



# Newsletter



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Autumn Term 2020 - a new norm



## Christmas Tree

As we do every year, we have ordered a tree for school which is usually placed in the hall for all children to see during assembly time. Assemblies are not taking place but it is important that the tree is visible for all the children. This year, the tree will be placed on the school yard for the children and it will be seen by all during play times. We have also ordered a tree for the grounds of the early years unit.

## Christmas Decorations

Staff and children will be decorating their class bubbles in December. Any spare decorations we will be putting outside on the school fence at the front of the building. This is to lift spirits during these difficult times and to bring a little joy and happiness to our community. If you wish to join us and hang any decorations onto the red fencing please feel free to do so. Bring a little sparkle! e.g weave some tinsel through, hang some baubles on the spikes, be creative for the front of our school!

## Christmas cards

We have been asked if the children can send cards into school. We are trying to avoid sending items back and fore from home to school and vice versa so we would like to ask you not to send cards into school. However, each child is going to be making a card in class to send to their class mates. These will be sent home in a bag along with other Christmas crafts that will be made in class. Parents can leave these untouched for 72 hours at home to reduce any potential risks.

### **Christmas Lunch**

Christmas Lunch is on December 18th. We intend to offer the children a 'restaurant type' experience! The children will have lunch in their classes with tables arranged as they do in restaurants. Tables will be decorated with a cloth and centre piece. Each child will have their own tray (to keep items separate) laid with a knife, fork and spoon, cracker and serviette. The Christmas lunch and deserts will be served to the children by staff in that bubble. After lunch staff will organise some Christmas games for the children to play together. The whole lunch hour will be planned as a whole real life learning experience which will be great fun for both children and staff! In order for staff to then have a lunch break, the children will need to be collected from 2:10pm onwards. We will send out the staggered end of school times for each class in a separate message. We are also inviting a very special guest !! More news on that one closer to the time!

### **Christmas Presents**

Some parents have asked if they can send presents into school for staff for Christmas. We have discussed this as a staff and we have the following idea for parents, but staff do not expect presents.

As much as we are grateful for the gifts you send in, the current times are difficult and many families have lost jobs and are suffering a reduced income. School staff would like you use the money you have for your children. If you want to show your appreciation to any member of staff they will be delighted to receive an email with your words of thanks, and this costs nothing.

Another suggestion was put forward also. Parents could use the money they would have spent on a gift as a donation to a charity that the member of staff supports themselves personally. This can be communicated via email or verbally.

If your child enjoys the shopping experience of buying a gift, it was suggested that a child could purchase a gift for the Mr X appeal. Your child could decide with the member of staff whether the gift will be for a girl / boy and what age group. Parents could purchase the gift with their child and send pictures to the member of staff. The gift would need to be delivered to the Mr X drop off points.

We hope this is of help to you.

### **Face Coverings**

It has been announced by our director of education that primary school staff will not be required to wear face coverings in school whilst face to face teaching. The requirement for secondary schools is still under consideration. There is still much concern around the lack of social distancing, the use of face covering and hand hygiene in our communities. We have rigorous procedures in place at Eastern for all three of these recommendations and we believe that this is keeping us safe. Once again, thank you all for your support in helping us get through another week without any positive cases linked to the school.

### **INSET DAYS (TEACHER TRAINING TIME)**

December 21st & 22nd - no school for children. Staff will be looking at how we can plan for the spring term thinking about the new curriculum and how we can teach it under the 'new normal'. We will also be analysing all aspects of pupils progress as a staff since we have reopened.

### **Children In Need**

Mrs Cole is back at school and ready to count up the money and send directly to the charity. We will let you know the total amount raised next week.

### **What if you or a member of your family tests positive for covid?**

It is important that you let us know so we can help track and trace let others know if they have had contact.

Please ring school 882819 or text the school number - 07387903683



