

# ESCOMB PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter —13th September 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the start of the new school year! It is lovely to see the children looking so smart and tidy in their uniforms—Thank you parents!

We would like to say a special welcome to our new children in Reception Class and some new starters: Talia, Lily, Robert, Abigail C, Maia, James, Mason, Iris, Charlie, Emily, Abigail H, Bobby, Grace, Alexander, Elliott, Will M Hugo, Jake, Hetty, Lucas, Will P, Poppy, Evie, Ella, Jace, Freya, Archie, Amelia, Joseph, Lillie and also Georgia, Riley and Nicholas (Y2). We also welcome new members of staff, Miss Hope (Class Teacher) in Year 2 and the return of Mr Gillis (Teacher Assistant) who is currently covering Miss Potts' post due to her recently having an operation.

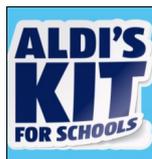
## What's been happening. . .

### We have attached the following information for you:

- **Yearly Planner:** We have put the key dates on the planner for this year. Please add further dates to it as we send out information over the course of the year. I know from questionnaires that parents would like more notice of events - and I know that this can sometimes be frustrating! We will try our very best to do this but sometimes please understand it is very difficult for us as we don't get confirmation of events until near the time or sometimes we are given an 'opportunity' at the last minute and don't want to miss out as it is of benefit to our children!
- **Curriculum Plans:** (These are available on the school website. If you would like a copy printed, please call into the school office. This guide gives you an overview of what your child will be encountering in their learning across this whole academic year. This will enable you to support and work with your child at home. Information relating to all areas of the curriculum is also on the school website along with information and guidance on our approaches to Reading and Mathematics. Year group expectations for Maths and English are attached to this newsletter.  
*We are currently looking at newsletters etc being sent via text/email with a hard copy being available in the school office.*
- **Homework Expectations:** (available on the school website—copy available in school office too!) This outlines the practice within school and ensures a consistency of approach across the school. Please note that there is information about the Year 2—Year 6 Spelling programme included in this guidance. Y2-6 will now have a green folder for homework.

### Other Information

- **School Bags:** We really struggle for space in our porch areas in school and have difficulty storing rucksacks and bags that a lot of children, particularly in key stage 2, are bringing. Where possible, please can children use school book bags for reading books and homework etc as these are so much easier for us to store. One keyring is also sufficient to attach to the school bag as again this makes storage difficult. The drawstring PE bags are the most suitable for P.E. and swimming kit or alternatively a carrier bag is great! We really appreciate your help with this.
- **PE Kit:** We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of our PE kit. Children are asked to wear a t-shirt, shorts and plimsolls for their lessons. For outdoor activities, children are advised to have a warm top to put on and trainers. Tracksuit bottoms can also be worn for outdoor P.E. To ensure their safety and comfort, children are not permitted to wear strappy or vest tops or cropped tops. They should not have bare shoulders or stomachs. If children do not have appropriate kit, they will not be able to participate in PE.
- **Water Bottles:** Children should only have plain water in their water bottles. Flavoured water and diluted juice are not allowed. This is to promote a healthy lifestyle.



**Aldi's Kit for Schools Promotion**—Please help us to collect as many stickers as we can (maybe aunts, uncles, grandparents and friends can help with this too!) Please send these into school asap so that we can add these to our special poster. If we collect 300 stickers we will receive a new school sports kit and a chance of winning £20,000 for our school! Thank you.

We are looking forward to working together with you and your children this year to continue to make Escomb School the best place to be!

Thank you for your continued support.  
Wendy Gill & Staff

This is quite a list of reminders but we really appreciate your support in helping us to ensure that children's safety is of paramount importance.

### **Packed Lunches**

We are in the process of reviewing our School Packed Lunch Policy this term with our VIP group (School Council) and our SNAG group. (School Nutrition Action Group) Both groups are ran by the children. We will inform you as soon as this work is completed.

However in the meantime, please can parents make sure that these simple rules are adhered to from a health and safety perspective. Please note we have a number of children with nut allergies in school, some of which are severe! (*Nut allergies are so easily triggered and we do not want a serious incident in school!*)

#### **Packed lunches SHOULD NOT include any of the following:**

- Nuts and Nut products of any kind.

Fizzy/sugary drinks in cartons, bottles or cans (including diet or energy drinks which can contain high levels of caffeine and other additives which are not suitable for children)

- Confectionary such as chocolate bars and sweets
- Chocolate spread as sandwich

We are aware that some of our children like to have grapes and cherry tomatoes in their packed lunches. Although these are healthy foods, there are health and safety issues linked to these due to their size and shape which could possibly present a choking hazard. These food items could potentially completely plug a child's airway as the tight seal produced by the foods smooth surface makes them difficult to dislodge with standard first aid techniques. Due to this information we advise that all grapes and tomatoes are cut in half lengthways and ideally in quarters so that we can improve safety at lunchtimes. Some children are also bringing mini-eggs in their packed lunches. These also present the same hazard. Therefore please do not send these in your child's packed lunch.

The school recognises that some pupils may require special diets that do not follow the National Food Standards exactly. In this case parents/carers are asked to make sure that packed lunches are as healthy as possible. For these reasons pupils are also not permitted to swap food items.

### **Before & After School**

To ensure safety and well-being of our children, we politely request that children do not arrive on the school site unaccompanied before 8.45 a.m. If you do need to drop off early and cannot stay, Breakfast Club is available. Staff supervise the playgrounds from 8.45a.m.

We are sure that you will have noticed how busy/congested the playground is at the end of the school day? It would be really helpful if parents could avoid congregating around the gate area as it is difficult to get in and out. Plus at the end of the school day, bus children line up at the gate and it is sometimes very difficult to see who is or isn't in the line!

For this purpose the area immediately in front of the school gate has been 'marked' off and we are asking that parents leave this area totally clear. Please also leave a clear pathway to the gate so exit and entry is easy. If parents could avoid congregating outside the gate and come into the playground this would also improve safety as often parents have to take their children onto the road to pass those parents waiting outside the gate. Please also note that the railings on the ramp up to the school entrance are not to be used as a climbing frame. We know that the benches are 'low' for adults but we would really appreciate it if people could refrain from using the tables as seats! Benches are there for seating and again these should not be used as climbing apparatus.

To ease the situation outside the school gate we allow parents with dogs to wait in the yard. Please be aware if you bring your dog onto the premises then it must be kept tightly on a lead and it would be best if you kept to the periphery of the playground. Parents should not be using the school car park at any time unless previously arranged with the school.

### **Reception Class Outdoor Area**

As you know children in Reception Class and Year 1 are collected from the Reception Class Outdoor Area at the front of the school at the end of the school day as this is most practical. Can I please ask that parents with younger siblings are respectful of this area? They should not be playing on any of the equipment. This is Reception Class' outdoor classroom and outdoor learning is an important part of the Early Years curriculum. We had several items broken and damaged last year and the cost to repair and replace is expensive.

You will have noticed that Reception Class staff and Mr Jones have been working hard over the summer to improve this area. Younger siblings should not be using or playing on any of the equipment whilst waiting to collect brothers/sisters. Please note that the gate will not be opened before 3.15p.m.

### **Parking**

Parking is an on-going problem that we are always in consultation with the local police and highways about. Please can parents/grandparents make sure that you do not park in the restricted zones and that you do not block access to local residents' properties. Please also make sure that the school car park entrance and side entrance by the school house are clear too. These are access points for all emergency vehicles. Police have instructed school to take registration numbers of any offenders. I am also in discussion with DCC about this.