

**Newsletter**  
**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wow! We have had an amazing day in school today with a real buzz created by our visiting poet Dave Bowden who worked with Years 4, 5 and 6. Dave was so impressed with our children: their creativity, their ideas, their love for their school and village and their performances! Well done to all children involved, especially those whose poems were selected to be performed. We hope to get a selection of these onto our website soon so watch this space!

In other exciting news, we had our visit meeting to discuss the plans to improve and extend our school. A further meeting is scheduled for next week with the architects, design team, engineers, etc. Once the first set of plans are drawn and finalised, we will of course share them with you and the community and then the planning permission process will start. Timelines are unknown as yet however I shall keep you constantly updated!

We have launched SeeSaw as an app to improve home-school links in Reception. Please remember to give you permission for your child's photo to appear.

Another exciting event this week for the children was the Y4 swimming saga! Thanks to everyone who was patient and understanding when the coach broke down and was delayed returning to school.

A highlight of my week was the Thistle class brass performance to parents and visitors on Thursday morning. After just 9 weeks it was amazing what the children were able to play and perform on their brass instruments! Well done to Thistle class and huge thanks to NMPAT for their tuition. Daffodil class will have their opportunity in the spring term and Sunflower class in the summer term.

Finally, this week also saw the Y2 trip to Holdenby House which was another great success. The children had a fantastic day and learnt lots during their "Muddy Adventures" day.

Unfortunately, we have really struggled this week with staff absence due to Covid and other illnesses. Other schools are in the same position so finding good quality supply teachers has proved challenging! We have done our best to continue to offer a full curriculum with known, high-quality teachers for every class, this remains the case for next week too.

Remember that if your child has any covid symptoms, you should book them for a PCR test online via this link: [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) Updated guidance we received this week from Public Health Northamptonshire is not to give symptomatic children lateral flow tests, but to book a PCR test straightaway.

I will constantly review our risk assessment and will have to implement our contingency plans if numbers rise to 10% in any one class. Please be prepared for possible changes to parent Christmas events and performances. Fingers crossed we don't have to make changes but please watch this space!

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Miss Lally

**Notices and announcements:**

**Behaviour focus: Real Respect**

Next week's focus is showing "Real Respect". I will be encouraging the children to hold doors open for others, give eye contact, greet each other and adults politely and asking, "How are you today?" and listening properly for the reply! This is all part of being a good member of our school community and society at large.

**Christmas Mufti Day**

A reminder that next Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December is our "Christmas Mufti Day" where children can come to school in their own clothes (any kind of clothes, Christmassy or not!) On this day, we will be spending

time creating Christmas tree decorations for the All Saints Church Christmas tree festival and we will be having an assembly on Advent. Linked to this is “giving to others” and we would therefore request a donation of 50p or £1 for the McCarthy-Dixon Foundation which is a charity which has supported our school and many other schools across Northampton through lockdown with food parcels, breakfast boxes and laptops for children. We would like to repay this through collecting money for the charity on mufti day next week.

### Y2 Phonics Screening

All children in Year 2 will complete their phonics screening next week with their class teacher (Mrs Levell or Miss Sparkes). The phonics screening check usually occurs in Year 1 but could not last year due to the coronavirus pandemic and school closures. Each child in Year 2 will work 1:1 with their teacher to read a series of words to check they have good phonic knowledge and can blend sounds together to form words. This is a simple check and will take between 4 and 9 minutes per child. Children who meet the expected standard in the check next week will not be re-assessed on their phonics in Year 2. Children who do not meet the expected standard in this round of checks will be re-assessed in the summer term. All parents will receive their child’s phonics check results with their end of year report.

### EYFS Nativity Performance

We look forward to welcoming all the EYFS families who have booked tickets to see the Nativity performances. A reminder that **only 2 tickets per family** should be booked. There are some spaces left for the dress rehearsal on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am, which can only be booked through the school office. This performance is suitable for attending with younger siblings. If you would like to book tickets for the dress rehearsal, or go on the waiting list if further tickets become available, please contact the school office: email – [schooloffice@eb-pri.northants.sch.uk](mailto:schooloffice@eb-pri.northants.sch.uk) or telephone 01604 810371.

### Reminder to complete important form

All the people who parents have identified as contacts on the school’s data sheet can collect children from school. If you know in advance there is going to be a change to who is going to collect your child after school, please write a note in your child’s green home-school book for their class teacher. The school understands that there can be last minute changes to the arrangements to pick up your children. To ensure only a parent/carer informs us of a change over the telephone, we have decided to implement a password system. If anyone calls the office to notify us of a change in who is collecting a child (someone other than the named contacts we have already), we will ask for your chosen password on the telephone. We will also ask the collecting adult for this password before handing over your child. In order for this system to work, please inform us of any changes to contacts and your chosen password by completing this [form](#). Thank you.

### Congratulations to our new parent governors

Following the nomination process for parent Governors, the school received two nominations for the two vacancies, so there is no need to hold an election. This means we are very pleased to welcome Mrs V Stafford and Mr P Murphy as our new parent Governors.

### A couple of timely reminders

The weather is noticeably colder now and children play outside several times a day, rain permitting. Please ensure your child has a coat with them every day, as well as other items, such as gloves and hats, as needed. All named of course!

Also, in KS2 children can bring in a healthy snack to enjoy at morning playtime. If you would like your child to have a snack, please remember to send it in with them. We have an increasing number of children asking for something to eat at breaktimes and although we have some spare fruit, we don’t have enough to cater for all the requests we are getting at the moment.

### Young Voices Tickets

If your child in senior choir is going to the Young Voices concert in January, this is a reminder that tickets will be available through the Resorts World Arena Box Office from next Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December.

### Letters home this week

Staffing letter to Thistle class only

SeeSaw permission form and explanation letter (Reception classes only via ParentMail)

SeeSaw instructions and QR code (paper copy in book bags for Reception classes only)

EYFS early language and literacy support message (Reception classes only via ParentMail)

Year 3/4 classrooms message (Years 3 & 4 only via ParentMail)

EYFS Nativity performance (Reception classes only via ParentMail)

### Other fliers sent (please note these are not checked / endorsed by the school)

Great Doddington Magical Christmas Market

Kingswood Christmas dinner poster