



EASEBOURNE C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

13th January 2017

Dates for January

Friday 13th January	Book Club – Years 4-6 Meet the Teacher – What's new this term - Foxes	3.15-4.15 3.15 pm
Monday 16th January	Meet the Teacher – What's new this term – Dragonflies	3.15 pm
Tuesday 17th January	Badgers & Rabbits to St. Anne's Hill – Knight Workshop Hedgehogs visit to Chichester College's Simulator	9.00-2.00 am
Wednesday 18th January	Meet the Teacher – What's new this term – Hedgehogs	3.15 pm
Thursday 19th January	MRC Experience Day – Orchestra (by invitation) PTFA Meeting	All day 7.30 pm
Friday 20th January	Debate Club KS2	3.15-4.15
Monday 23rd January	Meet the Teacher – What's new this term - Otters	3.15 pm
Wednesday 25th January	Residential Meeting for Foxes and Badgers (in Yr6 classroom)	3.30 pm
Thursday 26th January	"Firewise" for Reception, Squirrels and Foxes Football Tournament Yrs 3 & 4 – Easebourne hosting PTFA Quiz Night	Sessions pm Evening
Friday 27th January	Year 5 – Five Ways to Wellbeing Workshop	All day

A Word from the Head

Welcome back to the spring term. There's lots planned for this term and some new faces. Firstly, we welcome Sarah Watson as our new French teacher and Natalie Renwick as a new teaching assistant, working with Dragonflies Class in the mornings. Another new face is Katie Netley who has taken on an after-school pottery club with the school's new kiln. Getting pottery up and running in the school has been a long ambition and I am delighted that the children will have the opportunity to work with a potter in this club. Katie is also hoping to work with class teachers to support topic-related pottery opportunities. Another new face will be Anthony Knight, an experienced local car builder and engineer, who will be working with Andy Taylor and a group of six dedicated mechanics from Otters in another after-school club to build a Goblin kit car. We will hopefully be racing the car in meets in the summer term – more on that later.

The Seven C's

At last term's Rother Valley Locality Conference for teachers from across the Rother Valley's primary schools, held at Easebourne, the keynote speaker was Bill Lucas, Director of the Centre for Real-World Learning and Professor of Learning at the University of Winchester. As a teaching staff, we were inspired by Bill's passion and vision. In subsequent discussions and at staff meetings, we talked further about adjusting our approach to align it with the 7 C's which Bill argued should underpin a modern approach to education.

This half-term, we are introducing the 7 C's, one at a time, to begin slowly to change how we help our children think about their learning. Last week, we talked about **Curiosity** with the children and this week, the focus has been on **Creativity**.

Projects

Your child might have mentioned 'projects' to you this term. If they were really paying attention at the end of last term, they might even have mentioned them to you over the Christmas holiday!

Essentially, children can choose to design a project on a subject of their choice. The only physical restriction is that it has to fit into an A2 frame (minus a centimetre border around each edge) and be good enough to be put on display. To help, each child will be allocated a member of staff to help with the project.

Over the course of working on this project, he/she will have to demonstrate to the mentor that he/she has demonstrated the 7 C's (see above) in some way. The intention is to achieve a project of quality and I have asked staff to set the bar high. We are actively encouraging children to review and edit their work to make improvements. We are stressing that there is **no time limit** and that it doesn't matter how many times the child revises or adds to the project, though maintaining enthusiasm is of course an issue! Although not essential, parental interest and support are always welcome, as long as the child's role is clear.

To kick-start the initiative, certain members of staff are putting together projects of their own, to show how different the approaches can be. These are going up on display as they are completed.

This is an **experimental initiative**. It is not compulsory; it is something the children can choose to do. Some will not be interested whilst others will probably start but not finish. Hopefully, however, a good number will see the project to fruition and their work will go up on display and that will be very satisfying both for them and for us!

Debate Club

On Friday, 20th January, we will have our first debate club meeting of the term. This will run after school and finish by 4 o'clock. The motion, suggested by a child in Foxes, is that this House believes that the general public in America should be banned from owning guns. Audience members are very welcome!

Well-being Questionnaire

We are introducing a simple questionnaire for children and for staff as the start of a long-term well-being monitoring programme. Children will be asked to give graded responses to 12 simple questions to help us build up a picture of well-being across the school and to address any key areas. It is hoped that this questionnaire will be conducted at least annually from now on.

Church Choir (from Mary Knight)

The young people in the church choir of St.Mary's, Easebourne recently gained their Bronze Award from the Royal School of Church Music with very good marks, and their medals will be formally presented in Chichester Cathedral at the Diocesan Festival in May. All three are now at secondary school but they joined the choir as juniors and now make a valuable contribution to Sunday morning worship and occasional special services such as the Carol Service, weddings and so on.

Through singing in the choir the children learn to use their voices well, meaning correct breathing, projection, pitch and articulation, so that they sing with confidence. They learn to read the music so that they can sing at sight and understand the musical directions of the pieces they perform. They become familiar with music from the Middle Ages to the present day and appreciate the requirements of the differing styles. Most importantly, they come to realise the significance of their part in the services, and through the hymns and anthems that they sing, gain an understanding of the Christian faith

Children who enjoy singing and are willing to commit to an hour's practice once a week and morning service each Sunday are very welcome to come and audition for the choir. In addition, anyone wishing to study the organ can do so, but they must join the church choir first. A bursary scheme exists to encourage young people in choral and organ music.

Please contact Mary Knight (812783) to discuss this further.

House Charity Challenge - Christmas Jumper Day

The fundraising from last term's Christmas Jumper Day has raised £40 for each house towards their target for this term of raising £250 for their chosen charity. Please look out for fundraising initiatives over the term.

Fairtrade Fortnight (27th Feb to 10th March)

Please note that there will be fairtrade stalls after school on Tuesday, 28th February and Tuesday, 7th March. We are keen to try to become a Fairtrade School this term and we will shortly be recruiting children to form a fairtrade team. If there are any parents who would like to become involved in this initiative, for example by helping the children run the two stalls, do let the school know.

Spelling Bee 1st Stage – House Challenge

Well done to all of the 89 children who took part in the first stage of our Spelling Bee on Monday. The children took a test on the words in the spelling list that they had chosen to learn over Christmas. Each contestant gained one spelling point for each correct answer plus five points for entering. Congratulations to the Yellow Cheetahs who just pipped the Green Dragons to the post.



	Blue	Green	Red	Yellow
Hedgehogs	74	70	49	67
Squirrels	108	86	50	99
Rabbits	39	92	80	31
Badgers	55	53	35	105
Foxes	49	44	65	126
Otters	78	122	133	41

Total	403	467	412	469
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House Challenge Pts	1	7	4	10
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2nd Stage – Class Challenge

On Monday, in-class qualifiers will decide which two children from each class will go through to the 3rd Stage, the Individual Challenge, which will sort out the top speller in each class and the overall top speller in the school. Words in these next two stages will be drawn from the high frequency word lists and the National Curriculum exemplification word banks.

Hedgehogs	Squirrels	Rabbits	Badgers	Foxes	Otters
Beatrice	Ava	Isabel	Jasper	Phoebe	Harry
Chloe	Charlie H	Lucy	Rana	Tilly	James
Eleanor	Charlie W	Sian	Ruby	Toby S	Lillianne
Elinor	Daisy	William	Theo W		Phoebe
Harry	Dara				
Jessica	Freya				
Lucy	Harriet				
Marcus	Morgan				
Ruby	Samuel				
Thea	Tabitha				

Plea

The bank at the rear of the school that leads up to the sports field does not make for a suitable play area. The slope can get slippery and it is steep, as are the steps. Please could parents stop children using it as a playground; not only will the bank get ruined over the winter months but there is also the matter of your child's own safety. Thank you in advance.

Residential Trip Meeting – Badgers and Foxes

There will be a meeting in Otters Class on Wednesday 25th at 3.30pm to discuss the planned residential trip to Cobnor for October. There will be a presentation which will give an insight into the activities and programmes. If you are unable to attend but have any questions regarding the residential please speak to Mr Taylor.

UIFSM – Universal Infant Free School Meals

At the beginning of the academic year, all parents in Years R, 1 and 2 were asked to complete a form giving them the opportunity to opt in/opt out of this scheme for their child/children. Some parents chose to opt out but have since changed their mind and we have adjusted our orders accordingly. However, I am aware that some of those who opted in have now reverted back to providing a packed lunch. We do understand that some children may choose not to have a hot meal on certain days and occasionally bring in a lunch from home but, if your child brings in a packed lunch on a daily basis, we do need to know.

We will be charged by Chartwells for every meal we order and over the course of the year this adds up to a considerable amount. It is therefore imperative that our records are as accurate as possible, so do let us know of any changes. Thank you for your co-operation.

Guitar Lessons

Do you think your child is a budding musician? Would you like them to learn guitar? If so, Jamie West, our visiting guitar teacher, is looking to enrol some more students. During Thursday's assembly, Jamie gave a guitar demonstration to the children which they may already have mentioned to you!

If your child is interested in a free guitar lesson and you would like to take this further you can visit www.jamiewestguitar.com or contact jwest123@btconnect.com with any questions. Enquiries may also be left at the school office. The price for a ½ hr group lesson is £7.20.

House Update

	Blue Wolves	Green Dragons	Red Pandas	Yellow Cheetahs
Totals brought forward	110	115	105	107
Week 1 House Points	2	3	1	4
Spelling Bee	1	7	4	10
Week 2 House Points	4	4	1	2
Total	117	129	111	123

Clubs

A list of clubs is displayed in the window of the front foyer. Some clubs are oversubscribed and a waiting list will be in operation. If your child fails to attend a club on a regular basis their place will be offered to a child on the waiting list. A timely reminder, as clubs have started, to please send in any outstanding fees.

Chelsea Football Club

Chelsea Soccer Schools are holding free taster sessions at Midhurst Rother College on Thursday 12th

and Thursday 19th January from 6.00 – 7.00 pm for ages 6 to 11 years. If you are interested, there are further details available on the school notice board in the foyer.

Procedures in the event of school closure due to inclement weather

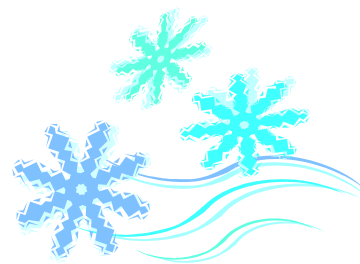
The decision to close the school in the event of inclement weather is not taken lightly and is based on the safety of both pupils and staff, some of whom have to travel quite a considerable distance.

Should we have to close at any point during the winter months, we will endeavour to make a decision by 7.30am and the closure will be posted on the school's website at: <http://www.easebourne.w-sussex.sch.uk>. Closures will also be posted on the West Sussex County Council website at: <http://www.westsussex.gov.uk>. We will also send a text message to parents.

Some of our school bus pupils live in rural areas and we will have to be guided by our transport provider's ability to operate a safe service.

There may be circumstances when the decision is taken to close during the school day due to rapidly changing weather conditions. In these cases parents will be sent a text message. A member of staff will remain at the school with the children until the last child has been collected.

If the school is open and your child is unable to get in, please notify the office by 9.30am leaving a message on the absence line. After-school clubs will be cancelled if the weather conditions are poor. Children should wear appropriate clothing for the conditions, including waterproof footwear to go out to play i.e. wellington or snow boots and a change of footwear for class. A coat, hat, a pair of gloves and a change of socks would also be advisable.



EASEBOURNE PTFA NEWS

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and are looking forward to 2017. We ended last year with our Christmas Fair and are delighted to say that it made a superb £2885.00 profit. Thank you so much everyone who supported this event.

As previously mentioned, we welcome Janet Lambert to the role of PTFA Chairperson and we have some fantastic events to kick start this term. Firstly, we have a PTFA Quiz Night at The Badgers (Pub and Restaurant), Petworth on Thursday 26th January from 7.15pm. We have availability for 5 teams of 5 people, so feel free to put your own team together. This is open to all and not just Easebourne parents. The price to enter will be £10 per person and this will include a meal of Fish n Chips, Shepherds' Pie or Curry at half time. Menu choices can be placed on the night. There is a lovely hamper up for grabs for the winning team, so come along and enjoy a relaxed, fun evening whilst supporting our school. If you would like more information, to enter a team or purchase a ticket, please contact Charlotte Hall either via the school office or the PTFA Facebook page.

Upcoming Events

- * PTFA meeting in the school on Thursday 19th January at 7.30pm, everyone welcome.
- * Summer Fair meeting in Easebourne Church, on Thursday 9th February at 7.45pm, everyone welcome.
- * PTFA Film Night on Friday 10th March, 3.30pm - 5.30pm (film to be confirmed)
- * PTFA Easter Egg Hunt Thursday 6th April