



EASEBOURNE C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

18th December, 2020



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
from the staff & pupils of
Easebourne C.E. Primary School



A Word from the Head

This has been a strange year, by anybody's standards! The children have been wonderful and I applaud their resilience and their positive attitude throughout. I would like to thank all of you, our families, for giving your children the support at home that has been crucial in keeping their spirits up and maintaining their attitude to their learning during Lockdown.

I would also like to thank our wonderful volunteers who have continued to come in, where their circumstances have permitted, until they were finally stood down in the most recent risk assessment. Amongst our volunteers are our governors who have continued to work throughout to support the school, shifting most of their meetings to virtual ones, and we are most grateful to them for their continued dedication.



Our volunteers also include the PTFA who have continued to work hard to raise funds for the school, never before needed as badly as in these times of financially dwindling school budgets. Remember to support their Lap-Land Fun Run over the holiday!

Finally, I would like to thank the staff for consistently going over and above to support the children, both pastorally and academically. They have been absolutely tremendous and they have done so much to keep the children going in what has been a very challenging year.

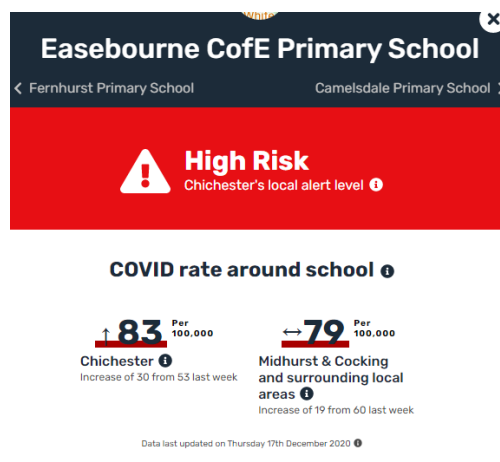
I wish you all a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

COVID

The COVID rate around the school is now judged to be High Risk (see panel). We want all our families to stay safe and healthy and we urge you to be mindful of the recommended practice for Tier 2. For further information about arrangements regarding positive cases, please read the section later in the newsletter.

Recent Awards

Congratulations are due to the Eco-Committee for achieving Eco-Schools Silver Award and to the Rights Respecting Schools Ambassadors for achieving RRS Bronze Award. Both indicate that children at the school are taking responsibility for the world around them and the children involved should be proud of their efforts.



Facemasks

Feedback from a number of parents suggests that people are dropping used facemasks on the ground and I would urge families to be vigilant that any facemasks are disposed of properly.

RATE Parent Survey

We have had some encouraging responses to our RATE Survey, looking for ways in which our parent/carer community might enrich the children's primary school experience through **R**esources to be tapped, **A**ccess opportunities, **T**ime to be given and **E**xpertise to be passed on. The survey link is below when you are ready to take it and I promise that it won't take much of your time. Why not try to get round to it over the Christmas break or make completing it a New Year Resolution?!

Here is the link: <https://forms.gle/p6KUVf6cV8szzkhg9>

Staff News

Today, we said goodbye to Tia Bedford. As you know, Tia is our class teacher in Otters Class but she also leads on Computing and Maths. Most unusually, Tia has worked on the school's behalf in various capacities. Tia was a governor and then Chair of Governors before she became a class teacher in Foxes and more recently in Otters. She has helped the school in its development in recent years and we wish her, and Jessica and Oscar, well as she moves to take up a position as a maths teacher at Seaford College.

We also said goodbye to Nicole Turner. Nicole has worked at Early Days for over 15 years. During that time, she became a key member of the team, working across the nursery. Nicole's passion for the environment led to her training in Forest Schools. She will be greatly missed by Early Days, her former pupils and by her colleagues within the main school.

In January, we will welcome Becci Glanville to the school to take over Otters Class and subject leads of Computing and Maths. Meanwhile, in Early Days, Jessie Morter, a familiar face, will return to assist the team.

Today we also say goodbye to Leon in Foxes Class, who is moving to a school nearer to his new home.

Covid-19 – 6 Day Test and Trace during the Christmas Holidays

The DfE is recommending that all schools make sure that their staff and parents/carers are aware of the following information and relevant arrangements regarding positive cases in the holidays:

- For the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil or staff member **tests positive** for coronavirus (COVID-19), **having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school**, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school. We would ask you to contact **both** Sharon Bennington **and** me by e-mail. Between us, we will check our e-mails and work with the DfE and PHE advisers to identify next steps regarding potential infection at school.
 - office@easebourne.w-sussex.sch.uk
 - head@easebourne.w-sussex.sch.uk
- Where a pupil or staff member **tests positive** for coronavirus (COVID-19), **having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school**, there is no need to contact the school but parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

Public Health England guidance states that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature

- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Please remember to:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards.

Free School Meals and WSCC Community Hub

This week, those families that are eligible for Free School Meals should have received a text and email with details of how to access a voucher for the Christmas holiday period.

Those children and families that are not eligible for FSM will be able to access support for food and essentials via the WSCC Community Hub. The Community Hub can be contacted on 0330 222 7980 and is open 8am-8pm, 7 days a week, and will be operational throughout the Christmas Holiday period.

Clubs

For those of you who have already signed up for clubs next term payment, requests will be sent in the first week of term. As of today, there are not enough children signed up in Years 4, 5 and 6 for these club to break even. We plan to extend the signing-up period to the end of Week 1 in the hope that these clubs can go ahead. If you have not already done so and would like to sign up for your child's club next term, here is the link:

<https://forms.gle/9KF9KiQmZjAp6JgV9>

Christmas Celebrations

Reverse Advent Calendar

Thank you to all who contributed to our reverse advent calendar in support of Stonepillow. We will be taking your very generous donations to them this weekend which I am sure will be much appreciated. Thank you.



Dragonflies

On Tuesday, Dragonflies class dressed up and performed 'A warm and fuzzy Christmas story.'



Sadly, we couldn't have an audience. However, we did film our performance so we can send it to our grown-ups on Tapestry.

We did the actions to 'Grumpy face', 'Away in a manger', 'Twinkle, twinkle, little star' and 'Jingle bells'. We really enjoyed dressing up and performing on the stage and we hope our families enjoy it.

"I was so excited to dress up as a camel" Wilf

"The nativity story was our play" Ted

"It's about Mary and Joseph and the Kings bring the baby a present" Theo

Children of the World – KS1 Nativity

This December, pupils in KS1 have been busy preparing a bubble-friendly Nativity which is now ready to view via a link on Google Classroom.

'Children of the World', a charming Christmas musical, sees Gabriel with his angels as they bring children from all around the world to meet each other at the manger, tell of their customs and offer gifts to the baby Jesus.



"My favourite line of the Nativity is at the beginning when I say, 'Are you ready? Gabriel's calling!'"

Tillie, Year 2

"My favourite part of the Nativity, was performing the dances Mrs Stevens taught us. I also really enjoyed learning my lines by reading the script over and over again at bedtime, instead of having my usual night time story."

Nora, Year 2



"I enjoyed learning to say 'Happy Christmas' in different languages."

Vikish, Year 2



"I like being Polish and doing the twirly dancing on the big stage"

Abbey, Year 1

Thank you to all of our talented performers, including those who really stepped outside of their comfort zones to embrace learning lines, projecting their voice and developing stage presence. The children's hard work and determination really shows and we are incredibly proud of each and every one of them! It took time and commitment from everyone involved and a huge thanks to our supportive parents for all your assistance with costumes, props and learning lines. Thank you to all the staff in school who went the extra mile to help create a Covid-safe performance to remember. A great team effort.

NB. The link to watch this extravaganza will be sent out to the parents of children in Hedgehogs and Squirrels Classes later tonight via Teachers2Parents and next week as a link on Google Classroom. Please be sensitive of the need to keep all of our pupils safe by keeping the link private and avoiding sharing on social media.

Hedgehogs

We broke out of school (after completing all the relevant checks and measures for covid) and went to Wizzbits toy shop! This was an educational visit to post Christmas letters and compare the prices of toys. The children enjoyed their adventure and are looking forward to receiving a reply from Santa.



Christingle



The scent of oranges filled the School on Tuesday as all classes joined Derek for our first ever whole school Christingle service. We were determined not to let Covid get in the way of our celebration of the true meaning of Christmas and arranged for each class to link via Zoom as Derek led us all through the process, pausing as prayers written by children in Key Stage 2 were read out loud. Volunteers from St. Mary's kindly prepared packs of oranges, red tape, cocktail sticks, sweets and glowsticks in advance, which were delivered to the school last week so that everyone could take part.

On Thursday this week, the classes enjoyed a meal with crackers and in the afternoon they continued their festive celebrations, which included party games, dancing, Christmas quizzes and watching a panto.

We ended the week with our House Charity Christmas Jumper Day. The donations collected will start the Houses' fundraising for next term. More details from the House Captains on future fundraising events will follow in the next Newsletter.



Foxes Class

On Wednesday, Foxes Class had a visit from Mr. Prior, who arrived in the uniform of a WW2 British Army Officer. He brought in some replica artefacts and spoke to the children about his family's history and their involvement in WW2. Mr. Prior also talked about Midhurst and knew some very interesting facts about what happened in the area during the war.



Eco School

First of all, I would like to thank all of last year's Eco Committee members for their fantastic efforts. Their hard work and dedication meant the school achieved a Silver Award! Thank you!!

I would like to welcome the new members for this year and congratulate them on their enthusiasm; Committee members in KS2 have already planted over 100 willow plants, with the help of Mr Parr, to replenish the Labyrinth and KS1 have made birdfeeders. Next year, the committee has a lot of plans that will see us achieve the highest award, the Green Flag, including the science/eco fair in March (watch this space!). If any parents would like to be involved in the Eco Committee we would love to hear from you. Have a safe and Eco friendly Christmas!



POPPY APPEAL

Thank you to everybody who supported this year's Poppy Appeal. The school's contribution was a very creditable £318.45.

TIGHT WRITE 41

We had a bumper set of entries for Tight Write #40. Congratulations to Harry (YR), Phoebe, Edward, Lily, Alba, Oscar and Abbey (Y1), Bailey, Mia and Tula (Y3), Mehmet (Y4), Elizabeth, Emilia, Leon, Marcus and Dulcie (Y5) and Arthur (Y6) for their winning entries.

Using no more than

50 WORDS

can you write about this image?
Named entries in to Mr Culley by
Thursday 7th January at the latest.



House Update

	Green	Yellow	Blue	Red
Week 1 and 2 House Points	4	3	2	1
Week 3 House Points	4	3	2	1
Week 4 House Points	3	3	4	1
Week 5 House Points	1	3	4	3
Summer Reading Challenge	3		1	4
Week 6 House Points	2	4	3	2
Week 7 House Points	1	4	4	2
Poetry Competition	21	25	24	20
Week 8 House Points	4	2	4	1
Week 9 House Points	4	2	4	1
Week 10 House Points	1	4	3	2
Week 11 House Points	2	1	3	4
Week 12 House Points	4	3	1	2
Week 13 House Points	2	4	4	1
Week 14 House Points	4	3	3	1
100% Attendance	29	25	24	24
Total	89	89	90	70

EASEBOURNE PTFA NEWS



Thank you for breaking the rules!

It was great to see so many children taking part in *Break the Rules day*. We are delighted to announce that your efforts helped raise £463.64!

Lap-Land Fun Run (19th December – 3rd January)

We are organising a fun run for the kids over Christmas. An information sheet, map and sponsorship form was sent home in your child's book bag this week. This is a great chance to keep the kids busy and out in the fresh air over Christmas, and to raise much-needed money for the school.



How do I raise money?

A sponsorship form will be in your child's book bag, but if you prefer to donate online or wish to email your friends and family a link for sponsorship rather than use a paper form, here's a link to our Just Giving Page

<https://bit.ly/2JX61hD>

Children are encouraged to dress in something festive and email us ONE photo of themselves as proof that they have taken part to pta@easebourne.w-sussex.sch.uk

When we receive your email proof, we'll send you a printable certificate which you can print at home and when they return to school all participants will receive a medal.

Easyfundraising

Thank you to everyone who has supported Easyfundraising. We're pleased to say that in the last 30 days you have helped raise £74.39.

There are still a few more shopping days until Christmas, so keep up the good work and please continue to use Easyfundraising for your online shopping throughout 2021.



Dates for Next Half-Term

Normally, at this time, we would be sending you the diary for next term but have decided to just send dates up to half-term in the hope that we may be able to add some of our usual events soon.

Spring Term 2021 Monday 4 th January Monday 15 th - Friday 19 th February Thursday 1 st April	First Day of Term HALF-TERM Last Day of Term	
JANUARY		
Monday 4 th January	INSET DAY	
Tuesday 5 th January	First Day of Term for Children	
Thursday 7 th January	Forest School starts for Badgers Class	am/pm
Friday 8 th January	Termly Topic Outline sent to Parents (Yrs 1-6)	3.15-4.15
Monday 11 th January	Forest School starts for Rabbits H Class (Group A) Clubs Start (Yrs 1-6)	pm
Tuesday 12 th January	Zoom Meeting - The Term Ahead (Dragonflies)	6.00
Wednesday 20 th January	Book Club (year 6)	3.15-4.15
Friday 29 th January	Debate Club (Year 6)	3.15-4.15
FEBRUARY		
Thursday 11 th February	Last Forest School for Badgers Class	am/pm
Monday 15 th - Friday 19 th February	HALF TERM	



Have a very

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



The children return to school on Tuesday 5th January 2021.