

EXWICK HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Autumn Term – September 6th 2017

Website: 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 enjoyed a wonderful summer with your children, I enjoyed talking to different children today and hearing about all that they have been up to! I have to say, I was incredibly impressed by each class this morning as I walked around the school - all were actively engaged, even our very youngest pupils in the Nursery class.

It was a real pleasure and privilege to greet you this morning 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 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 my wonderful team of staff will 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 appropriately.

Term Dates for 2017/18: These are always available on our school website and will 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 2018/19 are also available on the school website.

Parent Curriculum Plans: The Year teams are drawing up their Curriculum Plans and they will be with you shortly. These plans will enable you to see what your child will be learning about during the term and keeping you informed with regard to how you can help them. The school's blog will be updated on a weekly basis to share information about what our year groups have been learning. The blog is a super way to be informed about exactly what your child has been up to at school and is very effective at encouraging children to share more about what they have been up to!

FUNDRAISING 2017/18: I am delighted to inform you that our PTA raised an astonishing £8,242.00 during the last academic year. This is terrific and is being used to further improve our school grounds to facilitate outdoor learning. A huge thank you again to our incredibly hard working team who help to organise events throughout the year.

If any parent is interested in joining our PTA to support their work (in any capacity), please contact the school office.

School Dinners: Our tempting menu is available on the website and from the school offices. The school meal cost is £2.40. Dinner tickets are sold on a **Monday morning**, any cheques should be made payable to 'TWMAT'. If you are registered with Schoolcomms (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 is in Years 3-6 and they would like to order a jacket potato or the vegetarian option, they must let the admin staff know at either office before they go in for registration.*

Music Tuition – Autumn Term 2017

We are pleased to continue to offer specialist music tuition at Exwick Heights. Tuition includes: violin, guitars, drums, woodwind (e.g. clarinet, flute, saxophone and bassoon) and piano. If you are interested in your child learning how to play a musical instrument, please fill in the slip at the bottom of this newsletter and the music teachers will contact you. The agreement is made between the parent and music teacher and not the school. For those children who were receiving lessons last year, the teacher will contact you directly. In the event that the sessions are fully subscribed, your child will go on to a waiting list. It is at the music teacher's discretion as to what age groups the tuition is offered.

Music tuition is not funded by the school, it is an extra-curricular activity and the cost of the lessons has to be met entirely by you. If your child is entitled to Pupil Premium funding, please contact the office for further information.

Before & After School Clubs - A clubs letter will be sent home shortly to provide you with an overview of the extra-curriculum clubs on offer for the coming term. Clubs begin w/c 18th September.

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 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 9.45am 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. To ensure the children's safety, admittance to each building after 8.50am must be via the appropriate building's school office. Access from Peterborough Road to Gloucester Road (or vice versa) must be via Exwick Lane after this time 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 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' (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 **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. Please be alert to parents and children when you drive in and out and those walking in the lane. Please remember that this 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 of the 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 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.

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 smooth as possible. Thank you for your help with this.

Mrs C. Neal
Acting Headteacher

Music Tuition:

Please pass along my details to the appropriate music teacher for the following:

Child's name _____ Class _____ Age _____ Instrument _____

Child's name _____ Class _____ Age _____ Instrument _____

Child's name _____ Class _____ Age _____ Instrument _____

My name _____ e-mail address _____

Phone number _____