

## Esh Winning Primary School NEWSLETTER

#### Welcome back!

It's been wonderful to have children back in school—there is a glorious buzz around the building.
 ★ We have our Nursery and Reception starters also in school, and they are settling so quickly into
 ★ new routines.

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We are continuing to look at our Covid risk assessments, but also trying to ease restrictions, so that we can add more "normality" to the daily school life. With this in mind, we have taken the decision to hold parents evening meetings via telephone. This is to avoid a large number of families inside the main hall at the same time and the difficulties trying to control social distancing. We were able to hold class parents meetings face to face due to a lower numbers of parents being able to attend.

We have returned to having school assemblies in the hall, and it has been wonderful to speak to the children directly and not through a screen! It has been so good to have the celebration assembly on a Friday afternoon, when we can congratulate the stars, writers and mathematicians for the week. We have been celebrating those children who have shown the school values throughout the school day too.

Our school values are: \*Respect \*Resilience \*Happiness \*Learning and \*Honesty.

Mrs Hodgson, Headteacher.

If Parents/adults need to visit the school office, please ensure you are wearing a face mask. Thank You.

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PLEASE DON'T BE LATE!

At the moment we have a soft start between 8.50-9.00am. It is extremely important your child arrives at school on time as work has been set for them to complete. Being 15 minutes late every morning for a week adds up to 1 hour and 15 minutes of school time lost, over a half term this is 7 and a half hours! This is more than a whole school day. Please ensure your child arrives on time and ready to work.

**Dental/Medical Appointments** 

If your child has a dental/medical appointment, please remember they must come to school first if at all possible. Please try to arrange any appointments out of school hours. Pupils do not need to be absent from school all day for an appointment which may only take half an hour.



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If they come to school first they will get their mark, even if this is only for a short period of time.

Absence Procedures Please remember the sickness absence procedures. School must be informed on the first day of absence before 9.30am. It is extremely important as any absences will be recorded as unauthorised if we have not had any explanation or reason why a pupil is absent from school. If your child is ill and unable to come to school, it may be possible for work to be completed at home. They may be well enough to undertake some tasks set by their class teacher. This will ensure they do not miss too much school work and on their return have an understanding of current topics discussed in class. If you feel your child is well enough to complete work at home please contact the school.

Thank you to all parents and pupils for adhering to our uniform and jewellery policies in school. For Health and Safety reasons pupils should not wear earrings or any other jewellery for school.

- Please note, clear hole holders are allowed in school instead of earrings.
- A basic, time telling watch is permitted. Vtech & smart watches are not permitted in school.
- Nail varnish is not allowed in school.
- School shoes should be black. Trainers are not allowed to be worn in school.
- Please also ensure all items of your child's uniform are clearly marked with their names to avoid items getting lost or taken by accident. Thank you
- If children are saying they are cold due to the additional ventilation we now need in school, they can wear an additional warm top underneath their school uniform jumper or cardigan.

#### **School Dinners**

The children have all returned to the school dining hall for their lunches this term.

#### **Packed Lunches**

Please send your child's packed lunch into school in either a solid plastic lunch box or a packed lunch bag which can be wiped after lunch. Please do not send your child's packed lunch into school in a shop carrier bag. Thank you.

P. E.

On the days your child has PE this term, can you please send your child into school wearing their PE kit on those days. Pupils can wear their PE t-shirt under their uniform sweatshirts or cardigans and can wear black jogging bottoms or black leggings instead of shorts and wear their plimsoles.

Nursery — Tuesday AM & Friday PM
Reception— Monday & Wednesday
Year 1— Thursday & Friday
Year 2— Monday & Tuesday
Year 3— Wednesday & Friday
Year 4— Monday & Wednesday
Year 5— Monday & Friday
Year 6— Tuesday

#### **Tuck Shop**

We have started the pupils tuck shop again.

This will be run by Year 6 pupils who will bring the tuck shop trolley into the KS2 yard at morning break time.

Please send in change (not notes) with your child.

Fresh fruit 30p

Box of raisins 30p

Other fruit based snacks 50p (fruit winders, soreen etc)

Sugar free Jelly pots 50p

#### **Breakfast Club has resumed!**

The club will still be split into two groups, KS2 will be in the main hall and Reception & KS1 who will be in the dining room.

There is no charge for the club as it is sponsored by Greggs.

The food that will be available will be cereal & milk and toast & butter.

#### HEALTH & SAFETY REMINDERS

We all want your children to be safe, and ask for you co-operation on the following; **DOGS** Please be aware that dogs are **NOT** permitted on school premises.

SCOOTERS/BIKES Bikes & scooters are NOT permitted to be ridden anywhere in the school grounds, including through the car park.

Please always ensure your child dismounts before all of our school gates

#### Dinner Money / Free School Meals

School meals are £2.15 daily / £10.75 per week (for children in years 3-6). Dinner money can be paid on the ParentPay system or via Paypoint at a local shop. Paypoint cards can be purchased at a cost of £1.80 or codes are available from the school office. Accounts should be kept in credit for the week ahead, the office will prompt you if your child's account it low and we would appreciate prompt payment. Two weeks notice is also required when changing from school meals to packed lunches and visa versa.

Due to a Government initiative all Reception, Year 1 & 2 pupils will be receiving a free hot meal. As a school we still need to know if your family would be entitled to claim free school meals if this initiative wasn't in place. Please can parents produce supporting evidence by Friday 18th September if you have not already done so. If you do not have any evidence, please call into the school office to speak to staff.

# Starting School

### Will your child turn 5 between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023?

If so, you need to complete an application online to tell us which school you would like your child to attend from September 2022.

Visit www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions where you can access a useful guide to help with your application. We encourage you to apply online wherever possible as although restrictions have been lifted, staff will in the main be working from home due to the Coronavirus pandemic. If you are unable to apply online, paper application forms are available on request.

You still need to apply even if your child attends the nursery unit attached to the school, or already has a sibling at the school. You will also need to apply for a place in Year 3 in a junior school for an older child.

#### Applications open 6 September 2021 and close midnight 15 January 2022.

#### For more information please contact

School Places and Admissions Team

www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

03000 265 896



#### Home time arrangements

Please can parents let the school office or class teacher know if your child is going to be collected by anyone else other than the regular person at home time. This applies to all children throughout the school, Nursery to Year 6. Children can be made aware of who is collecting them, but unfortunately, we cannot allow pupils to go with another parent/person or walk home (older pupils) unless we have had this confirmed by their own parent/carer. Pupils can only be collected by an adult over 16y/o.

Year 5 & 6 pupils can walk home if their parent has sent in a consent letter to their class teacher beforehand.

#### **Leave of Absence Forms**

Please note that only in exceptional circumstances can requests for a leave of absence be authorised. Thank you to those parents/carers who have followed the correct procedures. Parents now need to complete a leave of absence form stating the dates of the requested period and the exceptional circumstances <a href="https://www.whw.you are taking your child out of school during term time.">why</a> you are taking your child out of school during term time. After consultation with Governors it has been agreed that the circumstances below are seen as exceptional and authorised leave of absence will be granted for the following only: Wedding of a parent, Funeral of a close relative, National sporting activity. Any other request which does not fall into one of the above category's will be unauthorised.