

Dear Parents and carers,

We made it!

It is now officially the beginning of the festive break and the end of a very busy term here at Eastfield.

As always, the community spirit here at Eastfield has been wonderful and we have managed to fit so much in. Everyone's dedication to the children's experiences at this school is truly magical and means we squeeze every ounce of possibility which ensures that the children get the most out of every single day.

I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Online Safety – 12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a Tech-Free Christmas

With Christmas right around the corner, millions of families are excitedly anticipating the chance to spend some quality time with each other over the festive season. When everyone's engrossed in their phones or glued to their games consoles, however, genuinely meaningful moments with loved ones can often be difficult to orchestrate.

National Online Safety have created [this guide](#) to lend a hand: providing some advice on helping young people to set aside their devices for a while and live in the moment. Even if going full tech cold turkey feels unrealistic, implementing just a few of these tips could still decrease the amount of screen time in your home this festive season – enabling everyone to make the most of it.

Early Years Reading Café

On Thursday 11th January at 9am, we would like to invite you to an Early Years Reading Café. If your child is in Nursery or Reception, please come and join us for a cup of tea/coffee and find out some more information about reading at school as

well as how you can support your child at home. You will then be able to spend some time reading with your child.

For the Reception parents and carers, the children will come into the hall to sit with you to read. Our Nursery parents and carers will then be taken over to the Nursery itself and be able to join in with some reading-based activities with your child.

If you have any further questions about this, please speak to a member of the Nursery or Reception team.

Spring School Lunch Menu

Wendy, our school kitchen manager, along with the school council has pulled together the school lunch menu options for Spring term.

Menu Spring 1 2024

At the start of the school year, the school council were tasked with speaking to their classes about "things that could make Eastfield even better". One of the topics that came up was the children having "some" say in the menu options.

Last week, Wendy met with the school council to collectively discuss the options and also presented the idea of "Monday favourites." This was a very well-liked idea and therefore the children have had a huge input into the spring menu, voting for their favourite meals to be included.

Please note: Wendy has still ensured that the meal options are well balanced and include options that are a) suitable for all children in school and b) include plenty of healthy eating options (even if they are hidden within sauces 😊).

Pupil Premium Funding

Pupil Premium represents additional funding that the government gives to schools for each pupil considered to be disadvantaged.

Poverty or low income is the single most important factor in predicting a child's future life chances, with many pupils in low income families having low attainment by age 16. The Government believes that the Pupil Premium is the best way to address these underlying inequalities between children eligible for free school meals (FSM) and their peers by ensuring that funding to tackle disadvantage reaches the pupils who need it most.

If you are receiving any of the eligible benefits listed below, you can apply for free school meals and allow your school to receive the Pupil Premium funding.

Additionally, as part of the school registration process and our yearly data checks, you will also have the option to sign up for pupil premium.

- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit - but no element of Working Tax Credit - and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC)) that does not exceed £16,190
- If you are supported under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after your employment finishes or after you start to work less hours per week
- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400 (as from 1 April 2018)

If you feel you could/should be in a position for your child to be receiving this additional support then please click the following button to apply

[Apply for Pupil Premium/free school meals](#)

FREE Parental Conflict course for parents - Getting it Right for Children

When parent/carers are separating or separated, children can often get caught in the middle. "Getting it Right for Children" is a free online course designed to help families parent co-operatively. Parent/carers will learn: how to stay calm and listen, why it's helpful to see things from a different point of view and what to do to stop a discussion from turning into an argument.

Parent/carers living in Cambridgeshire or Peterborough can access it for free at <https://www.oneplusone.org.uk/parents>

Important dates for your diaries

- Thursday 21st December to Friday 5th January – Christmas Holiday break.
- Thursday 4th & Friday 5th January 2023 – Inset training days (school closed).
- Monday 8th January – Start of Spring term. (please note Nursery will be closed this day as staff will be doing home visits for new children)
- Tuesday 9th January- Nursery re-opens

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- Thursday 11th January – Nursery and Reception Reading Café at 9am in the school hall.
 - Tuesday 23rd January – Year 1 Maths Café at 2:30pm in the school hall
 - Tuesday 30th January – Year 2 Maths Café at 2:30pm in the school hall
 - Friday 2nd February – NSPCC Number Day
 - Friday 2nd February – ESA Rock 'n' Roll Bingo event (save the date)
 - Tuesday 6th February 2023 – Safer Internet Day
 - Wednesday 7th February 2023 - Raccoon Class Assembly (9 – 9:45am)
 - Thursday 8th February 2023 – Otter Class Assembly (9 – 9:45am)
 - Monday 12th February – ESA Film Night 3:15 – 5pm
 - Wednesday 14th February – Squirrel Class Assembly (9 – 9:45am)
 - Thursday 15th February – Rabbit Class Assembly (9 – 9:45am)
 - Monday 19th to Friday 23rd February – Half Term
 - Thursday 29th February 2023 – Nursery and Reception Maths Café at 9am in the school hall.
 - Week commencing 4th March 2023 – World Book Week
 - 5th March = Travelling book fair arrives for a week
 - 7th March = World Book Day (dress up theme TBC)
 - Tuesday 12th & Wednesday 13th March – Parent/Carer evenings
 - Friday 15th March – Red Nose Day
 - Week commencing 18th March – Science Week (more information to follow)
 - Monday 18th March – ESA film night 3:15 – 5pm
 - Tuesday 19th March – Reception Stay and Learn Maths session at 2:30pm
 - Friday 22nd March – ESA Sip & Paint event (save the date)

- Tuesday 26th March – Y1 Production (2:15pm)
- Wednesday 27th March – Y1 Production (9:15am)
- Thursday 28th March – Last day of Spring Term
- Friday 29th March to Friday 12th April – Easter Break
- Monday 15th April – Start of Summer Term

Yours sincerely

Summerfield

Mrs Summerfield

