



# East Markham Primary School

## Spring Term 1 Newsletter – January 2021

**Thank you!** I have to start our first newsletter of 2021 by thanking you all. We have been blown away by your kind words, patience and support over the last 3 weeks. We know what a troubling time it is for all and how hard 'home-schooling' actually is. We are incredibly proud of our school community and everything that is being achieved.

As highlighted in the recent parent forums, please just do what you can at home. Ideally, all of the children should be attending all of their lives, to offer quality teacher input and learning opportunities, as well as some kind of structure and routine. This is our main priority and we will not be chasing anyone for incomplete work. We are so impressed with the children, they are absolute superstars, but thank parents / carers for supporting them so brilliantly.

As always, if we can offer any further support please do not hesitate to get in touch. That is what we are here for, please let us help if we can. We are very much looking forward to having school life back to 'normal' as soon as we can... Take care everyone, Mrs Duggin ☺

### Diary Dates:

12.2.21 – Last day of term

22.2.21 – Start of spring 2

### Lateral Tests

From Monday, the staff team will be offered a lateral flow COVID-19 test twice a week. We are hoping this will minimise the risk of possible transmission for all in our school.

### Hall Update

The new hall and classroom project is making progress, with recent work on the walls and roof. The completion date is set for the second week in June and at this moment we are on track to meet this. We are very excited! Along with a new building, some of our outside space is being redeveloped. We will have a new canopy for outside learning, a new trim trail and an area designed for a new tower play area. We will need to finance the latter ourselves but we have lots of potential ideas, so watch this space!

### Our New Deputy Head Teacher...

After a thorough and rigorous recruitment process, I am delighted to let you know that we have appointed a new Deputy Head Teacher. Mrs Suzanne Johnstone. Mrs Johnstone is one of our current Year 6 teachers and was by far the strongest candidate; she demonstrated passion, dedication and resilience throughout the process, really focusing on the needs of our school moving forward.

Along with myself and Mrs Woods, Mrs Johnstone will form our new school leadership team. Congratulations to Mrs Johnstone!

### Exciting News...

Mrs Scrivener, who is one of our Year 1 teachers, has been harbouring a rather exciting secret... she is going to have a baby Scrivener! We would like to offer our warmest congratulations to the whole family, we are delighted for them all.

Mrs Scrivener plans to commence maternity leave at the end of May so we will be organising her maternity cover closer to this time and will let you all know the arrangements for this in due course.

### *A message from our PTFA...*

Thank you to everyone who donated prizes at Christmas for the raffle. They were very much appreciated as we were able to make up some fabulous prizes. Also a BIG thank you to everyone who purchased tickets. In total, a massive £639 was raised. Some of this money went towards the books given to the children as a present at Christmas and sweets for the virtual pantomime. The remainder will go towards a new climbing frame at school.

Thank you for all of your continued support.

Many thanks, Gemma Hobart

### *A message from our Chair of Governors...*

We are delighted to welcome Mr Scott Knottenbelt and Ms Clare Godley to our Governing Body; both of whom have children in the school. They have already attended governing body meetings and are having a great impact on our school governance. Thank you to the both.

We currently have a co-opted vacancy – if you know anyone who might be interested, please get in touch! We would particularly welcome any IT / PR support.

The Governing Body are very much looking forward to working with the new senior leadership team of the school!

Take Care, Guy Le Geyt