



# Ebchester Church of England Primary School Newsletter

[www.ebchester.durham.sch.uk](http://www.ebchester.durham.sch.uk)

Dear Parent,

## Welcome Back

It has been a very strange start to the academic year for everyone but we are pleased that the pupils have returned to school so enthusiastically. Thank you for following the guidelines regarding staggered drop off and pick up times. Can I remind you that pupils from different bubbles should not mix at the school gate? If you have to wait at the school gate for a later drop off/ pick up time, please feel free to use the car park area so you don't mix with parents and pupils from different bubbles. I appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

## Symptoms of Covid-19

Please find attached to this email guidance about when pupils should and shouldn't stay off school. It has been designed by NHS County Durham and follows a simple flow chart design.

The symptoms of Covid-19 are a new continuous cough, a high temperature and/or a loss or change to the sense of smell or taste. Please feel free to contact school if you need any further advice on whether your child should attend school.

## Reception Phonics Evening

At this time of the year we would typically invite the parents of the Reception pupils to a phonics evening. This year, the presentation will take place via Zoom on 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 4pm. During the presentation, Mrs Askell will explain how phonics are taught in the early years and what you can do at home to help. Further details will be forwarded to the parents of Reception children next week.

## Harvest Festival

Unfortunately, we will not be able to hold our normal Harvest Festival celebration at St. Ebba's Church this year. We will, however, still hold our own class bubble celebrations which will be recorded and emailed to you. Also, we are unable to accept tinned or dried food donations but anyone who would like to contribute to our harvest gift this year will be able to donate £1 using Parentpay. Any donations will be used to buy a food order from Asda which will be donated to Consett Foodbank. Many thanks.

## Updated Recovery Curriculum

Staff have been very impressed with the attitude and motivation of the pupils since returning to school. All pupils seem to have enjoyed working on the various tasks which have made up our recovery curriculum. Next week, we will begin the next phase of the curriculum. I have attached a copy of the timetables for each class for your information. Please get in touch if you require any further information about the tasks your child is completing in school.

Headteacher: Mrs Rachel Clasper

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## Mrs Crawford

After many years of working at Ebchester School, Mrs Crawford will be leaving us on the 25<sup>th</sup> September. I am sure you will join me in wishing her all the best in her future adventures.

## PTA – Virtual Duck Race

Our PTA are holding a virtual duck race to raise money for reading resources in school. Prizes will be awarded for the winning duck, the funniest name and for the last duck crossing the line. Please see the attached poster for details on how to enter.

## Bubble Closures

In order to ensure that the pupils' education is disrupted as little as possible, we are putting measures in place so that learning continues if there is a **partial school closure** (one or more of the bubbles have to close due to a positive Covid test) or that a **pupil has to self-isolate due to a family member displaying symptoms**. The use of TEAMS for our junior pupils was successful during the initial lockdown. TEAMS will be used for pupils from Year 2 to Year 6. Two tasks will be set online to be completed each day. Pupils will receive training on how to use TEAMS and details of their own personal accounts will be sent home early next week. (Full online 'live' lesson will only be used when full bubbles are asked to isolate.)

Pupils in Reception and Year One will receive a range of tasks through Tapestry- which, again, was used during the full lockdown. Further information will be emailed to you when/if your child needs to access the tasks. If you have any questions about either TEAMS or Tapestry, do not hesitate to get in touch.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Clasper  
Headteacher

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