



Issue 1 – September 2020

Dear Parents,

I am delighted with the start to our term and school year, especially with all the restrictions and the strange times we are seeing ourselves in at the moment. The children are an absolute credit to their families because of their attitude towards coming back to school, working hard, socialising with friends whilst following all the new rules that need to be in place. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your understanding of all the changes to school routines that have had to take place to ensure we can keep everyone as safe as possible.

Whilst I know we have had to close bubbles due to positive cases, all families have responded to these circumstances appropriately and I cannot thank you all enough for working closely with us whilst also protecting everyone in our school community.

This newsletter is to try and give you a flavour of all the lovely things that are happening in school whilst also remaining in class/ year group bubbles and following the Government guidelines. Please continue to keep safe,
Mrs Hair

School Communication

Staff are communicating with parents via the class email system to keep good communication between school and home. We apologise for not being able to talk on the door as much as we used to but I am sure you will agree that this is in the best interests of all. From my work with Public Health, 1 of the main criteria for a close contact is, face to face conversation within a metre. We must ensure that we are all safe and do not have these conversations and make close contact. Marvellous Me has had some teething problems but these have now been resolved. MM is a very good way for school to get in touch quickly with all parents/ carers. Please check it daily to see if we have left any messages. We will also post letters on the website if you have trouble opening attachments from MM.

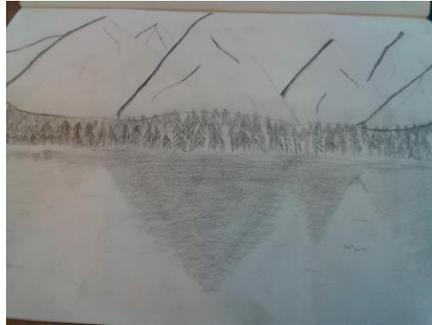
Google Classroom

Due to the situation we are finding ourselves in with class bubbles having to isolate, we have worked very hard to get all children from Y1 - Y6 logged onto Google Classroom. This is so we can provide all children and families with the work they need to complete whilst isolating. Google Classroom allows school to upload work daily and we found this very successful during lockdown. Positive feedback from parents so far has been amazing. Successful use of this system (when needed) will mean that we can continue to ensure children have access to the best opportunities and that they can then transition back into school life easily after isolation. If pupils upload work to the classroom, then teachers can feedback and ensure children can move forward and make progress. Class teachers have contacted everyone to ask if anyone has difficulty accessing this system and we will endeavour to offer support.

Reception have been working hard to develop their outdoor area. The children have loved the new climbing wall and thanks to donations from kind parents, our new mud kitchen.



In **Year 6** the children have been studying mountains around the world. As part of this topic they looked at the artist Nicholas Roerich, who was inspired by his travels in the Himalayas. They used his pictures as inspiration for our own drawings of mountains using perspective, shading and depth. I think we have some budding artists!!



As part of Healthy Eating Week and to help us 'Move More', Year 6 have also undertaken a 'Super Steps Challenge'. They have thought carefully about their diet and how what they eat is important to help them to be active and stay healthy. Each class set their own group target and have been busy climbing steps all week. Some people have been using the stairs in their home, some have climbed Penshaw Monument or climbed the steps at Barnes Park - every step counts! Even the teachers have joined in. Our current science topic is all about the human body so we're all becoming experts at what is going on inside the body when we eat and exercise.

Year 4 have been investigating how to build a circuit with a range of electrical materials. They had a lot of fun and used their previous learning from Year 2. We are working hard in school to ensure children remember their previous learning and then build new learning upon this.



Nursery children have settled into EHPA very well and we are so pleased with them. Here are just a few pictures to see what they have been up to.



I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Mrs Gascoigne to our school community. She is teaching in Nursery and I know everyone will make her feel very welcomed and a part of our fantastic team.

Online Author Visit for Y5 and Y6 - Katherine Rundell - organised by Seven Stories. Katherine Rundell spoke about her influences and inspiration. It was amazing to hear all about her ideas for stories and characters. She spoke like a true storyteller! We even had 1 of our questions answered and had a shout out for EHPA. It was a wonderful online visit!



Dates for Your Diary

Just a few dates for your diary. We do endeavour to stick to all of our dates but unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances dates may need to be changed. If this is the case, we will try to give you as much notice as possible:

Week beginning 12th October and 19th October - Parents evening phone call appointments - teachers will share a signing sheet for everyone to access and are at a variety of times throughout the two weeks.

Thursday 22nd October - Final day for Harvest donations for food bank - (drop off points at main office and KS1 yard)

Friday 23rd October - Non uniform day - organised by FOS - £1 donation.

Friday 23rd October - Break up for half term.

Monday 2nd November - Back to school. Second half of Autumn term.

Tuesday 22nd December - School closes for Christmas Holidays

Wednesday 6th January - Back to school - Spring term begins.

Christmas celebrations to be given nearer the time due to current restrictions. We will try to do as much as we can within the restrictions and guidance.