



Congratulations to our Stars of the Week

Class	w/ending 26/11/21	w/ending 03/12/21
RJG	Eddie	Reece
RMP	Harriet	Freddie
1MS	Arthur	Noah
1EK	Ava	Aurora
2FM	Evie	Faith
2KB	Evelyn	Steven
3JB	Hollis	Logan
3EB	Miqdad	Erin
4KL	Isla	Ivy
4FK	Ozan	Somer
5CP	Aiden	Gracie
5RW	Safwan	Xander
6SG	Morgan	
6HW	Kaylan	



Dear All

Once again, it has been a challenging couple of weeks, but it is wonderful to see everyone working together to ensure everyone is as safe as possible during the these uncertain times.

Due to a number of staff being unwell, an extremely tough decision was made for our Year 6 children to stay at home and complete their learning remotely this week. It was incredible to see how well the children adapted to online learning and each of them showed great composure. A huge thank you to the Year 6 team who organised the timetable and delivered the lessons remotely. Even as teachers, we are continuously developing our knowledge of modern technology and I think the year 6 team enjoyed learning new IT skills! Thank you to all the year 6 parents and carers who supported us with this decision—we really do appreciate it.

Even though we have faced many challenges over the past few weeks, we have tried as much as possible to keep it 'normal' for the children.

Our Year 5 children visited the Mary Rose and shared their knowledge of the Tudors. The year 5 team were so impressed with how well the children behaved. The pupils are now using what they have learnt to plan a non-chronological report about the Mary Rose which I cannot wait to read!

The year 1 children dressed up in fairy tale costumes last Friday for their wow day. During the day, lots of wonderful activities were planned including following the clues to find the dragon. The children also made crowns and shields.

Pupils have been busy designing their Christmas bauble for our annual competition. The 3 bauble designs have been sent electronically to be etched in wood with the chosen baubles announced during the final celebration assembly on Friday 17th December. This has now become an Eastbrook tradition with the winning baubles hung on our school Christmas tree.

During our Monday assembly, we had a special visitor in school. Rev. Frank, who is the minister for the Methodist Church and a school governor, joined us for the assembly and discussed the meaning of advent. The children listened carefully and learnt what the four candles represented: hope, love, joy and peace. The fifth candle is lit on Christmas day to remind Christians of the light Jesus brings to the world. Rev. Frank thoroughly enjoyed seeing the children virtually and was so impressed with their behaviour.

We thank you for your continued support and hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Natalie Naylor (Interim Headteacher)

Attendance Update

Our whole school attendance currently stands at **93.3%** of pupils in class.

Please be reminded that classroom doors open at 8.45am and registers are taken from 8.50am. It is extremely important children are in school to avoid missed learning.

As a community we will continue to work together to ensure attendance remains as high as it can be in. Please see additional information in this newsletter regarding COVID –19 symptoms and latest advice from the government.

Staffing Update

I would just like to provide everyone with an update regarding staff changes, in preparation for our Spring term in January 2022.

Miss Perkins, our EYFS leader and teacher, has decided to leave our school, so she can be nearer to her family. Therefore, she will be relocating to Portsmouth. Over the last 7 years, Miss Perkins has been instrumental in developing our EYFS unit and has worked very closely with lots of families. I know she will be greatly missed. However, I am pleased to announce that Ms Miller-Barlow who already works in EYFS and is an experienced EYFS teacher, will be taking on the role of the EYFS leader from January 2022. Over the past few weeks, we have spent time recruiting an EYFS teacher to teach Miss Perkin's class and I am delighted to announce that we have appointed Lily Beeby.

Additionally, Miss Johnstone will be leaving us to go onto maternity leave just after we return from the Christmas holiday. Miss Johnstone has been working in Year 6 during the mornings and teaching PE to a variety of year groups in the afternoon. Therefore, we have recruited Mr Pugh who will join the Year 6 team to deliver literacy and maths sessions, every morning, starting January 2022.

Children in Need

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated money to Children in Need.

The total raised so far is £367.50.

However, a special mention needs to go to Fletcher in 1EK who decided to do his own fundraising. Fletcher performed a song and dance which raised £80 for this worthwhile cause. Well done Fletcher and thank you for being so thoughtful!



Water Bottles

Just a reminder, please could you ensure your child has a water bottle in school. Recently, we have had an increase of children requiring single—use plastic cups and as a school, we are working hard to reduce our impact on the environment. We thank you for your support in this matter.



Football—Year 3/4

Mr Owen and Miss Comins took a group of our boys to play in a football tournament. The children were incredible and showed excellent teamwork. They came a well deserved 4th place—congratulations!



Term Dates for your Diary

Autumn Term 2021

Tuesday 7th December	Y1	Nativity Performance
Wednesday 8th December	Y2	Nativity Performance
Thursday 9th December	EYFS	Nativity WOW Day
Tuesday 14th December	EYFS/KS1	Pantomime (letter to follow)
Wednesday 15th December	All	Christmas Extravaganza
Wednesday 15th December	All	Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 15th December	All	PTA Raffle
Friday 17th December 2021	All	Last day of Autumn Term
Tuesday 4th January 2022	All	INSET Day (School closed to pupils)

Spring Term

Tuesday 4th January until Friday 8th April 2022

Half Term Monday 21st February until Friday 25th February

Last Day of Term Friday 8th April



Christmas Events

We thank you for your continued support over the past few weeks.

Having implemented the additional measures set out by Public Health England, the number of COVID cases within the school community has continued to increase. Therefore, it is with regret that the Christmas Nativity Play and Carol Concerts will not take place. This has been an extremely sad decision to make, however it is important that the health and safety of pupils, staff and parents is paramount. Understandably, this is not the news you wanted to hear.

We will therefore be filming the Nativity Play and Carol Concert for you to watch at home. The link will be sent via the emailing system. However, we kindly ask that these videos are not shared on social media.

Further information will follow.

Thank you for your support with this matter.



Christmas Extravaganza

On Wednesday 15th December, we are holding a Christmas Extravaganza Day to raise money for Chestnut Tree House and St Barnabas House. This will be a day of festive cheer of wonderful activities such as:



Christmas Dinner



A reindeer run for KS2 and an obstacle course for EYFS/KS1—antlers will be provided!



Acts of Kindness—thinking how we can give back to the local community

This will be a dress down day and children can wear their Christmas jumper. We are asking for a £1.00 donation which can be paid via parent pay.



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Term Dates 2021/22



Autumn Term

Last Day of Term Friday 17th December

Spring Term

Tuesday 4th January until Friday 8th April 2022

School will be closed on Tuesday 4th January for INSET

Half Term Monday 21st February until Friday 25th February 2022

Last Day of Term Friday 8th April 2022

Summer Term

Monday 25th April until Thursday 21st July 2022

School will be closed on Monday 25th April for INSET

School will be closed on Friday 22nd July for INSET

Half Term Monday 30th May until Friday 3rd June

Last Day of Term for pupils Thursday 21st July

Please note that INSET dates are subject to change.

COVID Information for Parents



Latest government advice from [Schools COVID-19 operational guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance)

Symptoms of COVID-19

The government recommends that if your child has any of the three main symptoms (see below) associated with COVID-19, then it is advisable to order and take a PCR test. Your child will need to remain at home until they have the test result back and are not allowed visitors. They may leave the house to have the PCR test.

The three main symptoms are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Tracing close contacts and self-isolation

Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education and childcare settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.

As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contacts. Contacts from a setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case and/or their parent or carer specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. You may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated.
- they are below the age of 18 years 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Children who are aged under 5 years old who are identified as close contacts will only be advised to take a PCR test if the positive case is in their own household.

Staff will continue to take twice weekly lateral flow tests