



Newsletter



Friday 5th June, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is surreal to be writing a newsletter at the beginning of the second half of the summer term and seeing events cancelled or rather postponed – does sports day have to be in the summer term? After all we have the 'Winter Olympics'!



Teachers and teaching staff have been preparing the next home learning pack, which will be ready for collection from Tuesday 9th June. The theme is around being active and healthy living. It includes some kitchen challenges as well as fitness challenges. We have been really impressed with the number of families who have been busy in the kitchen over the past few weeks, not just making sweet things, but meals together.



"OTHER THAN LEAVING THE LID OFF THE BLENDER, I THINK MY FIRST SMOOTHIE WENT RATHER WELL!"

One of the 'silver linings' to the 'corona cloud', has been having my grown up children around. They have been cooking for us at home – it has made me smile to think of those times when we have crunched across the kitchen floor on spilt sugar, found rice down the side of the cooker and had 'flour clouds' when the food processor wasn't set up properly! Keep on cooking – it is a life skill, covers the national curriculum and part of home learning to be celebrated!

I have made a short video for parents on 'Home Learning' which I have posted on Tapestry to encourage and share with you our thinking on 'home learning' at Eastergate CE Primary School. You are doing an amazing job and it isn't easy teaching your own children every day on top of all of the other things you are doing at the moment!



'New Starters' joining Chaffinch Class in September

We have prepared a pack, including a book bag, for the children who are joining Chaffinch Class in September. This will be ready to collect from school from next Tuesday. A significant proportion of children joining us in September have older siblings already at Eastergate.

There are some booklets for parents to complete at home and importantly information about setting up a Tapestry account for your child, so we can send things home via Tapestry to help support the transition process whilst we are limited in the things we can do face to face.

Year 6 Transition to Secondary School I have contacted the secondary schools that our year 6 pupils are joining in September to find out what they are planning for transition this term. If you have received any communication from your son or daughter's secondary school, please could you share it with us at school? We will try and work out a programme linked to the things they are doing to prepare our children for this change. There is a letter with your pack about some of the things we are organising this half term for year 6.



Staff Leaver and New Appointment Mrs Wingham will be leaving us at the end of this term. She has been with us for the past two years and she has been offered an exciting opportunity to pursue her passion in training dogs. We will miss Mrs Wingham very much. She has made a huge contribution to school life: leading science, taking care of RE and running netball club after school as well as being a fantastic year six teacher! We wish Mrs Wingham the very best in her new 'doggy' career! Last week we were successful in appointing Mrs Hughes-Jones to our staff team. She will join us in September.





Premises We have continued during lockdown to work with West Sussex and make sure that our premises continues to be updated and maintained. We have funding for the refurbishment of the main toilets and we are trying to schedule this for the summer holidays. Next week work starts on the boiler room. We have a much needed new boiler and pumps being fitted over the next few weeks. Mr Rawson, our premises officer has been doing an amazing job to keep things in order over the past few months!



*****We are committed to supporting the families of keyworkers and vulnerable families at Eastergate CE Primary School. I understand that there may be pressures on others to return to work as things progress and furloughing schemes end. Please contact school if you are in this situation phone 01243 542297 or email office@eastergate.w-sussex.sch.uk. The email address will be checked daily.***

The wider 'Eastergate Family' at St Georges Church

There is an online service at St George's Church most Sundays. They regularly pray for our whole school family. Our chair of governors, Hedda Wells is organising a family service on Sunday 5th July and would like to involve some of our families in this service. The family service is prerecorded and goes out on youtube at 10.00am. Please contact the church office or school office if you would like to be involved. <https://www.parishofabe.org.uk/> or the facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Religious-Organization/Parish-of-ABE-492569447550073/>

It would be amazing if our school families are involved this service.



Collective Worship This term continuing our theme of Bible heroes we are looking at the story of Joseph. Joseph certainly landed in some tricky situations before he finally got a break. He remained faithful to God in every situation and in the end things worked out! In the home learning packs there are some activities for the children. I will continue to 'broadcast' Friday News Desk to update everyone with things that are happening in our school community.

Library Reminder! We are continuing our scheme to open the library to family groups. If you would like to come in and change your child/children's books, please book a slot on the Parents Evening section of **Parentmail**. The following measures will be put in place for everyone's safety:



- books that are returned to school will not be put back into circulation for at least 7 days after their return to school;
- families will be asked to wash/sanitize their hands before going into the library and when they leave school;
- social distancing will be in place between adults and children who are currently in school;
- slots are available between 10:00am-12.00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays and 1.00-2.30pm on Wednesdays, to enable us to manage social distancing at the beginning and end of the school day;
- there will be 5 minutes between slots to facilitate social distancing.

Are you having a challenging time with home learning?

If you are having a challenging time with home learning, then please contact us at school. We are happy to talk through things and offer support for children who are finding things difficult. We have adapted home learning packs and made special packs for children who are finding things too challenging. Class teachers are able to help and Mrs Pedder our special needs co-ordinator is also working with class teachers and offering support and advice. Please don't feel you are on your own. We are happy to help!



In the meantime stay at home, stay safe and we look forward to a time when we can come back together – whenever that might be!



Best wishes,

CM Ward

Catherine Ward
Headteacher