

Eythorne Elvington CP School

Friday 3rd September 2021



Welcome back to a new school year, I hope that you all managed to enjoy the six week break. It was fantastic to see all of the children coming back onto the playground this morning looking incredibly smart and with huge smiles across their faces. We also welcome all new families to our school community including all those with children starting in Reception class this week as well as the children who have joined us from other schools.

We all hope that this school year will come with much less disruption than the previous two have done, however, we have shown over the past 18 months that we will be able to deal with anything that comes our way!

COVID 19: As always, we continue to follow the Government guidance with regards COVID 19. As things stand, we no longer ask parents to socially distance or to wear masks on the playground. However, we are remaining with the rule of one family at a time in the office area.

In school, we will not be operating as two bubbles as before which means that children and adults can move around the school as and when is required. We will continue with the regular washing and sanitising of hands for children and classrooms will remain well ventilated.

Breakfast and After School Club: We continue to offer wrap around care for all children from 8am until 5:45pm for all those parents who need it. Places must be booked in advance with at least 24 hours' notice and this is done through the school office. Payment must be made in advance termly or at least weekly.

Extra-Curricular After-School Clubs: There will not be any after-school clubs until after October half term. Information about these will come out before the half term break and parents will be able to sign their children up should they wish.

PE Kits: We ask that all children (with the exception of those in Discovery class) come into school on a Friday wearing full PE kits. This was one of the few benefits from the COVID changes and certainly allows more PE time without children having to get changed. Classes will also be doing one other additional PE slot during the week and on these days we ask the children to again wear their PE kits. Details of these days are below:

Endeavour and Challenger class – Tuesday

Voyager, Atlantis and Columbia classes – Wednesday

School PE T-Shirts and Hoodies are available to order from the school office, the rest of the PE kit should be made up of black PE shorts and plimsolls or trainers. During the colder days children should also wear tracksuit bottoms.

School Year 2021/2022

Term 1

2nd September – 22nd October

School Holiday

25th October - 29th October

Term 2

3rd November – Fri 17th December

School Holiday

20th December – 31st December
Bank holiday – 3rd January 2022

Term 3

5th January – 11th February

School holiday

14th February – 18th February

Dates for your diary

Kent Test Year 6 – 9th September
Boy/Girls Grammar Test – 11th September





Forest and Farm Schools: This year we are taking a different approach to the outdoor education aspect of school life. Instead of timetabled sessions of “Forest School”, like we have done in the past, class teachers will be taking the children outside as and when they see fit, linking their learning directly to the areas of the curriculum that they are covering. Due to the nature of this, we will not be needing children to come to school wearing clothes suitable for getting particularly muddy/wet. However, we will need **EVERY child to KEEP A PAIR OF WELLINGTON OR WALKING BOOTS IN SCHOOL AT ALL TIMES**. We would very much appreciate it, if parents could look to have these items in school as soon as possible. Please make sure they are clearly named.

Last year, we were lucky to have the support of Woodpecker Court in providing Farm School sessions for some children. Due to the success of these sessions, we are now going be rolling this out to ALL pupils by the end of the school year. The sessions take place on a Wednesday afternoon and we will be using the children’s walking/wellington boots for this as well as their coat which they will have with them every day.

Dates: In next Friday’s newsletter, we will be providing parents with a comprehensive list of all key dates for the school year. This is to give parents as much notice as possible should they need to book time off work or arrange childcare for events such as nativity, parents evening and sports day etc. As always, some of these dates may have to change for one reason or another – in these cases we aim to give as much notice as possible.

Kent Test: A number of our Year 6 children have registered to take part in the Kent Test next Thursday (9th September). This will take place in school through most of the day and we will make it as enjoyable as possible for the children. A reminder to parents that the Dover Boys/Girls Grammar Schools have their independent tests which take place on the Saturday after (11th September).

Uniform: As mentioned earlier in the newsletter, I was brilliant to see the children coming into school so well presented yesterday and just how proud they were of their “new” outfits. A reminder to parents that the expectations of school uniform here are as follows:

- School jumper/fleece or blue cardigan
- White polo shirt/shirt or blouse
- Blue and white chequered dress
- Black or Grey Trousers/shorts
- Black shoes

We have sent out an e-mail to all parents this morning as we are looking to make a further order for PE uniform as we have had a few enquiries over the last few days.

Volunteers: We have benefited greatly over the past few years of having volunteers from the local community spend an afternoon in school listening to children read. Unfortunately, due to COVID, until the last few weeks of last term we missed out a lot of time through this. Reading is a major focus at Eythorne Elvington and having the ability for a child to read aloud to an adult has a HUGE impact. So, if you would like to help us out in this way and can spare a few hours one afternoon please do get in touch with us at school.

Nourish

A letter went home yesterday telling parents that we have now changed our catering supplier along with a copy of their menu, please ensure you read this letter as it provides important information concerning accounts that you will need to set up. If your child currently receives a free school meal, then they will continue to do so with our new caterers.

Water bottles

Just a reminder that children need to bring in a water bottle with them as we have had some children without these this week, they will need them for both PE and also for lunch time as well as for in class. These can be bought from the school office.

Neil Garvey

Headteacher

