



NEWSLETTER FOUR

Friday 25th January 2019

Dear parents and carers,

What a busy term! Don't forget to keep looking on the school web site – class pages – for up to date news about your child's class and what learning is taking place. The school calendar is also full of dates for the year.

ONLINE SAFETY WEEK

In February, the school will be holding our annual Online Safety Week (Monday 4th February to Friday 8th February). We will be celebrating Safer Internet Day 2019 on Tuesday 5th February, as will many other schools all over the country.



This year's theme is: ***Together for a better internet.*** During the week, the children will be taking part in age appropriate activities relating to Online Safety. We will also be reviewing our Child-Friendly Online Safety Policy. Please refer to our termly Online Safety newsletters, the safeguarding noticeboard, the Online Safety section on the school website and our Facebook page for up-to-date information about Online Safety issues.

The school works hard to equip parents and carers with as much information as possible to keep our children safe online. Please ensure that you are engaging with your child about their online activity in order to keep them as safe as possible – even if they are not keen to talk to you! Miss Marriott will be uploading a parents pack to the school web site that has some conversation starters, activities that you may find useful at home – please have a look in our Online Safety Section. A date for the Keep Safe Committee will be sent out next week so please look out for this. Thank you for your continued support.

If you have any questions or have any suggestions as to what more the school could do to support you, please do not hesitate to contact **Miss Marriott (Online Safety Officer)**.

LITERACY COMMITTEE



The Literacy Committee have been very busy this year. One of the main jobs that we do is running Book Swap Friday at lunch time in the library, on the first Friday of every month. On Book Swap Friday, children are invited to bring in books from home (not school reading books or library books) and swap them with a book that another child has finished reading. The purpose of Book Swap Friday is to encourage children to read for pleasure, and to have discussions with other children with whom they are swapping books about the reason they are recommending the other child to read it. This also exposes children to a wider range of authors and genres of book. The Literacy Committee do an excellent job of running Book Swap and we highly recommend you allow your child/children to take part in it, if they haven't already!

In addition to this, the Literacy Committee are also responsible for updating our 'Handwriting Heroes' display in the KS1 and KS2 corridors, where we showcase handwriting we are especially proud of, as children throughout the school work hard on this important skill. They also organise and distribute any books that are donated to the school, or that we buy.





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Their next job is to organise our Book Week and World Book Day activities, which are taking place in school w.b. 4th March, so watch this space for information about this upcoming event!

Thank you for all of your hard work Aniela, Juana, Jack, Lucy, Ava, Arvin, Gabriel and Annabel (The Literacy Committee).

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL BEING PROVISION AT EPS:

Etwall Primary School is committed to investing in our pupil's health and well-being and we offer a range of pastoral support and social and emotional interventions. Emotional Literacy is important because developing children as rounded people and active members of the community is at the heart of what schools are about. Children learn better and are happier in school if their emotional needs are met.



The benefits to pupils are:

- feel supported by having 'special time' and being listened to
- develop greater self-awareness
- learn to talk about difficulties
- develop coping strategies
- interact more successfully with others
- feel better about themselves
- manage better in school

So what can we offer?

 Mrs Carter is a trained ELSA. ELSAs are emotional literacy support assistants. They are teaching assistants who have had special training from educational psychologists to support the emotional development of children and young people in school. ELSAs have regular professional supervision from educational psychologists to help them in their work. ELSAs help pupils learn to understand their emotions and respect the feelings of those around them. They provide the time and space for pupils to think about their personal circumstances and how they manage them. Most ELSA programmes will last for 6 to 12 weeks, helping the pupil to learn some specific new skills or coping strategies. Clear programme aims (SMART targets) are set early on and each session has an objective - something the ELSA wants to help the pupil understand or achieve. Targets are set in consultation with the child and parents are informed about how the programme is going.

Mrs Draper and Miss King are trained Positive Play Support Workers. Positive Play is an early intervention programme designed to raise the self-esteem and emotional wellbeing of shy, timid, disaffected and challenging children. One to one sessions are delivered in the school's Starlight Room which is a sensory environment using the natural medium of play. The structured sessions are tailored to meet individual needs, assisting in developing, listening and communication skills, addressing anger management issues and helping children and young people to deal with the consequences of their actions. It is designed to equip children and young people with the necessary





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resilience, social and life skills to manage the issues that confront them enabling them to access the curriculum and achieve their potential.

Positive Play-Support aims and objectives:

- to allow young people a space to express and communicate feelings and difficulties in their lives, through a variety of media in constructive rather than aggressive ways and in a safe non-threatening environment
- to help young people feel good about themselves and raise self-esteem by providing activities that look at their strengths and by valuing what they do and making it special
- to provide a non-authoritarian, supportive, reliable, safe, unconditional relationship within schools and other settings
- to provide some of the early experiences that may have been missed but which are necessary for formal education and social interaction
- to help young people acquire the complex range of life skills needed to achieve their full potential.

Positive Play sessions are once a week and usually last up to 12 weeks, but sometimes longer programmes benefit the children and these are decided on an individual basis. The school can offer up to 8 places per week for these sessions and usually also have to operate a waiting list. Mrs Draper is also trained in bereavement support.



Sometimes outdoors is the best place to develop resilience and social, emotional skills. Etwall Primary School is currently fortunate enough to have the fantastic skills of Frazer Johnston to help small groups of children once a week outside in the school grounds in our Outdoor Nurture Group.

This intervention has helped build physical, emotional, behavioural, and social skills in lots of children over the few years that it has been running. During the afternoon intervention, the children have had the opportunity to build bird houses out of wood and nailed them to the trees observing the birds that use them over the seasons. They have made fires and toasted marshmallows as well as built vegetable plots and grown vegetables to be eaten in school at lunchtime amongst many things. These outdoor activities have numerous mental benefits such as a boost in self-esteem and resilience. Also, overcoming obstacles and improving physical skills increases self-confidence which carries over into the classroom. Working outdoors can also result in an increase in attention span and provide the children with a sense of accomplishment while reducing stress, anxiety and depression. The combination of the nurturing approach and natural environment provides children with new challenges and safe risks to take, and contributes to increased calm and relaxation. The nurturing approach is important in helping children feel safe and secure, providing social support, promoting self-esteem, and developing persistence and concentration.

These provisions are currently funded through Pupil Premium and Sports funding.





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Pupil Premium Funding Update

As you are aware, the school sent out a letter asking for all families to engage in a Pupil premium check as we felt that some families were not aware that at some point in the last 6 years, your child would have been eligible for pupil premium funding. We received 12% of the forms back and unfortunately, this did not bring in any extra funding. From April 2019, the school's PP funding stream will be reduced by approx. £8,000 and we estimate that it will be more the following year. As we reported in December, there are difficult decisions to make for the coming year.

From February half term, any child receiving PP funding in school will receive (please note the changes agreed by School Governors) :

- Additional support in the form of a Teaching Assistant in morning lessons on a daily basis
- Specific 'pre-learning' sessions from class teachers as appropriate
- 50% funded enrichment activity eg school trips
- Discounted wrap around care (breakfast and after school club) – **this is changing from February half term to £1 per session to a maximum of £5 a week.**
- discounted music lessons should they wish to learn how to play a musical instrument, cost dependent on music provider – please enquire in school.
- Subsidies for residential visits
- Provision of free books relating to the interests of each child up to the value of £20 per year
- Contributions towards school uniform costs - £25 a year ordered through the school suppliers only (please see the school office as they send this order off in July each year ready for Sept.)
- Free milk if required – **please let the school office know if you require this for your child.**
- Free nutritious school meals on a daily basis on meeting the criteria

EPS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT WORK IN SCHOOL

As a profession teachers are striving to meet the ever higher standards set by the government and changes to end of Key Stage exemplifications on an annual basis and at Etwall Primary, we are no different. Following analysis of last year's end of Key Stage results, a School Improvement Plan for 2018-19 was drawn up to continue addressing the changes, our particular priorities and improve outcomes in both attainment and year on year progress for our children.

The schools identified school priorities for 2018-19 and a summary of developments:

- **Priority 1: To improve outcomes for children in reading across all year groups.**
 - Staff training in Guided Reading was delivered which focused around the six skills which in turn is the focus of the reading workshops for parents in January 2019. From Miss Warburton's learning walk it was evident that children are using these skill characters to help them unpick a text. Please have a look at the skill character posters in each classroom. We look forward to seeing Y1 and 2 parents at the workshop on February 13th at 3pm.
 - The Local Authority School Improvement partner, Mrs Smith, is working closely with the school throughout the year to support developments in reading, looking at high quality questioning and good challenge for our more able readers.





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- Miss Warburton continues to monitor children's development in phonics and works with the KS1 team to provide quality teaching, training and support for children who have gaps in their knowledge.
- We have introduced a Learning Diary to support your child's learning needs and the support needed at home eg reading practice, phonic reinforcement.

- **Priority 2: To improve outcomes in writing through quality writing across the curriculum.**
 - We continue to implement the Talk 4 Writing approach and develop writing targets in your child's book. Training was delivered to staff around the use of high quality vocabulary across the curriculum. Subject leaders monitor writing in their subject area and provide high quality feedback to staff to further improve the quality of writing.
 - Changes have been made to the way we provide your child with high quality feedback so that they may further improve their work eg feedback whilst they are working or at the beginning of the next lesson as a class to enable them to the focus on their particular aspects for improvement (blue open work). This was trialled in UKS2 and has now been rolled out across LKS2 and KS1.
 - EPS fully engage in moderation of writing (and reading/maths) within the school, our cluster of schools and the local authority on a regular basis in order to quality assure our assessment judgements.

- **Priority 3: To improve pupil outcomes in maths by developing reasoning and problem solving skills.**
 - We have reviewed and revised the RNR system based on fluency and reasoning and changes have been made in KS2.
 - We are engaged in an Improving Maths programme through the Derby Research School, with a focus on problems solving, reasoning, fluency and the use of manipulatives (equipment) in lessons. So far, we have changed the format of lessons and have begun to further develop how children use manipulatives during independent work.
 - Further training is planned to further develop our understanding of metacognition so that we can better support your child in building their learning power. This will be a huge piece of work for the school over the next 2 years.
 - We are researching an improved scheme of work.

To support the improvement work we do, we are following a robust programme of Continued Professional Development across core subject areas, which is planned through the weekly staff meetings, INSET days or in-house development work in teams. This includes our particular priorities for this year - the teaching of guided reading, cross-curricular writing and mathematical reasoning and problem solving. These foci are all tailored to ensure that any gaps in learning from previous years are addressed and group or individual intervention work can be carefully planned into school or work at home with parents and carers. We work hard to engage parents and families in supporting their children in practicing reading, learning their times tables, being able to recall number facts quickly by daily practice at home and support in spellings. We also strive to run high quality workshops and learning together sessions and have recently received good feedback as to how these





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can be improved and accessed by more parents – thank you. Your engagement and support is very important to us and to the progress of your child.

Further to this, we continue to undertake a comprehensive monitoring programme to ensure that standards of teaching, learning and assessment are of the highest level. This enables us to provide staff with good feedback about many aspects of their work with your children and allows us high quality professional dialogue as a staff as we strive to be the best we can be. This may take the form of book scrutinies to check the quality of work, how well the children respond to the feedback they are given, children’s ability to edit and improve their work, how well they are progressing and how this is shown in their work over time; analysis of assessment papers, discussion with staff, external and internal moderation activities to check that standards are improving and are in line with what is expected at each age; or ensuring that high quality learning environments meet the needs of all our learners and that we are further improving this over time. There is a rigorous monitoring programme in place that is supported by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and reported through the governor Teaching and Learning Committee.

As a school we consider end of Key Stage outcomes to be only one aspect of our role as educators and have always aimed to be welcoming, approachable and to develop all aspects of your child. Children sparkle in many different ways and this is not always measurable in a test, nor should it be. We pride ourselves on the excellent relationships that staff develop with the children in our care and we value these relationships greatly, as we do with all our parents, governors and wider community. We are a caring school that puts children first and to us, that means looking beyond results and celebrating our wider successes with your individual children. That does not mean we are complacent in our journey to excellence – we know we are not there yet but do have so much we can celebrate from along that journey.

We have developed several programmes that support a great many children including SEND provision, which was twice complemented on by Ofsted and also our nurture provision for all children that looks after their well being and mental health. Last year this was extended to mindfulness in Y5 and Y6 and this was rolled out across KS2 last Autumn. All these aspects of our school are important to us. We could be a school that turns Y2 and especially Y6 into a production line of preparation and revision, ensuring the school gets better and better results. We strongly believe that this would send your children off to secondary school turned off school and extremely stressed, but this is not EPS. We care for your children and their mental health and their happiness and whilst we continually strive for better results, we will not do it by sacrificing what we believe in as a school.

Last year we were as disappointed as everyone else in some of our results. They did not reflect the hard work that goes on day by day at EPS nor the quality of work that we engage in with the Local Authority and our School Improvement Partner. We are much more positive and are fully engaged with improvement. We are committed to keeping you more informed about the school priorities and will be reporting back to you in each newsletter moving forward. To this end, whilst we cannot report specifics, the current assessment data would indicate that we are on track for improved year on year results, positive proof that the things we are putting in place are having the desired effect, which build on improvement work started last year.





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Please be assured that the school's Governing Body hold all stakeholders to account and ask stringent questions at meetings to address any areas they feel it necessary to discuss. If you have any questions or comments that you wish to make known regarding school performance, please do not hesitate to speak to Mrs Dixey, Mr Ormiston directly or through one of the members of the governing body, who will ensure that your queries are addressed in the appropriate manner.

SCHOOL OFFICE NOTICES:



Dinner Money – Thank you to everyone who has paid their child's dinner money up to the end of half term – this really helps with our administration processes. If you haven't done this, please can all dinner accounts be brought up to date as soon as possible as dinner money should never be owing. If you don't know how much you owe, please contact the office who will be happy to help.

By way of a reminder, school dinners are currently £2.10 per day and £10.50 per week. You can pay by cash or cheque (payable to DCC). It is not the school's policy to give change so please ensure you have the correct money placed in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name and class. If you wish to pay for the whole half term, this will be £63.00

School attendance: We have noticed that attendance has started slipping over the last term.

The school day starts at 8.55 and finishes at 3.30. Any child arriving late **MUST** be accompanied by an adult and come to the office so as we are able to mark them as present and gain a reason for the late attendance. Could we also ask parents to leave via the correct exits and **NOT** via reception, in line with our safeguarding procedures.

Contact Details : Please ensure that if any of your contact details change you keep the school informed. This includes addresses, telephone numbers, emails etc., it is essential that the school is able to contact you, both to keep you informed of what is happening in school and if we need to contact you in case of an emergency.

Other Reminders – Please call or email us first thing in the morning when your child is absent – this means we don't have to contact you to chase up!

School Messages – coming via Eschools and letters all uploaded onto the website. If you still experiencing problems with the Eschools app, please contact the school office who will be happy to help.

SCHOOL SPORT AND CLUB ROUND-UP:

Please refer to Newsletter 3 for full information for sport and non sporting clubs and opportunities – this is still on the school web site (letters home>school newsletters> Newsletter 3). The current Wednesday club is Glow Dodgeball and this is now full up.

Now that Christmas is safely sealed up and put back in the loft, our thoughts turn to the busy term ahead with regard to sporting events. Already, since returning to school, we have sent two teams to the Indoor Football competition, run by South Derbyshire Active Sports Partnership. Both teams did really well and enjoyed themselves and we will know more about progression to the finals after the second of the two sessions, which is due on Feb 8th. On a similar sporting theme, we sent a team to the Kids Cup tournament in which we fared so well a few years ago. The players behaved exceptionally, which is always the most important thing, and made it all the way through to the quarter finals, before narrowly losing out. Well done to all our footballers. On top off all that, we sent two teams to the SDASP Dodgeball tournament at Etwall Leisure





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Centre and we have made it through to the finals, so watch this space. As always, the children are asking what is coming up for the rest of the term, so please feel free to discuss dates and times with them as below:

- EYFS/Y1 Early Racers (Balance Bikes) 12-2-19 4:00pm Greenbank Leisure Centre
- Y5/6 Tag Rugby 4-3-19 1:30pm Pingle School
- Y3/4 DCFC Ladies Football 12-3-19 9:30am DW Soccerdome
- Y5/6 DCFC Ladies Football 19-3-19 9:30am DW Soccerdome
- Y5/6 Swimming Gala 20-3-19 1:15pm Etwall Leisure Centre
- Y1-Y6 Key Steps Gymnastics 25-3-19 Greenbank Leisure Centre
- Y3/4 Football 1-4-19 1:30pm Melbourne Sports Park
- KS1 Football Festival 3-4-19 4:00pm Pingle School
- KS2 SSE Wildcats Girls Football Festival 5-4-19 4:00pm Pingle School



Dates: please put up somewhere at home or in your diary.

PLEASE REFER TO THE SCHOOL WEB SITE CALENDAR – for key dates for 2018-19

INSET Days for 2018-19 : Children **will not** be in school on these further 2 days. Friday 21st June and Monday 22nd July.

EYFS Parental Activities

During the year we provide opportunities for parents and carers of children in the EYFS to take part in a variety of activities which supports their child's learning. Over the next months the following opportunities are available

- **February 13th** at 9.00-9.30 am there will be a **Parent workshop** with a Mathematics focus. It is where parents can see how we teach number and number facts using a variety of practical activities.
- **April 5th** at 9.45-11.30 am there will be a **Learning Together session** which will focus on People and Communities. This will be Easter activities including a cooking activity.
- **June 12th** at 9.05am Robin **Class assembly**.
- **June 19th** at 2.30-3.30 pm there will be a **Learning Together session** with an Understanding the World focus. The children and parents will plant seeds together and record how they did this.
- **June 26th** at 9.05am Woodpecker **Class assembly**.
- **July 12th** at 9.00-9.30 am there will be a **Parent workshop** with a Literacy focus. Parents will experience a talk 4 writing session and see how we using storytelling and maps to teach literacy.

KS1 Workshops and Showcases

At EPS we feel that one of our real strengths is the way in which we strive to promote parental engagement. As you are aware, we have already had a Phonics evening workshop and a Maths workshop, along with our Christmas Craft morning. Coming up during the rest of the year we have a workshop to discuss how we do Guided Reading and how you can work on it with your children at home. We look forward to seeing you at 3pm on February 13th to discuss how we do guided reading and use the 6 skill characters as well as promote a love of reading with your children. We also have a planting showcase on 12th April at 2:30pm and a puppet making showcase on 27th June, again at 2:30pm.





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KS1 Class Assemblies

Robins – 9:10am, Wednesday 12th June

Kingfishers – 9:10am, Wednesday 3rd April

Little Owls – 9:10am, Thursday 23rd May

KS1 Trips and Visits

We are currently planning two school trips for the coming terms, the first one being linked to our Science topic on “What animals do we find in the rainforest?” Watch this space for further details!

KS2 showcases, assemblies, visits and workshops – update

KS2 will be holding a spelling workshop at 9:00 on Tuesday 30th April. During this workshop we will be sharing the spelling objectives from the National Curriculum for upper and lower key stage 2, demonstrating ways in which we teach spellings in school and help children to remember these rules. We feel this will be an invaluable opportunity for you to learn ways in which you can effectively support your child at home, as they learn strategies to become good ‘spellers’, a skill which will serve them well throughout their education and into their adult lives! We highly recommend that you attend this workshop if possible. We appreciate your support!

We would also like to warmly invite KS2 parents to attend the showcases that we are hosting this year, to participate in an area of the curriculum with your child as they undertake a practical lesson. They really are great fun so come along and see how your child learns outside. The dates of these exciting events are as follows:

Thursday 4th April 3pm – Norman castle building showcase : children will have spent the day building Norman castles following research and planning done in previous lessons. When you join them at the showcase, they will be able to share with you their knowledge and plans of the castles and you will be able to help them as they are in the final stages of constructing and evaluating them.

Tuesday 25th June 3pm – Outdoor learning showcase - you will be able to take part in an activity with your child which focuses on an area of the curriculum that is taught outside of the classroom, in our lovely school grounds. Children will be taking part in an observation trail, which will link their science, geography and orienteering skills.

Class assemblies: all families are welcome to join us for these events. Following feedback, for the past couple of years we have tried to vary the days and times (beginning/end of the day).

Ospreys: Wednesday 6th Feb 9.05am

Falcons: Wednesday 6th March 9.05am

Sphawks: Wednesday 20th March 9.05am

Kestrels: Thursday 9th May 9.05am

Enrichment days arranged:

- ThinkTank (Eag, Osp, Sp) is Tuesday 12th Feb – letter already been sent out.
- Cadbury’s World and Water Treatment – look out for details

It would be great to see you at as many events as you can attend, so that you can share in your child’s learning on these days. Letters about these events will be sent out nearer the time as reminders.

Thank you for your support.





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Term	OTHER School dates Enrichment visits / visitors / days	Governor dates
Spr 3	30/1 PTFA Committee meeting – <i>please note change of date</i> 1 /2 Y3/4 residential balance due 4/2 PTFA film night 4-8/2 Internet safety week 5/2 Safer internet day 15/2 PTFA dress down Recycle Day 15/2 Last day of term	26/2 Gov Teaching and Learning Committee meeting
Spr 4	1/3 Book People bus to visit school 5-9/3 Waste week 7/3 World Book Day 25/3 Parent Consultations 27/3 Parent Consultations 5/4 School Council chocolate bingo event 2/4 Autism Awareness Day 9/4 KS2 Easter service at St Helen's 10/4 KS1 Easter service at St Helen's 10-12/4 Y3/4 residential to Mount Cook 12/4 Last day of term	19/3 Gov FGB meeting

Any changes in dates will be advertised well in advance and we *endeavour* to send out reminders.
Please ensure that you make a note of any relevant dates on your phone/home calendar to ensure that you do not miss it.

Sally Dixey, Headteacher and Richard Ormiston, Deputy Headteacher/Co-Head (Wednesday)

Headteacher

