



Earl Spencer Primary School

Spring Term Newsletter

Dates for Parents

Monday 6th January– Training Day
Tuesday 7th January– school open
Thursday 16th January– Parents coffee morning–
Kit kat and a chat
Wednesday 29th—Parents evening
Thursday 30th January—Parents evening
3rd February– Children mental health week
Thursday 6th February– internet safety day
Tuesday 11th February– KS1 Valentines disco
Wednesday 12th February– KS2 Valentines disco

Useful information:

PCSO Andrew Emberton
Andrew.Emberton@northants.pnn.police.uk
School contact information:
Tel: 01604 751130
Email: senco@earlspencer-pri.northants-
ecl.gov.uk

Online safety– Internet

Connected Devices

Most families will have a number of devices connected to the internet in their homes (phones, tablets etc.). Click on the link below to access advice which will support parents around how they can ensure devices can be made suitable for use by all family members.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/internet-connected-devices/>

Supporting your child through the change to secondary school

Starting secondary school is a significant milestone in a child's life.

- It marks a passage into adolescence and brings about several significant changes.
- They will go from being the oldest in school to being the youngest, having to find their way around a large new school with different teachers for different subjects.
- They will also have to take more responsibility.

The Family Lives website has lots of tips and advice to support families through this next step., the website link is below.

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/advice/secondary/learning-school/starting-secondary-school/>

Children School Uniform:

We just wanted to reinforce the school expectations as set out below.

We expect all children at Earl Spencer to wear our school uniform which consists of a navy sweatshirt, red polo shirts, navy hijab, grey or black trousers (for girls or boys) or a pinafore dress or skirt & black shoes.

Can we remind parents that leggings, jogging bottoms, jeans & trainers are not part of our school uniform and should not be used as a replacement for any of the items listed above.

Curriculum

This term in EYFS:

Following a successful start to school life, the children have become an important part of ESP and have shown great enjoyment in their learning. We would like to thank our wonderful families for their support and participation. This term the children will continue to develop the skills they have been learning and enjoy ample opportunities to practice these skills within the continuous provision. Children will be encouraged and challenged to have a go themselves and try to do things independently with a philosophy of 'Teach me to do it myself'. We will be asking our families to further support this by encouraging children to be more independent at home, for example putting on their own coats and shoes, eating with a knife and fork, taking ownership of their school things and carrying their own bags to school, saying goodbye at the gate and coming in independently.

Spring 1 – Starry Night - explores the differences in the world at night compared to during the day. It teaches children about the importance of a good night's sleep and helps them to discover what is happening in the world while they are sleeping, including finding out about nocturnal animals. We will continue to learn about different religions and festivals. Children will learn about traditional stories and rhymes and have the opportunity to play with words and learn new vocabulary i.e. A long time ago, once upon a time, and focus on using the past tense when retelling.

Spring 2 – Dangerous Dinosaurs - teaches children about the different animals that roamed Earth millions of years ago and how they are related to animals that live on Earth today. As Spring develops, children will learn about the changes that happen during the spring, including weather and the festivals that are celebrated at this time of year.

Phonics – we continue to learn Phase 3 digraphs and trigraphs, new harder to read and spell words and focus on blending for reading. There will be significant opportunities to review and consolidate what they have learnt. Children need to constantly practice their skills to support their reading development, we ask our families to read regularly with the children at home to support this.

Literacy – Drawing Club has been very favourably received by the children, they are keen to work and join in and practice their drawing and writing skills. This term, we will focus on letter formation and writing words using our phonics. Our texts focus on the theme of traditional tales, including Hansel and Gretel, The Elves and the Shoemaker and Jack and the Beanstalk. Children are always encouraged to 'annotate' their work so that they form the habit of writing, labelling, and spelling words.

Maths – We placed heavy focus on numbers to 5 last term, including how the number 5 can be composed of other numbers, subitizing numbers to 5 and composing the numbers in different ways but still understanding that the number is the same. This term we will continue this work, focusing on numbers to 6, 7 and 8. Children are beginning to use a variety of maths equipment to support this work, including part part whole models, ten frames, number fans, multilink cubes and counters.

Muddy Mondays – we will continue to get outside on a Monday afternoon, enjoying forest school and the wider school site, learning about the seasons, weather and wildlife in our local environment and taking a joint pride in caring for our environment. There might even be a mug or two of hot chocolate to keep us warm! We encourage children (where possible) to bring in their own wellington boots and extra layers of clothing, especially during these colder months.

This term in Key Stage 1:

A big welcome back from the Key Stage 1 Team! We hope you all had a lovely break. This term our children are very excited to get stuck into their new topics.

Year 1's topic this term will be 'Bright Lights, Big City'. In this topic, children will be learning about the human and physical features of the UK, including a detailed study of the capital city, London. Children will also be learning about local landmarks such as the express lift tower which we can actually see from our school playground! In D&T they will be learning about moving parts and will be designing and making their own taxi's including wheels, axles and chassis!

Year 2's topic this term will be 'Coastline'. In this topic, children will learn about the physical and human features of coastal regions across the United Kingdom, including a detailed exploration of the coastal town of Whitby, in Yorkshire. They will be learning about the purpose of different materials in Science, and will be applying this in D&T where they will be designing and creating their own beach huts! Keep an eye on class webpages to see what fun the children get up to.

This term in Year 3 & 4:

In year three this term our driver topic is a geography based one, where the children will be looking at and learning about different fossils, rocks and volcanoes. In Science, the children will be learning about magnets, what makes materials attracted to magnets and why some materials repel against magnets. In RE this term, the children will be learning about healing and then the Easter story. As part of the art topic the children will firstly looking at sketching fossils moving onto creating their own pieces of art in the style of Lowey. The design technology work this term will be looking at cams, and using these skills to design and make their own automation toy.

In year four this term, the driver topic is also a geography based one, where the children will be learning about mountains and the water cycle. In science, the children will start the year by looking at changing states, where the children will learn about solids, liquids and gases. The next science topic will be learning about classification where the children will decide which group different things fit into. In art, the children will start off with using clay to explore animal sculpture's then they will be using watercolours to create different landscapes. As part of the design technology project, the children will be creating their own prints in the style of William Morris.

This term in Year 5 & 6

We are excited to share with you the learning journeys that our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils will embark on this term at Earl Spencer Primary School. These projects have been carefully designed to engage and inspire your children, offering them a rich and varied curriculum.

Year 5: Sow, Grow and Farm Project

In this fascinating project, your child will explore:

- Allotments in the UK: Understanding their historical significance, especially during the Second World War.
- Food Webs and Animal Life Cycles: Discovering how living things depend on each other within habitats.
- Plant Reproduction: Investigating different methods and dissecting flowering plants.
- Farming in the UK: Learning about modern techniques and challenges faced by farmers.
- Seasonal Eating: Exploring the benefits and comparing it with the pros and cons of importing food.
- World Farming: Understanding how climate zones influence where different foods can be grown.

Year 6: Frozen Kingdoms Project

Your child will delve into the icy realms of the Arctic and Antarctic, learning about:

- Regional Characteristics: Identifying similarities and differences in climate, landscape, and natural resources.
- Geographical Skills: Using grid references, latitude and longitude, and contour lines to explore these regions.
- Polar Oceans: Investigating how they differ from other oceans and the impact of climate change.
- Indigenous People: Learning about the Arctic natives and the changes in their way of life.
- Tourism in Antarctica: Evaluating the positive and negative effects.
- Animal Classification and Adaptations: Understanding evolution and polar explorations.

Next Steps

- We encourage you to discuss these topics with your child to enhance their understanding and enthusiasm.

Why is school attendance so important and what are the risks of missing a day?

Being around teachers and friends in a school or college environment is the best way for pupils to learn and reach their potential. Time in school also keeps children safe and provides access to extra-curricular opportunities and pastoral care. That's why school attendance is so important.

How does attendance affect outcomes for pupils?

Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. Evidence shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A Level results.

Pupils who performed better both at the end of primary and secondary school missed fewer days than those who didn't perform as well.

The data also shows that primary school children in Key Stage 2 who didn't achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths missed on average **four more days per school year** than those whose performance exceeded the expected standard.

What if my child needs to miss school?

Parents and carers have a legal duty to ensure your child gets a full time-education. Usually, that means going into school from the age of 5 to 16.

There are only a small number of circumstances where missing a school day is permitted. Your child must attend every day that the school is open, unless:

- Your child is too ill to attend.
- You have asked in advance and been given permission by the school for your child to be absent on a specific day due to exceptional circumstances.
- Your child cannot go to school on a specific day because they are observing a religious event.
- Your local authority is responsible for arranging your child's transport to school and it's not available or has not been provided yet.
- Your child does not have a permanent address and you are required to travel for work. This exception only applies if your child attends their usual school or another school where you are staying as often as possible. This must be 200 half days or more a year if they are aged 6 or older.

These are the only circumstances where schools can permit your child to be absent

Where can I get support to help my child attend school?

Please let us know if there's anything else going on at home or at school which might be making it difficult for them to attend regularly. The class teacher and Mrs Russell, our Family Support Worker, are available each day to share your concerns with.

If you have any concerns regarding your child's health and would like further support, you might find it useful to be aware of Children's 0-19 service which has a resource hub for tip and advice for parents on a range of issues. <https://www.nhft.nhs.uk/childrenshub>

If your child's attendance level is falling, we will contact you to explore the reasons and discuss what help can be put in place.