



East Markham Primary School

Autumn Term 2 Newsletter – November 2020

And just like that it was nearly Christmas... It has certainly been an interesting year! We remain incredibly grateful to you all for your ongoing support during these challenging times, and proud of the children for how brilliantly they have adapted and conducted themselves. Although we are in lockdown, school remains as 'normal' as possible. We have lots of exciting things planned, especially with the festive period looming...

Diary Dates:

13.11.20 – Children in Need
20.11.20 – Party Time/Non-Uniform
~~23.11.20~~ – ****Cancelled** INSET Day
30.11.20 – Flu Immunisations
10.12.20 – DT Day
11.12.20 – DT Day
11.12.20 – Christmas Jumper Day
15.12.20 – Pantomime
16.12.20 – Christmas Dinner
18.12.20 – Last day of term
25.12.20 – Happy Christmas!
1.1.21 – Happy New Year!
4.1.21 – First day of spring term

Children in Need

Children in Need is taking place on Friday 13th November. This year's theme is 'Together, We Can'. To support this incredible cause, we invite children to come to school looking as colourful as they can, bringing in a donation of your choice.

Welcome to Mrs Coughlan

We are delighted to introduce our new teaching assistant, Mrs Coughlan, who will predominantly be working with the Year 4 children. She has already made a huge impact in the classroom and we are thrilled to have her as part of the team.

Change of INSET Days - IMPORTANT

The 23rd of November had previously been set as an INSET day, where the staff team were due to complete a day of Read Write Inc training. Unfortunately, due to the national lockdown, this training has had to be cancelled. We are therefore moving this to the end of the academic year and would like to invite the children to attend school as normal on Monday 23rd November. We are also hoping this may help those parents who are currently working from home.

We have also made the decision to move the two other INSET days which had been planned for the 24th and 25th of June to the end of the academic year, meaning that the children would then have a 5 week break instead of 4 weeks and 2 days. Our remaining INSET dates will therefore be as follows:

- Monday 26th July 2020
- Tuesday 27th July 2020
- Wednesday 28th July 2020

If you have any questions or queries about the above, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Party Time!

We realise that children are missing the opportunity to have birthday parties due to lockdown, so we have decided to have one afternoon party in all bubbles to give an opportunity to celebrate! This will take place on Friday 20th November, during the afternoon. Teachers will organise party games, music and treats. The PTFA have also organised a non-uniform day for this date, so children are invited to wear party clothes of their choice for a donation of £1.

Dressing Warmly

Please ensure that children are dressing warmly for school. As we are all aware, the weather has definitely turned colder and we are required to keep windows open to ensure ventilation, in line with our COVID-19 risk assessment. Please send hats and gloves for play time too.

Christmas Jumper Day

Children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper to school on Friday 11th December, bringing in a suggested donation of £1 to raise funds for our PTFA. They may also wear non-uniform with this, for example their own jeans or leggings.

Christmas Pantomime

Although we cannot go to the theatre to watch a pantomime as we usually would, we have made arrangements to watch one virtually! This will take place on Tuesday 15th December, with the children enjoying this in their bubble. The PTFA have also very kindly agreed to supply treats for this, which we are very grateful for.

A message from our PTFA...

Thank you to those of you who took part in the 'PTFA Big Quiz', it was a brilliant evening, raising over £200!

Congratulations to the winners - Pandemically Challenged. Thank you also to Mr and Mrs Clarke for taking on the task of quiz masters!

We are working closely with the school to make sure we have some exciting events on the horizon. Details about many of these can be found in this newsletter, but please keep an eye on the school's Facebook page and the East Markham Primary School PTFA page for upcoming events.

Many thanks, Gemma Hobart

Nut Allergies - IMPORTANT

We have a number of children in school with nut allergies. We therefore ask parents of those children who bring a packed lunch to avoid packing food that may contain nuts, including nutella or hazelnut chocolate spread. We appreciate that some children can be 'picky eaters', but this is a matter of keeping children healthy and safe and is something we will continue to monitor closely.

A message from our Chair of Governors...

Hello,

It has been a very busy start to the second half of the Autumn term for the Governing Body. The advert for the Head Teacher role is now live and we have had a fantastic response. Prospective candidates from all over the world have expressed an interest and I am currently conducting socially distanced visits outside of school hours or virtually.

The advert closes on Thursday 12th November and we hope to be interviewing soon after. Watch this space for more news.

Take Care, Guy Le Geyt

Parent Governor Vacancy

We have a parent governor vacancy on our Governing Body. Please keep an eye out for a letter which will be sent out next week with full details.

Thank You

We appreciate that this year has been very different, and we have had to implement, change and adapt new systems to keep us all safe. We are very proud of our school community and how well everyone has adapted to the new 'normal'. Thank you for your co-operation and support, it is very much appreciated.

We are looking forward to celebrating the festive period in style with the children and will continue to ensure that school is the happy and safe place that they know and enjoy. We are determined to make East Markham Primary School the very best that it can be, regardless of COVID-19, and would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support with this. ☺