



Euxton Church of England Primary School



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Headteacher: Mrs Mairi Ash

Friday 8th September 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful summer break. It has been a lovely to return to school this week. The newsletter today, as it is the first one of the new school year, is a lengthy one because it includes some reminders and important information for all. I have been delighted with all the children this week. They have all settled so well into their new classes and worked really hard, displaying such positive attitudes. Fine examples of our school vision statement. Please remember to share your thoughts with us over the year. Please know you can talk to me anytime and I welcome your comments. We are all working towards the same thing - the best for our children. I'm sure it is going to be a wonderful year 😊

Our school vision statement

In our Christian family, we all SHINE in the light of Jesus.

Strong Christian ethos, built upon Christian values.

Happy memories made in a fun, loving and caring place.

Inspirational teaching and learning, with high expectations for all.

Nurturing environment, safe and secure, where all are valued and success is celebrated.

Everyone working as a team in a school where we are all proud to belong.

Welcome to our school family!

A very warm welcome to all our new Reception children and their families, who have joined us this week. The children have made a brilliant start to their school journey and had an amazing first week. We are also delighted that James has joined us in Y4 too and we are so pleased that you have all joined our school family. Ms Lucas has also joined our staff as Reception teacher and we are thrilled to have her as part of our team!

We would like to present our new children with a special pebble to symbolise the start of their time with us. They will then place the blue pebble in our decorative bowl that stays in our entrance area. The children will then take one of these away with them when they leave us in Year 6. It is a lovely tradition. This will take place during our **Celebration Worship on Friday 15th September**. **Parents of our new starters are more than welcome to join us.**

Baby news

Congratulations to the Wignall and McLaughlin families who have welcomed new additions into the world. Elliott now has a baby sister Emily and Oliver a baby brother (who was born only yesterday and name to be confirmed). We send both families and especially mums Naomi and Kirsty all our love.

Musical Success

Congratulations to **Oliver Ralph, Charlie Robb and Maya Roberts** who were presented with their certificates in Celebration Worship for Grade 1 practical music exams in the summer term. Well done to you all and thank you to Mr Ogden for teaching the children.

Meet the teacher sessions

These are a great opportunity for you to find out a little more about your child's year group, to meet the team and see their learning environment. The sessions will be **9:00-9:20am** so once you have dropped your child off, **make your way into their classroom** - please come closer to 8:55am than 8:45am on that day, if you can. These sessions won't be an appropriate time to speak to your child's teacher, however the staff are always happy to have a chat with you at other times.

Tuesday 12th September - Year 5 and Year 6

Wednesday 13th September - Year 3 and Year 4

Thursday 14th September - Year 2

Tuesday 19th September - Y1

Ms Lucas will be having the second part of her Reception Welcome meeting in the classroom on **Tuesday 3rd October at 6pm**. We hope you can join us.

Clubs and Activities

These are the confirmed clubs and activities for this **term**, to commence w/c 18th September, unless otherwise stated. Please email Mrs Hodges on bursar@euxton.lancs.sch.uk if you would like your child to attend any of the clubs. Some will have a number limit so please try and do this as soon as you can. If they are over-subscribed then either a waiting list will be produced or we will look at ways of running the club differently. **Thank you to all the staff for their time in running these extra-curricular activities.** Outdoor clubs will need additional clothing to suit the weather. Some can get muddy!

	Lunchtime	After School
Monday	<u>Ethos (Worship) Group</u> at 1pm with Miss Lewis - Y5 and Y6	<u>Athletics</u> with Mrs Obertelli until 4:30pm - Y3 & Y4 <u>Running Club</u> with Mrs Ash for all year groups until 4.15pm (whilst daylight allows us to be outside). <u>Little Learners Y1 & Y2</u> with Mrs Delves (link sent out to parents) Starts 11 th September 3.30pm-4.30pm.
Tuesday	<u>KS1 Lego Club</u> with Mrs Cheetham From 12.30 in Y1 classroom	
Wednesday	<u>KS2 Mixed Football Club</u> with Mrs MacDonald and Mr Westwell 12.45-1.25	<u>JAM Coding - Game Design KS2</u> (link sent out to parents) Starts 13 th September 3.30pm-4.30pm.
Thursday	<u>KS1 Mindfulness Club</u> at 1pm with Mrs Smith in Y3 classroom	<u>KS1 Craft Club</u> with Ms Lucas until 4.30pm <u>Players Drama School Y1-Y6</u> (link and leaflet sent out to parents) Starts 14 th September 3.30pm-4.30pm.
Friday	<u>KS2 Homework Club</u> - with Mrs Rowan in Y5 classroom. Drop in between 12.30 -1.30pm. This club started today.	

Homework

Homework focus will be on **reading, spellings and times tables**. Homework will continue to be set on a **Wednesday** and be due in on a **Monday**. Spelling and times tables quizzes will be given to the children in class on a **Monday**. **Year 6** will also have an additional piece of homework each week.

Children will continue to have their reading records and banded books which are sent home each week. **Please do aim to listen to your child read every night**. As a school we really promote a love of reading as reading unlocks the whole curriculum and regular practice really does make a huge difference. The teachers will go through homework in their 'Meet the Teacher' sessions and a copy of the PowerPoint will be sent home. **We will be continuing with our 'wellbeing' homework once each half-term, as a break from the usual homework, as we continue to place this highly in our school.** Thank you for your support with your child's learning at home and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to have a word with your child's teacher.

Christian Values and Worship

Our Christian Values are Wisdom, Compassion, Humility, Friendship, Peace, Trust, Forgiveness and Hope. This half-term we are revisiting each value in our class and whole school worships. We have worship time each day in school and Rev. Jo or Rev. Amy lead worship on a Monday morning, which we very much value. Each Tuesday the children worship together as a class and on Wednesday's either myself, Miss Lewis or Mrs Obertelli will explore our half-termly Christian Value with the children. Mrs King kindly leads a 'Songs of Praise' each Thursday and on a Friday I lead our special Celebration Worship, when achievements are celebrated. You will be informed if your child has been awarded class Superstar the week before and invited to attend. We also celebrate birthdays at this special time. All the children who have had their birthday during the week before will be invited up to the front, receive a sticker and we will sing our very special birthday song. The children can also bring up to 3 of their birthday cards to show, if they wish. You are very welcome to join us for this. If your child has achieved something outside school, eg. swimming, football, drama, etc. then our Friday worship is a good time to have this recognised too - they can bring their certificates, medals, trophies in, or they can just have a round of applause! We look forward to you joining us throughout the year.

School Rules and Reward Systems

This week, as staff and children we have created a new set of school rules which are underpinned by our Christian and British Values. Next week I will send out a revised Behaviour Policy which explains this in more detail and staff will also talk about class systems in our 'Meet the Teacher' sessions. Staff and children believe in following our school rules which help us all to SHINE.

Our new school rules are:

- ❖ Shine in work and play
- ❖ Respect ourselves, each other and God.
- ❖ Be kind, polite and helpful
- ❖ Be fair and truthful
- ❖ Be active in listening and learning

All children belong to one of our four school teams: Air, Earth, Fire and Water. We have changed some reward systems which were previously in place so that we can use our school teams to promote a sense of teamwork and positive behaviour for children and adults alike. A system of house points will now operate throughout the school by which children can be celebrated for all aspects of academic and non-academic achievements, for effort, for being considerate, and being responsible. The children will have a sense of belonging and work as a team to support each other. A weekly total of house points is accumulated and will be displayed on the House Team Board in the school entrance (we are currently

awaiting delivery!). Every half term each team with the most points will have an extra playtime to share together.

This new reward system will replace class dojos and therefore we will no longer have bronze/silver/gold certificates. Please don't panic! We have lots of other opportunities for recognition which are explained below.

Other rewards in school are:

- ❖ Headteachers award: Pupils are awarded special Headteacher Award certificates and stickers for outstanding achievement. Awards are given for a range of achievements.
- ❖ Celebration assembly on a Friday morning enables the school community to gather and share weekly successes together. We celebrate achievements out of school by inviting children to share with us their success. Certificates and trophies can be brought in to our Friday celebration assembly to be presented and parents are welcome to attend.
- ❖ Superstar of the week: Each class staff team chooses a child each week to be superstar. This achievement is linked to our Christian Values due to their attitude or as a result of work outcomes. Parents are informed and invited to our Friday Celebration Assembly to see their child receive their certificate. The children are also able to sit at the 'top table' for lunch each day for the week that they are superstar, with a friend of their choice.
- ❖ To recognise that lots of children SHINE in their learning through the week, class teachers will nominate 4 children to receive a special sticker to celebrate and recognise achievements across the curriculum in reading, writing, maths and another area of the curriculum e.g. art, science, music. Please look out for these special stickers and, if you're child comes home wearing one, ask why they went up to the front in assembly. We hope it will be an exciting part to our celebration assembly and promote talk about our curriculum both at home and school. As a result, 5 children from each class will be celebrated at the end of each week and every half term, meaning that every child will have achieved recognition for all their efforts.

Year 6 Leaders

Year 6 children have been presented with a very special badge today in worship. This badge identifies them as being a Y6 pupil in our school and therefore an ultimate role model! Our Y6 have made an amazing start to their final year with us and I am sure that they will wear their badges with pride and take their responsibilities seriously. To further develop leadership skills and act as role models for each other, Year Six children are also going to be elected as Team Captains for our four school teams: Air, Earth, Fire and Water. I'm sure they'll be an inspiration to all members of their team and school to be the best that they can be. All Year 6 children are given an area of responsibility through which they develop their leadership skills. They encourage all other children to live out our school vision statement. These roles provide our oldest children with the opportunity to problem solve and develop their understanding of service through leadership. We have lots of other areas of responsibility offered to children throughout school and these are explained in more detail in our Behaviour Policy which again I'll send out separately next week.

Year 4 Swimming

Year 4 will be starting their swimming lessons at Tarleton Academy on Monday. Please make sure the children bring their swimming kit, towel and goggles (if needed). I am sure they will really enjoy the experience

Online Safety

This is a fast-paced area of children's safety which is constantly changing. Please refer to the topical online safety poster at the end of this newsletter which supports children, parents and carers so that we are all up to date on what to be aware of. All classes are currently focusing on online safety in computing lessons to ensure important messages are embedded before we continue further with our digital learning.

Dates Ahead

Parent's Evening

We will once again have two formal opportunities this year to meet with your child's teacher. The first will be held on **Tuesday 10th October** and will be an opportunity for you to discuss how your child has settled into their new class and discuss their learning so far. Appointments will start from 2.30pm onwards. A letter will be sent home nearer the time for you to make an appointment. I will be available throughout the afternoon/evening if you would like to have a chat with me.

The second Parents Evening will be in the Spring term. This will be about the progress your child is making and you to have a look at the work they have been doing in school. **However, it is really important to us that you know that you are always welcome to ask for a meeting with staff during the year on a more informal basis. We really do have an open-door policy and will do all we can for you.**

Admissions - Primary and Secondary Places

You can now apply via www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools for school places for next September. Supplementary Faith forms are available in the school office for our school. If you are applying to any faith school a separate form should be provided by them and completed. The closing dates are as follows:

Secondary (Y7 in Sept 2024) - 31st October 2023

Primary (Reception in Sept 2024) - 15th January 2024

Please do not hesitate to have a chat with me if you would like any additional information. If you know anyone who is interested in their child coming to our lovely school then please encourage them to come along to our Open Day, which will be on **Monday 9th October**. There will be two opportunities on the day; from **9:30-10:30am** and from **1:30-2:30pm**. It would be great to have a rough idea of numbers so we encourage prospective parents to contact the school office and let us know if they would like to attend. Although this is an Open Day, it is so important to us that it reflects normal, everyday school life, which it will. Our Year 6 children are already excited about showing people around and I know they will do us proud!

High School Open Evenings

Please see below many of the local secondary schools Open Evenings information:

St Michaels CE High School - Thursday 14th September 5.30-8pm

Wellfield Academy - Thursday 21st September 4.30-7pm

Parklands High School - Wednesday 27th September 5.15-8pm

Bishop Rawstone Academy - Thursday 21st September 4:30-6pm or 6.30-8.30pm

Albany Academy - Thursday 28th September (Y6 only)

Balshaw's High School - Thursday 5th October 6-9pm

Southlands - Thursday 5th October 4.30-7pm

Holy Cross - Thursday 12th October 6-8.30pm

Please check the school website before a visit as some have booking systems on there. Should any parents wish to take their child round schools during the school day then please just let us know. We fully appreciate it's a big decision and we are happy to help in any way we can.

Just a few reminders...

Morning Start

The school gate opens just before 8:45am and then the children can go into school from 8:45-8:55am. **8:55am** is still the official start time so the children need to be in school by then. Thank you for your support in ensuring the children are in school on time - it really is so important for so many reasons. Socially, and academically, this helps them to settle into class, ready for the day ahead. By being just 5 minutes late each day actually equates to 3½ days of learning being missed every year. Naturally, and understandably, things do happen and please don't worry about that. However, it is essential that persistent lateness cannot happen and as we have a duty of care for our children from 8:55am it may become a safeguarding issue. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Use of the School Drive

Please remember that, for no other reason than safety, we do not allow cars to come down the school drive up to 9:15am or after 3:00pm. If you are collecting from after school club you may drive up after **4:45pm**. There are two church car parks you can use, as well as a kind offer from **Papa Luigi's** too, although this is something they insist it is not used on a Monday afternoon or if there are events in the evenings, when their own customers are using it, which is totally understandable. Please remain considerate when parking in any residential or business areas too. We really do value your support with this, thank you.

ParentPay

Thank you to the new parents who have activated their accounts this week. If you haven't yet got around to it, please try and do it as soon as possible. We use ParentPay to email and text parents as well as the payment method for all things in school, uniform, milk, OSC, dinners, music lessons etc. Please remember to add your mobile number to your account so that text messages can be received. The one item that initially causes confusion is 'Uniform' which always shows an amount of £4 owing. This is the way the system accepts uniform payment and £4 is the minimum amount of any uniform item so please ignore this. If you order uniform, you will receive an amount of debt in the Uniform section for the items you have collected from school.

Holiday Requests

We really do value your support in not taking holidays in term time. In summary, I am unable to authorise term-time absence unless it is an exceptional circumstance. If you have any questions about this, please just ask. There may well be an exceptional reason why you may need to take your child out of school and all I ask is for you to contact me about it. Should a request need to be made, we have a short form that needs to be completed and returned, so that we have the details in writing - these are available from the school office.

Communication, Website, Twitter and Social Media

Communications from school will frequently be sent via text or email. Please be assured though, if there was to be a real need to speak to you about anything we would always contact you by telephone. Our website www.euxtonceprimary.co.uk is a great place to find out lots of important information. X (formerly Twitter) is a more spontaneous means of staff sharing photos and information, which can be accessed via the app. We can be found on [@EuxtonCEprimary](https://twitter.com/EuxtonCEprimary). Our PTFA also have an X feed ([@EuxtonPTFA](https://twitter.com/EuxtonPTFA)) and a Facebook page (Euxton Cof E Primary School PTFA).

As staff we feel very fortunate that you are able to come to talk to anyone in the team, if you have an issue. **We really do value our positive relationship with you and urge anyone to come and speak to us if a problem arises, and not try and 'resolve' things via WhatsApp groups or social media,**

whether this be an open or closed 'group'. Our Home School Partnership Agreement, which is signed by all parents, pupil and school, includes the following statement: *'Be sensitive to the reputation, respect, privacy of staff, pupils and parents of the school community'*, so thank you for your wonderful support in adhering to this and for the respect you show in terms of social media.

Medicines in School

If medicine needs to be taken under exceptional circumstances, then we are happy to administer this if there has been a written agreement made with parents and the appropriate form from the office completed. This is primarily for prescribed medication. However, again in exceptional circumstances and following the previously mentioned procedures, we will also give Calpol, etc. if there is a real need. Please note that this is not routine. The only requirement that we have is that it is in the form of a sealed sachets or melts that has the exact amount in. These are readily available from chemists.

Medical Forms

Mrs Ormes sent new medical forms out to all classes (except YR who completed their forms in the summer term) this week - if you haven't done so already, please complete the form and return it to school by Monday 11th September at the latest. Thank you!

First Aid

The vast majority of our staff are first aid trained and we have members of staff assigned outside to first aid at breaktimes. This means that instead of coming straight to the office the children are looked at straight away and basic first aid may be administered, eg. cleaning a graze, putting a plaster on, etc. Mrs Hodges and Mrs Ormes do a fantastic job if the children are sent in to be looked at. Accident forms are sent home if we feel necessary, and always following a bumped head, but may not be completed if the injury is deemed very minor and has caused your child no distress. However, all incidents are noted. In addition, we ask children who have had a bump to the head to wear a small yellow sticker for the rest of the school day on their jumper to ensure all adults are aware of the incident and keep an eye on them.

Messages from our school community

Macmillan Cancer Support Fundraising

Colin (Toby's Dad in Y2) is flying out to Nepal on 23rd September to take part in a charity event trekking to Everest Base Camp fundraising for Macmillan Cancer Support. He will be trekking from Lukla to Everest Base Camp which will be a grueling climb up to 5,380m or 17,650ft with about 1/3 of the oxygen at sea level. It will take 15 days to complete the challenge from Lukla, up to base camp and back to Lukla again. If anyone would like to donate, it would be greatly appreciated as Colin is hoping to raise £4000. Here is the link to Colin's justgiving page www.justgiving.com/fundraising/colinhacker. We wish him all the very best!

School Crossing Patrol Retirement

Andrea would like to say 'thank you' to everyone who made her last morning at the crossing so special.

"Thank you SO much to Lucy and Collette for all the decorations. I have met such lovely children, mums, dads, grandparents, dogs etc over the years. It really has been a joyful 'job'. Every day has seen smiley faces and lots of cuddles. Even in the wind, rain and snow I've loved every minute of it. I've made some friends for life - of all ages. I've always said 'I'm the luckiest lollipop lady in the world' and that day just proved it. Thank you everyone for my cards, presents (some so personal) and gift cards. I'm going to enjoy my retirement but I will miss everyone enormously. Good luck to everyone and lots of love too. Andrea xxxx"

Remembrance Service

As part of Baby Loss Awareness Week there is a special service at Euxton Parish Church on Monday 9th October at 7.30pm to support those who may have experienced pregnancy or baby loss.

Chorley Flower Show

Well done to Oliver who had his prize winning design made into a garden featured at the Chorley Flower Show in the summer holidays. I'm sure you'll all agree it looks fantastic!



First Kick Football

This football club starts on Thursday 28th September at Southlands High School for boys and girls in YR-Y6. If you would like to book your child onto this course or for more information please see the poster on the parent noticeboard or call Dan on 01772 428086 or 07514 316534.

Thank you

Thank you so much for taking the time to read an incredibly long newsletter this week. I promise it won't always be like this! On a personal note, I would just like to say a BIG thank you to all families, children and staff for your support, kind words of encouragement and positive vibes this week. I've had a great first week as your new headteacher and I feel incredibly fortunate to be part of our special school family. I hope you all have a wonderful weekend!

Best wishes,
Mrs Mairi Ash
Headteacher

In our Christian family, we all SHINE in the light of Jesus.

Wisdom Compassion Humility Friendship Peace Trust Forgiveness Hope

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SHARING PHOTOS ONLINE

School is often a time chock-full of milestones for your child, and you may well be eager to share their accomplishments with the world. In today's digital age, sharing images of such precious moments on social media is commonplace, and – while that's a lovely thing to do – it does come with some risks attached. Our guide can help parents and carers to consider the potential dangers and make informed choices about safely sharing photos of their children online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INVASIONS OF PRIVACY

Even with the right settings in place, absolutely nothing online is 100% private. Anyone who can view your photos could take screenshots and potentially share them elsewhere. Privacy settings are still important, though, so it's always wise to ensure your social media accounts have them set up; just bear in mind that you can't completely control what happens to anything once it's gone online.

REVEALING PERSONAL DETAILS

Small details in photos can often reveal personal information. Backgrounds can give clues to where you live, for example, while school logos on uniforms, sports kits, or bags could help someone identify which school your child attends. With interactive maps and reverse image searches commonplace online, information like this could easily be misused by an individual with malicious intentions.

MISUSE OF IMAGES

Once something's been shared online, it's almost impossible to get it deleted. Photos can show up in search engine results and be downloaded, manipulated, and shared without consent. There's the potential for someone's images to be used for advertising purposes (which in many cases, isn't illegal) or even more inappropriate reasons, such as cyber-bullying or serious forms of exploitation.

ONLINE GROOMING

Pictures that convey details about your child's interests, activities, or daily routines could arm an online predator with the kind of information they can deploy to gain a child's trust. They might use this knowledge to pretend to be the same age as the child or to have a shared hobby. Essentially, the more a predator knows about a young person, the easier it is for them to invent some 'common ground'.

PRESSURE TO PLEASE

When their parents or carers share notable moments and accomplishments in a child's life on social media, some children may begin to feel an expectation to always meet certain standards, to achieve things, or to behave in ways that are "worth sharing". Knowing that other people (even friends and family) can see these posts on social media might also add to the pressure they're feeling internally.

IMPACT ON DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Every photo of a child posted online contributes to their digital footprint. Young people's lives have never been so closely and publicly documented as they are now, and this permanent online presence could affect a child's future opportunities or the choices they make as they grow up – in addition to influencing how they see themselves and, consequently, their emotional wellbeing.

Advice for Parents & Carers

REVIEW SETTINGS REGULARLY

Make sure your social media's secure in terms of who can view your content or see your location (only family and trusted friends, for example). Privacy settings aren't totally foolproof, but they do make it tougher for strangers to access your pics. Reviewing your settings regularly is also a good starting point for conversations with your child about managing their own social accounts when they're older.

CONSIDER OTHER CHILDREN

When taking a group photo, make sure you get parents' or carers' permission to share it on social media. There may be an important safeguarding reason for them not wanting their child's photo posted publicly online, or it might simply not tally with their personal beliefs or cultural background. A quick conversation in advance, just to make sure, is usually hugely appreciated.

CHECK YOUR PHOTOS

Photos of your child shouldn't provide any clues to where they live or go to school: even a house number, street name, or car number plate could be a giveaway. Cover up or blur out school logos, too. If you *really* want to share a particular pic, you could post a watermarked or low-res version, which can help to discourage misuse as those images are less appealing to download or reproduce.

THINK AHEAD

Try to consider the longer-term implications of what you post. Would you be happy with that photo being online in 10 years' time? Would your child still be OK with the image when they're older? Once your child is mature enough, you could ask for their consent before posting: it respects their privacy, fosters trust and understanding, and helps them to start thinking about their own online life.

Meet Our Expert

Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with more than 30 years' experience working with children, families, and adults in education, local authority, and mental health settings, both in the UK and internationally. She has developed online safety training for local authorities and foster care agencies across Britain and is the online safety expert for FosterWiki.



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