

ESCOMB PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter — 11th September 2015

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the start of the new school year! It is lovely to see the children looking so smart and tidy in their uniforms—Thank You parents!

We would like to say a special welcome to our new children in Reception Class: Max A, Zaine B, Daisy BW, Charlie C, Iris C, Cody E, Elise G, Lily H, Finley H, Milly H, Cruz J, Lilly J, Oliver J, Nathan K, Daisy L, Kibbi M, Harry M, Anya M, Jake O, Finley P, Jack R, Zackery R, Amelia S, Amber W, Joe W, Phoebe W and Ellis W.

We have attached the following information for you:

- **Yearly Planner:** We have put the key dates on the planner for this year. Please add further dates to it as we send out information over the course of the year. I know from questionnaires that parents would like more notice of events - and I know that this can sometimes be frustrating! We will try our very best to do this but sometimes please understand it is very difficult for us as we don't get confirmation of events until near the time or sometimes we are given an 'opportunity' at the last minute and don't want to miss out as it is of benefit to our children! Please note that we have included dates for Class assemblies for the Autumn term. In the Spring term we will be holding a 'Sharing our Learning' afternoon where you will be invited into your child's class to share in some learning activities with your child. In the Summer term we will be inviting you to our 'Strawberries and Cream Open Afternoon' which we will hopefully hold on the amphitheatre and each class will 'perform'.
- **Curriculum Plans:** This guide gives you an overview of what your child will be encountering in their learning across this whole academic year. This will enable you to support and work with your child at home. These plans are also available on the website and information relating to all areas of the curriculum are also on there. There is also some regarding our approaches to Reading and Mathematics. *(Parents also need to be aware that the government has raised the expectations of what children should achieve in each year group, particularly in Maths and English. This is across the whole school and means that the testing process at the end of Key Stage 2 will be very different for May 2016)*
- **Homework Expectations:** We have revised our policy following some of the feedback from the parent questionnaires at the end of last year. This outlines the practice within school and ensures a consistency of approach across the school.

Other Information

- **School Bags:** We really struggle for space in our porch areas in school and have difficulty storing large rucksacks and bags that a lot of children, particularly in key stage 2, are bringing. Where possible, please can children use school book bags for reading books and homework etc as these are so much easier for us to store. One keyring is also sufficient to attach to the school bag as again this makes storage difficult. The drawstring PE bags are the most suitable for P.E. and swimming kit or alternatively a carrier bag is great! We really appreciate your help with this.
- **Newsletters:** We will be sending newsletters home fortnightly unless there is something that we really need to let you know about. Please note that we will continue to use our texting service to send messages as appropriate.

Upcoming Events:

School grounds: Over the Summer period we have had the area developed at the bottom of our school garden by Chris Hall and his Thrills and Skills team so that we can offer our children some outdoor and adventurous activities that link with our school curriculum on a regular basis. We have fantastic school grounds and we want to maximise their potential in developing our children's learning. We have arranged for classes to have a half day session next week with Chris Hall and class teachers. Children will need to bring suitable clothing to school on their designated day in a carrier bag. (Dirty clothing can then easily be sent home!). *(Clothing: tracksuit bottoms, sweatshirt, t-shirt, waterproof coat, wellingtons or strong boots. Layers are good to keep warm and also can be removed depending on the weather!)*

MONDAY 14TH SEPT

morning: Year 5
afternoon: Year 2

TUESDAY 15TH SEPT

morning: Year 3
afternoon: Year 4

THURSDAY 17TH SEPT

All day Year 6

Sessions will be arranged
for Year 1 and Reception
Class in the Spring term.

Football League: This starts on Thursday 17th September. Matches will be played at King James School (please see further dates on the planner). If your child has been asked to play in a league match he/she will be given a letter before a scheduled match. Please ensure that your child is transported to King James by 4 p.m. and collected by 5.15 p.m. Thank you.

We are looking forward to working together with you and your children this year to continue to make Escomb School the best place to be!

Thank you for your continued support.

Wendy Gill & Staff

Free School Meal Entitlement

Although all children within Early Years and KS1 are being offered a free school meal this year, parents claiming certain benefits should continue to complete an eligibility form to ensure that our school funding (pupil premium) is not affected. Please call into the office for further information if you feel that you may qualify. Thank you.



We continue to provide milk to children under the European school milk scheme. Every child under the age of five is entitled to FREE school milk and children aged five and over are entitled to subsidised milk at a cost of just 22p per day. All children in Reception under the age of 5 have been registered. To register your child for milk you may either register online at www.coolmilk.com or alternatively complete a registration form and return this via post to FREEPOST COOL MILK. Should you have any queries regarding your child's registration please do not hesitate to contact Cool Milk directly at customerservices@coolmilk.com.

After School Activities

Below is a list of all the after school activity clubs that we are going to run this term (most starting next week). Last term numbers for after-school clubs was very low and inconsistent which meant that the clubs were run at a cost to the school. We do appreciate that lots of our children have commitments to other clubs outside school. Whilst this is not a profit making venture, we do need a minimum number to make each club viable. Hence the reason we have asked for payment half termly. Please note that if clubs are cancelled or your child is absent due to illness, credits will be refunded. **IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR CHILD TO TAKE PART IN AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS THIS TERM WOULD YOU PLEASE RETURN THE FORM BELOW WITH PAYMENT NEXT WEEK.**

We are aware that there is no after school club on offer for Reception this term. This is because the school day is a long enough for Reception children at this stage. We will be looking to provide an after school club for Reception Class in the Spring term.

We are also looking into different providers so that we can offer a range of after school clubs to cater for a variety of interests.

School Choir continues to be offered to Key Stage 2 children and takes place on a lunchtime.

Staff also offer 'clubs' during lunchtimes to support areas of the curriculum at various times throughout the year.



Name: _____ Class _____

Day	Club	Time	Cost	HALF TERMLY PAYMENT DUE	Tick to allocate a place
Monday	Football Training Years 4, 5 & 6	3.30-4.30p.m.	£2.50	£15.00	
		3.30-4.30p.m.	£2.50	£15.00	
Tuesday	Multi-Skills Years 1 & 2	3.30-4.30p.m.	£2.50	£15.00	
Tuesday	Street Dance Years 3, 4, 5 & 6	3.30-4.30p.m.	£2.50	£15.00	
Tuesday	Netball Years 5 & 6	3.30-4.30 p.m.	£2.50	£15.00	
Wednesday	Jujitsu—All Years	3.30-4.30p.m.	Contact Provider	Enquire with provider	Contact Provider
Thursday	Rugby	3.30-4.30p.m.	£2.50	£15.00	
Friday	Multi-Skills Years 3 & 4 (awaiting confirmation)	3.30-4.30p.m.	£2.50	This will be charged once the club has commenced	

*Please note: All children will require an additional PE kit and water bottle for clubs.
Children do not need a snack for after school club.*

Total Amount Enclosed: £ _____

IMPORTANT— HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

Traffic still continues to be an issue. We have already received a number of complaints from local residents regarding the difficulties they have in accessing or leaving their homes due to parents blocking their drives. When parking, please ensure that local residents have access to their homes at all times. Please also ensure that the area near the school car park gates is kept clear and the alleyway at the side of the schoolhouse. Both are required for emergency access at all times. Parents should not be using them as turning points.

Similarly the driveways, particularly the one opposite the school car park and the car park itself, plus the Riding School should not be used for turning around. This is an accident waiting to happen especially at busy times!

As you know, in the past the police have issued tickets to cars parked illegally and for obstructing entrances. It would really help if cars are not parked illegally - the lines are there for a purpose and we want all our children to be safe! Our local police officer is aware of all these issues and will continue to make regular visits to school to monitor the situation.

I am sure that you will have noticed how busy/congested the playground is at the beginning and end of the school day? It would be really helpful if parents could avoid congregating around the gate area as it is difficult to get in and out. Plus at the end of the school day, bus children line up at the gate and it is sometimes very difficult to see who is or isn't in the line!

It would also be helpful if parents kept the area outside the gate clear as this makes it difficult for parents to get in and out!

When the bell goes at the start of the day, please could parents of Reception and Year1 children stand back and let the children line up - it is difficult for the children to see where they are supposed to be when there are lots of 'big' people in the way! Plus it will allow the teachers to see clearly where the children are! It would also be really helpful if parents could please wait before they leave the yard until all the children have been taken through the gate by their teacher. This way we will know that all the children are safe. Thank you!

Also, before the start of school, a lot of children are congregating outside the Classroom of the Future. It would be helpful if parents could keep the area outside the classroom of the future and the path down to the playground clear so that the teacher on duty can see where the children are. We would appreciate it if all children from Year 2 - Year 6 could come straight onto the playground when they come into school on a morning. A teacher is on duty from 8.45a.m. so once your child is safely on the yard, it is absolutely fine for you to leave.

Just a reminder:

- parents and children should not use the car park to enter or leave school at any time—either on foot or to park!
- Dogs are not allowed on school premises.

Currently only Year 6 children should be coming to school on their bikes. Cycling training for Year 5 children will take place this year (we are awaiting notification of dates from the local authority,) and after successful completion of this, Year 5 will also be allowed to cycle to school. Children in other year groups are allowed to come to school on their bikes but must be accompanied by an adult. All bikes can be left in the racks at the rear of the school hall. **(N.B. Bikes should not be ridden on school premises.)**

Mr Brunton and Mr Jones will resume the 'Walk to School' on Friday morning. The walk takes place each Friday and starts from the pathway that leads to the black path (opposite the entrance to Croftside) at 8.30a.m.

We very much appreciate your support to ensure that our children are safe at all times.

Homework Overview for 2015-2016

Year Group	Homework
Reception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children will have a sound book/pack. New sounds will be added as the children learn them to be reinforced at home. Children will be given a library book each week to share with parents at home. Children will also be given a reading book to practise their phonic and wider reading skills. Each child will have a home/school reading diary for parents to record this in. In preparation for new topics, parents will be asked to discuss/share ideas with their child. Children will be asked to bring things in throughout the year to enhance focused activities.
Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily Reading 10 mins x 5 (50 minutes) English or Maths will be sent on a Friday to be returned by Wednesday. Worksheets will be sent home to reinforce the learning in class. Maths may be on 'Active Learn' instead of or as well as a worksheet. This may also be asked for at other times of the week as appropriate. Topic homework will be set as appropriate. This will usually involve some basic research work.
Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily Reading 10 mins x 5 (50 minutes) English and/or Maths will be sent on a Friday to be returned by Wednesday. Worksheets will be sent home to reinforce the learning in class. Maths may be on 'Active Learn' instead of or as well as a worksheet and may also be times tables. This could be asked for at other times of the week as appropriate. Topic homework will be set as appropriate. This will usually involve some basic research work. See additional information for spellings
Year 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily Reading 50 minutes (10 mins x 5) English or Maths will be sent on a Friday to be returned by Wednesday. Times tables will be set on a Monday and the children will be tested on a Friday. Topic based homework relating to other subject areas will be sent home at regular intervals during the term. See additional information for spellings
Year 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily Reading 10 mins x 5 (50 minutes) English and Maths will be sent on a Friday to be returned by Wednesday. Research activities relating to topic work will be given at regular intervals throughout the term. See additional information for spellings
Year 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily Reading 15 minutes x 5 (75 mins) Homework will be set on the Blog on a Friday. (Children who cannot access a computer at home will be given a paper copy and will have the opportunity to upload their work onto the blog at school. English or Maths will be sent on a Friday to be returned by Wednesday. Research work relating to other subject areas will be given at regular intervals throughout the term. Homework and reading logs should be recorded in their homework diary. See additional information for spellings
Year 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily Reading 15 minutes x 5 (75 mins) Wednesday - English or Maths Homework given - to be completed for Friday. Friday - English or Maths Homework given - to be completed for Monday. Some homework may be via the class blog. Research work relating to other subject areas will be given at regular intervals throughout the term. Homework and reading logs should be recorded in their homework diary. See additional information for spellings

Children from Year 2-6 will follow the Read Write Inc. Spelling programme. The programme supports the aims of the National Curriculum to ensure that children:

- Spell new words correctly and have plenty of practise in spelling them.
- Spell words as accurately as possible using their phonic knowledge.
- Are supported in understanding and applying the concepts of word structure.
- Spell words they have not yet been taught by using what they have learned about how spelling works in English.

The aim is for children to learn spellings and letter patterns to use in their independent writing. (Not for children to learn lists of spellings for a weekly test!)

Children work through a practice book, completing a range of spelling tasks and games. Each unit is linked to an area of spelling appropriate to that year group. Children will also be coming home with a log book (this should be kept in their school bag). In class they will log words they may have spelt incorrectly or are finding difficult to remember. These words should be practised at home as they will be used at the end of the unit as part of a spelling game. There will be many opportunities for your child to consolidate their knowledge of new words in a fun and interactive way which may at times involve a 'structured' spelling test.