



Since the full opening of school on 3<sup>rd</sup> September our pupils have been absolutely brilliant. They have settled in really well to their new classes and have adapted quickly and positively to the new routines that have been put in place. A calm, positive and happy atmosphere has permeated throughout the school day and it has been a pleasure to see the children enjoying the new learning challenges of the autumn term curriculum. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of the parents and carers that have supported the successful return to school of our pupils and helped to create a sense of 'normality' despite the ongoing challenges, changes and restrictions that are evident in the wider world at the moment.

*Mr Kitching*

## A Welcome Visitor in the School Garden

The Year 1 and 2 children were greeted by an unexpected visitor in the school garden a couple of weeks ago. As part of their Science topic on 'Animals including Humans', they were given the task of finding which animals could be seen within the school grounds.

They made their way to the school garden and, after noticing some rather less exciting animals (flies, wasps etc.), they spotted the frog in the picture happily hopping around and into the school pond.

It is lovely to see wildlife in the school garden and hopefully we will have more sightings of different animals over the course of year.



## School Drop Off and Collection Times

We would like to thank our Parents and Carers for supporting the school and following the procedures outlined in Covid-19 Home School Partnership Guide at drop off and collection times. Earlier this month, you may have noticed two PCSCOs observing the process around drop off and collection at our school. They have been visiting schools throughout the region for similar reasons. We are pleased to report that the PCSCOs were very complimentary about the system in place at Egginton and were pleased to see the vast majority of parents adhering to social distancing rules.

There are just a couple of points we would like to draw parents and carers attention to in order to make drop off and collection even safer for everyone.

Firstly, please can parents and carers not wait in the staff car park entrance area if they arrive early for collection. Although we try to keep traffic entering and leaving the staff car park to an absolute minimum around these times, there is still a potential risk here if people are waiting in the car park gateway area. If you do arrive slightly earlier than your child's allocated collection time, please either wait on a spot in the designated parent and carer waiting area, wait in your vehicle if you have driven, or wait in a safe place elsewhere in the village (but not blocking the pavement for residents).

Secondly, some concerns have been raised about dogs being brought on to the school site at drop off and collection times. As much as we like dogs, a gathering of more than one can potentially lead to conflict if they do not 'get on' and there is always a possibility of a bystander getting hurt whether it be another parent, carer or child. As outlined in our existing Parent and Carer Code of Conduct we respectfully request that dogs are not brought onto the school site at collection times.

Thank you.



## The First School Council Meeting of 20/21



**Our school council held their first meeting of the academic year last week. They discussed various ideas to make the school better for the pupils including purchasing more outdoor play equipment for each class bubble, deciding on themes for the new team names and identifying steps to take in order to work towards the Eco-Schools Green Flag award. The school council will be meeting every month with Mr Kitching to discuss various ideas and suggestions to improve the school.**

### Absence and Leave of Absence Requests

A quick reminder that if your child is going to be absent from school due to illness or self-isolation following NHS guidelines, please phone or email the school office before 9.30am on the day of the absence.

In line with government and DCC guidelines, schools are only able to authorise absence for other reasons if there are 'exceptional circumstances'. Any requests for a pupil's leave of absence for exceptional circumstances should be made in writing to the school 2 weeks before the requested absence period. As a general rule, leave of absence will only be authorised by the Headteacher if the event or reason for absence is rare, significant, unavoidable and short. For example, to attend a wedding of a close family member. Holidays during term time will not be considered as an exceptional circumstance and will not be authorised. The Local Authority may issue a Penalty Notice for any period of unauthorised absence regardless of wider attendance. Further details about attendance and absence can be found in our Attendance Policy on the school website.

### Parent and Carer Consultation Meetings and Ongoing Communication between home and school

Parent and Consultation meetings will be different this term due to the current government restrictions in place. Instead of a face to face meeting in school with your child's class teacher, parent and carers will be offered a scheduled 10 minute phone call slot instead to discuss their child's progress and well being with the teacher.

The scheduled slots will be in the 2 week period beginning from the week beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> November. More details about appointments will be available shortly.

However, if a situation arises where you feel you do need to contact your child's class teacher for any other reason outside of the scheduled appointment time, please contact the school office by phone or email and the teacher will contact you as soon as possible. Alternatively, you can contact the teacher via the Class Dojo messaging service.

# EGGINTON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Headteacher:

Mr Richard Kitching

September 2020



Date	Event
8 <sup>th</sup> October	School Nurse Team administering Flu immunisation spray in school
26 <sup>th</sup> October – 29 <sup>th</sup> October	Half Term Break – School Closed to Pupils
From 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Parent and Carer Consultation Meetings (via phonecall)
5 <sup>th</sup> November	Dove Class Trip to Eyam (further details to follow shortly)
9 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner Day
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of term – break up for Christmas