



EASEBOURNE C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

8th February 2019

Dates for the next 2 weeks

Tuesday 12th February	Year 3 RV All Sing at MRC	am
Thursday 14th February	Author Chris Riddell – Illustrated Talk for Parents and KS2	7.30pm
Friday 15th February	PTFA Valentines Cake Sale	3.15
18th February-22nd February	HALF TERM	
25th February-8th March	Fair Trade Fortnight	
Thursday 28th February	Year 5 and 6 Maths Mastery Parent/Pupil Workshop	8.50-10.00

A Word from the Head



Parent Consultations

I hope parents found this week's parent consultations helpful. Thank you all for taking such an interest in your child's learning. Hopefully, KS1 and KS2 parents should have picked up a Teaching, Learning & Supporting sheet (pictured) with some ideas about how to support their children at home with their learning. If you didn't manage to pick one up, do collect one from the office. It is a work in progress and will be updated but I hope you find it a useful document. Thank you, too, if you filled out and returned a questionnaire – parental feedback is really important, is taken seriously and does feed into further school developments. These questionnaires were given out randomly; if you weren't given one and would like the opportunity to feed back, please ask for a copy at the office.

Tight Write #1

We mentioned Tight Write in the sheet given out at parent consultation meetings. Each newsletter will include an image. Children are invited to write about it in a short piece of writing with no more than 50 words. These need to be handed in and the best writing in KS1, Lower KS2 and Upper KS2 will be published in the next newsletter, along with the next image. The idea is simply to encourage children to write for pleasure. With such a small wordcount, we hope that Tight Write will also make it less daunting for children to return to their writing to tweak and improve it. There should be a separate copy of the image attached.



Children's Laureate Live @ Easebourne @ 19:30 on Thursday, 14th February!

It isn't every day that you get the opportunity to see a recent Children's Laureate, OBE decorated, award-winning author/illustrator on your doorstep for the measly price of £5 (£2 for KS2 pupils and students). When one realises that there is also the opportunity to buy a book afterwards and have that author/illustrator sign it, it's clear that this is something special. And then, when it's pointed out that all the proceeds from the evening will go towards purchasing books for the school library, it's a compelling offer, even on Valentine's Day. So roll up, roll up and get your tickets from the office staff.



Staff News

Next week we say goodbye to Emma Bailey, one of our Midday Meals Supervisors, who will shortly be taking up a similar position at Seaford. We thank her for her time and diligence but look forward to seeing her again next term when she will return to run some of our Forest School sessions.

New Schools Direct Student

We welcome Jennifer Beaton who will be working with Mrs. Parker-Phipps in Year 2 for the second half of the term.

Banks at the Back of the School

Please could I ask parents not to let their children climb the banks around the school. Traffic up and down the banks not only ruins the grass but some areas have been planted with spring flowering bulbs.

Parking

Although blessed with a larger car park than most primary schools of a similar size in the Rother Valley, ours can still become congested and I know that some parents park in neighbouring roads. This is very helpful and I am grateful to them as this not only helps to relieve the pressure but also gives children some exercise on their way to and from school. However, we have received a plea from the residents of Highfield Close. Their very reasonable request is that cars are not parked so far up on the pavement that it becomes impossible to actually pass the cars with a pram. Please could parents bear this in mind when parking?

There are still ongoing issues within our car park and I would remind parents that:

1. We have three disabled parking bays, two next to the minibuses and one at the end of the staff parking area. With the pressure on parking spaces, these do apparently get used by drivers of cars which are not displaying blue badges. This means that disabled drivers are struggling to find a parking space to enable them to pick up their children or grandchildren. **PLEASE** could drivers leave these spaces free and be mindful that not all disabilities are obvious.
2. Previously, you might recall an incident where a car was parked behind the drop-off zone and the driver reversed into a mother who was crossing behind her with two children. Thankfully no one was hurt. **PLEASE** could drivers refrain from parking in front of, behind and over the crossing. **PLEASE** could pedestrians make sure they cross using the crossing.
3. Some parents are parking their cars outside the designated spaces in the car park this causes confusion, congestion and makes manoeuvring in and out of spaces more difficult and is dangerous for pedestrians using the car park.
4. Finally, it is still apparent that people are leaving their cars in the drop-off zone at the front of the school. This is not what it is intended for. If we can keep it free for dropping off, the traffic will flow more smoothly and cars will be able to leave the site quickly, reducing congestion. **PLEASE** don't park in the drop-off zone but just drop off. There should be absolutely no necessity to park in the drop-off zone at 2.30pm when the rest of the car park is empty.

Second Hand Uniform

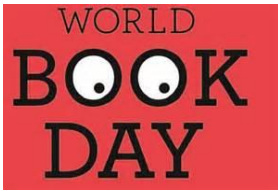
There is a rail of second hand school uniform in the entrance foyer. All items cost 50p and the proceeds go to the PTFA. Please hand money to the office staff. If you have any clean school uniform which is in a good condition and which you no longer require we would be grateful for any donations. If you have any unwanted hangers, please could you drop them into the office as we are running short? Thank you.

Gardening Help – reminder

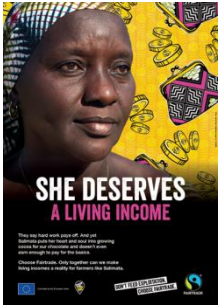
Easebourne Primary School has an up and coming garden space. Our fundamental ethos is to garden organically using a holistic approach which gives children learning opportunities which inspire them to learn where our food comes from and how it is grown, and also to taste many different varieties of fruit and vegetables.

Last year was a wonderful success and it was a joy to watch the garden start to develop, but in order for it to continue to grow, we need your help. I am asking if anyone would like to get involved as a volunteer, donating any time you have, no matter how big or small. Anyone who has knowledge, skills and experience in gardening that they wish to share is all warmly welcomed. However you don't need to be Alan Titchmarsh or Monty Don. We are looking for people from any gardening background or with none at all. Please let the office know if you can lend a hand. Thank you.

World Book Week – W/C 4th March



Children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character on World Book Day on Thursday 7th March. As mentioned in the email sent home this week, we aim to create an exciting book week of activities to explore reading through art, dance, drama and music. Building on the success of STEAM week last year, we are hoping to organise a range of stimulating learning experiences. Therefore, we are asking all parents, grandparents and volunteers if they would like to come in to help with reading or are willing to help in activities that share their experiences in art, dance, drama or music. Forms are available in Reception.



Fairtrade Fortnight

The campaign for this year's Fairtrade Fortnight is 'She Deserves a Living Income' and focuses on women cocoa farmers. The fortnight launches as we return from half-term and we have ordered fairtrade resources to celebrate this.



There will be a house competition to collect the packaging from fairtrade products and display them in the library as we have done once before, so start setting your fairtrade packaging aside. I also plan to meet with the school council as well to see whether they have any other ideas which we can tell you about before we enter half-term. Watch this space!

Maths Mastery Parent/Pupil Workshops (Years 1-6)

After half term we are holding a series of workshops for parents to attend. The first of these will be on Thursday 28th February for Years 5 and 6, followed by Years 3 and 4 on Thursday 7th March and finishing with Years 1 and 2 on Thursday 14th March.

Since the start of the Spring term we have begun to introduce a mastery approach to our teaching and learning in mathematics. The mastery-learning model means spending greater time going into depth when learning a concept or procedure and not racing through the curriculum. Rushing through content can lead to some children having large gaps in subject knowledge because the concept they had just learnt was either too big or learnt too quickly. A mastery approach means that we are taking learning at a steadier and deeper pace, trying to ensure that children are not left behind; as well as providing deeper and richer experiences for children who are above the national expectations for their age. We are focusing on all children achieving what is expected of their age group.

Pet Debate

Last Friday, a small group gathered to hear four children from Otters Class debate whether every child should have a pet.

Isla and Tam spoke for the motion. They pointed out that pets lead to lower blood pressure in their owners, as well as a more physically active lifestyles and lower cholesterol. Children with pets tend to get outside more and enjoy more fresh air and you can have fun with a pet, even a ferret! Plus, of course, pets are really cute!

Kitty and Theo W spoke against the motion. Kitty's arguments included the fact that pets' shorter lives mean that children have to deal with the death of animals with which they have developed emotional attachments. Pets can also trigger allergic reactions in children. Kitty also explained that pets can disrupt children's sleep. This side also produced statistics about the number of deaths from dog attacks in the US. Kitty also pointed out that parents often get stuck with the care of pets as children don't always honour their promises to care for their pets!

After some tricky questions from the floor, including the impact of universal pet ownership on the future of zoos, a second vote was taken. In the end, Kitty and Theo managed to persuade more people to their side and they carried the day. Well done to all four speakers, especially to Tam who stepped in at the last moment to cover.

House Update

	Green	Yellow	Blue	Red
Total From Autumn Term	162	177	166	139
Christmas Reading Challenge	26	25	24	23
Week 1 and 2 House Points	1	3	2	4
Week 3 House Points	1	4	2	3
Week 4 House Points	3	1	3	4
Week 5 House Points	1	2	3	4
Week 6 House Points	1	3	2	4
Total	195	215	202	181

EASEBOURNE PTFA NEWS

We are thrilled that the final two CleverTouch Pro interactive whiteboards were installed last week into the two Year 1 classes. This brings the total number of screens throughout the building to eight. At an approximate cost of £1300 each these are a big investment into the school which would not have been possible without your support with our fundraising. Thank you all so much!!

Our fundraising for this year is slightly less financially ambitious, but is still incredibly valuable to the school and our children. We will be supporting the Maths, Science and Technology departments with equipment and the safety of staff and child when off site.

We kick this off with a Valentines' cake sale after school on the last day of this half term - 16th February. Please support this by bringing in donations of cakes/savouries (baked or faked) on the morning of the 16th. We plan to have a table at the front of the school and under the canopy but will need a few Y1 / Y2 parent volunteers please. This will be for no more than an hour. Please let Janet Lambert or reception know if you can help.

Children's Film Night

The PTFA Film Night will be held on Friday 8th March 3.15pm-5.30pm (times may vary). This event is for all children of Easebourne Primary School, Reception Class through to Year 6 only. Unfortunately we do not have the Adult-Child ratio to include children from nursery, however if you would like to help on the day and have a younger sibling they are more than welcome to come with you but will be your responsibility throughout.

Tickets will be on sale from Monday 4th March at £2.50 per child, price includes a bag of popcorn and a bottle of fruit drink or water. The children are more than welcome to bring their pyjamas or change of clothes, pillows, duvets, blankets etc... They love to bring onesie's but we advise against them as the hall gets very hot.

The film is still to be confirmed. As with all events we will need volunteers to help beforehand, during the film and cleaning up afterwards. If you are able to help in anyway, please contact the school office on 01730 813266, the PTFA Facebook Page 'Easebourne Primary School PTFA' or Jo Purser (Secretary of the PTFA and mum of children in Hedgehogs and Bumble Bees).

Dates for you Diaries

- * Friday 15th February, Cake Sale after school
- * Children's Film Night Friday 8th March and also 3 more, 1 in May, September & November
- * Race Night Friday 22nd March from 7pm at the Memorial Hall in aid of the EPS Mindfulness Project. This is a community event. An email has been sent out to Parents/Carers with more details.
- * Easter Egg Hunt, Thursday 4th April to take place during the school day
- * Quiz Night, Friday 3rd May, at Easebourne Primary School (More details to follow soon)
- * Friday 3rd May - PTFA meeting at 3.30pm (we are planning media entertainment for children of parents who can attend)
- * Happy School Bag Collections in the Summer Term and one other in the Autumn Term
- * Sponsored Walk, Jog, Run, in May during the school day
- * Summer Fair, Saturday 29th June
- * Fairies & Scaries, Friday 18th October
- * Christmas Fair Friday 29th November

