



Euxton Church of England Primary School



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Headteacher: Mr Nick Ward

Friday 7th September 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful summer. It has been lovely to see you all this week. The newsletter today is a lengthy one, as it includes a few reminders and important information for all, and especially our new families - I hope you find it useful. I have grouped the 'reminders' towards the end of the newsletter. Everyone has been sent home a printed copy this week too, to make it easier.

The children have once again returned with such fantastic attitudes, all settling so well into their new classes and working very hard indeed! Long may it continue! Please remember to share your thoughts with us over the year. Hopefully you know me well enough to know that I really do want you to feel you can talk to me anytime and I welcome your comments. We are all working towards the same thing - the best for our children. This is summed up by our Mission 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'm sure it is going to be another wonderful year!

Welcome

A very warm welcome to all our new Reception children and their families, who have joined us this week. Welcome to Faith, Sophie, Elizabeth, Isla, Luke, Emily, Max, Bethany, Betty, Imogen, Harrison, Benjamin, Oscar, Milly, Josephine, Ruby, Josh, Connor, Isabelle, Ezra, Chimdiya, Thomas, Kian, Oliver, Aidan, Eleanor, Faith, Oliver, Poppy and Jessica. We are also delighted to welcome Gracie and Maxwell in Year 4. We are all really looking forward to getting to know you all and hope you enjoy becoming part of our school family. They have all had an amazing first week in school! **We would like to invite all the parents of our Reception children, and new children, to our Celebration Worship next Friday, 14th September.** The children will all be presented with a special pebble to symbolise the start of their time with us, which they will then place in our decorative bowl that is 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.

The Spinney

I am delighted to let you know that I have secured a £10,000 National Lottery 'Awards 4 All' grant to further improve our outdoor area, in particular our 'Spinney' forest area. We will also be creating an 'amphitheatre' for the children to perform! I could really do with some advice about the restoration of the Spinney, so if any of you know any landscape gardeners, or anyone else you may think will be able to help, then please could you let me know. Thank you.

'Welcome to....'

New to this year, I am delighted to be able to offer you all the chance to find out a little more about your child's year group, to meet the team and see their learning environment. As these are next week, I sent a text on Tuesday to give you as much prior notice as I could. The dates are below. The sessions will be 9:00-9:15am 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. Also, parents evening is coming up soon too. Please don't worry if you can't make it, the staff will put any important information on their class page of the website. I really do hope you enjoy the sessions and find them useful.

Monday 10th September - Year 6

Tuesday 11th September - Year 1 and Year 2 (separate meetings in their respective rooms)

Wednesday 12th September - Year 3 and Year 4 (separate meetings in their respective rooms)

Thursday 13th September - Year 5

We are waiting a little longer before Mrs Ash holds her Reception meeting, which will take place later in the term. However, in addition to Parents Evening she will also be having a **Reading and Phonics Meeting** for parents in her Reception classroom on **Monday 8th October at 6pm**.

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 24th September** and will be an opportunity for you to discuss how they are settling into their new class and any information you feel would be helpful for the staff to know about your child. This is deliberately held early in the school year. If children aren't happy and settled they will not learn and it is also beneficial from both parents and teachers perspectives to have an opportunity to meet and chat as soon as possible. A letter is coming home tonight for you to make an appointment - please return this as soon as you can. I will be available throughout the evening if you would like to have a chat with me.

The second Parents Evening will be in March. 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.**

Parent Pay

We have now 'gone live' with Parent Pay and by now you should have all received your activation letters. **Please activate your accounts as soon as possible if you haven't already done so. This method is the only way to pay for anything in school (apart from toast) so activation is essential.** Siblings are linked together in the same account by using the two activation codes provided. If you have mislaid your activation letter please email Mrs Hodges at bursar@euxton.lancs.sch.uk to request a copy. The office staff will over the next couple of weeks start to add payment requests to your accounts for things such as milk, uniform, music lessons (keyboard lessons are still paid direct to BMA), trips etc. I am sure you will agree it will make life much easier than handling large amounts of cash or searching for a cheque book. If you have any questions do come in and ask or telephone school and we will endeavour to help. We may not have all the answers but will do our best to find a solution.

Music Exam Success

Congratulations to the following children who have achieved Grade 1 musical success in the Summer Term - Charlie Coates, Samuel Draycott, Caitlin Edge, Luke Parker, Daniel Pilkington and Lily Sacco. Well done to all of you!

Daily Mile

Following a successful week last term of the children (and on occasions the staff!) completing the Daily Mile in school we have decided to fully embrace it and go for it each day! In addition to the benefits health-wise, it has also been proven to improve concentration levels, which is always a good thing! Each class has been given a ten-minute slot each day and the children will attempt to run as much as they can. Please don't worry though, there will be no pressure and they can walk, jog, or run the distance. They can even chat away too, if they can! The Daily Mile is something we are aiming for, but there may be occasions where it is not possible - we will do our best though. As the children run around the playground in their school shoes at breaktimes anyway, we are planning on just going out and running without getting changed. If you feel your child needs to wear different footwear please just let me know and we can sort it. Hopefully it will be an enjoyable experience for all - it is certainly meant to be.

New Morning Start

Thank you for your co-operation and positive comments about our new morning start. It certainly appears to be a great success, and appreciated too. A huge 'thank you' to the staff for their additional work. The school gate won't open until 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 $3\frac{1}{2}$ 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.

Ninja Warrior Day!

Very exciting news! On Thursday 27th September we will be welcoming Jonny Urzuly into school. Jonny was the champion of the first season of Ninja Warrior UK. He will be working with each class and putting them through their paces on a specially created obstacle course, motivating and encouraging them all the way. I am sure it will be a great experience for all!

Christmas 2018

It's never too early and I would like to give you as much notice as possible. The children in **Reception, Year 1 and Year 2** will all be involved in our Infant Christmas Production and the performances will be on **Thursday 6th December** at 2pm and 6pm. All the Juniors will be participating in our annual Christingle Service. This will be on **Monday 17th December** at 6pm. Further details will be given nearer the time.

PTFA Meeting

You are **all** welcome to join us for the first PTFA meeting of the school year on **Monday 17th September**. This will be held in school at **7:30pm**, please come along if you can. We have a very friendly team, who work so hard to raise money for our children, and they would love to welcome as many of you as possible.

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.

Year 6

It was lovely to present our Year 6 children with a very special badge in worship this morning. 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.

School Council Elections

Mrs Wiles will be talking to the children in worship next week about the forthcoming School Council Elections. These will take place in class on **Thursday 20th September**, where anyone wanting to be part of this will make a speech, before the classes vote for their representatives. There will be two children from Y2-Y5 and four from Y6. Good luck children!

'Hope'

Our Christian Value this half-term is HOPE, which will be further explored during worship. It was lovely that one of our children produced a PowerPoint on 'Hope' over the summer holidays, which I was able to share with the whole school this week. I have let the children know that it would be great if anyone else would like to produce their own PowerPoints, or posters, about 'Hope', which I can also share. Please feel free to email me these if you would like to. I have already had two wonderful posters already!

Nut-Free School

Please remember, due to nut allergies, not to send products that contain nuts into school for snacks and lunches. I'm sure you all appreciate and understand the reasons for this. Thank you so much for your co-operation.

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 2019) - 31st October 2018

Primary (Reception in Sept 2018) - 15th January 2019

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 **Tuesday 9th October**. There will be two opportunities on the day; from 9:30-10:30 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

St Michaels CE High School - Thursday 13th September 5.30-8pm

Parklands High School - Thursday 20th September 5.15-8.15pm

Albany Academy - Thursday 27th September

Balshaws High School - Thursday 4th October 6-9pm

Summer Reading Activity

Kath from Euxton Library has asked me to let you know that they have extended the SCART Summer Reading Activity until Saturday 29th September.

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 Millar on dmillar@euxton.lancs.sch.uk if you would like your child to attend any of the clubs. Alternatively pop into the office, where a list is being formulated. 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 and volunteers for their time in running these extra-curricular activities. These will change over the year and different year groups will get the opportunity to do different things. Outdoor clubs will need additional clothing to suit the weather. Cross country and football will get muddy!

Monday	Lunchtime: Cross Country with Mrs Millar (Y3-6) Lunchtime: Art Club with Miss Lewis (Y3-6) <i>Please note Y4 will be swimming.</i> 3:30-4:30pm: Girls' Football with Mr Collier Banks, Parent Volunteer (Y3-6) 3:30-4:30pm: Taekwando with Eddie Ellison (fee paying, please contact the office)
Tuesday	Lunchtime: Recorders with Mrs Obertelli (Y1 and Y2) 3:30-4:30pm: Boys' Football with Mr Draycott, Parent Volunteer and Mr Price (Y4-6) 3:30-4:30pm: Athletics with Mrs Millar and Mrs Wiles (Y1-Y6) <i>This is always popular so they will be repeating this club each term. You will be informed which term your child will be offered a place.</i>
Wednesday	Lunchtime: Worship Group with Mr Ward (Y3-6) <i>No need to book a place, this will be sorted in school.</i> 3:30-4:30pm: Hi-5's Netball with Mrs Millar (Y5 and Year 6) 3:30-4:30pm: Stop Motion Animation (fee paying, please return slip) (Y3-6)
Thursday	3:30-4:30pm: Gymnastics with Miss Nuttall, Parent Volunteer and Mrs Ash (Y1 & Y2) 3:30-4:30pm: QuickSticks Hockey with Mrs Millar (Y5 and Y6)
Friday	Lunchtime: Recorders with Mrs Faulkner (Y3-6) Lunchtime: Mindfulness with Mrs Smith (Y1 and Y2)

Boys' Football, Hi-5's and QuickSticks will start NEXT week (w/c 11th September).

El Club Espanol

Our Spanish club resumes on Monday 10th September for 13 weeks in the Autumn Term. This club takes place at the beginning of lunchtime for 30 mins and the fees remain at £3.95 per session payable termly. There are limited spaces so please enrol for your free trial at the address below for priority. Membership fee for new members is now £11.50 and children receive a songbook with MP3s and sticker chart and it includes free access to our internet gamezone. Discounts are available for siblings. Please contact Chris Abalain if you would like more information on this club and if you would like to put your child's name down for a free trial you can sign up for priority at www.boltonlanguages.co.uk/enrol and pay later or you can look out for the El Club Espanol flyer. Also if you would be interested in a French club please contact Chris at chris@boltonlanguages.co.uk or call 07917 848745.

Holiday Requests

We really do value your support in reference to not taking holidays in term time. Our attendance data is very good and your commitment to ensuring your child is in school each day is much appreciated. 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.

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. Grant, or Rev. Mary, lead worship on a Tuesday morning, which we very much value. On a Friday we have our Celebration Worship, when achievements are celebrated. You will be informed if your child has been awarded anything 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 clap! We look forward to you joining us throughout the year.

Communication, Website, Twitter and Social Media

Firstly, I would like to thank you for the respect you show in terms of social media. I speak to many heads in many schools who have a real problem with this, with either comments made publically about the school or other parents/children. I feel fortunate that you are able to come to talk to me, or one of 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 social media, whether this be an open or closed 'group'. This really does not help. I am certainly not naive enough to think that everything is perfect all of the time, but hopefully most of you will feel that if something has been communicated to us we have sorted it out the best we can. 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.

Feedback continues to be overwhelmingly positive about our text message system, and also the emailing of newsletters. We will be entering a new text message service soon, which means we won't be able to send quite so many text reminders, however we will be looking at further email communication if we need to. Please be assured though, if there was to be a real need to speak to you about anything we would contact you by telephone. Our website www.euxtonceprimary.co.uk is a great place to find out lots of important information, see some great photos and look at the blogs each class produce. Twitter is a more spontaneous means of staff sharing photos and information, which can be accessed via the Twitter app, using the internet or via our website homepage. We can be found on [@EuxtonCEprimary](https://twitter.com/EuxtonCEprimary) and even if you don't want to 'do Twitter' yourselves, I think it is worth getting it for the school aspect. Our PTFA also have a twitter feed ([@EuxtonPTFA](https://twitter.com/EuxtonPTFA)) and a Facebook page ([Euxton Cof E Primary School PTFA](https://www.facebook.com/EuxtonCofEPrimarySchoolPTFA)).

Homework

Speaking with experience of a number schools, and talking to other headteachers, homework is an aspect of primary school life that is hard to get right for everyone. Sometimes parents feel that too much is given; some not enough. It is something that is important but we also appreciate that life can take over! Reading is the real non-negotiable so we encourage that all children read each day, and to an adult if possible. This is beneficial for children of all ages. To make things straightforward, all teachers from Y1-Y6 will continue to send homework out on a **Wednesday**, to be returned the following **Monday**. This gives plenty of time and shouldn't result in too much of a panic (I've been there as a parent too!). 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.

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 sachet that has the exact amount in. These are readily available from chemists.

First Aid

We have a member of staff assigned outside to first aid at breaktimes. This means that instead of coming through 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 Parker also 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 a book.

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. The safety of our children and school community is of the utmost importance to us. If you are collecting from after school club you may drive up after 4:45pm. Thank you so much for respecting this: you do and we appreciate it. 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 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.

Thank you

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this whopper of a newsletter this week! Don't worry, it won't always be like this!

And Finally....

Thank you to our very own Mrs Fishwick for our joke this week:

Q. Why does a milking stool only have three legs?

A. Because the cow has the udder!

Thank you Mrs Fishwick- a great joke! Please remember to send your jokes in to me, otherwise I will have to use more of Mrs Fishwick's!

Take care,

Mr Nick Ward
Headteacher

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

Wisdom Compassion Humility Friendship Peace Trust Forgiveness Hope