



EASEBOURNE C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

9th September, 2016

DATES FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

Monday 12th September	Meet the Teacher - Otters	3.15pm
Tuesday 13th September	Meet the Teacher - Foxes Headteacher Open Door	3.15pm 3.15pm-6.00pm
Wednesday 14th September	Meet the Teacher - Badgers	3.15pm
Thursday 15th September	Meet the Teacher - Rabbits	3.15pm
Friday 16th September	Konflux Theatre 'Roald Dahl 100' (Yr 4) with performance in assembly Meet the Teacher - Squirrels	3.15pm
Monday 19th September	Clubs Start Meet the Teacher - Hedgehogs	3.15pm
Wednesday 21st September	MRC Experience Day - Year 6 Reading Introduction for Parents - whole school	9.30am-2.00pm Cancelled
Thursday 22nd September	Maths Workshop for Children and Parents - Hedgehogs and Squirrels	8.50am - 10.00am
Friday 23rd September	PTFA Film Night	3.30pm-5.30pm

A Word from the Head

Dear Parents

Welcome back to all of our families. I hope you had a restful summer. With the weather we have had, it has been quite difficult to believe it is really the Christmas term!

New Children

This term, as well as familiar faces, we welcome our new Reception children to Dragonflies. We have also been joined by some children in other classes and we welcome Fenix, Toby and Bella to Badgers and Sophie to Hedgehogs.

New Staff

There have also been additions to the staff. Anne Nixon returns to work with Badgers on Thursdays, covering Malcolm Meaby's leadership time. We welcome new members to our teaching assistant team: Carol Ann Smithers, Aliska Elliott and Stephanie Abbott join Badgers and Nichaella Boxall joins Otters. Last but not least, Molly Stringer has joined us as an admin assistant to the office staff.

Summer Reading Challenge

If your child took part in the library service's Summer Reading Challenge, please do remember to send your child in with his or her certificate and medal. As before, this is our first house challenge of the year and we want to try and beat our participation total for last year.

Summer Activity Books

We would also like your activity books back for a display in order to share what everybody enjoyed during their summer break. The Parish Council are keen to see what ideas the children have had for the playground project planned for the Parish Field so please send these in as well. The Parish Council are also looking for new members (see Parish Council report).

Sumdog

Feedback from parents suggests that children's free access to Sumdog, the maths site that makes practising basic maths skills fun, is not as rich as it used to be and, having investigated what is involved in a subscription, we have decided to take out individual subscriptions for all children from Hedgehogs up to Otters. I think the subscription should already have kicked in and we have been working on the usernames and passwords, so why not have a look this weekend? If you do find that there is a problem, please do let your class teacher know immediately and we will try to sort it.

We will be organising a competition soon so watch this space...

Meet the Teacher

Our Meet the Teacher sessions start next week, slightly earlier than usual. These give parents a chance to meet the staff who are involved in the class and learn about what is planned for the term and how they can support this. Please try to attend your child's session. If childcare is an issue for you, please remember that class teachers make arrangements for children to be supervised by colleagues.

TR@SH

This term, there will be some changes in our approach to teaching and learning, with a particular focus on basic skills. Over the course of the term, you will start to hear about 'TR@SH' initiatives (Tables, Reading, Spelling, Handwriting). An introduction to this will be included in the Meet the Teacher sessions, so I do urge you to attend these if you possibly can as they will give you a feel for our new approach as well as an understanding of what the children will be studying this term. If you are unable to attend, a handout will be sent home with your child and will also be accessible on the school's Moodle. As ever, your role in your child's learning is key and we will be working to promote the home-school partnership further.

Please note that the Reading Introduction for Parents Evening on the 21st September has been cancelled as reading will be covered in the Meet the Teacher session.

Maths Workshops for Children and Parents

Workshops for all classes will take place over the next month and are an excellent opportunity to work alongside your child and see how they approach mathematical problems. Workshops will start with an introduction from Mr Meaby before you join your child's class for a working session. The new Calculation Policy will be shared with you as will our whole school approach to times tables. Workshops will finish with a question and answer session with Mr Meaby. If you are unable to attend your child's workshop there will be a Maths Introduction for Parents at 3.30pm and again at 6.30pm on Wednesday 5th October, when our whole school approach will be explained.

Uniform

I offer our apologies to all those parents who had a frustrating time with the new uniform supplier. I have heard a number of disheartening stories about the difficulties parents have had and we are looking into the service the supplier is providing. In the meantime, do let us know what particular difficulties you have experienced so that we can ensure that the service improves. In the meantime, rest assured that children can continue to wear their old uniform until your issues with the supplier have been resolved.

Reports

Do remember that there is still time to send feedback about your child's report, including the new report format.

Parish Council (from Holly Grantham)

Towards the end of last term I came to the school to speak to some of the children about what the Parish Council does. It was a real pleasure to talk to the children and see how engaged they are with their village and the challenges the village faces.

Top of the children's to do list was road safety. Many of the children had seen the Speedwatch volunteers out on the road and many had their own stories of speeding vehicles. The Parish Council is waiting for confirmation of grant funding to install village gates which we hope will be a first step in trying to slow traffic down. We continue to liaise with West Sussex on the traffic issues directly affecting the school such as the school safety zone, lack of lollipop lady and the A286 crossing and we will continue to work with the school to try and achieve further improvements.

The second major village project is the Wheelbarrow Castle field and moving the playground. The children had wide and varied ideas for the field and there seemed to be real enthusiasm for the project and for the consultation we launched over the school holidays. We are looking forward to seeing some of their ideas and working with some of the children to formulate a vision for the playground.

As a Parish Council we have enjoyed much closer collaboration with the school over the past few years and we hope this continues. If anyone is interested in what the Parish Council does or would like to join, please do get in touch with our clerk as we can always do with another pair of hands!

Drop-off Arrangements

It is early days but the new drop-off arrangement seems to be working reasonably well. Do let us know if you have any concerns about the arrangements.

We have been fortunate with the weather so far. Please note that on those days when it is raining and parents have arrived early with children, parents and children may still go round the building and shelter under the canopy. On these occasions, they will be let in at the back of the library at 08:40.

Library Borrowing

Parents will know that we have worked really hard to build up our reading stock in the library over the last two years, pursuing grants, getting support from the PTFA and using some of the school's own budget.

Unfortunately, this great work is being undermined by loss of and damage to books. 170 books have been marked as missing over the last two years and 25 books are currently overdue. We expect wear and tear and occasional books to go missing but this level of replacement compromises our ability to maintain the reading stock, let alone extend it, as we would like to do. We had hoped to buy exciting non-fiction to support the different class topics next year but it is not clear whether we will have the funds to do this.

What are we doing?

- We are committed to supporting the reading of the children at the school.
- We will work with our librarians to ensure, right at the start of the year, that all children are fully confident with the system of borrowing and returning books.
- We will alert parents to the loss of a book and will let them know the cost of replacing it. We hope that, parents will offer to pay at least 50% of the cost of replacing the book. This will enable us to put the money spent replacing lost books into extending the range available.

What can you do?

- Please encourage your child to take the responsibility of borrowing a book seriously, looking after it and making sure it is returned to the library promptly, using the Junior Librarian scanning system.
- Please look round at home to see whether you have any of the school's library books.
- Please bear the school library in mind if you have any suitable books which are in good condition but which your family no longer wants.

Secondary School Transfer

On Monday children in Year 6 will come home with a letter for parents regarding Secondary School Transfer. The on-line system will open on Monday 12th September and the national closing date for applications is Monday 31st October. Applications made after the closing date cannot be considered until all other applications have been dealt with. For parents who do not have access to the Internet at home, free access has been arranged at all Libraries and Children and Family Centres within West Sussex.

Roald Dahl Day

On September 13th we will be celebrating "Roald Dahl Day" to mark 100 years since his birth. We would like the children to dress up as their favourite Roald Dahl character in exchange for a £1.00 donation. We will also be selling raffle tickets in the foyer in the morning during the first week of term and on Monday 12th. All proceeds from this will go to the Roald Dahl Charity. We will draw the Roald Dahl themed raffle during afternoon assembly on Tuesday 13th September.

Clubs

The club membership lists are displayed in the office window adjacent to the school's front entrance doors. A few clubs have waiting lists and we will inform you if a space becomes available. Please remember to inform the office if your child is not attending a session. If your child has permission to walk home and is not attending the club session they have signed up for and will therefore be walking home at 3.15pm, please remember to inform the office.

Reminders for outstanding enrolment forms and subs have been sent home today. Please ensure these are returned before the club starts.

Fencing Club - There are too few applicants for this club and the coach does not advise offering the club to a younger class. Therefore, if we do not have any response to this plea for at least 2 more pupils from Years 3-6 to apply the club will have to be withdrawn. Please note that subs for this club are £35.

Science Club - This club has proved a very popular choice and has therefore been split into two groups. Please check the club's list to see which group your child has been allocated.

EASEBOURNE PTFA NEWS

Film Night – Friday 23rd September, 3.30-5.30pm. To tie in with our Roald Dahl celebrations we will be showing a film based on a Roald Dahl book. Details and tickets to follow.

Minibus Club – The Minibus Club supports the running costs of the school minibuses. Today you should receive a letter inviting you to join this monthly prize draw.

PTFA Meeting– The next meeting has been rescheduled to Tuesday 20th September at 7.45pm



**MIDHURST
ROTHER
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**Prospective Year 7
Open Evening**
Thursday 22 September 2016
6.30 - 8.30pm

Drop-in Mornings
Monday 26 September
Tuesday 4 October
Wednesday 12 October 2016
9.30 - 11.30am

**Ofsted
Outstanding
School**
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An outstanding 11-18 school in the heart of rural West Sussex

The image is a promotional flyer for Midhurst Rother College. It features a large background image of the school's modern architecture, including a curved white facade and a glass-enclosed staircase. The text is arranged in a clean, professional layout. On the right side, there is a vertical strip of six small photographs showing students in various settings: two students in formal wear, a group of students in a hallway, two students working at a desk, a group of students in a classroom, and a group of students in a sports setting. The flyer includes contact information, Ofsted and Investors in People accreditation logos, and a list of open evening and drop-in morning dates.