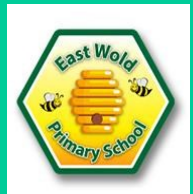




The Spire Federation Newsletter

East Wold & North Cockerington CE Primary Schools

Autumn 1 - Week 1 3 September 2020



Welcome Back!

It has been lovely to see all our pupils and staff back at school. Some of our pupils seem to have grown so much! On our first day back everyone seemed so happy to return and there were so many smiles. We also welcomed our new Reception pupils who soon started exploring their new classrooms.

We would like to thank all our parents and families for supporting us over the past few months. Your understanding has really been appreciated and as we move to new routines with all the pupils back, please bear with us as we iron out teething problems and get everything up and running in a way we are all happy with! We are learning to be very adaptable, change in the light of lessons learned and respond to changing government guidance.

Over the summer term, I issued weekly Headteacher letters. As we move forward, I will be using the newsletter for messages and updates, so please read the newsletter weekly. We are trialling a federation newsletter this term with school level articles on a separate page. This will reduce staff time in production and ensure we have consistent messages. We will see how this goes for the Autumn term and review things in a few months.

To support communication, we have set up a Facebook page for each school. The link is provided on our website. The aim is to promote the schools and share good news stories. Please ensure that any comments made are kind. If you do have any issues or concerns, we would appreciate an email or telephone call so we can aim to sort out any issues; this would be much more helpful than posting something on Facebook. We do love the positive comments posted to date — thank you!

As you will have seen in the press the government updated the guidance to schools regarding reopening this week. As a result of the new guidance, I revised the risk assessment which we issued to you on Wednesday. Based on this, there are a few minor changes to the Parent Information Leaflet we sent in July. I have amended the changes in red text and we enclose this with your newsletter email. I am planning on providing future changes in newsletters rather than amend the leaflet. We will keep historic documents on the web-site.

The government's guidance states all schools need to have plans in place for remote education and the government is promoting the use of electronic learning platforms. Over the summer holidays we accessed government funding to set up Google Classroom. We have had some initial staff training and will be working together as a team to get this up and running by the end of the month.

We have also purchased Purple Mash, a computing learning platform, which can also support remote education if needed. We will be writing to you with more information on these over the next week or so. We can see the many advantages this offers if pupils / staff are isolating, if we have a local lockdown or if a national lockdown occurs this winter.

Over the holidays, we also appointed 3 new members of staff: Mrs Claire Chatterton, Administrative Assistant at East Wold and two new TA Apprentices—Miss Jade Stocks at East Wold and Miss Jessica Dunning at North Cockerington. We are very excited to have a full complement of staff in school. It is fantastic to be all back together. As we move forward there will be more opportunities for cross school working and support in a virtual world.

On the subject of 'virtual' - we have had live virtual assemblies this week, allowing our classes to connect. It was strange to be sat in North Cockerington leading assembly at East Wold! Our celebration assemblies will be held virtually in school so that children can still celebrate their learning and achievements together. We will be issuing certificates via email this term. If your child has any achievements from out of school, please do not send them in physically but email us a photo. We can then share this on the screen at our virtual assembly. The children will still be leading the call to worship and prayers but we won't be singing inside.

We are doing everything we can to ensure that our school community is as safe as possible. Thank you for working with us on this. It is vitally important that:

- We all follow the advice and stay away from school if we have coronavirus symptoms.
- We all engage in the track and trace system.
- The school start and end times must be adhered to and are not negotiable. They are in place in order to keep everyone safe. Please ensure you check the times you are bringing your children to school.
- Only **one parent** can bring/collect children to school. They must drop off and leave, rather than remain on school grounds. **There must be no gathering of parents on our school site. Please ensure that you swiftly leave the site once you have dropped off/collected your children.**

Finally, I just want to say how amazing both schools look. Both schools have had refurbishment works over the summer and they look fantastic. We are so proud of our schools, and promote excellence in everything we do. Our refurbishment works mean that our buildings are in line with this vision. We are ambitious, and will be aiming to invest in further improvements in the future. Check out our Facebook page to see the transformation.

Becky Dhami
Executive Headteacher

Attached:

- Return to school Coronavirus support resources
- Revised Parent Information Leaflet
- Home School Values Poster

New Staff:



Miss Jess Dunning
North Cockerington
Apprentice Teaching
Assistant



Miss Jade Stocks
East Wold Apprentice
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Claire Chatterton
East Wold Administration
Assistant

Rise & Shine Buzz Club & Afterschool Club Update:

Following a few queries, I would like to highlight that there are no clubs running after school until further notice. In addition, there will be no residential visits this year. The government guidance states that residential visits are not possible at the moment. This is also detailed in our risk assessment previously circulated. Whilst we appreciate this may be disappointing for our pupils, the overriding priority is to ensure our school community is safe.



Seasonal Flu Vaccination:

The flu vaccination programme in schools will be going ahead in the Autumn term. It is likely that flu and COVID-19 will both be circulating at the same time which means that it is more important than ever this year to help protect against flu.

Flu kills thousands of people every year and children can pass flu on to others in their immediate family & wider community, many of whom may be at higher risk from the complications of flu. The vaccination won't protect against COVID-19 but it is critical to protect the general health of the population, particularly those at high risk from COVID-19.

All children whose parents agree for them to have the vaccine will receive it by way of a nasal spray in school. The school nursing team will shortly be issuing letters with details of how to register your consent.

Having the vaccine will help create and maintain a healthy school environment for everyone.