

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome back to the start of a brand-new school year. The weather has been kind on our return to school and today almost feels like the final "hurrah" of summer before we start entering the Autumnal months!

We are very proud of how the children have returned to school life this week; they have settled brilliantly into their new classes and are taking everything in their stride.

I'd like to also take this opportunity to welcome all our new families. We hope that your children settle quickly to life at Eastfield School, so that they can start enjoying their learning journey with us as early as they can. Please remember that we are here to support so if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. We would like you to feel part of our school community as quickly as possible.

Every morning, there key staff are around the building. There will usually be a member of staff by the Reception garden entrance and by the gate in the playground. If you need us, we are there or if you just want to share some feedback, good or bad, we are also there to listen. Alternatively, if you do not drop off in the morning or collect in the afternoon, you can call us on the school number or email us at office@eastfield.cambs.sch.uk

Online Safety

Each fortnight this area of the newsletter will highlight a different area of Online Safety. These messages are vitally important, and I would urge all parent/carers and guardians of children at Eastfield Infant & Nursery to take the time to look at this section. Computers and the internet are a huge part of our children's lives and becoming even more prominent year on year. It's an area that we as carers need to be aware of so that our children can navigate through it safely whilst enjoying the benefits it can bring.

The topics that will be covered in this section throughout the year are:

- Gaming
- Parental controls
- Watching videos
- Being kind online
- Sharing information, pictures and videos
- Jessie and Friends (characters that we use in school to support the education of online safety with your children).
- Age-appropriate content
- Setting up new devices
- Parental control guides for Apps
- Balancing screen time
- Harmful content online
- Group chats

- Gaming risks

Eastfield Car Park

Thank you so much for respecting our need to keep our car park clear in the mornings and after school, so that our pupils can get to school safely.

At points throughout last academic year, the main school park could get very full and occasionally some parent/carers would use it as one way drop off system and/or parking too close to the car park entrance way on the main road. Please help us to keep Eastfield children safe by parking carefully and not in a position that could restrict vision or cause a build-up of traffic outside the school gates.

I would also like to encourage parent/carers not to block any of the school's neighbours' access to their own driveways during these busy times of the day as well.

We do have a couple of parent/carers that have permission to park in our school and these arrangements have been made in advance, with the school.

If you are entering the school site by the gate adjacent to the main car park entrance, please ensure that you are using the footpath provided around the edge and not using the car entrance as a pathway.

Eastfield Outdoor Areas before and after school

At various points throughout last academic year, we found ourselves in a position of not all the school grounds and equipment being used in the way we would prefer and most importantly with the interest of keeping everyone safe.

We would therefore like to take the opportunity, at the start of this new school year, to remind and inform of the expectations of the school grounds before and after school.

- There should be no ball games of any kind played on the school field or school playground before or after school.
- Play equipment and resources in the Reception outdoor area, Club4U playgroup garden, Nursery outdoor area and courtyard outside the main hall and Squirrel Class should not be accessed or played with before or after school.
- Children aged 7 and below can use the adventure playground equipment before and after school but no child above the age of 7 should be using this.

The equipment is designed for younger children, and we want to ensure its longevity is maximised.

- The Spinney area is out of bounds before and after school and should only be accessed with the accompaniment of a member of the staff.
- The school field and playground area should be vacated by 3:30pm.
- If your child is attending an after-school club such as Gymnastics or Yoga, they should now be collected from the main school office.

At least one member of teaching staff will be on the main school play areas at the end of the school day, until 3:30pm, to support with any of the above points should it be required.

We thank you in advance with your support in reinforcing these messages with your children.

Year 1 Phonics & Reading Café

Last year, we trailed "Learning Cafes" to provide opportunities for parent/carers to find out about aspects of school life for their children and on some occasions also can have the opportunity to spend time with their children. Very importantly as well, there was always a supply of a hot drink and snacks!

These Cafes were very well received and very well attended so we have decided to continue with this moving through into this academic year.

Our first cafe will be for the parents of Year 1 children and will take place next Tuesday (10th September) from 2:30pm. The theme will be our phonics scheme, which was newly introduced last academic year. During the cafe you will have opportunity to hear about the programme, ask questions, look at and take-home resources and talk to other parent/carers. Your children will also come to the cafe and have a chance to talk to you about the resources and look at them together.

Early Years (Reception) Phonic information session

On Thursday 12th September at 9am, we would like to invite our Reception parents and carers to join us for a cup of tea and find out more information about how we approach the teaching of phonics here at Eastfield. We will explain how our phonics scheme, Little Wandle is used to support phonics and reading and share ways in which you could help your child at home.

An email with further details about this event will be sent directly to our Reception parents and carers.

Early Years (Reception and Nursery) Parent/Carer information evening

On Tuesday 24th September at 6:00pm, we will be holding a Welcome to Early Years meeting for all of our Reception and Nursery parents and carers. During this information session, we will share more information about how we run our Nursery and Reception classes at Eastfield. We will give you an insight into what you as parents/carers and your children can expect over the next year and discuss how our Early Years curriculum has changed this year. We will also be sharing some ideas about what you can do at home to support your child.

This session will be held in our new Nursery building, allowing our parents and carers the opportunity to visit and explore the new setting.

If you are unable to make this information session the slides and handouts will be available shortly after on our school website.

Message from your ESA

We are pleased to let you know that our first event is a Welcome Quiz for parents/carers that is being held on Friday 4th October (see below for further details). We hope to see lots of you there!

As always, we need volunteers to make our ESA continue and enable us to help provide fun events for your children and raise money to help purchase extras for the school, including books and state-of-the-art classroom equipment. Please come along to our AGM, being held just before the quiz on Friday 4th October in the school hall at 6:30pm.

Alternatively, we welcome new members, or anyone interested in joining the ESA to attend our next committee meeting. This will be held on Tuesday 10th September, 7pm at Slepe Hall.

If you would like to contact the ESA, please use our email address, esa@eastfield.cambs.sch.uk

Also, here's a reminder of all the things you can do to help support your ESA if you are in a position to be able to:

- Use www.easyfundraising.org.uk when purchasing things online.
- Join www.yourschoollottery.co.uk

- If you have your own business, sign it up to www.easyfundraising.org.uk/register-your-business/

ESA Welcome Quiz - Friday 4th October

Bring your competitive side and get to know some of our school community by joining the ESA Welcome Quiz Night!

This adult only quiz will be held on Friday 4th October. Arrival time is 6:30pm for our AGM, with the quiz starting at 7pm. Tickets cost £5 per person and will include snacks for your quiz team. Quiz teams can consist of between 5 to 8 people.

To secure your team's table, please [fill in this online booking form](#).

A payment link will then be sent to you to pay via school comms. When booking you will need to book for your entire quiz team and then make full payment for your whole team i.e. if your quiz team consists of 6 players this will be a total cost of £30 to spend, 7 players would be £35 and 8 players would be £40.

We have spaces for 10 teams, and these will be allocated on a first come first served.

Please don't bring drinks with you, these can be purchased on the night from the ESA bar which will be service a range of beverages throughout the evening.

Prizes to be won, including the renowned 'Eastfield Pineapple'!

If you have any questions, please contact us via the school office.

Quiz Night Poster

Eastfield Wishlist

The funding schools receive per financial year is based primarily upon pupil numbers and covers the essential aspects of running a school i.e. staff costings, utility bills, food for lunches, staff training and a minimal range of resources. All the extra things to enhance the school's curriculum provision is where the school's fundraising becomes so vitally important.

In addition to this, it becomes increasingly more difficult to ensure that the basic resources such as pencils, paints, glue sticks, whiteboard pens etc are provided for.

Therefore, the school has an [Amazon wishlist](#) of basic everyday school resources. There is absolutely no pressure or expectation from the school for people to donate through this way but if there should you feel that you can.

Recently the school has received generous donations through this platform of stickers, pencils, glue sticks, plastic wallets, file dividers and storage equipment for our new phonic resources. These are all hugely helpful and means that it lessens the burden slightly on the overall school budget. If you can donate, please add your name onto the order confirmation so we can say thank you to you when it arrives!



Class assemblies and Production Performances

Each term, your child will either perform a class assembly or a production to parent/carers.

On the morning that your child performs their class assembly, we will invite you into school for 30-45 minutes so you can watch their assembly as well as look through your child's work and spend some time in their classroom. This will take on the following format:

- 9:00am – assembly performance in the school hall
- 9:20am – an opportunity for you and your child in the school hall to look through and celebrate the work they have been completing and taking part in
- 9:30am – a tour of your child's classroom from your child

The dates that we have allocated for children's class assemblies are as follows:

- Otter class assembly – Tuesday 12th November
- Raccoon class assembly – Wednesday 13th November
- Owl class assembly – Wednesday 20th November
- Hedgehog class assembly – Thursday 21st November

Reception children do not hold a class assembly in the first term of school but will begin to hold these from the spring term. The reception and nursery children will hold separate productions in December that parent/carers will be invited to attend.

EIFA Newsletter, drop in's and Workshops September 2024 St Ives

Please find [attached](#) the Education Inclusion Family Adviser September edition newsletter.

As well as the overall Newsletter, Katie Smith has also provided information for universal EIFA workshops across the Summer Holiday, which include:

- [Contact information](#)
- [Child and Family Centre What's On for Hunts and St Ives](#)
- [Workshops](#) and [Drop In's](#)
- [HDC green space group poster](#)

Links to contact Katie Smith and further information can be found on the posters above.

The Education Inclusion Family Adviser also offer online parenting workshops which are now open for booking.

They have the following workshops in the diary –

- What to do when kids push your buttons
- Sibling Rivalry
- Supporting your child with feelings of worry
- Supporting your child with feelings of anger
- Sleep

These workshops are run by members of the EIFA service and delivered through Microsoft Teams and always start at 12noon. After sessions are completed, parents/carers can receive resources to support their families, and they can also request a certificate of attendance.

They will also be delivering face to face sessions at Huntingdon Youth Centre for the following –

- **Arguing better** which is suitable for parents in a relationship, to offer support in managing their stress and learning ways to communicate with each other in ways that are helpful to their relationship and their children.
- **Getting it right for the children** which is suitable for separated parents who are experiencing high levels of conflict, helping parents to develop positive communication skills and supporting parents to co-operate and work out solutions together without putting their child in the middle of argumentative situations.

Parents can book using to link or QR code on [this poster](#).

Once the booking form is completed, you will receive an email the day before your chosen session which will contain the Microsoft Teams link to the session.

'A Taste of Uni': an adult education opportunity in St Ives

Please [click here](#) to find out about adult education opportunities in St Ives.

Exploring Early Childhood Careers

The Early Years Childhood Workforce Development Team would like to promote their Qualifications Centre and the fully funded (subject to application) courses for those looking to become Early Years practitioners.

They are looking to capture the attention of people seeking a change in career, with a desire to educate children 0-5years in Cambridgeshire.

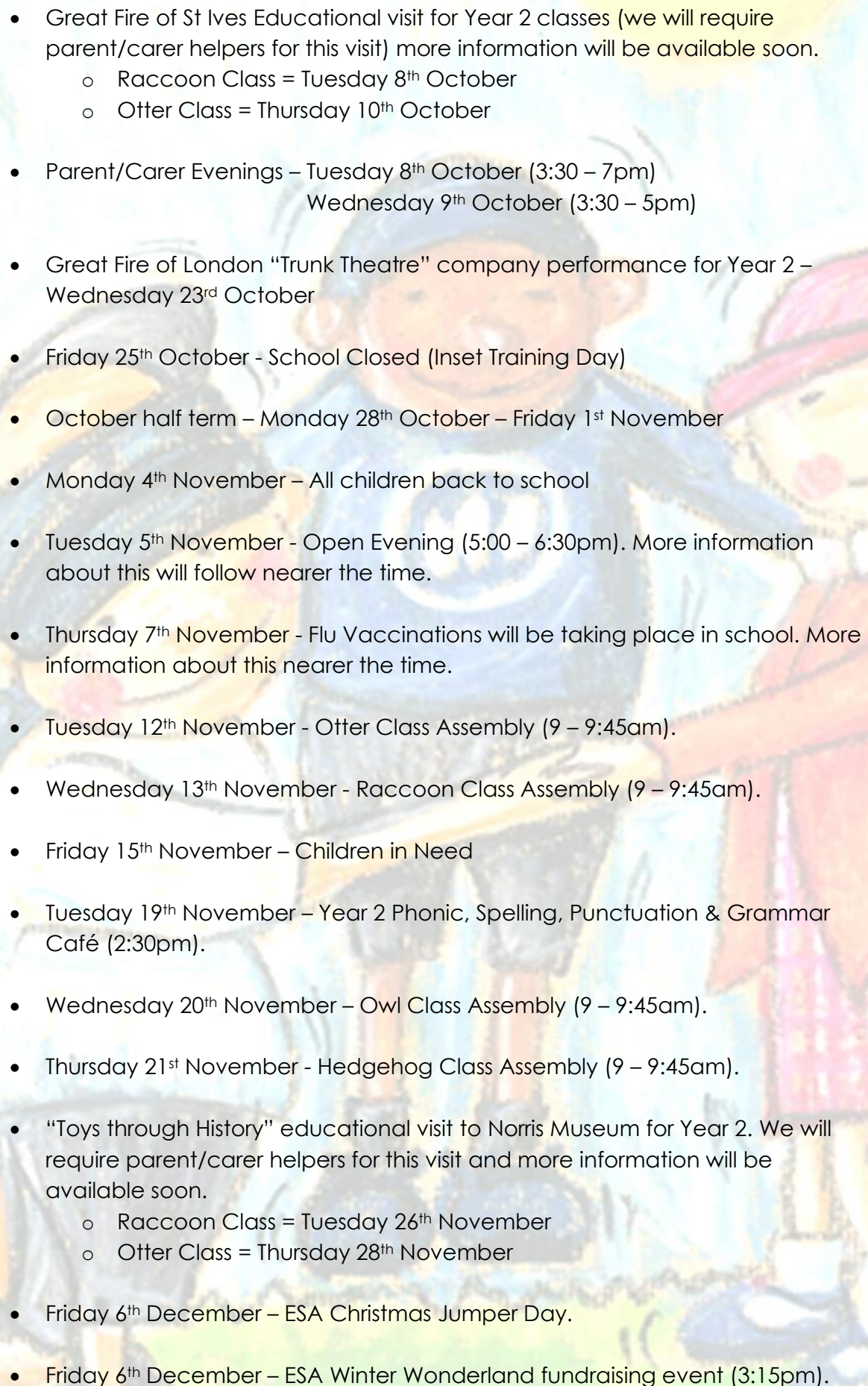
This is an opportunity to be trained by their NFCE/CACHE accredited team, courses run throughout the year and can be found on the [website](#)

[Cambridgeshire Early Childhood Qualifications Centre \(CECQC\) - Learn Together \(camblearntogether.co.uk\)](#)

There is also a QR code on [this poster](#), which contains a sway guiding you through the learning pathways, and video testimonials of previous learners.

Important dates for your diaries

- Year 1 Phonic & Reading Café – Tuesday 10th September at 2:30pm
- Early Years Phonic information session – Thursday 12th September at 9am
- Reception stay & learn phonic session – Tuesday 17th September at 2:30pm
- Jeans for Genes Day – Friday 20th September
- Life in the Early Years parent/carer information session – Tuesday 24th September at 6:30pm
- Individual photos – Monday 30th September
- ESA Welcome Quiz – Friday 4th October (6:30pm for a 7pm start)

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- Great Fire of St Ives Educational visit for Year 2 classes (we will require parent/carer helpers for this visit) more information will be available soon.
 - Raccoon Class = Tuesday 8th October
 - Otter Class = Thursday 10th October
 - Parent/Carer Evenings – Tuesday 8th October (3:30 – 7pm)
Wednesday 9th October (3:30 – 5pm)
 - Great Fire of London “Trunk Theatre” company performance for Year 2 – Wednesday 23rd October
 - Friday 25th October - School Closed (Inset Training Day)
 - October half term – Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November
 - Monday 4th November – All children back to school
 - Tuesday 5th November - Open Evening (5:00 – 6:30pm). More information about this will follow nearer the time.
 - Thursday 7th November - Flu Vaccinations will be taking place in school. More information about this nearer the time.
 - Tuesday 12th November - Otter Class Assembly (9 – 9:45am).
 - Wednesday 13th November - Raccoon Class Assembly (9 – 9:45am).
 - Friday 15th November – Children in Need
 - Tuesday 19th November – Year 2 Phonic, Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar Café (2:30pm).
 - Wednesday 20th November – Owl Class Assembly (9 – 9:45am).
 - Thursday 21st November - Hedgehog Class Assembly (9 – 9:45am).
 - “Toys through History” educational visit to Norris Museum for Year 2. We will require parent/carer helpers for this visit and more information will be available soon.
 - Raccoon Class = Tuesday 26th November
 - Otter Class = Thursday 28th November
 - Friday 6th December – ESA Christmas Jumper Day.
 - Friday 6th December – ESA Winter Wonderland fundraising event (3:15pm).

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- Tuesday 10th December – Nursery Nativity (2:30pm).
 - Wednesday 11th December – Reception Nativity (2:15pm).
 - Thursday 12th December – Reception Nativity (9:15am).
 - Thursday 12th December – Nursery Nativity (10:30am).
 - Monday 16th December – Carol Concert (5pm).
 - Wednesday 18th December – Christmas Dinner.
 - Thursday 19th December – Party Lunch
Christmas Party afternoon
 - Monday 23rd December to Friday 3rd January – Christmas Holiday break.
 - Monday 6th January 2025 – Inset training day (school closed).
 - Tuesday 7th January – Start of Spring term.

Yours sincerely

Summerfield

Mrs Summerfield