

Phonics at Eastbrook

Key Stage One parents will have received, this week, an update on our new Little Wandle phonics program. Following the requirements of the Department for Education that all schools follow a fully accredited phonics program of study, we adopted Little Wandle over the summer holidays. Originally developed by the Wandle and Little Sutton English hub and academy trust, Little Wandle phonics is now used by school all across England. You can find out more here: <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/>

The scheme is based on the very well established, government issued 'Letters and Sounds' approach to phonics, which has been in operation for over twenty years and has ensured that hundreds of thousands of children have left Key Stage One better equipped to decode books and improve their reading.

We will be developing the scheme over the course of this term, introducing it to all of our Key Stage One children and eventually to some of our Key Stage Two learners who need some additional work to help improve their reading. We will also hold some parent workshops so that you can see the program in action and ask questions about how children will be taught both phonics and reading in Key Stage One at Eastbrook.

It is genuinely exciting to be starting this new program of study here at Eastbrook and we are confident that it will contribute to exceptional phonics teaching and amazing reading skills for all of our children. If you have any further questions about Little Wandle phonics and our journey to adopt and grow the scheme at Eastbrook Primary Academy, please get in touch.

Eastbrook School Website

Many of you will have noticed that our Website has had an amazing update. Thank you to Miss Comins for her hard work on the update and in maintaining the content on our very impressive looking website. If you have not seen the changes, please visit: <https://www.eastbrook.w-sussex.sch.uk/> and take a look.

Forest School and PE Changes

We are extremely lucky, at Eastbrook, to have an amazing Forest School with a team of four brilliant Forest School teachers. In the past, most children have been able to experience a few Forest School sessions per year, but have not had year round access to this amazing provision. Forest School not only meets several requirements of the national curriculum for PE, PSHE, science and geography, but it also develops independence, resilience, team building skills and self-motivation. We have therefore decided to expand the Forest School offer at Eastbrook so that all classes from Y1-5 get weekly sessions (with Reception and Y6 still having some sessions spread through the year).

For Y1, 3 and 5, they will have a full two hour session every week, with an additional hour of PE to cover the rest of the PE curriculum (swimming during the Autumn half term 1 and the two Summer half terms and games, gym and dance in the other three half terms). Y2 and Y4 will have a shorter 'Forest School light' session and will have two additional hours of PE. This will mean that all children will get three hours of physical activity per week (one more than nationally required) AND experience the benefits of Forest School all year round. Every child will experience the whole national curriculum for PE and *so much more*—we are really excited about this positive change at Eastbrook.

Queen Elizabeth II—RIP

Last week, as you will all know, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II passed away at her home in Balmoral. Throughout this week, different classes have spoken with their teachers about her passing. We also held a minute silence, during our Friday assembly, to honour the Queen. Children had many questions, such as 'Why isn't there another Queen?', 'What happens if no one wants to be King?', 'Why don't we elect the new Queen or King?' and 'How long before we get another Queen instead of a King?'.

This weekend, I am sure that many families will be reflecting more on the life of the Queen and taking time to watch the funeral on television. Some of you may even be travelling up to London to pay your respects. We hope that you have a restful weekend and that the funeral coverage allows children and families to say goodbye to a monarch who is the only one most of us have ever known.

I would like to thank Max from 6NN for taking the time to compose his own, rather lovely tribute to the departed monarch. We hope you enjoy it as much as we did.

HM The Queen
Our hero has died,
it is sad.
She was inspiring,
outstanding,
brave,
wise,
humble,
aspirational
and so much more!
Please pay your respects.
She died peacefully
that's all that matters.
It was a tragedy,
but it all happens to us at some point
she was so special!
Not just for me, but all of us!
Thank you Elizabeth!
By Max 6NN

Term Dates for your Diary

Autumn Term 2022

30th September—Colour Run

4th & 6th October—Parents' evenings

21st October—School 70th Anniversary

New Date TBC—PTA Halloween Disco (after school)

24-28th October—Half term

7th December—EYFS Nativity

8th December KS1 Nativity 1:30pm

9th December KS1 Nativity 9:30am

16th December KS2 Carol Concert, Christmas Raffle and end of term

LIGHTS UP

DANCE & THEATRE WORKSHOPS

MUSICAL THEATRE CLUB

PLACES AVAILABLE

FRIDAYS

5 - 6.30 PM

QUAYSIDE YOUTH CENTRE
SOUTHWICK
BN42 4RE



LIGHTS UP -
DANCE AND THEATRE WORKSHOPS



COVID Information for Parents

Test and Self-Isolation

Guidance to parents remains the same as in July of last academic year:

If your child has a high temperature and any other symptoms (listed below) they should stay home and avoid contact with other people where they can. We cannot directly recommend testing for Covid-19, but a health professional can do this and we therefore recommend consulting a health professional if your child has symptoms of Covid-19. 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
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Any child testing positive, should remain in isolation for 3 days. We also suggest keeping them off school until symptoms have reduced.

In School Measures

We are still asking all staff to test if they develop symptoms, so that we can ensure we do not pass on Covid to children and any member of staff will observe a five day isolation. We will still fully support families who take measures to protect their child from infection and who choose to regularly test at home.

Please contact us if your child has tested positive so that we can let classes know when there is a case. Anyone who wants their child to wear a mask in school, please let the class teachers know, so that we can support them in class.

If your child tests positive for Covid-19—**PLEASE DO NOT SEND THEM TO SCHOOL.** Speak to us first.

We continue to take the health of Eastbrook children seriously and treat Covid-19 as the highly infectious and potentially life threatening illness that it is.