

EXWICK HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Autumn Term – 2nd October 2019

Website: www.exwickheights.devon.sch.uk

Dear Parents & Carers,

It is certainly beginning to feel more autumnal as I am writing this newsletter – the air is a lot crisper first thing and our trees are just beginning to lose their leaves... Thankfully, your lovely children have been keeping us feeling bright and I have been delighted by their positive attitudes and hard work. The start of a school year is always a shock for children (and adults!) especially as the novelty of the school routine wears off. Please don't hesitate to contact us if your child is struggling, we completely understand and will do our very best to support them. It is a real privilege to work with your children and we are already seeing them make progress as they tackle the challenges for their new year group!

At the end of this newsletter, I have attached an overview of school events for your calendar. Please also check our school website to keep yourself up to date with forthcoming events. This information can be found under the 'Parent/Carers' section of the tool bar, and is headed 'Diary Dates.' The website also contains links to each year groups' learning blogs - a key way to ensure that you are informed about what your child is learning each week and share the Home-learning set for each year group. Home learning is set every Thursday for all year groups other than our Reception and Nursery classes, who publish theirs on a Friday. Don't forget to contact your child's teacher if you would prefer to receive a paper copy of this each week.

Lost Property: It is inevitable that children will misplace belongings at some point over the school year. Please could I remind you to clearly label your child's belongings to enable us to promptly return mislaid items – this includes items like drink bottles and shoes!

Harvest Festival Each year, we celebrate this event with a special assembly for our children, which we hold on the last day of the half term (Friday 18th October). This event is for our pupils only. However, we would like to invite families to share in our Harvest Festival by kindly donating an item, which will be displayed throughout the assembly and will then be donated to the Exeter Foodbank, a local charity who make a real difference to local people in crisis. The Exeter Foodbank are only able to use non-perishable food and so we kindly ask that the school does not receive any 'fresh' goods for obvious reasons. A flyer from the foodbank, with suggested donations will be sent home via schoolcomms to all families in case you would like to support this super cause.

Mobile phones Please can I remind parents that mobile phones should not be used anywhere within the school building, when you are visiting our school. This is part of our Safeguarding policy and is in place to protect all of our children. I have been made aware of a very small number of adults having mobile phones visible when entering classrooms in the morning to support their child's early morning work. Please can I ask you all to ensure that they are placed in your bag or pocket to prevent embarrassment – staff have been asked to approach anyone with a mobile phone visible within the building. With thanks.

Further to this, we understand that older children may want to walk home independently and carry a mobile phone for their security. However, during the school day, these need to be turned off and signed in to the class teacher. This also applies to **any device** (such as a smart watch) that can be used to take calls or photographs, even if these options are turned off. The school is unable to take any responsibility for any mobile devices.

Smoking and vaping Our school is a no smoking site and so we politely remind all of our families that smoking and vaping are not permitted. We would also appreciate it if parents and carers could be mindful of this and stand away from the school gates when smoking or vaping to allow children to enter and leave school without having to pass through smoke. I would be very grateful for your co-operation with this.

July '19 Questionnaire Outcomes: I am delighted to be able to share the findings of our 2019 Parent Questionnaire. This was sent out with children's annual reports and we received a considerable return. The questionnaire required parents and carers to respond to 15 statements and indicate whether they agreed or disagreed with the statement. The table below identifies the responses given:

Parking: As is the case with most schools, this is a challenge around our site and so frequently features in our newsletters! I would like to ask parents for support around the Peterborough Road entrance. In particular, please can I ask you all to be aware of the double yellow lines at the entrance to Exwick Lane from Peterborough Road. Please do not leave your cars unattended on double yellow lines; there may be a need for an ambulance or fire engine to get to the local residents or, indeed, to one of our children or staff on site. If you do drop a family member and your child off in this area, we politely ask you to then drive away to a place where you can safely wait and collect your passenger. The 'drop off' zone is at the front of the school and the EY building can be easily accessed on foot from there. It is also vital that nobody parks on junctions to enable all drivers to have good visibility. Parking on a junction blocks the view of vehicles and puts our children at risk. Thank you for your ongoing support with this.

Nut Allergies: We have number of pupils who have severe nut allergies. Please ensure that nuts are not sent into school as part of your child's snack or packed lunch to prevent the possibility of a medical emergency. Please note, items such as peanut butter and nut bars are also potential hazards. Thank you for your co-operation.

Access to School Site: A polite reminder that the school site is open from 8.30am daily. Access before this time is for children attending the **Playclub only**. For those parents using the drop-off facility on the main site, **please do not queue at the vehicle gates** before 8.30am as school staff beginning work at 8.30 or 8.45am need to be able to drive in to the car park. Many thanks.

		Strongly agree or Agree	<u>Disagree or</u> Strongly disagree		Don't know	No Answer
1	My child is happy at this school	100%				
2	My child feels safe at this school	100%				
3	My child makes good progress at this school	100%				
4	My child is well looked after at this school	100%				
5	My child is taught well at this school	100%				
		Strongly agree or Agree	<u>Disagree or</u> Strongly disagree		Don't know	No Answer
6	There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school	98%			2%	
7	My child receives appropriate homelearning tasks for their age	96%	4%			
8	My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school	98%	2%			
9	The school ensures the pupils are well behaved	100%				
10	The school supports my child's wider development	100%				
11	The school deals effectively with bullying	60%			40%	
12	The school is well led and managed	98%			2%	
13	The school responds well to any concern I raise	91%			9%	
14	I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress.	100%				
15	I would recommend this school to another parent	100%				

School Uniform: I have noticed that a few of our children are beginning to be more 'creative' with our expectations of uniform! We ask children to dress appropriately for the school day to enable them to access all of the activities provided. Appropriate school dress means that fashion clothing should be avoided; this includes hair decorations which often distract children (for instance, novelty hair bands and large clips). The wearing of shoes with heels or sling-backs can be especially dangerous and 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, plain earring 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. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Schoolgateway app

This free app is available from app stores on tablets and smart phones. It can be used to book and pay for a wide range of school events, including extra-curricular clubs and school trips. From December, school dinners can also be booked using the app. As a school, we have been urged to become 'cashless.' Becoming 'cashless' will support our school by significantly reducing our administrator's workload, cut banking costs and provide a clearer, auditable financial trail. However, we are aware that the transition towards achieving this aim needs to be gradual to support our school community, ensuring that everyone feels confident. If you would like to learn more about using the schoolgateway app, please don't hesitate to approach a member of the school's admin team for support.

Individual Photos: These will be taken on Monday 14th October by Tempest Photography. Pupils in our Nursery who do not usually attend Nursery on a Monday morning are warmly invited to come into school for their photograph to be taken first thing. These children will be given a flyer with further information the week prior to the photographs being taken.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to approach any member of staff around the school at the beginning or end of each day.
With thanks,

Mrs C. Neal,
Headteacher

Autumn 1

Date	Events
Mon 7 th Oct	Parent Evenings for Reception and Year 1 (3.30pm – 6.30pm) + Book Fair
Mon 7 th Oct	School Council Election day
Tues 8 th Oct	Meet the SLT Coffee Meeting
Tues 8 th Oct	4WW Red Coat Tour- letters have been sent home
Wed 9 th Oct	4ST & 4CS Red Coat Tour - letters have been sent home
Wed 9 th Oct	Parent Evenings for Reception and Year 1 (3.30pm – 6.30pm) + Book Fair
Fri 11 th Oct	Yr 5 class assembly for parents 9.15am
Mon 14 th Oct	Individual School Photo Day
Mon 14 th Oct	Parent Evenings for Years 2 to 6 (3.30pm – 6.30pm) + Book Fair
Wed 16 th Oct	Parent Evenings for Years 2 to 6 (3.30pm – 6.30pm) + Book Fair
Thurs 17 th Oct	Space dome visit in Year 5 - letters have been sent home
Mon 21 st to Fri 25 th Oct	Half Term

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Week beg	Events
Mon 28 th Oct	Pupils and staff return
Mon 11 th Nov	Year 6 Remembrance Assembly 2.30pm
Mon 11 th - Fri 15 th Nov	Anti-bullying week
Fri 15 th Nov	Children in Need – non uniform day for suggested donation of £1
Tues 19 th Nov	School Discos (FS/KS1: 5-6:15pm (adult must attend with ticket); KS2 (children only): 6:30-7:45pm)
Mon 25 th – Fri 30 th Nov	Last week for extra-curricular clubs & music lessons
Mon 2 nd - Fri 13 th Dec	Father Christmas visiting school
Mon 9 th Dec – Fri 13 th Dec	EYFS/Y1 nativity performances - dates and times to be confirmed. Exwick's Got Talent Class heats - dates and times to be confirmed.
Mon 9 th Dec – Thur 20 th Dec	Y2-6 Red badge Treats
Thu 12 th Dec	Christmas fete 3pm
Mon 16 th Dec	Y2/3 Carols in the Playground 3:30pm
Tues 17 th Dec	Christmas Dinner Day!
Wed 18 th Dec	Y4-6 Carols in the Playground 3:30pm
Thu 19 th Dec	Exwick's Got Talent final
Thu 19 th Dec	Last day of term
Fri 20 th Dec	Academy occasional day
Mon 23 rd Dec – Fri 3 rd Jan 2020	Christmas holiday
Mon 6 th Jan	Non pupil day
Tues 7 th Jan	Children return to school
Mon 17 th Feb – Fri 21 st Feb	Half term
Mon 24 th Feb	Staff and children return to school
Mon 16 th – Thur 18 th Mar	Year 6 London Residential
Fri 27 th Mar	Last day of term
Mon 30 th Mar – Mon 13 th Apr	Easter holiday
Tues 14 th Apr	Non pupil day
Wed 15 th Apr	Children return to school
Fri 8 th May	V E Bank holiday
Monday 11 th May	Return to school after bank holiday weekend
Mon 25 th May – Frid 29 th May	Half term
Mon 1 st June	Non pupil day
Tues 2 nd June	Children return to school
Tues 16 th June	PTA Summer Fete 3pm
Mon 22 nd – Fri 26 th June	Year 5 Grenville House Residential
Mon 29 th June	Occasional day
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