



Euxton Church of England Primary School



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Headteacher: Mrs Mairi Ash

Friday 6th September 2024

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new school year, lovely to see all the children looking smart, smiling and so keen to learn. A very warm and special welcome to all our new Reception children and their families. We are also delighted that Ava has joined us in Y5. Welcome also to new and returning members of staff - Mrs Oral in Y5 as well as Mrs Wiles and Mr Astle in Y4. We are so pleased that you have all joined our school family.

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.

I am so proud of how all the children have started the school year, displaying positive attitudes as they enter into new beginnings and opportunities on their Euxton journey. Excellent examples of our school vision statement and I know everyone will continue to SHINE throughout the year! 😊

Christian Values and Worship

Our Christian Values are Wisdom, Compassion, Humility, Friendship, Peace, Trust, Forgiveness and Hope. 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. On Tuesdays the children worship together as a class and on Wednesday's either myself, Mrs Obertelli or Mrs MacDonald will explore a Christian Value with the children. On Thursday the children congregate to sing 'Songs of Praise' and Friday is our special Celebration Assembly.

Celebration Assembly - you will be informed if your child has been awarded class Superstar the week before and invited to attend. We also celebrate birthdays and achievements 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. If your child has achieved something outside school, eg. swimming, football, drama, etc. they can bring their certificates, medals, trophies in, or they can just have a round of applause! Parents are very welcome to join us for this. We look forward to you joining us throughout the year.

Celebration assembly

This week we celebrated birthdays and achievements from the summer holidays.

Class superstars will start from next Friday on **Friday 13th September**. At this assembly, we would like to present our new Reception children and Ava (Y5) 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. **Parents of our new starters are more than welcome to join us.**

Musical Success

Congratulations to Isaac Shaw, Bethany Hall, Oliver Ralph and Thomas O'Reilly for passing their recent practical music exams. They were presented with their certificates in assembly.

Harvest

Next week children in Y1-Y6 will be walking to church for a Harvest worship on Thursday 12th September. Donations for the foodbank are welcome and the children will carry these across to church. Please only bring into school non-perishable items such as rice, pasta, tinned vegetables, baked beans, soups. As Reception class children have only just started their time at school I feel it is a little too early to take them across to church – if you would like to send a non-perishable donation into school with your Reception child, we will make sure it is taken over to church. Thank you for your support.

Year 6 Leaders

Year 6 children have been presented with a very special badge today in assembly. 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.

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, please wait on the school playground. At 9am a member of staff will invite you to make your way into your child's classroom. These sessions are for information sharing about the year ahead. Staff are happy to arrange a convenient time to have a more detailed chat should this be required and if you have any questions personal to your child.

Wednesday 18th September – **Year 1** and **Year 2**

Thursday 19th September – **Year 3** and **Year 4**

Wednesday 25th September – **Year 5** and **Year 6**

Ms Lucas will be having the second part of her Reception Welcome meeting in the classroom on **Monday 23rd September at 5.30pm**. We hope you can join us.

Class blogs and homework

Homework focus will be on **reading, spellings** and **times tables**. **Please read class blogs every Friday** (on class pages on the school website). Homework will continue to be set on a **Friday** and be due in on a **Thursday**. Spelling and times tables quizzes will be given to the children in class on a **Thursday**. **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.

Eddie Ellison's Taekwondo Club

Eddie has been running taekwondo clubs at our school in the evenings for years. He has places available on Wednesday from 6-7pm in the school hall. First lesson free then £8 per lesson. Open to all ages. For more information Eddie can be contacted on 07952 317 485.

Clubs and Activities

The list of clubs for the Autumn Term will be in next Friday's Newsletter. Some flyers have already been sent to parents ie Players Drama Group (Y1-Y6), Little Learners (Y1 and Y2), Sign Club (Y1 and Y2) Tennis (Y1-Y6).

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 **Monday 14th 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 2025) – Thursday 31st October 2024
Primary (Reception in Sept 2025) – Wednesday 15 January 2025

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 **Wednesday 16th October**. School is open to visitors from 9.30-11.30am with two sessions for Headteacher talks at 9.30am and 10.30am where I will share key school information and answer any questions. Please inform the school office if any prospective parents 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 12th September 5.30-8pm

Wellfield Academy – Thursday 19th September 4.30-7.30pm

Parklands High School – Wednesday 2nd October (times to be confirmed)

Bishop Rawstone Academy – Thursday 26th September 4:15-6pm or 6.30-8.30pm

Albany Academy – Thursday 26th September 5-8pmj

Balshaw's High School – Thursday 3rd October 6-9pm

Southlands – Thursday 3rd October 4.-7pm

Holy Cross – Thursday 10th October 4.30-7pm

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.

Attendance

The school gate opens at **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. It is essential that persistent lateness does not happen as we have a duty of care for our children from 8:55am and it may become a safeguarding issue.

Overall school attendance continues to be a national and school priority. This is Lancashire County Council's current message of awareness:

Absences can have a lasting effect on learning

Missing a week of school means your child will miss around 25 hours of learning

This creates gaps in their knowledge and could mean they will not meet their full potential

We are always monitoring this on a whole school and individual basis. Please avoid taking holiday in term time. Any time out of school must be communicated with school and a holiday request form needs to be completed. I am unable to authorise term-time absence unless it is an exceptional circumstance. If you have any questions about this, please just ask.

Being at school every day and on time ensures that your child makes good progress across the curriculum. 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 use 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 **not** to be used on a Monday afternoon or if there are school events in the evenings). Please remain considerate when parking in any residential or business areas too, ensuring that driveways are unblocked and accessible to residents. 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.

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](https://www.facebook.com/EuxtonCofEPrimarySchoolPTFA)).

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/End of Day Safeguarding Forms

Mrs Ormes sent new medical forms and end of day collection 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 forms and return them to school by Friday 13th September at the latest. Thank you!

Life After Loss

Please see the information leaflet below regarding a support network for anyone dealing with bereavement called Life After Loss. If this could be of some help and you would like to attend, it takes place on **Sunday 15th September** 2024 at Euxton Parish Church Community Centre, 2pm – 4pm.

Music activities in Chorley

Please see information below about some exciting musical activities taking place at St. Michael's High School in Chorley - **Chorley Young Voices and Chorley Ukulele Band** . These activities will take place every Saturday morning during term time. Please note that the Ukulele Band is open to pupils in Year 3 and above, Young Voices is open to pupils in Key Stage 1. If you have questions please email play.music@lancashire.gov.uk

Disney Dance



Well done to our Y6 and Y5 dancers who had a magical experience performing at Disney Paris during the Summer break. The girls sang a Lion King medley in front of the Castle with the rest of the Stagecoach and Disney performers, followed by a parade around the park the following day and then individual stage performances. Sounds a wonderful experience!

Well done Jesse!

Well done to Jesse in Y1, who has been very busy over the summer, raising money for charity on behalf of his friend Teddy who has been diagnosed with Leukaemia. Jesse took part in the young lives vs cancer walk - a mile each day for 31 days in August. He managed to raise a massive £3124! We are so proud of you Jesse for taking on this challenge and being so thoughtful 😊

Thank you

Thank you so much for taking the time to read a very long newsletter this week, which includes some important information and reminders. They won't always be like this! Next week we will list dates ahead for the term and these will also be posted on the school calendar on the website.

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 education for our children.

Here's to a great Autumn term ahead for your child, filled with a range of wonderful learning opportunities where we can all grow together.

Have a lovely, sunny 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

Life After Loss

Have you lost a Mum, Dad or Sibling?

Are you under 18 years old and want to meet others in the same situation?



Games, Activities & Crafts

Or maybe you want a casual chat or even just to listen, come along for a drink and a snack.

Really nice to make new friends with local people who have gone through a similar loss.

I'm so glad we came !

We definitely got a lot from it.

It was lovely that the kids got to play and hang out with other children who are in the same situation.

We are really looking forward to the next one.

Sunday 15th September 2024
Euxton Parish Church Community Centre
2pm – 4pm

We hope to see you there!

Families welcome

You are not alone!

Please send a message or phone Donna to let us know if you would like to call in or if you simply have any questions
07833097119



Thanks to Euxton Parish Church for providing the space

Saturday Morning Musical Activities

with **Lancashire Music Service**

@St. Michael's High School in Chorley



Lancashire
Music Hub

Does your child enjoy singing?

Maybe they also want to learn Ukulele.....

They can do both activities for just one 'Silver Subscription' of £29.00 per team.

Activities begin on September 7th, 2024.

Sign up by following the QR codes below:

Chorley Young Voices, 9.45am to 10.45am (Key Stages 1, 2 or 3)	Chorley Ukulele Band, 11am to 11.45am (Open to Year 3+)
	

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING AND REVIEWING PARENTAL CONTROLS

Phones and computers are essential parts of children's lives, but with unfettered internet access comes a multitude of risks. While not foolproof, parental controls can help with this; filtering out inappropriate content, limiting the ability to spend real money, capping screen time and generally making devices safer for young people.

1 KNOW THE TYPES

While parental control software can apply to an entire device, it also pays to know about options on individual apps and websites. TikTok, for example, has Restricted Mode for limiting unsuitable videos, while Snapchat lets you keep an eye on who a child has been talking to. Check the settings of any new app young users want and review your options.

2 COVER ALL DEVICES

Knowing what parental controls cover is crucial, as remaining unaware can run the risk of 'blind spots' in the device's safety measures. Controls on a phone will apply whenever a child's on that device, for instance – but you'll want to ensure that parental controls are set up across any laptops, tablets and potentially other phones, too. Remember, buying a new device may require you to set everything up again.

3 DON'T NEGLECT SHARED TECH

While children often have their own devices, if you have a shared family computer or tablet, for example, you'll need to make sure that's not a weak point in your safety measures. Parental controls for your router, that cover everything connected to your Wi-Fi, are one option – or you can just be thorough with each device and online account. Just ensure that unprotected laptops, phones and tablets are password locked.

4 CONSIDER TIME CONTROLS

Even safe internet content can be harmful if it's viewed in excess. Not only are certain apps addictive enough to distract from other duties, but late-night usage can badly disrupt sleep, which is vital for adolescent brain development. Most parental controls offer some kind of time limit – either blocking access at certain hours or capping the number of minutes it can be used per day – so be sure to consider these.

5 BLOCK APP SPENDING

Seemingly free apps can sometimes include microtransactions: purchases that can be made using real money. While plenty of developers implement these fairly, some companies attempt to manipulate children into paying for additional features or content, which can soon add up to hundreds of pounds if a child gets carried away. Thankfully, iOS and Android's settings allow you to block in-app purchases, preventing any huge bills.

6 NO CONTROLS ARE PERFECT

Parental controls can be very useful, but they're far from infallible. Some unpleasant content can and unfortunately *will* slip through the net, so remember that setting up these measures isn't a substitute for taking an active interest in young people's digital lives. Talk to them, and make sure they're aware of the risks of the internet as well as its benefits.

7 MIND THE GAPS

There'll undoubtedly be some gaps in parental controls, no matter how thorough you intend to be. For example, if you use router-level parental controls, bear in mind that these won't cover WiFi outside the home. For that reason, it's important to keep an open dialogue with children about the many unpalatable aspects of social media and the web.

8 KEEP THINGS SECURE

Some children can react poorly to parental controls and feel tempted to circumvent them. It's important to ensure that the passwords to these settings remain unknown to children, otherwise they can easily modify the restrictions without you knowing. Similarly, make sure your phone isn't left unlocked and unattended.

9 REVIEW CONTROLS REGULARLY

Parental controls shouldn't be a 'set and forget' deal. Not only can parental summaries provide you with a frequent overview of a child's digital life – to let you spot any warning signs – but companies often add new features, and some of these may be useful to enable (or disable). Regularly checking in ensures that if a child has found a way to wiggle out of the controls, you'll be the first to know.

10 KNOW WHEN TO LET UP

The parental controls you install on a computer for a seven-year-old probably wouldn't be appropriate for a child of 16 – and as young people approach adulthood, bubble wrapping the internet can do more harm than good. Consider relaxing parental controls as children get older, so they can learn to manage the risks of the internet themselves, without so many training wheels.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist and the former deputy editor of technology and internet culture website Alphr. Now freelance, he has contributed articles to publications including the New Statesman, CNET, the Evening Standard, Wired, Rock Paper Shotgun, Gizmodo, Pocket Gamer, Stuff, T3, PC Pro, Macworld, TechRadar and Trusted Reviews.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College