

EWHURST CE INFANT SCHOOL

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Dear Parents

January 15th 2021

Newsletter 1

As we enter 2021 it is the year to celebrate Ewhurst School's 175th anniversary! On 12th February 1846 the Trust Deed was signed with the Rector and Churchwardens as Trustees. There has been education in Ewhurst from the 18th century, but the National Society made grants toward the costs of permanent dedication of sites for the purposes of education from 1833. The present school was built on donated Glebe land between 1845 & 1847 and is now one of the oldest in Surrey still to be in use as a school. I look forward to holding a celebration later in the summer to mark the occasion.

National Lockdown 3

As we are only too aware we find ourselves in another national lockdown which involves the closure of all schools until at least March. I have to congratulate you, our parents, on your response and understanding to the sudden news we all received in the prime minister's announcement at 8.00pm on Monday 4th January. We now have a reduced staff team due to shielding requirements, so to keep the school open fully, we require every member of staff to be on site every day. They have been incredible in welcoming the children of essential critical workers and vulnerable children whilst swiftly organising home learning which began immediately from last Tuesday.

However, the number of staff able to work on site is at a critical level and should even 1 member of the team be unable to attend work it is highly probable that the bubble would need to close at very short notice for safety reasons. Holly and Cherry classes are now learning alongside each other for some sessions to enable teaching staff to facilitate learning for those learning at home.

Explorers

We are delighted that we have still managed to offer Explorers to provide that vital support for families working on the front line. Thank you to those who have generously made a donation to ensure this provision is secure for this term (staff allowing!) If your child is in school, then please do support this provision.

COVID19 committee

The Governor Covid Committee for Ewhurst CofE Infant School was set up in January 2021 to enable the Governing Body to assess the changing local context of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the implications for our school. The overriding focus of this Committee is the safety and well-being of our children, staff and leadership team, and the continuity of education for all children. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. supporting the Head Teacher in any Covid 19 related day to day decisions regarding safety and continuity of education
2. ensuring changes to the Risk Assessment are discussed and agreed in a timely manner
3. ensuring Covid related policies are created and updated as required
4. ensuring the parent community is informed of key changes in a timely manner

The committee has discussed parental requests for critical workers, and for access to reading books from school and has decided, at this time when the nation is instructed to stay at home this is not possible. To support your child's reading development you do not require a reading scheme; you can be creative as I know many of you are in using home picture books, fairy stories, nursery rhyme books and information books to increase reading skills. Re-reading familiar books is also important to develop fluency and comprehension. The home learning suggestions from each class continue to develop your child's skills. This decision will be kept under constant review.

Children learning at Home

Congratulations to you all for embracing so readily the sudden change in your family circumstances and being so involved with the daily activities. We are all very grateful for the positive response to the work that is uploaded to Teams by the teaching staff.

The staff team have been thrilled with completed work that you have uploaded to Tapestry- currently this is one of the most effective way for the staff to provide feedback to your child's home learning or through the live lessons.

This week has been the first of the 'live' sessions in each class. **The weekly timetable which includes the 'live' sessions will be uploaded each Friday into the Teams class page** and you will be able to follow all the instructions from the class teacher(s) If you have any problems then do email the class teacher or the office who are able to respond very swiftly. This is an evolving situation and we welcome feedback and suggestions to continue to develop the home learning experience for your child. There will be times when the children in school join these sessions too. The class newsheet contains a wealth of information so please do read it all to be fully prepared for the following week.

Weekly Assembly at home: Fridays at 2.00pm

Each week I will be sending an invite to those families who are at home so we can gather together and the children can see their friends. We will be celebrating home learning as we do in school with a weekly theme. The teachers will be selecting the children from the work that has been uploaded to the various sites. Your child will receive their actual certificate in the post!

Curriculum information.

Attached you will find the curriculum leaflet for your child(ren) for the spring term

Science Week: 25th – 29th January

We are finalising our plans for this week and you will note there are some items to begin gathering together for the challenges and re-cycling activities which you will find in your class newsheet.

Autumn Term 2020 online survey results

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the End of term online survey. 55% of you did. The results are as follows:

100% strongly agree or agree to the following statements:

My child is happy in school.

My child feels safe in school

My child makes good progress at school.

My child is well looked after at school.

The school helps me to support my child's learning.

My child is taught well at this school.

My child receives appropriate homework for their age.

The school helps me to develop a healthy lifestyle – being physically active and having a growth mindset.

The school makes sure its pupils behave well.

The school is well led and managed.

The school meets my child's particular needs.

I would recommend this school to another parent.

Overall I am happy with my child's experience at this school.

97% strongly agree or agree to the following statements:

The school informs me about my child's progress.

The school deals effectively with bullying/unacceptable behaviour.

My child uses the six school values: love, friendship, respect, honesty, community and perseverance in their lives.

90% strongly agree or agree to the following statement:

The school responds well to any suggestions and concerns raised.

Thank you for adhering to the government rules to keep our community as safe as possible.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Jane Dyer
Headteacher

Awards 8.1.2021 - A good start to the term

Star of the Week

Apple class	Holly Class	Cherry class
Herbie	Lily	

Headteacher's Award

Siena	Thalia	Elsa
		Sebastien
		Leonie

Awards 15.1.2021 – Maths

Star of the Week

Apple class	Holly Class	Cherry Class
Alexander S	Imogen	

Headteacher's Award

Felix	Olivia	Isobel
Benjamin	Matthew	Peake
	Cedric	Leonie