

UPDATES

The East Anstey Primary School Newsletter

From the Head

Hello all.

Welcome back to school. I would like to begin by wishing you all a very happy New Year and hope that you all had a lovely festive season.

Spring Term

This is always a fairly short but very full term. There are all kinds of exciting things to look forward to during this Spring. We have some exciting new class topic themes, school trips and visits, exciting initiatives, and Easter activities to look forward to at the very end of the term. We are also hoping to start some fantastic musical and sporting opportunities as the term goes on. Meanwhile, the classes have settled back into school really well and you will be able to see what we have planned for them later in this newsletter. Clubs are getting underway again with a varied and exciting range on offer. We are hoping to boost this further with hopefully several new and exciting clubs coming online as the year continues.

Staffing

We are delighted to welcome Ms Peter to the junior class. She will be joining the team on a Tuesday afternoon. Ms Peter also teaches at Bishops Nympton. We are also very pleased to welcome Harriet Rofer who joins us from Exeter University as she begins her teacher training placement. She will also be based in the junior class this term. We wish her every success in her placement with us.

Adventure and Challenge

We are hoping to be able to enter two teams from our federation in the Exmoor Youth Challenge this year. This is a highly challenging event for teams of year sixes and includes full open moorland walking over a sixteen-mile course. The event also involves map reading, orienteering and extremely close timings! We will begin some trials and practices as soon as the weather improves and we encourage our year 5 children and families to join us for these. Although not able to enter our competitive teams just yet, they get a great deal of curriculum enrichment from the experience. Look out for more updates as we get closer to the event. This term also sees the annual residential trip to Heatree Activity Centre on Dartmoor for year 4 and 5 children. This is always an excellent venue with very exciting outward bounds and adventurous activities including everything from Raft Building to Abseiling and High Ropes!

New for 2018

We are currently upgrading our school website and some IT systems. This process will take some time but the end result will enhance the level of information provided on our site. We are also hoping to create upgraded pupil login facilities and a pupil portal. Much more information as this project progresses.

Winter weather

This is the worst half term for the weather and so as always, could I request that children are well prepared for wintry conditions with coats, gloves and appropriate footwear. If severe wintry weather occurs, then please follow the **SNOW CLOSURE GUIDANCE** (previously sent). Please be aware that the systems to find out if the school is open include: the School Text Service, Facebook & Twitter, Radio Devon and the Devon County Website (please sign up for email alerts). These are the main systems as staff may not be able to get to the school to update other systems or put notes on the gates. If bad weather strikes during a school day, then you will be contacted accordingly.

Enjoy the term and I look forward to seeing you all during some of our exciting events.



Spring Term 2018
Jan '18 No. 78

DIARY DATES

Please keep checking - dates may be amended or added

Jan 2018

Wed 24th Gareth Godwin from SMCC -
Transition to Secondary School
Yr 6 EA
Mon 29th Football Tournament Years 5/6
Wed 31st Governors Meeting 6.16pm BN

Feb 2018

Thu 1st Open Morning 9.30-10.30am
Thu 8th Parents Evening (School)

Monday 12th Feb - Fri 16th Feb
HALF TERM

Mar 2018

Tue 6th Photographs (Individual)
Wed 14th Heatree Residential Trip Yr4 & 5
Fri 16th Heatree Residential Trip returns
Wed 21st Governors Meeting
Thu 29th Easter Activities am
Easter Assembly pm

END OF TERM

Apr 2018

Mon 16th Non Pupil Day
Tues 17th Start of Summer Term

committed

The East Anstey Team

caring

Mr Gurney Mrs Forder Mrs Yarney Mrs Partridge Ms Peter Mr Deveney

Mrs Loftus Mrs Read Mrs Dennis Mr Yarney Miss Mair Miss Woollacott Mrs Govier Mr Holloway

Mrs Mair Miss Cooper Mrs Rycroft Miss Mair Mrs Jones

'Part of the Exmoor Link Federation'

INFANT NEWS

Dear Families

Welcome back to school this Spring Term. The children have come back full of beans and raring to go. Our topic this term is Seasons, Weather and Farming or Splish, Splash, Squash!

Our first week has been all about weather watching and already lots of your children have been watching the weather and showing me their own little weather reports and maps that they have made. Please support their interests by perhaps bringing their attention to weather reports at home or have a look at the MET office website. We have turned our roleplay area into a weather station with weather map and symbols. Part of our Science this term is reading and recording the weather and looking at the results on charts. We have our meteorologist of the day, who goes and reads the temperature, checks our rain gauge and checks the wind strength using our wind measurers. It has been really interesting to see how much our weather changes on a daily basis. We are also studying three areas in the school grounds

and observing plants and animals over time and seasons.

In a few weeks we will be clearing and weeding our outdoor flower beds ready for spring and would be grateful for any donations of bulbs, seeds or seedlings and compost.

In other curriculum areas, we have been learning about Grace Darling and her daring rescue of shipwreck survivors. We will be studying various famous artists and will be learning about their style of art and creating our own. As part of our computing curriculum the children will be completing simple programmes on our laptops, talking about internet safety and online safety and we will be encouraging your children to complete their 'Mathletics' tasks on line. We will try and get all children to complete a challenge a week, but just to remind everyone that 'Mathletics' is a part of their weekly homework and we expect them to complete some each week. (lots of children are getting certificates for completing tasks –

so please encourage your child to take part.)

Thank you to all those parents who are getting on board with our home reading push. Lots of children are getting their home reading stickers in the mornings and will be getting their first awards this week. We tell the children that reading is one of the most important things that they will be doing at school, and although reading and learning to read is part of our daily routine, your support and practise at home is essential to turning your child into a fluent and confident reader.

We look forward to catching up with you all over the coming weeks. Keep an eye out for upcoming dates in emails, open days and parent interviews. As always if you have any questions or queries please don't hesitate to come in or get in touch.

*Mrs Yarney,
Mrs Govier
and Mrs Dennis.*

HELLO FROM MISS ROFER

Hello parents and pupils of East Anstey!

I will be spending the term at the school as part of my student teacher training with Exeter University.

I look forward to getting to know you all and am very excited to be running the after-school Engineering Club.

Miss Rofer

Cool Milk
www.coolmilk.com

Children under the age of 5 (both Pre-School and Reception Year) receive a free carton of milk at morning break. Once your child turns 5, you can continue to buy milk for him/her by going direct to Coolmilk (<http://www.coolmilk.com>) who will arrange delivery and take payment.

For those children on free school meals (not UIFSM), there is the option for the school to purchase milk on their behalf. Please let the office know if you want your child to continue to receive milk or if you need assistance with any of the milk ordering procedures.

PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

Pre-school explore a new learning topic this term 'The Seasons', Weather and Farming.

We plan to learn about 'Winter' and different weather types. If you have visited the Pre-school room recently you will see that we started the term by talking about winter conditions by making our own igloo! We plan to look closely at changing features in different areas/ habitats within the school (e.g. an apple tree, the pond, a flower bed) looking for signs of growth as we enter into spring. Learning more about and comparing animals that live in different climates/ weather - arctic animals, wild animals, farm animals etc. Creating our own weather station, allowing us to collect water, look at wind direction using handmade streamers, wind mills, and our own thermometer. Asking questions: How does the weather affect us? How can we prepare? Lots of fun outdoor learning planned, 'Whatever the Weather' - Please remember coats and warm clothing!



We plan to implement rhyme activities and stories that promote rhyme including; 'Duck in a truck' by Jez Alborough. Phase 1 phonics activities continue daily, we commence with body percussion; listening to, imitating and creating different sounds together. The older children will begin to have a guided Phase 2 Phonics time each day- Beginning by recognising and sounding letters; s,a,t,p.

Keep up to date with pre-school updates and activities on the website www.east-anstey-primary.devon.sch.uk or on the Facebook page.

Anstey Parent & Toddler group - Monday Mornings 9.30-11.30am

All Under 5's welcome. £2 per child. Meet others and share play ideas. Louise will be supporting the group this term. Messy play and crafts planned. Come along for a cuppa!

Sarah Cooper, Chrissy Rycroft, Louise Mair and Mia Jones

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Sports

The sporting calendar is already very full this term with more potential events being arranged. We have secured a link with Dulverton Primary School which will see us compete in a variety of sporting contests on their floodlit all weather pitch. This link enables us to further extend our sporting opportunities outside of the local learning community. We have two major football tournaments fast approaching; therefore this will be the basis of our focus for this half term. Children are encouraged to wear studs and shin pads during these P.E sessions but this, of course, is not essential so please do not purchase these especially.

Outdoor Learning

Fresh from our recent accomplishments of The Woodland trusts Green tree schools bronze award we will be focusing our efforts towards achieving the next level (Silver and possibly gold). With the children's continued

enthusiasm and commitment to their outdoor learning I am sure we will achieve this. This half term our juniors we will be participating in some citizen science as part of the R.S.P.B's Big Schools Bird Watch. East Anstey Primary School has the opportunity to aid the R.S.P.B in building a nationwide picture of the plight of our British Birds. Our infant class will be following up their topic work on weather. We will be creating our own weather measuring equipment with a particular focus on the effects weather, climate change and seasons have on our natural world. We have a full and fun packed term planned. Please ensure your child has the correct outdoor clothing, suitable for all potential weather conditions on a Wednesday (infant class) and Friday (junior class) so they can take full advantage of these exciting opportunities and experiences.

Mr Scandrett

JUNIOR NEWS

Happy New Year, one and all, and welcome back to the beginning of the Spring term. In no time at all, the children have fallen back in to their stride and are already demonstrating a keenness and readiness for learning. I always look forward to this term, as with the return of the sun and the first glimpses of spring, the children too make the most of the hope and opportunity that this time of year often brings.

This, like every other term, is a busy one with events such as our Heatree residential and Easter assembly to look forward to. I can also announce that the junior children will become involved in a science fair competition, which will be running concurrently with all schools involved in the Ogden Trust partnership at Dulverton Junior school. More details on this brilliant opportunity to follow soon.

Junior Topic

This term, the Junior topic is Pole to Pole. This will involve a geographical study of these areas and the characteristics that make them unique environments. We will embark on an English project connected to one of these regions and follow the adventures of a famous Antarctic explorer: Ernest Shackleton. We will also look at turning points in history: specifically events that took place during WWI including the battle in the trenches and the role that horses played during this war. This will allow us to take in a study of Michael Morpurgo's War Horse, which I am very much looking forward to.

Computing

This term we are going to be using the Lego Wedo sets to construct our own models using this great robotic technology. Our year 6 am-

bassadors will be using the training they received to support their peers in programming these models.

Science

Linked to our study of the polar regions, the children will explore magnetism as a force: what it is and how it behaves. They will make links between this and refracted light, when investigating the phenomena known as the Aurora Borealis and Australis.

PE

PE, in keeping with last term, will take place on a Thursday and Friday.

Full kit is required each week, with plenty of layers for warmth, at this time of the year. Outdoor learning will continue on a Friday, for which the children also need to be appropriately dressed - something old, as they really do learn outside in all weathers and conditions! Thank you.

RE

This term we will be finding out about the Sikh religion, looking at who and what is important to how Sikhs live their lives.

PSHE

This term we will be looking at the pressures and influences the children may face and how we build our own sense of self to deal with these. We will also be looking at what it means to grow up and finding out about some different career paths.

Home Learning

Homework will be set on a Friday and is due in the following Wednesday. Please ensure that all children hand this in on time, as it can be quite difficult to organise, when books do not come into school.

Mathletics will form the core resource for maths home learning. This will be used, most weeks, to consolidate skills taught in school. The children are also expected to practise their times tables each week, in preparation for our weekly times table quiz. The children are very keen and ambitious in this regard, and are making good progress, so I would be keen to encourage them to build on this, this term.

English home learning takes a variety of forms:

- Writing opportunities linked to a sequence of learning in school;
 - Reading individual books regularly, either independently, to an adult or both at least three times each week;
- Termly spelling lists, which the children are requested to practise at home, at least three times each week, as well as at school.

The children will continue to have science or topic homework that will be research or project based. These tasks are very popular with the children, and often result in the most wonderful pieces of work.

So much to accomplish! Many thanks in advance for all of your support in the coming months. It truly is a delight to be able to work in partnership with you. I hope to see all of you at some point this term. There are, as ever, the usual opportunities to discuss your children's progress; however, should you need to speak to me informally at any other time, the door is always open: afternoons are a particularly good time, as I do not have a teaching commitment then.

Nic Forder and team

EAST ANSTEY PTA – WHAT DO YOU WANT NEXT?

As you will be aware, the PTA has been raising funds for school books, sports kit and the pantomime held last year. We have also run several events including discos, bingo, racenight and ladies shopping night.

We are really grateful for the support we have had and want to continue, so to help us tailor our fundraising and events to best suit YOU and YOUR CHILD(REN), we are asking you to complete this quick online survey. Your feedback is VERY IMPORTANT to how we progress from here and we would really appreciate you spending just a few minutes to complete it for us.

You can access the survey by typing in this link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/XW7Y9BP> into your search engine, then simply answer the 6 questions and click on DONE.

Many thanks

Notices and Reminders

- If sending money in to class, please put it in a named envelope stating what it is for to make sure it is allocated correctly.
- Most payments (e.g dinners, trips etc) can be made online via Tucasi. We would encourage parents to use this system where possible - If you would like a reminder of how to register for online payments please contact the office. Payment can also be made by cash or cheques (payable to Devon County Council unless otherwise advised).
- If you would like the school to administer medicines such as antibiotics or painkillers, please ensure a permission form is signed in the office. We are unable to give the medicine if we do not have this in place.
- Please label all uniform as it is easy to mislay items even in our small school.
- Please remember to let us know by phone or note if your child's normal after school transport arrangements will not apply. This is particularly important when after-school clubs are running.
- We would be grateful if parents could avoid using the staff car park (including visitor space) during the morning and afternoon drop off/collection to allow safe access for the school buses.
- Children can be left in school from 8.45am onwards. If you do arrive earlier than this please stay with your children until that time.

Thank you!

Clubs

Our after-school and lunchtime clubs for this half term are as follows:

After school clubs: (3.30-4.30pm)

Wednesday:	Engineering (Y4,5,6)	Miss Rofer
Thursday:	Multi skills (KS2)	Pro-coaching
Lunchtime clubs:		
Monday:	Table Tennis	Mrs Rycroft
	French (Infants) **	Mrs Bradley*
Tuesday:	Music	Mrs Govier
Wednesday:	Eco Club	Mrs Yarney
Thursday:	Multi skills (KS1)	Pro-coaching
	French (Juniors)**	Mrs Bradley*

*French club is payable direct to Mrs Bradley. Please contact the office or Hannah for further details.

2017/2018 TERM DATES

Spring Term 2018

Thursday 4th January to Thursday 29th March
 Half-term: Monday 12th to Friday 16th February
 Non-pupil days: Wednesday 3rd January

Summer Term 2018

Tuesday 16th April to Wednesday 25th July
 May Day Holiday: Monday 7th May
 Half-term: Monday 28th May to Friday 1st June
 Non-pupil days: Monday 16th April and Friday 27th July

Autumn Term 2018

To be agreed by governors - information will be sent home as soon as possible.

Thought for this term...

Today is the first day of the rest of your life.



Just a reminder that the school is signed up for 'easy-fundraising' which helps raise funds for both school and pre-school. Over 3000 retailers donate a small percentage of the retail price to our cause whenever you shop with them online via the easy-fundraising website. The retailers are all household names such as Next, Sainsbury's, M&S, Amazon etc and registering is free and easy.

To register go to:
www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/eastansteyps

There is no additional charge to you as a purchaser. Simply go the easyfundraising page, use that to navigate to your preferred supplier, then shop as normal. We would encourage as many people as possible to sign up and spread the word to friends and family. If you would like further details of the scheme please contact the

House Points	
Totals so far this term 	
Ruby	87 points
Sapphire	106 points
Emerald	116 points
Amber	43 points

Autumn Term Achievers	
Infants:	Elijah & Judah
Juniors:	Hugo
House Cup was awarded to:	

School Meals

A reminder that children in Years R, 1 and 2 are eligible to receive Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM). For children in Pre-School or the Junior Class (including the Year 3 children who have just moved class), meals are charged at £2.30 per day. Those families that qualify for 'normal' free school meals should apply online via the new Citizen Portal. Please contact the office if you need further assistance - any qualifying families will also attract Pupil Premium which entitles your child(ren) to discounts on various school activities and enable further resources to be purchased on their behalf.

Our catering team produce a lovely range of nutritionally balanced meals and we would like to encourage as many children as possible to make the most of this valuable service.

What is working and what isn't? Please use the Soundboard below, pick up the phone or come in and see us. All suggestions and issues are important to us and we will work together to resolve any problems. We hope you are finding the website useful, but any requests or suggestions for content etc would also be very welcome.

Please cut this out and return it to school with any comments/suggestions/questions etc.

Soundboard