

Friday 17th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The end of our second full week back in school has been a busy one! We are now fully up and running with a wide variety of extra-curricular activities as well as our full curriculum offer. Within the school day we have had all of Year 4 learning brass instruments in partnership with Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust. We have also enjoyed Hotshots basketball taster sessions in Key Stage Two and an array of before school sports clubs. Today saw almost 120 children in school at 8:00am for our junior and senior choirs which is fantastic! As ever, huge thanks to the staff here at EBPS who are going above and beyond to ensure school is an enjoyable, safe and vibrant place for learning and excellence.

Below are the reminders and notices for the week ahead. I am trying to minimise sending out letters to parents to a Friday only to help you manage the flow of information from school. The newsletter and all fliers, accompanying letters will be sent on Fridays only – unless there is something urgent.

Remember to follow us on social media (Twitter or Facebook) for photos showing the life of our school!

Notices

Site Security and Children's Safety

With the school day now starting promptly at 9:00am and finishing at 3:30pm, we have adjusted the times we open our school gates accordingly. This ensures we can leave classroom doors and windows open (providing the necessary ventilation needed as a Covid safety measure) whilst ensuring the site and perimeter are secure and no strangers can enter the site.

In the next week or two, we will be adding a lock and intercom to the pedestrian gate to further improve the security and safety of your children.

Please ensure you are respectful to all adults who work in school as they are all doing their best to keep children safe and the school fully operational.

With effect from Monday, the gates will be open and closed as follows:

Gate timings with effect from Monday 20th September

7:30am – Churchill Road gate open

8:30am – Reception class gates open & vehicle barriers put out

End of day

3:00pm – Vehicle barriers put out

3:20pm – Churchill Road gate open

3:22pm – Vehicle gates open

3:23pm – Reception class gates open

These timings allow us to keep children safe and keep our classrooms ventilated for as long as possible in the school day.

Swimming lessons

Y5 will continue to go swimming on a Thursday morning – please be aware that the coach collects the children from Churchill road at 9:00am.

Y4 will continue swimming on a Wednesday afternoon. The second group (Daffodil class and half of Thistle class) will usually arrive back in school at 3:30pm to give them their full time in the pool. Please be patient as the staff must ensure children come into school to collect their belongings and then safely dismiss each child to their collecting adult.

Before School Clubs

It is great that we have a range of clubs now offering before school activities as we return to full normality. However, please ensure your children are entering school SAFELY. For all 8:00am clubs, children and parents should use the **footpath only** (not the driveway) as school staff are parking and entering the school. Only when the orange barriers are up should anyone be walking on the vehicle driveway please (with Crocus class only using the footpath to enter their classroom).

Fire Drills

As part of keeping children safe, we practised a fire drill this week in the Key Stage Two and Infants building. The children were very calm and sensible and safely vacated each building in well under the target time of 3 minutes. We will have another practice in a few weeks when our Reception children are full-time.

-E-safety

We are reviewing our e-safety policy and will be having a big focus this year through PSHE and computing lessons on children keeping themselves safe online. It is also a big focus for our staff training. It is vital adults stay one step ahead of children in being aware of e-safety and we are going to organise a specialist police officer to speak to all parents and hope as many of you as possible will attend and hear the important messages and tips to keep your children safe online at home too. Date to follow.

Protective Behaviours Teaching

Children in all year groups will be learning about Protective Behaviours over the next couple of weeks. This is a PSHE requirement and will form part of the curriculum throughout their school life. Protective Behaviours is a process that allows children to identify what 'safe' means to them, how their body tells them when they don't feel safe and gives them strategies to help them feel safe again.

The Protective Behaviours programme has two themes and it teaches children that:

- 1.) **"We all have the right to feel safe all the time"** and
- 2.) **"We can talk with someone about anything, even if it feels awful or small."**

The first theme reinforces not just our individual right, but our responsibility to make sure other people feel safe with us. This helps children to think about the idea of responsible citizenship and encourages thoughtfulness of our own safety as well as the safety of others. The second theme introduces the idea of personal support networks of people that we could go to when we are not feeling safe and a process for how we might identify those people.

Within the Protective Behaviours programme we will discuss and explore: feelings; safe and unsafe feelings; body awareness; personal space; secrets and the importance of understanding safe and unsafe secrets; networks and how to use them.

When we feel unsafe or uncomfortable our bodies let us know in different ways, just like when we experience anticipation or excitement, for instance we may get butterflies, a pounding heart or a fuzzy feeling. These are signs to signify that we do not feel safe and within Protective Behaviours they are referred to as **Early Warning Signs**. Children will gain an understanding of these Early

Warning Signs and what they can do and who they can speak to if they feel them. The Protective Behaviours programme also talks about the private parts of the body. During the lessons we will name the private parts of the body, using the correct, scientific wording – penis, testicles, vagina, breasts, anus and buttocks. This is an important part of the programme to ensure that children can easily be understood and so that we all have a correct and common language.

Protective Behaviours is not a standalone session and it is also really important that this is incorporated into everyday life. We would ask that discussions about keeping ourselves and others safe are ongoing at home.

We appreciate and thank you for your ongoing support in keeping our children safe.

Mrs Sturman

PSHE Lead

Attachments

- Flier re: local drama
- Free tennis coaching flier
- BAME Mental health event Saturday October 10th

Letters sent this week:

- Y6 secondary schools letter
- Y6 residential letter