

# EXWICK HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Autumn Term – September 5<sup>th</sup> 2019

Website: [www.exwickheights.devon.sch.uk](http://www.exwickheights.devon.sch.uk)

**Dear Parents & Carers,**

I would like to warmly welcome you all to the start of another academic year here at Exwick Heights and a special welcome to any new families who are receiving our school newsletter for the first time! I hope you have all had a wonderful summer with your children. I have really enjoyed seeing them arrive at school over the last two mornings, fresh faced and eager to begin their school year (and catch up with their friends!)

I know the start of term can be quite daunting (especially for parents) and so I am delighted to share that I have been incredibly impressed by each class as I have walked around the school - all are actively engaged, even our very youngest pupils in the Nursery class. It was also a real pleasure and privilege to greet you and witness your children arriving with their huge smiles as they shared stories from their holidays and showed off their shiny new shoes and uniforms! Members of the school's Senior Leadership Team will, as always, be outside each morning to meet the children and are available to speak to any parent or carer. Your child's teacher is also available to meet with you prior to the start or after the finish of the school day so please do not hesitate to approach us if you have any queries, questions or concerns. I am very keen to gain feedback from you all about our work as this is invaluable to enable us to continue to improve and we will all be very grateful for your time. We will be wearing high visibility jackets so hopefully you will be able to find us easily!

I am sure that your children will be tired this week as they settle into their new classes and routines. Please do not worry! This is quite usual and we will happily support each individual accordingly.

**Term Dates for 2019/20:** These are always available on our school website and will also be printed on subsequent newsletters as the year progresses. Please ask a member of staff if you have any questions. Our school dates for the academic year 2020/21 will soon be available on the school website, once they have been approved by the TWMAT, our Local Governing Body and the local authority. However, I am aware that some of our families are keen to book holidays for summer 2020 and so thought it would be useful to confirm that the school year for our pupils will begin during the week beginning Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020. This means that holidays can still be booked for that first week of September, which I hope will prove to be a little cheaper than earlier in the school holidays!

At the end of this newsletter, I have placed as many key events happening this term as I can – I know from the parent questionnaires that this is always very useful. Thank you to all of the families who completed this at the end of last year. I will share the outcomes in my next newsletter.

**Parent Curriculum Plans:** Our year group teams of staff are drawing up this term's Curriculum Plans and they will be with you shortly. These plans will enable you to have a brief overview of what your child will be learning across the autumn term and help to keep you informed with regard to how you might support them at home. The school's blog provides a more detailed breakdown of the curriculum each week and is updated every Friday (barring any technical issues) to share information about what our year groups have been learning. The blog (which can be accessed on the school website) is a super way to keep yourself informed about exactly what your child has been up to at school and is very effective at encouraging children to share more with you at home.

**Class Photos 2018/19** were taken by one of our parents, Mrs Bates, during the summer term. I would like to thank her for her considerable time in taking these for us, we really appreciate it. The pictures are great and will make lovely mementos. The photos have generated a fantastic £1111.95 which we are hoping to spend on outdoor play equipment.

**School Dinners:** Our tempting menu is available on the website and from the school offices. The school meal cost is £2.50. Dinner tickets are sold daily; any cheques should be made payable to 'TWMAT'. If you are registered with schoolgateway (and we strongly urge that you are) you can order and pay for dinner tickets

through this on-line facility. The tickets are then sent home with your child. *Just a reminder that if your child would like to order a jacket potato or the vegetarian option, they must tell their teacher when the dinner register is taken.*

**Mobile Classroom and toilet:** As many of you will be aware, during the last academic year, we have been fortunate to have had access to an external toilet (based on the main site) and mobile classroom. They have been heavily used whilst we have had repairs made to a water leak on our Early Years site. Unfortunately, now that the work in our Early Years is complete, the classroom and toilet will be removed. This will mean that we will no longer have an external toilet that can be used during school runs. Please can I ask you to ensure that children have used facilities at home prior to coming to school to help ease congestion. Unfortunately, a member of school staff must escort you to and from our internal toilets to safeguard all of our children. As a result, we ask that these facilities are only used as a last resort by people other than our pupils, to enable the staff team here to continue with their work with the children. Please also be aware that this may not be possible without a short delay. Thank you for your support and understanding with regard to this.

### **Aldi's Get Set to Eat Fresh and Kits For Schools**

We have been made aware that the supermarket Aldi is offering twenty primary schools the chance to win £20,000 cash to kick-start a health legacy for their school. From 6<sup>th</sup> September until 3<sup>rd</sup> November families who spend £30 in any Aldi store they will receive a special Team GB athlete sticker which can then be brought into school to be placed on a poster. Each poster will need 300 stickers to complete it. For each completed poster, our school will receive an exclusive school sports kit and be entered into the £20,000 cash prize draw. Please do let your friends and family members know that we will be keen to receive any stickers that they would like to donate - thank you!

**MTA role:** We are always keen to ensure that our playgrounds are well staffed and so would like to see if anyone would be interested in a role as a Meal Time Assistant within our school? Candidates will need to undergo DBS checks, complete an application form which can be downloaded from the school website and provide references. Please contact me if you have any questions.

**Local Governing Body Role:** I will soon be writing to invite parents, guardians and carers of registered pupils at Exwick Heights Primary School to put their names forward for election to serve as parent governors of this school.

Governors set the aims and objectives for the school and set the policies and targets for achieving those aims and objectives. They monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making and act as a source of challenge and support to the headteacher.

Responsibilities include:

- Building an understanding of how the school is led and managed
- monitoring whether the school is working within agreed policies and:
  1. meeting statutory requirements
  2. meeting agreed targets
  3. managing its finances well
  4. Engaging with stakeholders
  5. Reporting to the board

Being a governor requires a commitment to our school and to the vision and ethos of the Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust.

If you would be interested in learning more about becoming a school governor, prior to my next letter, please don't hesitate to contact the school office and request further information or speak to me directly during the school run.

**Security** – Once our school day begins at 8.50am, it is important that we quickly secure our school grounds. As such, I politely ask anyone completing the school run to be aware that it is very important that they leave the site promptly to enable us to lock the gates. Access to the main school office is available from 8.30am until 4pm daily.

### Some helpful reminders regarding the organisation of the school day:

These notes are to support our school community with routines and procedures at the start of the school day. I recognise that it can be tiresome to be given such a list of directions but hope that you recognise the necessity to ensure that we are all informed as it makes the school run a much more successful experience for everyone. Thank you for your co-operation!

The pedestrian gates from Peterborough Road and those at the main entrance are opened at 8.30am. *I would like to remind all parents that even though the gates may be unlocked, entry onto the school grounds is not permitted before this time unless you are a member of staff or dropping children off at Playclub. This is because of insurance cover and is for your safety.*

The main school office is open daily from 8.30am through to 4.00pm and the Early Years office is open from 8.30am to 9.30am only.

**Mornings** -All playgrounds can be accessed from **8.30am** with our classroom doors opening at 8.40am for early morning work. The formal day begins **at 8.50am** so all children must be in their classrooms by this time. At KS2, the ringing of the bell at 8.45am is the signal for pupils to go to class if they have not already done so and for parents to start to leave the classrooms/school site. **Any pupil arriving after 8.50am will need to enter their school building through the school office.** Access from Peterborough Road to Gloucester Road (or vice versa) must be via Exwick Lane after 8.50am to enable staff to secure the school premises and safeguard the school site.

**Afternoons** - The main pedestrian gates and those leading down to the Yr 3/4/5 will be opened at 3.10pm daily. No one should be on the school site prior to this time unless they are visiting the school office and have signed in. This is to ensure that we are aware of any adult on the school site. The gate at the bottom slope leading to Yr 3/4/5 will be opened by a member of staff at 3.15pm when parents can then access the lower playground. The Early Years main playground gates (front & side) will be opened just before **3.15pm**.

The playground areas outside all of our classrooms are narrow; we ask parents and younger siblings to wait away from the windows and doorway into each class to provide a clear walkway and allow teachers to see each parent/carer easily to safely dismiss the children.

### **Tips on how to access areas when you have more than one child in the school**

- With the exception of our Nursery children, always drop off and collect from the Early Years first.
- If parked at the front of the school, use Exwick Lane or the walk way past the kitchen/hall/offices to get to and from the Early Years (Nursery/Reception/Yr1) site.

**Using the 'Drop Off Zone'** - main entrance, accessed via Gloucester Road (mornings only)

- **Use the Drop Off Zone** if you are dropping a Yr 2 child with an older sibling. (Yr 2 pupils must be accompanied to the class by either a parent or a **sensible** older sibling).
- **Use the Drop Off Zone** if you are dropping a Yr 3, Yr 4, Yr 5 or Yr 6 child.

When driving onto the site, please ensure your speed is **no more than 5mph** and always drive to the **furthest point** of the drop off zone (towards the exit gate) to prevent obstructing any vehicle arriving after you. Please be alert to parents and children when you drive in and out and those walking in the lane. The Drop Off zone should only be used to quickly drop off, if you have any other business on the site (visiting the office or speaking to staff, for example) then you will need to park off-site. **Drivers should not need to leave their vehicle and parking is not permitted under any circumstances in the drop off zone.** Children need to be 'dropped off' in the Drop Off Zone itself and should not leave the car while it is on the drive, for their safety.

At the end of the school day, the vehicle gates at the main entrance (Gloucester Road end) will be open from 3.30pm for those parents collecting from the Playclub or After School Clubs.

### **Parking around the school area:**

Parking around our site is extremely challenging. Please ensure you allow time to park/stop considerately and where possible, park away from the school. I'm sure you will be aware of the need to avoid blocking drives or parking on double yellow lines or crossing points. The raised crossing at the front of the school must be kept clear, as parking either side of it on the double yellow lines **puts our pupils in danger** they cannot be seen by car

drivers coming up the hill. There is a 20mph speed limit around the school and the area directly in front of the main school gates is a 'One Way' system which is a '**Strictly No Parking**' zone. Sadly, I have already received complaints today from residents who have been affected by inconsiderate parking. Please help us to develop a positive relationship with our neighbours by parking considerately and allowing time to find a suitable parking space (this may well involve walking the last part of your journey to school).

We urge all family members with a disabled badge to park on the school site in the disabled spaces provided, with the blue badge prominently displayed. **Please do not park on the double yellow lines outside the school.** If the disabled spaces are full on the main site, please park in the far end of the 'Dropping off Zone' (exit gate end) ensuring that your badge is clearly displayed.

Phew! I realise that this is a huge amount to remember but if we work together, I am confident that we will be able to ensure that our school run is as smoothly as possible. Thank you for your help with this.

On that note, I will sign off – thank you all again for helping to make this an incredibly successful start to the school year!

Mrs C. Neal  
**Headteacher**

Autumn 1

<b>Date</b>	<b>Events</b>
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	Staff training Day – no pupils
Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	Staff training Day – no pupils
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Children return to school
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Extra -curricular clubs and music lessons begin for the term
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Swimming lessons for non-swimmers in Y5/6 start
Tues 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Year 2 school trip to Fleet Air Army Museum (leave 9.15 and return 4.15/4.30pm) - letters home to follow
Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Scholastic Book Fair arrives to school –timetable to be confirmed
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Parent Evenings for Reception and Year 1 (3.30pm – 6.30pm)
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	School Council Election day
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Parent Evenings for Reception and Year 1 (3.30pm – 6.30pm)
Fri 11 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Yr 5 class assembly for parents 9.15am
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Individual School Photo Day
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Parent Evenings for Years 2 to 6 (3.30pm – 6.30pm)
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Parent Evenings for Years 2 to 6 (3.30pm – 6.30pm)
Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Space dome visit in Year 5 - letters home to follow
Mon 21 <sup>st</sup> to Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Half Term

Autumn 2

<b>Week beg</b>	<b>Events</b>
Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Pupils and staff return
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Year 6 Remembrance Assembly 2.30pm
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Anti-bullying week
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Children in Need – non uniform day for suggested donation of £1
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov	School Discos (FS/KS1: 5-6:15pm (adult must attend with ticket); KS2 (children only): 6:30-7:45pm)
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Last week for extra-curricular clubs & music lessons
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Father Christmas visiting school
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec – Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	EYFS/Y1 nativity performances - <b>dates and times to be confirmed.</b> <b>Exwick's Got Talent Class heats - dates and times to be confirmed.</b>

Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec – Thur 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Y2-6 Red badge Treats
Thu 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas fete 3pm
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Y2/3 Carols in the Playground 3:30pm
Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Dinner Day!
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Y4-6 Carols in the Playground 3:30pm
Thu 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Exwick's Got Talent final
Thu 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Last day of term
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Academy occasional day
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec – Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan 2020	Christmas holiday
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Non pupil day
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Children return to school
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb – Frid 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Half term
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Staff and children return to school
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> – Thur 18 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Year 6 London Residential
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Last day of term
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> Mar – Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Easter holiday
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Non pupil day
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Children return to school
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> May	V E Bank holiday
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Return to school after bank holiday weekend
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> May – Frid 29 <sup>th</sup> May	Half term
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Non pupil day
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Children return to school
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 5 Grenville House Residential
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Occasional day
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Last day of term for children and staff
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Occasional day
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer holiday begins