

EXWICK HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Spring Term – January 9th 2019

Website: www.exwickheights.devon.sch.uk

Dear Parents & Carers,

I would like to warmly wish you all a very happy New Year! I hope you have all enjoyed the Christmas break. It has been such a privilege to see your children today and share many of their stories from the holiday during our lunchtime - I look forward to hearing many more over the coming days!

The start of a new year (and school term) is always a busy time for families, particularly as we all adjust to the morning routine once more. Please remember that members of the school's Senior Leadership Team will, as always, be outside each morning to greet the children and are available to help in any way that we can. Your child's teacher is also available to meet with you prior to the start or after the finish of the school day. We are very keen to gain feedback from you all about our work as this is invaluable to enable us to continue to improve and so we will always be very grateful for your time. As always, we will be wearing our delightful high visibility jackets so hopefully you will be able to find us easily!

Attendance: In line with Government legislation, please can I remind you all that I am unable to authorise any time off during term-time unless there are truly exceptional circumstances. If you are planning to take your child out of school, please complete an Absence Request form, available from the school office, well in advance of the time being taken. I am conscious that many of us understandably like to take advantage of the newspaper value holidays and I would ask that dates outside of term-time are selected if you participate in this. The school's term dates this year feature two Mondays in June where children do not need to attend the school (Monday 4th of June is a non-pupil day for staff training and the school is fully closed on Monday 24th June 2019) which may be helpful to consider if you would like to plan a long weekend away!

If your child has a medical appointment during the school day, an appointment card will need to be shown at the school office. Any routine dental/optician check-ups should be taken after school or during the school holidays wherever possible.

Key dates this term...

Parent Meetings – Parent Meetings for pupils in Year 2,3,4,5 and 6 will be held on Monday 11th and Wednesday 13th of March between 3:30 - 6:30pm in the main building. Parent Meetings for pupils in our Nursery, Reception and Year 1 classes will be held on Monday 18th and Wednesday 20th March between 3:30 -6:30pm in the Early Years building. During February, we will write to parents inviting them to indicate a preferred date and time slot for these meetings and will do our best to arrange a convenient meeting time. However, please do not hesitate to come and speak to your child's teacher at any time, if you have any questions. Please remember that some clubs are cancelled as a result of these meetings – please check the dates listed on the club letter for further information.

Parent Drop In Opportunity: we have arranged a date for parents to have the opportunity to pop into their child/ren's classrooms to share their child's work and see their progress. The Drop-in will be held on Wednesday 6th February between 3.30 and 4.30pm, allowing parents time to visit more than one classroom, if necessary. We hope that your child will take you into the classroom to share where they sit and any other information about their routines, as well as showing you their books. The teachers will be available for general conversation, but please be mindful that they need to be available to see all parents during this time and will not be able to engage in direct conversation with individuals. The opportunity for this will be during the individual parent meetings held after the half term holiday. Alternatively, please feel free to ask to have a private conversation with the class teacher at a more convenient time.

Year 6 London Residential – Another date for your diary. This year's residential meeting will take place on **Thursday 31st January** at 5.30pm. This meeting informs parents and carers about the arrangements for this year's residential. I will forward further information to Year 6 parents in the coming weeks.

SATs meetings for Yr 2 & Yr 6 parents

- Yr 2: Wednesday 27th February at 5.30pm to be held in 2SM – (enter via the Yr 2 under covered area).
- Yr 6: Tuesday 15th January at 5.00pm to be held in 6BP (enter through the Y6 gate).

I am pleased to invite parents with children in these year groups to an informal meeting with staff from each team. You will be given an overview of these statutory tests, what they mean and how they are used for Government statistics. It is a statutory requirement that all Yr 2 pupils take these tests and at Yr 6 all children who are working at the standard of the National Curriculum. At the Yr 6 meeting, we will have copies of CGP Revision Guides for you to browse. These will be available to order on the night if you feel you would like your child to have one. We all look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the meeting, especially those new to this process. Parents of Year 6 children have already been given details of their meeting. Please could Year 2 parents please fill in the slip below to indicate your attendance. Many thanks.

The Yr 2 SATs are held throughout May & June and Yr 6 will take their SATs during the week commencing 13th May 2019. Statutory Phonics Testing for Y1/2 will take place w/c 10th June.

Family workshops: We are pleased to be able to offer a variety of workshops for parents and children. This is a lovely opportunity for parents to work in school with their child on a group project. We can guarantee fun will be had by all – no prior ability or prowess is necessary! Spaces are limited to 20 pairs for each workshop (i.e. parent and child) so please do return the slip below promptly if you are interested.

Mrs Hawkins will be running the first workshop on Wednesday the 23rd January for parents and children in Years 1 and 2 in the Early Years hall from 1.30pm-3.00pm. This will be a badminton workshop (Mrs Hawkins is a badminton England registered coach!)

Mrs Perryman is offering a knitting workshop for parents and children in Years 3 and 4 in the Community Room on Wednesday the 27th February from 1.30pm until 3pm.

Miss Stuart will be running an 'Easter Decoration' workshop on Wednesday 27th March in the Community Room from 1.30pm until 3pm.

Panto Time!

Pupils in Years 2 to 6 have been treated to a fantastic Pantomime performance today, to mark the beginning of the new term with a bang! M and M productions are joined us to share their latest production, Aladdin. This follows the wonderful success of Circus Berzercus, who visited us at the end of last term to work with pupils in our Foundation Stage and Year 1.

Fund Raising from Christmas Events:

I am delighted to report that funds raised as a result of all the Christmas activities amounted to an excess of £3,500. This is an amazing amount of money and will help to further improve the outdoor play areas for all our children. Thank you for your on-going support.

With best wishes,



Mrs C Neal
Headteacher

Key Events

Tuesday 8 th January 2019	Children return to school for Spring term
Monday 14 th January onwards	Extra Curricular Clubs begin
Tuesday 15 th January	Yr 6 SATs Information Meeting at 5pm
Thursday 31 st January	Yr 6 Residential Meeting at 5.30pm
Friday 8 th February	Yr 2 Assembly to parents 9.30am
Monday 18 th – Friday 22 nd February 2019	Half-term holiday
Monday 25 th February	Children return to school
Wednesday 27 th February	Yr 2 SATs Information Meeting at 5.30pm
Monday 4 th – Thursday 7 th March	Yr 6 London Residential
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day
Friday 15 th March	Comic Relief – non-uniform day
Tuesday 20 th /Thursday 21 st March	Yr 2 School Trip – West Town Farm
Friday 22 nd March	Yr 4 Assembly to parents 9.30am
Monday 25 th March	Last Week for music lessons and clubs
Tuesday 26 th March	School Discos: FS and KS1 at 5-6.15pm; KS2 6.30 – 7.45pm
Thursday 4 th April	Yr 3 Assembly to parents 2.30pm
Friday 5 th April 2019	Last day of term
Monday 8 th April – Monday 22 nd April 2019	Easter holiday
Tuesday 23 rd April 2019	Children and staff return for Summer term
Monday 6 th May 2019	Bank holiday
Monday 27 th May – Friday 31 st May 2019	Half-term holiday
Monday 3 rd June 2019	Non-pupil day – staff in
Tuesday 4 th June 2019	Children return to school
Monday 24 th June 2019	Occasional day – no school for pupils or staff
Tuesday 23 rd July 2019	Last day of term for pupils
Wednesday 24 th July 2019	Last day of term for staff

SATs Information Meetings for parents/carers of Year 2 pupils

I would like to attend the SATs Information Session for Year 2 on Wednesday 27th February at 5.30pm.

I would like _____ seats Name: _____

Childs Name: _____ Class _____

Family Workshops

I would like to attend the badminton workshop on Wednesday 23rd January with my Yr 1 or Yr 2 child

Parent Name Child Name..... Class.....

I would like to attend the knitting workshop on Wednesday 27th February with my Yr 3 or Yr 4 child

Parent Name Child Name..... Class.....

I would like to attend the Easter Decorations Workshop on Wednesday 27th March with my Yr 1 or Yr 2 child

Parent Name Child Name..... Class.....