

Ide Primary School

Newsletter



8th October 2020

Drop-off and Pick-Up

Thanks to all parents and carers for arriving at slightly different times and not getting to school before 8.50, this is helping to reduce the number of people at the front of school at any one time.

Recently there has been a large spike of cases of Covid 19 in Exeter. Many of these are linked to the university but it has spread into the Exeter community; positive cases have been reported at several local schools. Staff and governors have been discussing ways in which, together, we can do everything possible to keep our school community safe and keep children in school.

Please see the below guidelines:

- All adults, including staff and parents, should stand 2 metres apart. If this cannot be maintained, please wear a face covering or shield. This is in line with government guidance that states that if a 2 metre distance isn't possible, a 1 metre+ distance should be kept with extra precautions being taken. Staff will be wearing the clear visors that they use during close contact work with children at the start and end of day.
- At the end of the day, please can families leave the slope as soon as they have all children with them and avoid gathering in groups, remembering the rule of 6 which has been put in place by the government.

We do have a particularly challenging site which offers very little space for waiting in the current circumstances and we appreciate that operations now are very different from previously, when parents were able to gather in the central playground. We hope you understand that what we are putting into place currently is with the best interests of all families and staff in mind.

Wet Weather

Please could all children come to school with a named coat. We do try to still go outside in light rain and the temperature has become cooler over the last couple of weeks.



Absence

If your child is away from school for a number of days, please contact the office via email or phone on a daily basis to check in and let us know how your child is.

Bike to School Week

It was fantastic to see so many children and families cycling and scooting to school for Bike to School Week! Well done everyone! We hope that you continue to enjoy your active journeys to school.



Congratulations to Willow Class who were the overall winning class. They are looking forward to their Bike Breakfast celebration on Friday!



Super Home Learning Efforts



Your children continue to impress us with the incredible time, effort and imagination they show when completing their project-based home learning! It is such a joy to see what they have been doing. Thanks for all the support from grown-ups too!

Governor News

I know that, like me, you must be hugely relieved that your children have settled so quickly back into school. Everyone also seems to be adapting to the strange new arrangements necessitated by the need for Covid security. This smooth transition back to school has of course only been made possible by the huge amount of preparatory work carried out by the Head and the rest of the staff. Add this to all the adjustment that was required during lockdown, and this has been a year of unprecedented and sustained challenge for staff and I am immensely grateful for their fortitude, positivity and hard work.

I also congratulate all of you. Juggling the demands of your own work (paid and unpaid aka housework) and the full time entertainment and learning of your children is not something that any of us would have thought was even possible, let alone for six months. But you did it!

The governors also carried on working throughout lockdown. Virtual meetings were held as planned and we all learned more about the décor of our colleague's homes. In the next newsletter I will update you about what exactly we achieved but I have something more urgent to convey now. Amanda Pujol has stepped down as parent governor. We are very grateful to have had her time and expertise for 2 years and she will be greatly missed. This means that we now have a vacancy for another parent governor and I will be sending out information about this by email later in the week. Parent governors play a vital role in supporting the school and I would ask you to think about joining us. It has been clearly established that Good schools have good and effective governing bodies. If you want to make a positive difference to the life of the school please think about becoming a governor.

Best Wishes Ann Boyce (Chair of Governors) aboyce@elatschools.com



Harvest

This year, Lucy Williams from the local church, who has been supporting us in our Harvest celebrations at West Town Farm over the past two years has recorded a special Harvest assembly for our school.

Lucy and Farmer Rob will be collecting for Exeter Foodbank on 11th October. If you would like to contribute, please see below for the collection points.

St Michael & All Angels' Church, Alphington.



Harvest On wheels

Sunday 11th October from 4:30pm

Farmer Rob will be touring Alphington on his tractor, collecting dry food and tinned food for Exeter FoodBank

Dawlish Rd. / Loram Way: 4:30pm
Play park on Powlesland Rd: 4:40pm
Village Hall: 4:50pm
Cornmill Crescent green: 5pm
Ashleigh / Smithfield Rd. junction: 5:10pm
St Michael's Churchyard for songs & prayer: 5:30pm

Assemblies and School Values

We are having weekly celebration video assemblies which are focussing on our school values. We have one value to focus on each week and at the end of the week, teachers choose two children who have particularly shown that value to be awarded the golden cups to look after for the week. They then pass these on to the next week's winners.



Respect



Individual Best



Curiosity



Teamwork

Children are also enjoying seeing their efforts in class recognised through Class Dojo points.

Make a Difference Teamwork!

A huge thank you to those who were able to come along on Sunday (despite the rain!) and give up some time to help improve the school grounds. We were able to improve visibility onto the high street from the car park and Apple class are absolutely delighted with their new music station!

