

East Boldon Infant School

Newsletter

February 2026



Keep in touch.....WEBSITE www.eastboldoninfantschool.org.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

Well, we have finally made it through the longest month of January and we are beginning to (hopefully) move to 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. Hopefully a little less rain and more sunshine please!

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! Thank you to all of the staff for preparing the workshops—I know parents were very appreciative of the efforts from all of the staff. We have sent a questionnaire to parents for a little bit of feedback which will be helpful.

As I have shared (on many occasions!) myself and the staff are HUGE advocates of reading and the benefits of reading with children—even babies! As the National Year of Reading commences I have included some interesting facts about the power of reading and how it can support children for their futures. We have lots of lovely things planned in each month to celebrate this year and I will keep parents updated with breakdowns over a few months at a time—we look forward to welcoming you into school again for some fun reading events as well as some exciting events in school for our children.

I am aware that homework is shared with parents on a weekly basis. Our whole school priority is developing handwriting and spelling skills. It would be hugely appreciated if homework can be completed and then returned back into school. As discussed, 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. Please ensure you write in your child's journal how they have read with you—it is so helpful. The books come home with your child each Friday. Thank you for your continued support with this.

We are looking forward to a few upcoming important weeks. Week beginning the 9th of February, we have Children's Mental Health week. This is a wonderful week to think about how we can prioritise our well being and that of the children. Over the week we have lots plans including Yoga Sessions, a breakfast morning and of course a coffee morning for parents in school—time to chat over a coffee and cake! We do have a coffee van in the school yard on Monday 9th February if anyone wishes to pick up a special coffee on route to work/home! We are making sure that our staff get this time before the busy week begins!

We also have our upcoming "Safer Internet Day" on Tuesday 10th 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.

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 Arbor to let us know you are attending)
Monday 16th February (pm) YEAR 1 2.30pm—3pm (early home time)
Tuesday 17th February (pm) YEAR 2 2.30pm—3pm (early home time)
Wednesday 18th February (pm) RECEPTION 2.30pm—3pm (early home time)

Friday 20th February—Break up for half term

- W/B 16th March, W/B 23rd March Parents Evening chats to take place—further details to follow.

Miss Holt loves a quote!

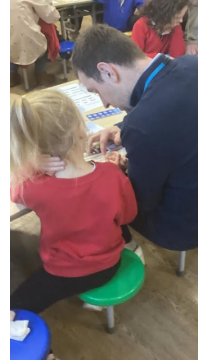
“Nothing can dim the light that shines within”
Maya Angelou



Parent Workshop fun!



Thank you to all parents/carers for attending the workshops, it was so lovely to welcome you all into school.. Thank you for all of your feedback on the sessions

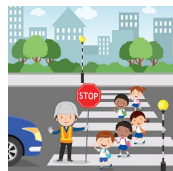


Year 2 trip to West Boldon Lodge!

Year 2 had a wonderful time at West Boldon Lodge. This consolidated the work the children have been doing in History about The Great Fire of London. The children had wonderful of building houses and then burning them—just like the Great Fire! They also had the chance to make and bake bread on the campfires! These trips really give our children the opportunity to bring experiences to life

Road Safety Workshops!

Thank you to Lori from the Road Safety Team who came to speak to all of our children about the importance of road safety.



Games Games Games!

Do you have any old games at home? (with all of the pieces in place)
We would really appreciate any donations of games into school as we plan to have a Friday games afternoon.

We value how games can help with social skills—working together, turn taking and of course resilience! Please send in any games to your child's class.
THANK YOU!



GO ALL IN.

National Year of Reading 2026

Part of the National Year of Reading 2026

GO ALL IN.

As shared with many parents 2026 is the National Year of Reading. It is a Government drive across the country to raise awareness of the importance of reading as well as trying to promote reading for pleasure and enjoyment! We are huge advocates for reading at East Boldon Infant School and really value it's importance. Below I have shared with you some reminders of HOW we promote a love of reading in school as well as some important facts about how much we can support our children by reading to them/with them.

BENEFITS OF READING TO CHILDREN

Increases listening ability

Increases vocabulary

Increases Concentration

Increases Bonding

Enhances reading skills

Develops Imagination

Helps in developing cognitive skills

Develops empathy

Better performance at school

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IT ADDS UP!

If you read just 15 minutes a day, in one year you will have read over 1,000,000 words!

WE ARE TEACHERS

You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child.

-Dr. Seuss

20 is plenty!

Children who read for 20 minutes a day will...

- Improve focus and concentration
- Have a world of imagination and creativity opened to them
- Have stronger writing skills
- Improve and strengthen memory
- Be exposed to 1.8 million words a year
- Develop a love for learning
- Learn how to develop empathy
- Have a broad vocabulary
- Have better general knowledge
- Improve test results
- Improve communication skills
- Improve critical thinking skills
- Have reduced stress levels

Reading Every Day Helps Children Learn and Grow!

Just 20 Minutes of Reading a Day Makes a BIG Difference

Amazing fact! Reading for 20 minutes a day exposes a child to around 1.8 Million words every year!

Daily readers hear over 200 times MORE WORDS!

Non-readers hear over 200 times LESS WORDS!

How Reading Helps Learning and Development

- Builds Vocabulary (ABC) 26% MORE WORDS
- Helps Children Do Better at School
- Improves Confidence and Wellbeing

The More Books a Child Reads, the More Words They Learn!

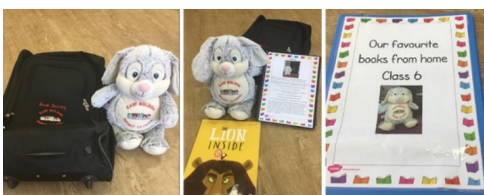
Fun Fact! Reading every day helps children learn, feel confident, and succeed in school!

Read better -> Think better -> Feel happier

READING FOR PLEASURE CHANGES LIVES!

Reading in School

We keep a high profile of reading across school with our dedicated reading corners in each class, daily reading aloud for pleasure at the end of each day, book bunny each week, our outdoor reading shed, library books...to name a few!



Why is reading at home so important?

Children with access to 25 books at home complete an average of 2 more years of school than children from homes without any books.

Reading is a critical skill for succeeding in most school subjects.

A child spends 900 hours a year in school and 7800 hours at home.

Kids 4-5 years old gain 6 months of reading ability by being read to 3 to 5 times per week.

Research shows that just 20 minutes a day spent reading with a child helps them develop critical reading skills.

Learn more: smartreading.org/parent-resources

January February March

In school we have begun planning for the year ahead! In classes we are busy compiling reading surveys to find out what books our children LOVE the most! We are then going to "glow up" our reading corners in class to make them lovely and inviting for our children!

At home...to start this year could you challenge yourself to share a story each week as a minimum? More if possible! Please read your child's school book each week and comments in the journal—it really helps staff!

Are you ready for our SPONSORED READ? Over February half term we are setting a reading challenge of how many books the children can read and share at home? We'd love you to involve all of the family too—can grandads share a story/aunties? Uncles? Let's get families reading! Sponsorship is optional, but any funds will support us with purchasing non fiction books for our wider curriculum

WORLD BOOK DAY 2026! Further details will follow but be prepared for a fun filled week! We are planning in some Reading Café's again before school to drop by and read together as well as a dress up day for World Book Day itself! Further details of all arrangements will follow soon.