support you and your child's well-being.

### **Congratulations to Mr Buckeridge**

Hooray! I think we are all relieved and delighted that Mr Buckeridge is to be the new Headteacher of East-the-Water Primary in September. I think everyone will agree that the governors have made an excellent choice.

### **World Book Day**

On Thursday 4th March, it is World Book Day and we invite all children, both in school and at home, to dress up as their favourite character from a book. There will be lots of opportunity both in school and online for children to have book related fun throughout the day. Sharing stories together for just ten minutes a day will encourage a love of reading and its fun for everyone. You can read together anywhere and everywhere, from breakfast to bedtime! All children will also receive a £1 book token on this day. If you are dressing up at home remember to send a photograph to your teacher so we can see how amazing you look!

### **Additional learning opportunities after school**

Many of you will receive information regarding additional learning opportunities for your child. This learning will take place after the school day from 3pm-3.30pm, Mondays - Thursdays. We will presume that your child is participating and ready to attend daily unless you contact the school and discuss the reason with the class teacher. This is an excellent opportunity and will be of enormous benefit to your child's development.

### **Wearing black school shoes and school uniform**

The school uniform expectation has not changed. If your child arrives to school wearing footwear which are not black school shoes, your child will be asked to change into their plimsolls or be given footwear to wear during the school day. If there is a 'footwear' emergency in your household, you need to call Mrs Higley or Mr Buckeridge to explain your situation.

### **Half term holiday and INSET closure**

Please remember that the school will be closed on **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February for INSET**. The school will remain closed for half term. Children attending school will return on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

### **Tissues**

Please, please, please send your child into school with a box of tissues. We are going through many boxes but with a good reason. The more boxes we have, the more confident we are that our children are as infection free as possible.

### **Food Vouchers**

If your child is entitled to free school meals and is sent home to isolate, or is at home learning online during lockdown or is at home during half term then you will be automatically sent a food voucher. We will organise this for you as long as we have your most up to date email and telephone number.

If you are entitled to free school meals, please redeem your voucher. If it is not redeemed we cannot make a claim which will be an unexpected cost to the school.

An enormous thank you to Mrs Wilson for making this happen. This has been a mammoth and unexpected administration job which has involved three different systems, different companies, the local authority and the government! Well done Mrs Wilson- you need a medal.

### **Google Classroom**

Well done to everyone who has managed this - we are learning everyday how to further improve this. We have been very impressed by how creative some children are at home for example building boats, making volcanoes, making crowns, singing, song writing and of course the amazing cakes from Year 6! Well done everyone.

### **Reception Intake September 2021**

Please ensure you have made a school application for your child if joining the reception class in September. Even if your child attends our Little Skippers nursery, you still need to apply. The closing date has now passed. If you have forgotten, please contact the education helpline as soon as possible;

0345 155 1019 [www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline](http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline)

### **Healthy Start Vouchers**

If you're pregnant or have a child under 4, you could get Healthy Start vouchers to help buy some basic foods. This important means-tested scheme provides vouchers to spend with local retailers. Pregnant women and children over 1 and under 4 can get one £3.10 voucher per week. Children under 1 can get two £3.10 vouchers (£6.20) per week. <https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/healthy-start-vouchers/how-to-apply/>

The vouchers can be spent on:

- Plain cow's milk – whole, semi-skimmed or skimmed.
- Fresh, frozen and tinned fruit and vegetables including loose, pre-packed, whole, sliced, chopped or mixed fruit or vegetables, fruit in fruit juice, or fruit or vegetables in water, but not those to which fat, salt, sugar or flavouring have been added
- Fresh, dried and tinned pulses, including but not limited to lentils, beans, peas and chickpeas but not those to which fat, salt, sugar or flavouring have been added
- Infant formula milk that says it can be used from birth and is based on cow's milk

### **Key dates for your diary**

Please note that you can print your own school calendar with holiday dates for 2021 and 2022 from our school website.

- **INSET** Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February- school is closed for training day
- **Spring half term** 15<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> February 2021
- **Bank Holiday** - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April
- **Easter Break** Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April -16<sup>th</sup> April
- **Bank Holiday** - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May
- **Summer half term break** 27<sup>th</sup> May- 4<sup>th</sup> June
- **Summer break** begins Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July