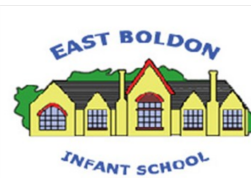


East Boldon Infant School

Newsletter

February 2025



"Together everyone achieves more"

Keep in touch.....WEBSITE www.eastboldoninfantschool.org.uk PHONE 0191 536 7292

Dear Parents/Carers,

Well, we have finally made it through the month of January and we are beginning to move to longer, brighter days! It has been lovely to see the sun rising a little earlier on the journey into work and the lighter evenings as our children have headed home. Thank you to all parents for your understanding towards the adjustments made in response to Storm Eowyn. Although we have our risk assessments in place, in a positive way, we rarely need to implement them. However it was felt due to the forecast that the change to the end of the day was needed for the safety of our children and the parents/carers collecting.

We have had a really positive and successful January, with our parent workshops giving parents/carers the chance to come into school and see the fabulous learning that is taking place. For our youngest children in Reception, they shared how a phonics lesson works for their parents and it was lovely to see how they are all comfortable with the routines even after just a term in school! For our Key Stage 2 families there was a taster of English and Maths in the year groups. Thank you to the staff for preparing the workshops—I know parents were very appreciative of the efforts from the staff. Feedback has been very positive—thank you for this. Of the suggestions for improvement, many parents would like further events like this which we will certainly look to accommodate. I fully appreciate that for working parents or indeed parents with younger siblings, attendance can be tricky, but we will always endeavour to give as much notice as we can to support with childcare arrangements.

One of our continued priorities for this academic year is to develop our children's spelling and handwriting skills. For a reading priority we are working on fluency of reading and less reliance on phonetic decoding, when it is not needed. It would be much appreciated for your support at home with this. Little and often practice with handwriting and spelling of the key words would be wonderful—plus a regular amount of reading with your child is so important. Please remember to write in the reading record book how they have read at home too—this is most helpful to staff.

Regular reading with your child is also hugely important. We want our children to have a love of reading and to enjoy the book sharing process. Mrs Verity has organised a sponsored read for the upcoming half term, which will be a lovely chance to embrace reading for pleasure! We also have a lovely World Book Day week coming up in March, which further details will soon follow.

We also have our upcoming "Safer Internet Day" on Tuesday 11th February. More than ever as technology progresses, it is important to equip our young children with the skills/tools and knowledge needed to keep safe online. We will be sending out information to help parents and hope you find this useful, but of course if you are in need of further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. We have a fantastic ICT in schools team who can provide support and advice to us. Safety for all of our children is of paramount importance.

Finally, I am sad to share the news that Mrs Harvie, our wonderful Teaching Assistant in Year 1 has made the decision to leave us at the end of this half term. We will all miss her positivity, happiness and fondness to all of the children in her care immensely. She tells us it's not retirement...but a sabbatical! I don't think I have ever seen Mrs Harvie have a less than positive day and she will be a miss around school. I am sure all parents will join me in wishing her well.



Many thanks as always,
Miss Holt

A few Diary Dates coming up please take a note of key dates...

- Parent/Carer workbook sharing sessions (Please sign up on ParentPay to let us know you are attending)
Monday 17th February (pm) YEAR 1 2.30pm—3pm (early home time)
Wednesday 19th February (pm) RECEPTION 2.30pm—3pm (early home time)
Thursday 20th February (pm) YEAR 2 2.30pm—3pm (early home time)
- Tuesday 18th February—Year 2 to West Boldon Lodge
- Tuesday 18th February—Gymnastic competition x10 Year 1 children to attend

Friday 21st February—Break up for half term

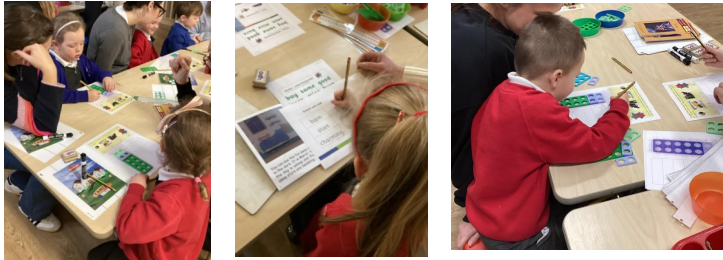
- W/B 10th March Parents Evening chats to take place—further details to follow.

Miss Holt loves a quote!

"Nothing can dim the light that shines within"
Maya Angelou



Parent Workshop fun!



Thank you to all parents/carers for attending the sessions, it was so lovely to welcome you all into school. Parent feedback has been really positive and we are so glad you found the sessions helpful.



Our Character Focus—Resilience

We have spoken across this term about our character of resilience and how this fits into our work and life! We have shared the importance of never giving up even when things are tricky! Please talk about this at home too!

12 Ways to Build Resilient Learners



RESILIENCE is the ability to find the inner strength to bounce back from a SET-BACK OR CHALLENGE

Did you know we now offer "Grab Bags?"

We are very well aware of the cost of living and the squeeze that this is having on our families in school.

The Local Authority have provided a small fund allowance to each school in order to provide support, particularly to families who may not be eligible for Free School Meals benefits, but who are equally feeling the pinch with finance.

We have created a small number of "Grab bags" which have a selection of food items that may help with a bit extra for meals—such as cereal, porridge, tuna, pasta, soup etc. If this is something that you think may help you, then please get in touch with Mrs Elliott in the office who will be happy to help.



Children's Mental Health Week 2025

We started the week with a whole school assembly about our feelings and emotions and what "mental health" means.

Thank you to the parents/carers who came along to our coffee morning—it was so lovely to chat with you and Elaine from the Healthy Minds Team was also present. There was enough cake for the whole of East Boldon so lots of extras were taken away!

We have had some great pictures showing our children responding to the mental health challenge—we will complete a display in school to show all of the ways you are keeping your mind and body active at home too.

Linked nicely to the Rugby World Cup, we had Tag Rugby taster sessions for all of our children on Thursday and Friday—this was great fun!

Millie from Healthy Minds has began her sessions with Year 2 discussing feelings and emotions.

To end the week we offered all of our children a healthy breakfast option. A huge thank you to Sainsbury's East Boldon for their donations to support with this.



Kung Hey Fat Choy! Happy Chinese New Year!

Our Reception children have had a week immersed in all things China, finding out all about the culture and how the Chinese celebrate Chinese New Year.

They had fun in their Chinese take away role play corner, re-created the animal race and even completed a dragon dance in the hall—it was so loud, I heard it from my office! The children have had lots of fun learning which is so important!



Learning about Islam

We were really lucky to welcome Miriam from the Islamic Diversity Centre in school last week. She spoke about her Islamic faith to our Year 1 and Year 2 children and shared lots of artefacts to help our children understand. We feel it is so important that our children have an understanding of different faiths.

