

EXWICK HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Spring Term – January 14th 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 all enjoyed the Christmas break.

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!

School lunches: A BIG THANK YOU to all of our parents/carers who have got on board with booking and paying for their children's lunches through the school gateway app. The take up has been great but not quite 100% yet – so if you are not yet using the app, please pop into one of the school offices and we can help you get set up and started.

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 1st of June is a non-pupil day for staff training and the school is fully closed on Monday 29th June 2020) which may be helpful to consider if you would like to plan a long weekend away! Next year's term dates (Sept 2020 to July 2021) are due to go to the Ted Wragg Trust Board this week. I anticipate them being circulated to all parents and carers within the next 7 days.

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 9th and Wednesday 11th 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 16th and Wednesday 18th 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 29th January 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 13th February 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: Tuesday 3rd March at 5.00pm to be held in 2SM – (enter via the Yr 2 under covered area).
- Yr 6: Monday 23rd March at 5.30pm 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. We all look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the meeting, especially those new to this process. Many thanks.

The Yr 2 SATs are held throughout May and Yr 6 will take their SATs during the week commencing 11th May 2020. Statutory Phonics Testing for Y1/2 will take place w/c 8th 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 Glanville will be running the first workshop on Thursday 6th February for parents and children in Years 3-6 from 2.00pm -3.15pm. This will be a workshop focussing on healthy eating, looking at designing a delicious and healthy packed lunch.

Miss Haswell will be running an art workshop, exploring printing, on Monday 2nd March for parents and children in Years 1 and from 1.30pm -3.00pm.

Panto Time! Pupils in Years 2 to 6 were treated to a fantastic Pantomime performance last Wednesday, to mark the beginning of the new term with a bang! M and M productions joined us to share their latest production. 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.

Year 2 Performance Pupils in Year 2 will be performing a play, based on their work on traditional tales to their families and friends during the week beginning Monday 10th February. Please note that we would like to run one evening performance, beginning at 6pm on Tuesday 11th February. We will write to Yr 2 parents and carers to request permission for this presently but if you are aware that your child will not be able to attend in the evening on this date, please don't hesitate to inform your child's teacher before we begin to cast roles.

And finally...

School Uniform I have noticed that some 'creative' interpretations of our school uniform have started to creep in and so would like to remind all parents and carers that we do not permit make up or nail polish. I am also conscious that some of our children are beginning to 'shorten' their skirts! Please can I ask all parents to support our policy with regard to this; we are a primary school and wish to ensure that children can be children. Appropriate school dress means that fashion clothing should be avoided, this includes hair decorations which could distract children (for instance, novelty hair bands or fascinators). The wearing of shoes with heels or sling-backs can especially be dangerous and so are not permitted. Sensible flat shoes, suitable for active playtimes, should be worn. Jewellery, including bracelets, necklaces and rings should not be worn in school. Small studs are permitted but large, decorative earrings are not. This, again, is for health and safety reasons. Nail varnish and temporary tattoos are not permitted. Details of our school uniform can be found on the school website if you are unsure. Thank you for your support with this.

With best wishes,



Mrs C Neal
Headteacher

Term Dates and Activities

Wk beg Mon 13 th Jan	Clubs and peripatetic music lessons begin
Thurs 16 th Jan	Swimming lessons begin for identified Y5/6 children restart
Tues 28 th Jan	Parent/Senior Leadership Team Coffee meeting 3.30pm
Wed 29 th Jan	Parent/child invitation to share work books at 3:30pm in classrooms
Tues 4 th Feb	Y5 handball tournament at West Exe – details to follow
Mon 10 th Feb	Yr 2 Performance at 2pm
Tues 11 th Feb	Yr 2 Performances at 9:30am and again at 6pm
Thurs 13 th Feb	Yr 6 Residential Parent Information Meeting at 5.30pm
Mon 17 th – Fri 21 st Feb	Half term
Mon 24 th Feb	Staff and children return to school
Tues 3 rd Mar	Y2 Parent SATs meeting at 5:00pm
Thurs 5 th Mar	World Book Day
Mon 9 th & Wed 11 th Mar	Y2-6 parent consultation meetings 3:30 – 6:30pm
Wed 11 th Mar	Author visit
Thurs 12 th Mar	Y4 assembly at 2:30pm
Fri 13 th Mar	Sport Relief – dress in sports clothes for a £1 donation
Mon 16 th – Thurs 19 th Mar	Year 6 London Residential
Mon 16 th & Wed 18 th Mar	FS/Y1 parent consultation meetings 3:30 – 6:30pm
Thurs 19 th Mar	No swimming lessons today
Mon 23 rd Mar	Y6 Parent SATs meeting at 5:30pm
Tues 24 th Mar	School discos: 5-6:15pm FS/Y1 + parents; 6:30-7:45pm KS2 children
Thurs 26 th Mar	Y3 Easter assembly at 2:30pm
Fri 27 th Mar	Last day of term
Mon 30 th Mar- 13 th Apr	Easter holiday
Tues 14 th Apr	Non pupil day
Wed 15 th Apr	Children return to school
Throughout May	Y2 SATs
Fri 8 th May	V E Day Bank holiday
Monday 11 th May	Return to school after bank holiday weekend
Wk beg Monday 11 th May	Y6 SATs
Mon 25 th – Fri 29 th May	Half term
Mon 1 st June	Non pupil day
Tues 2 nd June	Children return to school
Wk beg 8 th June	Y1 phonics
Tues 16 th June	PTA Summer Fete 3pm
Mon 22 nd – Fri 26 th Jun	Year 5 Grenville House Residential Week
Mon 29 th June	Occasional day
Thurs 2 nd July	Citywide transfer day for Y6 pupils
Tues 14 th July	School discos: 5-6:15pm FS/Y1 + parents; 6:30-7:45pm KS2 children
Wednesday 22 nd July	Last day of term for children and staff
Thurs 23 rd July	Occasional day
Fri 24 th July	Summer holiday begins



Family Workshops

I would like to attend the KS2 Healthy Eating workshop on Thursday 6th February with my KS2 child.

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

I would like to attend the Art Printing workshop on Monday 2nd March with my KS1 child.

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