

Pheasey Park Farm Primary School and Early Years Centre

Address: Wimperis Way, Great Barr, Birmingham, B43 7DH

Telephone: 0121 366 6183

School Email: postbox@pheasey.org.uk Early Years Centre Email: early-years@pheasey.org.uk

Website: www.pheaseyparkfarmprimary.co.uk / www.elstonhallmat.co.uk

Twitter: @PheaseySchool

Head of School: Mrs S Arnold Executive Head Teacher: Mrs S Lanni

Early Years Centre Managers: Miss T Illsley and Mrs L Smith

Chief Executive Officer: Mr K Grayson



Pheasey Park Farm
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Wednesday 31st March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Easter Newsletter

As the Easter break draws near, we would like to thank parents for their ongoing support during an unsettled term of remote learning and the recent return to school.

SIMS PAY

SIMSPAY has continued to be a very efficient way of paying for school lunches. We have now moved to paying and pre-ordering tuck via SIMS Pay and this has supported our intention of becoming a cashless school in the future. Please note that if you have pre-ordered tuck for your child and they are then absent from school, refunds will be issued at the end of each half term. Please may I remind parents to check your child's SIMS Pay account to ensure any outstanding dinner money is paid is full. We do understand that the last 12 months have been difficult so if you are experiencing financial difficulties, please do contact the School Office.

HEALTH AND SAFETY ARRANGMENTS

Arrival and dismissal procedures that we currently have in place will remain after Easter. Though not ideal, our one way system provides the safest possible entry and exit from our school site and avoids parents and children passing on narrow paths.

We have noticed a significant reduction in the number of parents wearing face coverings on site. Unless you are actually exempt, please continue to wear these in order to protect others, as you would in the supermarket.

Please can I remind parents that we do not allow scooters to be ridden on site. As accomplished as some children are, this has led to congestion on the paths and therefore we have to request scooters are only ridden outside the school site please.

All procedures in school to keep the site 'covid secure' will also continue after Easter. This includes staggered break/lunches, PE kits worn on PE day, plenty of hand washing/sanitising, enhanced cleaning procedures etc

ATTENDANCE

We are really pleased with how many children have returned to school after lockdown. We are well above the national average and that can only benefit your child. It is mandatory that all school aged



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children attend school every day. This is even more important given how much schooling has been lost over the last 12 months. Please notify school of any medical appointments in advance wherever possible and ensure your child only takes the minimum amount of time out of school. For any other leave of absence, please complete a Leave of Absence form - although remember we are unable to authorise any holidays in term time.

ASSESSMENTS

This year, as a result of interrupted learning, the Department for Education have agreed that there will be no SATs tests taking place in any schools for Year 2 or Year 6 this year. In addition, the Y1 phonics screen has been postponed and the Y4 Multiplication test is not going ahead.

During the Summer Term, we will undertake some assessments of the children to support our Teacher Assessments - however this is no different to what we would do in a 'normal' year.

PARENTS EVENING

Thank you to all parents who attended our parents evening via Teams this term. The number of parents 'attending' meetings was higher than it usually is when we hold these in school. We will confirm arrangements for the Summer closer to the time.

EVENTS DURING LOCKDOWN

Our switch to remote learning during lockdown was not without its teething problems! However, with perseverance from families, resilience from the children and an extremely committed set of staff, we were able to deliver daily live lessons, upload work that could be marked by teachers with written or verbal feedback and set online discussions on the Learning Platform. Thank you to every single person for making it work for the children.

We will continue to use the Learning Platform/OneNote for homework. If your child does not have a device and is unable to complete homework as a result, please contact the School Office.

World Book Day was extremely successful with children from the Children's Centre to Year 6 encouraged to talk about their favourite books and authors. There were lots of creative costumes worn by children and staff - both in school and at home. Thank you.

We often 'tweet' events such as this on our school Twitter account. Please follow us on @pheaseyschool



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Children learnt about the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch and families were encouraged to take part in this at the end of January. The importance of the Big Garden Bird Watch was explained to children and a discussion page was set up for children to share their results.

On Tuesday, 9th February children took part in an attempt to break an official Guinness World Record™ with the UK Safer Internet Centre and 2Simple. Children were asked to make a pledge online for Internet Safety. The importance of Internet Safety was promoted all week and children were asked to take part in a quiz on the Year Group pages along with special Online Safety Awareness assemblies.

Children learnt about China and the celebration of Chinese New Year and the traditions that surround this. Children were interested to learn about the Chinese Zodiac calendar.

Children enjoyed an assembly to learn about the Christian festival Shrove Tuesday and why and how this is celebrated around the UK.

Children learnt about the celebration of St David's Day and the story of St David, the patron saint of Wales.

SPRING TERM EVENTS IN SCHOOL

We welcomed the children back into school on March 8th. Although there were a few nerves, the children have quickly settled back in and are re-establishing relationships with their friends and engaging well in learning. They make us all extremely proud.

In this year's Science week, the children explored explored the theme Not so Fantastic Plastic. In KS1, children explored the properties of materials and why plastic is so widely used, and KS2 explored the impact of plastics on the environment. Our week was inspired by David Attenborough, and we hope that the children are inspired themselves to explore Science at home further.

At the end of the first week, the children had a 'fun' session in school and received a small 'lockdown star' to remind them how strong they have been in such a difficult time. Thank you to Nisa for their nomination to receive a Making a Difference Locally donation which helped us fund this gift for children.

Children attended a virtual assembly based on the census and find out what Census day is all about. Children then took part in different lessons based on the census.



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During the last week of term, the children have been involved in Easter activities, making Easter cards and have enjoyed watching an Easter Pantomime online.

SUMMER TERM

Miss Uppal will be leaving us this week and we would like to thank her for returning to Pheasey to teach in class 5LE and wish her well for the future. Mrs Welter will be returning for the Summer Term to work alongside Mrs Eveson.

We are aware that we have not yet been able to have the annual school photographs for children. These are being rearranged and we will confirm details shortly.

You will know from previous letters that music tuition is being resumed. Some children were able to continue their lessons during lockdown and others have resumed since we returned to school. A letter was sent last week to Years 4, 5 and 6 regarding registering interest for more children to begin tuition after Easter. We are hopeful this is the first step towards being able to return to offering a full musical service to our children.

FUND RAISING

A non-uniform day to support Comic Relief Red Nose Day took place on Friday, 19th March. Children enjoyed Red Nose Day activities throughout the day and the Primary School and Early Years Centre raised £559.61 to help support vulnerable children and communities in the UK and internationally. Thank you to all who donated.

HOLIDAY DATES

May I remind parents that children will break up tomorrow, Thursday 1st April 2021 at normal dismissal times and will re-open on Monday 19th April 2021. Term dates for the remainder of the year and also 2021/22 are available on the school website.

ONE YEAR ON

Last week marked one year since the first national Covid-19 lockdown. This is a time to reflect on the past year - the highs, the lows, the unknowns.

We will have missed many things - the hugs from those we care about, being with family and friends at celebrations such as birthdays, Christmas and Eid. The missed play dates, sleepovers, chats with friends. Things we took for granted.



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For some, the past year will have been even more difficult. Some of us will have lost people we loved and cared about - not just through Covid. The world has not been a kind place for us to share that loss in a way we usually would and we hold the memories of those we have lost close to our hearts at this time.

At midday on Tuesday 23rd March 2021, a one minute's silence was held across the country to mark this one year anniversary as a day of reflection. At 8pm, people were encouraged to stand on their doorsteps with torches, candles and phones to signify a 'beacon of remembrance'.

We must remember that there is light at the end of this tunnel and that better things are coming.

Thank you for all the support you have given to your children and the school through these difficult and different times

We wish you and your families a very happy and healthy Easter.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S. Arnold
Head of School

