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28th September 2021

Wow! What a busy few weeks! We have had a great start to the new school year and I cannot believe that it is only three weeks until October half term.

Ofsted Open Morning

As you will have seen in my letter last week, Ofsted will be visiting Eastway this Thursday, 30th September as part of their review of SEND provision in Wirral. They will not be inspecting Eastway, but they would like to hear from Eastway families of children with SEND and we are delighted that they have chosen to visit us. You are welcome to join us on Thursday morning at 11.00am in the Family Centre. We will even provide refreshments and cakes!

#TwitterTuesday

It is a delight to visit all classes on a Tuesday to capture the learning and share what is happening with all our families on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/EastwayPrimary>. If you do not have access to Twitter you can still view the photographs via our school website by visiting <https://eastway.eschools.co.uk/website>.

Cooler Weather

The weather is cooling and the forecast for this week is wet and soggy. Please make sure your child has a warm, waterproof coat as we still aim to get out for fresh air, even in the rain. Also at a time of year when bugs are rife in the classroom, we will make sure we keep our windows open and there is plenty of fresh air. It is always best to make sure your child wears a vest or a t-shirt under their uniform to keep them warm in the colder months. If you need help, please ask.

Parent/Carer Evening

This will be our first opportunity to have families into school since the start of the pandemic; we are so excited to see you all. We understand the importance of partnership and working together so realise that coming into school and having face-to-face meetings with Eastway staff is essential. However, we must ensure that everyone in our school community is protected. We are kindly asking, if possible, that only one adult attends the meeting and children should not come with you if at all avoidable. I would also like to ask that if you are able to, please wear a mask when coming into school and in situations where you cannot socially distance. We know that all of this may be difficult but we want to continue to do all that we can to keep everyone well.

Eastway Promotional Video

We are excited to have a film crew and photographer in school next week. They will be filming a video for us and will be taking some new photographs for our website and posters etc. around school. We are using our current school permissions to see who will be allowed to be filmed and I have called all families that we were unsure of, to double check but if you DO NOT want your child to be photographed or filmed, please let the school office know before Monday 4th October. Thank you.

Bullying

I have been incredibly saddened to have dealt with a couple of very upsetting cases over the last two weeks. Both incidents have happened outside of school but have included some present and past Eastway children. I have been absolutely appalled and disappointed. I have spoken to the whole school, some families and all children involved, and am doing all that I can with my team to reassure and offer support for all children. Online bullying and incidents that occur in the local area when children are unsupervised appear to be happening more frequently. We can do all that we can to educate and protect your children when they are in school but the only way that we can truly make a change is when we all work together. Eastway does not tolerate any form of bullying; we are promoting positive and socially acceptable behaviours in school and working to enhance pupils' life skills. We encourage tolerance, acceptance, kindness and love for one another. We have requested external support to monitor and deal with this violent, abusive and anti-social behaviour in the local area, particularly in the local park outside of school hours. We are also looking for outside agency support for children whom we are concerned about in the local community. I urge you to have open and honest conversations with your children, encourage them to speak to you about any concerns that they have and teach them ways of handling these situations when out alone in the community. It is paramount that children are kept safe from harm, which includes playing alone or being unsupervised for prolonged periods of time. Children need freedom, fresh air, play with their friends and opportunities to explore and be independent. We know that it is something that has been greatly missed over the last two years, but at a time when children are relearning these social skills and managing their emotions, we must support them as adults. If you need support with this, please let us know.

Family Class Representatives

I cannot wait to welcome our Parent Class Reps back into school. We have a lot to catch up on and look forward to in our next meeting which is on **Tuesday 19th October at 9am**. We will need new reps from Explorers, Nursery, our Base provision classes and Reception. Please call the school office if you are interested.

Secondary School & Starting Reception 2022

A reminder, if your child is currently in Year 6, they will need to choose their school choices by 31st October 2021. Our current Nursery children and those who turn four this year will join full time school next September in our Reception Class and must complete their application for school by 15th January 2022. We hope you have received all the information that you need but if you have any questions, please ask.

Social Supermarket

We are very lucky to have essential groceries available in our Family Centre, if you need anything, please pop in. If you can make a donation, please do, this helps us to be able to restock the shop and buy in items that may be requested to support our most vulnerable families. We also have new and pre-used perfect school uniform, coats, shoes, pumps etc available too. Please only take what you need, to make sure there is enough for all and remember that it is provided to help our Eastway families only. Mrs Toolan will be looking at new weekly 'quick cook family recipes' and we will stock the recipe cards and all items for you to pick up. Look out soon for more information regarding this.

Reading Meeting

Our Reception families are invited to a Reading Meeting tomorrow, 29th September, 2.30pm in our Family Centre. If there are other families that would like to attend as they missed the one in Year 1 or 2, or need support helping their child at home, you are also welcome to attend.

Look forward to seeing you all soon.

Mrs Morris