

Newsletter

Friday 19th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to report that next week we have our first meeting with North Northants Council to discuss their plans for extending and improving our school building! As soon as we have more of an idea of their plans and timelines, we will of course share these with you.

In more exciting news, we are trialling an app called "SeeSaw" in our three Reception classes next week. This app will allow us to share photos, learning updates, videos of children, children's work, etc. with parents. It is a two-way communication tool so parents can also upload and share photos of achievements at home. This will enable us to strengthen our home-school communication and will hopefully give you starting points for conversations at home, as if your children are anything like mine, the most frequent answer to "What did you learn at school today?" is "Nothing!" – which I know is never true!

Having been here for ten school weeks now, I am surprised by the low completion rates of homework across the school as the children here at EBPS are really engaged and positive about their learning! I feel we need to review our homework policy and have a "Relaunch" of homework and our expectations in January, ready for 2022. See attached for more details on our current homework expectations. Until then, please continue to complete the following with your child:

- Reading (ideally daily, but 5 times per week) and write in their reading record/ green book
- Spellings
- Times Tables grids (for Y2 – Y6)

Unfortunately, we have started to see Covid numbers slowly rising in our school, affecting staff and children. Please can you support us in remaining vigilant to this an ensuring good hygiene, hand-washing and social distancing on the school grounds occur as much as possible. Remember that if your child has any covid symptoms, you should test them using a Lateral Flow Device and if this is positive, then please book them for a PCR test online via this link: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Miss Lally

Notices and announcements:

Behaviour focus: Wonderful Walking

Our focus on Marvellous Manners continues to have real impact and it has been lovely to hear the children trying really hard to be polite. Next week we are focussing on "Wonderful Walking" – especially in and out of the lunch hall!

Kingswood Lunches

Kingswood catering have changed their system for lunch ordering for our school on a trial basis. You no longer have to confirm your order by the Wednesday of the week prior. Instead, you can choose your lunch and book it (for Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Pupil Premium children for whom it is free) / pay for it (Key Stage Two) by 8:30am on the day your child requires it.

In other words, if you forget to order or don't have food for a packed lunch, you can order a hot lunch on Monday morning up to 8:30am and your child can have either the main meal or vegetarian option of the day on Monday lunchtime. This applies to main and vegetarian options only (**not** Kingswood packed lunches nor jacket potatoes)

Care for Calais

Maisie in Year 5 is pleased with the response to her plea for help for Afghan refugees. The boxes remain in the school front reception and Maisie would love to see more donations next week. If you are having a sort out at home before Christmas, please consider donating to this cause.

Sharing Stories in Other Languages

We are trying to raise the profile of languages in our school. I know we have lots of parents and children who speak a language other than English at home and this is something we want to promote and celebrate. If you would be willing to come into the school library and read a story in your home language and be filmed doing so, we would like to build up a bank of these and start playing them in classes to our children. We want our children to appreciate diversity and celebrate the differences within our school community.

This can be any language (European, Chinese dialect, African language, British Sign Language, Makaton – anything!)

Please contact the office if you can help.

Young Voices Tickets

Parents who wish to attend Young Voices should book their own tickets online or via the telephone directly with Resorts World Arena Birmingham when they go on general sale on 1st December.

Reminder to sign Home school agreement

Thank you to the 84 families who have signed to say they have read and agree to the Home School Agreement. There is an expectation that ALL FAMILIES will sign this, please. If you haven't already, please complete [this form](#), to let us know you have read, with your child/ren, and agree to the school's Home School Agreement.

Remembrance Day Poppy Collection

Thank you to everyone who bought a poppy in school this year and to our fabulous Year 6's who took the poppies round to all classes. The school raised an impressive £556.76! Thank you!

Pupil absence

If your child is ill, please let the school know **every day before 10am** by phoning 01604 810371, or emailing schooloffice@eb-pri.northants.sch.uk You can leave a message on the pupil absence message line at any time, or speak to a member of the office team from 8.30am. If your child has diarrhoea or vomiting, please don't send them in for 48 hours after their last bout. In this case you can let us know they won't be in for two days.

If you know, in advance, that your child is going to be absent from school, please complete our [online Leave of Absence form](#). Thank you.

Parent Governor election: nomination deadline Monday 22nd November

Our parent Governors are an important part of our Governing Body, helping to represent families, as well as providing support to the school as a 'critical friend'. There is no expectation that parent

Governors will have any educational experience and support and training is offered. If you think you might be interested in nominating yourself, and would like to talk to someone about what is involved, please contact the school office in the first instance. If you would like a nomination form, again, please contact the school office.

The deadline for nominations is 4pm on Monday 22nd November.

Letters home

My School Fund message

Life Long Ago Workshop letter – EYFS only

Brass concert invitation – Thistle class only

Young Voices tickets message – Senior choir only

Message for Daffodil class – Daffodil class only

Message for Daisy Class – Daisy class only

Important message about children's safety

Attached from school:

Homework expectations grid