



East Markham Primary School

Spring Term 2 Newsletter – March 2021

Welcome back! I cannot tell you how wonderful it is to have the children back in school. I have had a lovely (distanced!) wander this morning and all of the children are settled and happy. We have lots of smiley faces! We are very proud of them all.

Again, thank you for all of your support throughout lockdown. It has made such a difference to what we were able to offer the children, keeping the disruption to learning to the minimum. Considering the circumstances, we have been so impressed with how well everyone has done and look forward to building on that in school.

Thank you to the wonderful staff team who have worked tirelessly over the past couple of months. We really do want the very best for the children in our care and I hope that shows. We will continue to strive to develop our school to be the very best that it can be.

As always, if we can offer any further support please do not hesitate to get in touch. We realise that we will all continue to face challenges over the coming weeks / months, but are here to help however we can. Take care everyone, Mrs Duggin ☺

Diary Dates:

8.3.21 – School Reopening
12.3.21 – Afternoon Party!
26.3.21 – PTFA Virtual Quiz
W/C 29.3.21 – Parents Evening Appointments
31.3 / 1.4.21 – DT Days
1.4.21 – Egg Rolling Competition
2.4.21 – Good Friday – School Closed
5.4.21 – Start of Easter Holidays
19.4.21 – Start of Summer Term 1

Afternoon Party – This Friday!

This Friday afternoon (12th March), every class will be having a party for all of those birthdays that couldn't have one due to COVID-19 restrictions. Children are invited to come to school wearing their party clothes, or whatever they feel good in, and each year group will be playing games and celebrating. It will also be a lovely way to finish off our first week back at school!

We will be providing a small treat for each child, if you would rather us not offer this to yours, please let us know.

Parent Ambassador Group

Last Wednesday evening, we had our first Parent Ambassador meeting. Once again, a huge thank you to those parents who volunteered for this role. This year's group is as follows:

R – Mrs Owens Y1 – Mrs Agosto
Y2 – Mrs McGrail Y3 – Mrs Coleman
Y4 – Ms Godley Y5 – Mrs Hobart
Y6 – Ms Soden

We discussed our school's approach to homework, a new proposal was shared and feedback collected. It was a really valuable meeting – thank you to those involved.

Lateral Flow Tests

In case you are not yet aware, lateral flow tests can now be collected or ordered for households, childcare bubbles and support bubbles if at least one member is a school pupil or works in a school (this includes temporary workers or volunteers). More information can be found on the government website at <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>. The staff team continue to use these at least twice a week.

A message from our PTFA...

It's so lovely to see all of the children back at school! Hopefully everyone settles back in well!

We hope that as things start to get back to normal the PTFA are going to be able to organise some exciting events, so watch this space!

We do have a virtual quiz lined up for the 24th March at 7pm. Everyone welcome! £10 per family entry with the chance to win a lovely hamper. More details to come this week with how to enter...

Many thanks, Gemma Hobart

A message from our Chair of Governors...

On behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to thank the school team for their excellent response to the latest lockdown period. We recognise that there were a number of challenges but despite these a comprehensive home-schooling curriculum was delivered.

A huge thank you for the recent interest in our Co-Opted vacancy, it is always fantastic to know people are keen to get involved with the school. We are currently in the process of fulfilling this after considering what skills we would most benefit from as a Governing Body. We all look forward to spending time in school when it is safe to do.

Take Care, Guy Le Geyt

School Meal Price / sQuid Payments

You should have received an email informing you that the price of a school dinner is increasing, to £2.35 per meal. This is with effect from the 1st April. Children in R/Y1/Y2 continue to receive these for free, along with those families who qualify for free school meals.

Could we politely ask that all sQuid accounts are checked, ensuring that money is available in the purse, if required. We have a couple of families who are currently owing money, we would very much appreciate if this could be rectified ASAP. Many thanks.

DT Days

This terms Design Technology (DT) Days will take place on Wednesday 31st March and Thursday 1st April. Keep an eye on the school Facebook page to see what each year group gets up to!

Egg Rolling

Our annual egg rolling competition will take place on Thursday 1st April. In their year groups, children roll an egg and the one that lands closest to a target wins a prize! A huge thank you to the PTFA for very kindly donating the prizes!

Parents Evening

Parents Evening appointments will take place on the week commencing Monday 29th March. A separate letter will follow to request time slots, but the dates for each year group will be as follows:

- R – Tuesday 30th March, 1:30-5:30pm
- Y1 – Wednesday 31st March, 1-5.40pm
- Y2 – Monday 29th March, 1-5.30pm
- Y3 – Tuesday 30th + Wednesday 31st, 4-5:30pm
- Y4 – Tuesday 30th March, 1-5.30pm
- Y5 – Monday 29th + Tuesday 30th, 3.40-5.30pm
- Y6 – Wednesday 31st March, 1-5.30pm

Appointments will be 10 minutes long and take place via Teams. The main focus of these will be to discuss how your child has settled back into school, highlight any particular achievements as well as any target areas.

Your child's class teacher will call you via your child's Team account. If you would rather them call you on your mobile, this option will also be available. As I am sure you can imagine, it will be imperative for teachers to stick to their timings. Please do not be offended if at the 10 minute mark they explain they now need to finish the meeting. A follow up appointment can always be organised, if needed.

Thank you for your understanding.

Thank you! Thank you again for all of your ongoing support, patience and understanding. It has made such a difference and we are incredibly proud of our whole school community. We are hoping that now the children are back in school things might be a little easier for all... fingers crossed for the future! ☺