



Happy, Inspired, Lifelong Learners

Eaton Bray Academy

20th July 2021

As we draw to the end of the school year I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the school community for their effort and sheer determination this year. I am sure you will acknowledge that this has been a difficult year for everyone, and our staff have done everything that they can to support and boost our children and families. Also, thank you to all of our parents who have supported the school during this time. We have really felt families pulling together to support each other and we are looking forward to this continuing as we return to some kind of normality in the new year.

It has been lovely in the past few weeks to follow some of the normal school traditions- you have all received reports which have celebrated the success of the children. The teachers are all incredibly proud of everything they have achieved.

We have also enjoyed the Year 6 trip and sleepover, where great fun (if little sleep) was had by all! Our Year 1 and Reception class have also had a beach day, again with huge smiles on the children's faces.

Tomorrow (21st July) we will be holding our Year 6 leavers assembly, and in line with this we will be asking that all children come to school in uniform tomorrow.

Staffing

I am sure you will join me in wishing Mrs. Matthews the best of luck in her retirement. She has played such a key part in the school for so many years (27!) and she will be greatly missed. Her calming and positive presence will leave a gap among the staff, but we know that she will keep in contact.

We are also happy for Mrs. Cox who currently works in pre-school that she has been successful in securing a position at the school where her children currently attend. While we will be sad to see her leave, we wish her good luck as she moves on. We have plans in motion to fill this position.

Uniform

Do not forget that from September we will be tightening up on children following our uniform rules. Please remember that uniform is available from the school shop (link on the website) or pre-loved from the PTA (email pta@eba.ec). If you are having any difficulties with getting the correct uniform (including PE kit) for September then please let us know.



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Equipment

We ask that next year children bring in the following NAMED items:

A named water bottle

A named pencil case including:

2 or 3 writing pencils

A selection of colouring pencils

A ruler (15cm to fit in pencilcase)

A rubber

A glue stick

Covid Restrictions

At the moment it is unclear what the picture will be in September with regards to covid restrictions. While we hope that we will be returning to a normal year this may not be the case so if anything changes we will update you shortly before the start of the school year.

We would like to reassure you that we will continue to follow all government guidance in order to keep our children safe, and to thank you again for your support with this over this year. We know that at times it has been difficult, but it is thanks to everyone's hard work and support that we have been able to work to keep our children safe.

Timings

The planned timings for September will be as follows:

Drop off

8:40-8:50 am. This will follow the same process as this year, but you may arrive at any time in this time slot regardless of surname. We have found that this system of dropping off at the gate and walking to classrooms has really helped children to increase their independence as they have learnt to come in and settle to activities which has developed their own organisational skills.

Pick up

3:20-3:30pm. This is currently planned to operate in the same process as this year, but similarly you may arrive at any time in this time slot and the children will be on the playground.

Please remember that some classrooms are changing in September, so staff will be available to direct children in the right direction. Year 1 and Reception will be in the outdoor red classrooms, while Years 2-6 will be in the main school.

Key Dates

1st and 2nd Sept: INSET days

3rd Sept: Children in 1-6 return to school

8th Sept, 3:30pm: Meet the teacher event (planned to be in person)

13th Sept: Individual Photos

14th Sept, 2.30pm: Reading event (planned to be in person)

22nd Oct: School closes for Half Term Break

1st Nov: School opens after Half Term Break

Please see [Term Dates - Eaton Bray Academy](#) for further term dates.



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Reading Challenge

Our school is entering a competition via GoRead called the Summer GoReadathon. This will be a UK wide challenge to see which school can log the most good quality reading across the summer holiday.

The competition launched on Monday 12th July and runs until 1st September.

All you need to do is log reading with your children across the break. We all know how important reading is so we hope that you will encourage your children to be part of this fantastic event. This would work brilliantly alongside the library reading challenge which is also taking place this summer. Just log the reading from those books as well and you have double the chance of prizes! There will be prizes for the best classes, children and parents!

To support you further we will be sending children home with a selection of books for them to enjoy over the summer holiday. Little and often is always best so if you can encourage a habit that involves reading most days this will really support their return to school in September.

Further information and the leaderboards can be found here: go-read.co.uk/goreadathon

Help please!

We are excited to hear from the government that, all being well, we can re-open our school library in September. To get the very most from the library it would be wonderful to have some parent volunteers who are willing to help children choose books, talk about their books and keep the shelves orderly. If you are able to spare an hour or two a week to help us please speak to the office or a member of staff on the gate.

Before School Club/ After School Club/ Pre-school

As a school it is important that we regularly review our pricing for all services that we offer we need to ensure that these prices remain value for money but also do not operate at a loss for the school. We value these services, and know how important they are for many of our parents, and therefore want to continue running them but in order to do so we need to ensure that they do not have a significant impact on the schools budget. We are therefore making the following changes from 1st January 2022 (current costs will stay the same until 31st December 2021):

From 1st January 2022 our fees will be as follows;

- Breakfast club - £6
- After school club - £6 per hour
- Pre school 3 & 4 year olds - £6 per hour
- Pre school 2 year olds - £6.50 per hour

Our services continue to provide excellent value for money with highly qualified staff and excellent care.

Please let us know if you have any questions.