



Euxton Church of England Primary School



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Headteacher: Mr Nick Ward

Friday 3rd September 2021

Dear Parents,

Welcome Back!

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer. Firstly, on behalf of us all, thank you for the good wishes, cards and gifts that were given at the end of last year. Thank you so much. It has been lovely to return to school this week and see everyone after the break. It has also been wonderful for us all to experience some kind of normality. Seeing the children play together and hearing them sing has been a real joy. Hopefully this normality will continue as we progress through the school year.

I have been absolutely delighted with the children this week. They have all settled so well into their new classes and worked really hard, displaying such positive attitudes. Long may it continue! Even though many of the children have the same teachers, they have all told me that the children have come into school making wonderful 'second' impressions!

The newsletter today, as it is the first one of the new school year, is a lengthy one, as it includes a few reminders and important information for all - I hope you find it useful. I have grouped the 'reminders' towards the end of the newsletter.

Please remember to share your thoughts with us over the year. Hopefully our more familiar parents know me well enough to know that I really do want you to feel you can talk to me anytime and I welcome your comments. The same goes for our wonderful staff team. I hope our new families feel the same quickly too. We are all working towards the same thing - the best for our children. This is summed up by our Vision Statement:

In our Christian family, we all SHINE in the light of Jesus.

Strong Christian ethos, built upon Christian values.

Happy memories made in a fun, loving and caring place.

Inspirational teaching and learning, with high expectations for all.

Nurturing environment, safe and secure, where all are valued and success is celebrated.

Everyone working as a team in a school where we are all proud to belong.

I always have high hopes each year, and this year is certainly no different! Let's all SHINE!

Welcome

A very warm welcome to all our new Reception children and their families, who have joined us this week. Welcome to **Aliyah, Sebastian, Matthew, Poppy, Elliott, Harry, Iris, Max, Briony, Katie, Zadie, Charlotte, Anastasia, Daniel, Oscar, Lily, Benjamin, Levi, Jada, Halle, Penelope, Ollie, Daniel, Felicity, Niah, Harrison, Jese, Molly, Joshua and Jack**. Welcome to **Henry** too, who has joined us in Year 3. We are all really looking forward to getting to know you all and hope you enjoy becoming part of our school family. They have all had an amazing start to school life! We also have two new members of staff. **Miss Brookes** has joined the Reception team and **Mrs Mearns** the Year 1 team. I am sure they will both be an asset to our school family.

Covid Contingency Plan

I have already sent out information about Covid, but wanted to explain in another way what this may look like. We all know it is there, and in fact members of our school family are off school at present with Covid. We wish them all well and look forward to seeing them soon. Here are a few scenarios:

- **My child has symptoms...**
Please book a PCR straight away and your child must not come into school. If the result is positive they will need to isolate at home for 10 days. Please contact school and work will be arranged for them to complete if they feel well enough to do so. If the result is negative you can bring them in as soon as they are well enough.
- **Someone at home has Covid...**
Please book your child, along with any other members of the household, for a PCR test as soon as possible. Your child can still come into school, if they are well enough, whilst awaiting the results. Please let us know should this happen, and the results when they come through.
- **Someone in my child's class has tested positive for Covid...**
As soon as I am informed of this I will contact you to request that you book a PCR test for your child that evening. I won't expect you to take them out of school for this. Again, they can come into school the following day whilst you are awaiting the result. Should the result be positive then please let us know as soon as possible and collect your child. I will do this for every child in the class. In a primary school setting, classmates mix groups, share equipment and play with as many children as possible, or at least they should be. Identifying 'specific' close contacts would be impossible. I know you will support and understand this. If your child goes to Breakfast or After School Club and someone tests positive, then we will try and determine who are close contacts, but may request PCR's for all to be on the safe side.
- **Five or more people in my child's class test positive within a 10-day period...**
Should this happen, the rest of the class and staff can come into school, but we will put additional plans in place for extra cleaning and create a 'bubble' for them away from other classes. This will be done in a nice way!
- **There are an increasing number of positive cases in school, over many classes...**
This may lead to further restrictions and procedural changes, in a similar way to how things operated last year.

I hope that all makes sense and helps. Don't worry if not, if you have any questions then please do not hesitate to email me or give me a ring.

Christian Values and Worship

Our Christian Values are Wisdom, Compassion, Humility, Friendship, Peace, Trust, Forgiveness and Hope. We have worship time each day in school:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Rev. Jo	Class Worship	Mr Ward	Songs of Praise with Mrs King	Celebration Worship

On a Friday we have our Celebration Worship, when achievements are celebrated. **We are now able to allow you to be part of this, for the first time in such a long time.** Worship starts at approximately **9:10am**, but you can come into the hall after drop-off. It can last up to 30 minutes. There are a number of reasons you may want to attend: school success; birthdays and out of school achievements. You will be informed if your child has been awarded Superstar or any other school award the week before and invited to attend. We also celebrate birthdays at this special time. All the children who have had their birthday during the week before will be invited up to the front, receive a sticker and we will sing our very special birthday song. The children can also bring up to 3 of their birthday cards to show, if they wish. You are very welcome to join us for this. If your child has achieved something outside school, eg. swimming, football, drama, etc. then our Friday worship is a good time to have this recognised too - they can bring their certificates, medals, trophies in, or they can just have a clap! We look forward to you joining us throughout the year.

Parents Evening

We will be having our Parents Evening on **Monday 4th October, from 3:30-7:00pm**. We are hoping to have this in person, in school, this year but will also be offering a phone call home as an alternative. More details will follow in a separate letter.

Reception and Year 6 Parents

We will be having a special worship **outside**, next **Thursday, 9th September at 9:10am** for our Reception and Y6 parents. Our Reception children will each receive a shiny glass pebble to place in our school Worship Bowl, symbolising the start of their worship journey with us. We will also be presenting our Y6 children with a very special badge, identifying them as being a Y6 pupil in our school and therefore an ultimate role model! I am sure that they will wear these with pride and take their responsibilities seriously. We hope you can join us.

School Council Plea

After talking about the crisis in Afghanistan in worship, School Council would like to do something to help. The charity is 'Care4Calais' and there is a collection point for donations locally and I will arrange this. Please see below, written by our School Council:

Due to the situation in Afghanistan, we would like it if you could help us by donating any food and other items. We will collect these on Wednesday morning before school. There will be two tables on the gate: one for food and the other for non-food. Thank you so much.

Food	Non-Food
High Priority: Dried fruit and nuts (especially dates) UHT milk Sugar Biscuits Cakes Coffee	High Priority: Men's and boy's coats Sleeping bags and blankets Jogging bottoms/jeans (size 26-34 waist) Socks, hats and gloves Hoodies and jumpers New underwear
Also needed: Tinned food Cooking oil Tea Long-life fruit juice Red lentils	Also needed: Toiletries T-shirts Trainers Bin bags Handwash

There is no obligation to donate, and you can bring as much or as little as you feel able to. As always, you are so generous - however, if you were wanting to do something anyway and were looking at how to do so, then this may be a way for you to do so. Some members of the school council will be there with me on Wednesday morning. Thank you.

Swimming

Year 5 will resume their Swimming lessons for one more term, Autumn, starting on **Monday 13th September**, at Tarleton Academy. Year 4 will then be going for their lessons after Christmas, for the Spring and Summer terms.

Premier Sports

We have arranged for a coach from Premier Sports to come into school every **Tuesday** this year, to work with all our children. This specialist coaching will be fantastic, and teachers will be present to further develop too! Rhys (Mr B!) will have timetabled slots with all the classes each week, apart from the class who are going swimming at the time. He will also be doing lunchtime activities with our children and offering an after-school activity too. More details to follow.

PE Days

Your child should now have their PE kit in school, which will be used for one of their PE lessons. For the other one, they will be coming into school in their Sporty Clothes for the day. This is a white t-shirt, blue or black top/bottoms (as plain as possible) and trainers. This worked really well last year. As Premier Sports are in on a Tuesday, we thought it best that **TUESDAY** is the day most classes come into school in their Sporty Clothes. The exception is Year 5, who will have their Sporty Clothes day on a **MONDAY**, as this is when they will be going swimming. Thank you for your support.

Clubs and Activities

These are the confirmed clubs and activities for this term, to commence w/c 20th September, unless otherwise stated. Please email Mrs Parker on l.parker@euxton.lancs.sch.uk if you would like your child to attend any of the clubs. Some will have a number limit so please try and do this as soon as you can. If they are over-subscribed then either a waiting list will be produced or we will look at ways of running the club differently. **Thank you to all the staff for their time in running these extra-curricular activities. All staff-led activities have no charge.** Outdoor clubs will need additional clothing to suit the weather.

Monday	Lunch time: Spanish with El Club Espanol (Rec-Y6) (fee paying, please see below) 13th 3:30-4:30pm: Taekwondo with Eddie Ellison (Y4) starting 6th Sept (fee paying, please contact the office)
Tuesday	Lunchtime: Recorders with Mrs Ash (Y2) 3:30-4:30pm: Hi-5's Netball with Mrs MacDonald and Mrs Ainscough (Y3 and Y4) 3:30-4:30pm: Sports with Premier Sports (Y1 and Y2) (fee paying, more info to follow)
Wednesday	Lunchtime: Art with Miss Lewis (Juniors) Lunchtime: Worship Group with Rev. Jo and Mr Ward (Juniors) - <i>No need to book a place, this will be sorted in school.</i> 3:30-4:30pm: Computing with Jam Coding (Juniors) starting 15th Sept (fee paying, different focus each half-term. This will be offered to infants and juniors at different times. Please book via the link in the flyer sent home)
Thursday	Lunchtime: Mindfulness with Mrs Smith (Y1 and Y2) 3:30-4:15pm: Running with Mr Ward (Rec-Y6) <i>Please note this is until 4:15pm and open to anyone who wants to run/walk round the yard to build up stamina for 30mins - adults too!</i> 3:30-4:30pm: Football with Mr Price (Y5 and Y6) 3:30-4:30pm: Athletics with Mrs Wiles and Mrs Obertelli (Juniors)

We will also be offering Tennis again (Infants), which is privately run. More details to follow.

EL CLUB ESPAÑOL

Please see message from Chris from El Club Espanol-

Our FUN SPANISH Club is coming back to school, for ANY child, from Monday 13th Sept for 13 weeks in the Autumn Term! These clubs take place during lunchtime for 30 minutes and the fees are £4.10 per session payable termly. There are limited spaces so please enrol for your FREE trial at the address below for priority. Membership fee for new members is now £9.95 and children receive a songbook with folder and sticker chart and it includes free access to our internet gamezone and access to all the LCF music via streaming on any device. Discounts for siblings. Monthly direct debits/card payment options are available. Please contact Chris Abalain if you would like more information on these clubs. If you would like to put your child's name down for a free trial, you can sign up at www.boltonlanguages.co.uk/enrol and pay later or you can look out for the El Club Español e-flyer for more info. Also if you would be interested in a French club via Zoom please contact Chris: email chris@boltonlanguages.co.uk or call [07917 848745](tel:07917848745)

Admissions - Primary and Secondary Places

You can now apply via www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools for school places for next September.

Supplementary Faith forms are available in the school office for our school. The closing dates are as follows:

Secondary (Y7 in Sept 2022) - 31st October 2021

Primary (Reception in Sept 2022) - 15th January 2022

Please do not hesitate to have a chat with me if you would like any additional information. If you know anyone who is interested in their child coming to our lovely school then please encourage them to come along to our Open Day, which will be on **Monday 18th October**. There will be two opportunities on the day; from 9:30-10:30 and from 1:45-2:45pm. It would be great to have a rough idea of numbers so we encourage prospective parents to contact the school office and let us know if they would like to attend. Although this is an Open Day, it is so important to us that it reflects normal, everyday school life, which it will. Our Year 6 children will be resuming their role of showing people around and I know they will do us proud!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Sophie and Harry Buckle, who welcomed baby Lottie into the family over the summer. Sending our love and best wishes to Matt, Rachel and the children at this special time.

Request from Mrs Ash

If anyone has any age appropriate books with CD's for the new listening area in Reception and they are no longer wanted, please pass on to Mrs Ash. Many thanks.

Junior Lunches

Please let Mrs Parker (l.parker@euxton.lancs.sch.uk) know if there are any changes to junior children's lunch requirements. This will enable correct charges are made and adequate food is ordered for the kitchen. **School lunches must be on the same days every week.** Thank you.

Homework

Speaking with experience of a number of schools, and talking to other headteachers, homework is an aspect of primary school life that is hard to get right for everyone. Sometimes parents feel that too much is given; some not enough. It is something that is important but we also appreciate that life can take over! Reading is the real non-negotiable so we encourage that all children read each day, and to an adult if possible. This is beneficial for children of all ages. To make things straightforward, all teachers from Y1-Y6 will continue to send homework out on a **Wednesday**, to be returned the following **Monday**. This gives plenty of time and shouldn't result in too much of a panic (I've been there as a parent too!). **We will be continuing with a 'wellbeing' homework once each half-term, as a break from the usual homework, as place this highly in our school.** Thank you for your support with your child's learning at home and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to have a word with your child's teacher.

Holiday Requests

We really do value your support in reference to not taking holidays in term time. Our attendance data is excellent and your commitment to ensuring your child is in school each day, and on time, is much appreciated. In summary, I am unable to authorise term-time absence unless it is an exceptional circumstance. If you have any questions about this, please just ask. There may well be an exceptional reason why you may need to take your child out of school and all I ask is for you to contact me about it. Should a request need to be made, we have a short form that needs to be completed and returned, so that we have the details in writing - these are available from the school office.

Communication, Website, Twitter and Social Media

Firstly, I would like to thank you for the respect you show in terms of social media. I speak to many heads in many schools who have a real problem with this, with either comments made publicly about the school or other parents/children. I feel fortunate that you are able to come to talk to me, or one of the team, if you have an issue. We really do value our positive relationship with you and urge anyone to come and speak to us if a problem arises, and not try and 'resolve' things via social media or whatsapp groups, whether this be an open or closed 'group'. This really does not help. I am certainly not naive enough to think that everything is perfect all of the time, but hopefully most of you will feel that if something has been communicated to us we have sorted it out the best we can. Our Home School Partnership Agreement, which is signed by all parents, pupil and school, includes the following statement: 'Be sensitive to the reputation, respect, privacy of staff, pupils and parents of the school community', so thank you for your wonderful support in adhering to this.

Feedback continues to be positive about our email and text message system. Our website www.euxtonceprimary.co.uk is a great place to find out lots of important information, see some great photos and look at the blogs each class produce. Twitter is a more spontaneous means of staff sharing photos and information, which can be accessed via the Twitter app, using the internet or via our website homepage. We can be found on [@EuxtonCEprimary](https://twitter.com/EuxtonCEprimary) and even if you don't 'do Twitter' yourselves, it is worth getting it for the school aspect. Our PTFA also have a twitter feed ([@EuxtonPTFA](https://twitter.com/EuxtonPTFA)) and a Facebook page ([Euxton Cof E Primary School PTFA](https://www.facebook.com/EuxtonCofEPrimarySchoolPTFA)).

Medicines in School

If medicine needs to be taken under exceptional circumstances, then we are happy to administer this if there has been a written agreement made with parents and the appropriate form from the office completed. This is primarily for prescribed medication. However, again in exceptional circumstances and following the previously mentioned procedures, we will also give Calpol, etc. if there is a real need. Please note that this is not routine. The only requirement that we have is that it is in the form of a sealed sachet that has the exact amount in. These are readily available from chemists.

First Aid

The vast majority of our staff are first aid trained and we have a member of staff assigned outside to first aid at breaktimes. This means that instead of coming straight to the office the children are looked at straight away and basic first aid may be administered, eg. cleaning a graze, putting a plaster on, etc. Mrs Hodges and Mrs Parker also do a fantastic job if the children are sent in to be looked at. Accident forms are sent home if we feel necessary, and always following a bumped head, but may not be completed if the injury is deemed very minor and has caused your child no distress. **We have introduced a new form at the start of this term which leaves a carbon copy on file in school and there is no need for the form to be signed and returned to school as previously requested.** In addition, we ask children who have had a bump to the head to wear a small yellow sticker on their jumper. This is to ensure all adults are aware and to keep a close eye on them.

Use of the School Drive

Please remember that, for no other reason than safety, we do not allow cars to come down the school drive up to 9:15am or after 3:00pm. The safety of our children and school community is of the utmost importance to us. If you are collecting from after school club you may drive up after 4:45pm. Thank you so much for respecting this: you do and we appreciate it. There are two church car parks you can use, as well as a kind offer from Papa Luigi's too, although this is something they insist it is not used if there are events in the evenings, when their own customers are using it, which is totally understandable. Please remain considerate when parking in any residential or business areas too. We really do value your support with this, thank you.

Bags in School

Please only send your child into school with a larger bag if you really need to. We only have limited space on pegs and smaller, book bags normally should be large enough. Thank you.

Reception Parents Newsletter

Please ensure that you are all registered on ParentPay by next week (activation letters in book bags today) as our newsletters are emailed to our families. Thank you.

Thank you

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this 7-page whopper of a newsletter this week! Don't worry, it won't always be like this!

And Finally....

Thank you to Lucy Graham from Year 5 for our joke this week:

Q. Wha's Beethoven's favourite fruit ?

A. Ba-na-na-na!

Thank you Lucy - a great joke. Remember to send your jokes in to me, I need loads to choose from!

Take care,

Mr Nick Ward
Headteacher

In our Christian family, we all SHINE in the light of Jesus.

Wisdom Compassion Humility Friendship Peace Trust Forgiveness Hope