

EMPS News

Autumn Half Term 2 2025/26



Dear Families,

We are already underway with the longest of all of our half terms! It's a full 8 weeks up until the Christmas break from when we started, and as always, there's so much to cram in. I feel like I say that in every newsletter, but it's true!

We have a whole host of events that both you and your child will be able to attend this term. It starts next **Friday 14th November with Children in Need Day**, and we invite children to dress up in yellow and spots in order to help us finish off our 'Challenge Chain' which we will have been working on all week. There is also a **Winter Disco, Rocksteady concert for parents, Christmas Decorations Day, Reception Nativity**, and of course this term will end with our first '**Look in on Learning**' event for this academic year, with an option to start your break early and **take your child home with you at 1pm**. You will find the dates and timings for these events further along in the newsletter. Your child's teacher will also use Weduc to remind you about their class assembly, so please ensure that you are checking regularly for any updates.

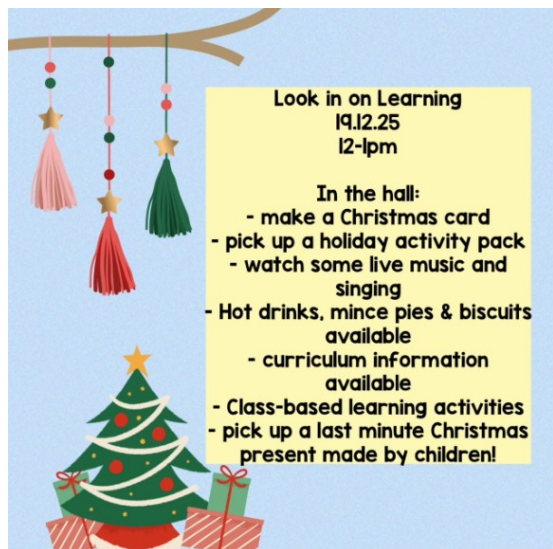
Thank you already for the support that you have shown your child by attending Parents' Evening which was just before half term. I have spoken with a number of parents who did not attend to find out whether we could have done anything differently, and I have already found out some really useful information. This may lead us to offering a day time session, changing the way that we communicate with you about Parents' Evening and giving you an automatic appointment if you do not make one by the deadline. Research clearly shows **that parental engagement with school positively impacts** on areas such as children's behaviour, attainment, attendance, confidence, health and wellbeing and aspirations. Through parental feedback, **one of the changes we made last term** was to bring in a new system at lunchtime, to **ensure that children who have ordered a hot dinner all receive their meal choice**, which was not happening. This was introduced initially in Y4,5,6, and today will be rolled out to Y2 and 3. Children in all other year groups automatically receive the meal choice that they ordered.

Parental communication leading to better engagement will be a real area of **focus for us this year**, so if you have any suggestions on how we could achieve this better for you, or for a particular group of parents, I would love to hear from you. Please feel free to catch me on the playground if you see me, or email me directly with your ideas or to make an appointment to chat at ewilliamson@eyresmonsell.leicester.sch.uk

As we move into the colder months, please ensure that your child has a coat with them every day at school, and most importantly, make sure it has your child's name in it! We already have a growing mound of lost property—please come and help yourself if your child has misplaced something!

Ms. Williamson

Look in on Learning—Friday 19th December 12—1pm (option to take your child home)



If you have not been to one of our legendary Look in on Learning events, brace yourself! The first one of the year will be at the end of this term, and you will have the option to take your child home with you at 1pm (or collect them at that time, or allow them to walk home if they are in Y5 or Y6). It is a real community celebration where the hall becomes a hive of activity and you get the chance to move between classrooms to see what your child has been learning this term.

We are going to have performances this time from our Young Voices choir, who will be singing some songs from their concert set list, and we'll also have some Christmas songs sung by other children for you to join in with! We'll also enjoy other performances and activities. Children are only allowed to come into the hall with an adult who attends, so we do hope that you'll be able to join us.

In your child's classroom, you will also be able to look through their books to see how they are progressing, and chat with your child's class teacher. See you there!

Rocksteady Music Lessons



We have formed some new bands this half term and also have a new band leader! I can hear our children working hard during their music lessons every Monday morning, and they are showing great resilience and determination to put on a great performance!

The **concert to parents** will be held on the morning of **Monday 15th December** so please do come along and show your support! The time will be confirmed with Rocksteady nearer the date.

School Value for this half term—RESPECT

Be Respectful

Everyone tries their best
Responsible for our actions
Use kind words and actions
Look after the things in our school
Believe in yourself

Our school value for this half term also links with one of our 3 schools rules. Yes, we only have 3! They are **Be Ready, Be Respectful and Be Safe**.

We are learning the different ways that we show respect to others, to our school, and perhaps most importantly, to ourselves. Please remind your child that it's also important to show respect within our community. This is particularly important where your child may travel to and from school independently. Showing respect through kindness to our wider community will really embed lifelong lessons.

Curriculum Focus: What Makes Britain Great?

This term, our History curriculum is celebrating - What Makes Britain Great! Across the school, pupils are exploring key moments in British history.

Our EYFS learners are exploring Autumn festivals and celebrations. They are beginning to understand how traditions bring people together and help us celebrate the changing seasons.

Our Branches children are finding out about People Who Help Us, learning about the important jobs that keep our community safe and cared for, and how everyone can play a part in helping others.

- Year 1 are discovering the life of Florence Nightingale, learning how her bravery and compassion changed healthcare forever.
- Year 2 are stepping back to 1666 to explore the Great Fire of London, using creativity and drama to imagine life on the streets of Pudding Lane.
- Year 3 are delving deep into prehistory, from the Stone Age to the Iron Age, and will bring their learning to life with an exciting visit to Bradgate Park.
- Year 4 are investigating the world of the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings, exploring how invaders and settlers helped shape the Britain we know today.
- Year 5 are uncovering stories of courage and resilience from World War II, supported by an immersive experience at Beaumanor Hall.
- Year 6 are charting the tragic yet fascinating voyage of the Titanic, using enquiry and empathy to explore the lives of those on board and what the disaster can teach us about progress and humanity.

WINTER DISCO

EYFS and Branches
2.15 – 2.45pm (no charge)

Y1,2,3 3 – 4pm
£2 per ticket

Y4,5,6 4.15 – 5.15pm
(£2 per ticket)

Winter Disco 2025

All invited! Tickets are available via Weduc only. There will also be a small tuck shop with a range of snacks available at all 3 discos, so please ensure that your child has a small amount of change if you would like them to buy something. An amount of no more than £1-2 will be sufficient.

We hope that all children will be able to come along and celebrate the end of term in style! Children in Y1,2,3 will need to bring their party clothes to change into before the end of the school day.

Due to the dark nights, ALL CHILDREN WILL NEED TO BE COLLECTED BY AN ADULT.

Children in Need—Dress Up Friday 14th November

Challenge Yourself

Friday 14th November

Show your support for Pudsey and come dressed in spotty yellow! We will spend the week with the 'challenge yourself' theme and share photos on Weduc!

Cash donations welcome!

It's a Challenge Yourself theme this year and we are going to challenge ourselves to notice how RESPECT is given and gained in lots of different ways. Every time we see this, we are going to put a spot on a yellow band, and once we have collected 7 spots, we'll make a chain with it. The longer the chain, the more respectful things we have done and recognised!

We'll have some donation buckets out on the playground that morning and we know that Children in Need support some fantastic causes up and down the country, and I'm sure, right here in Eyres Monsell. Please give any spare change and we will make sure that we let you know how much we have raised!

To all local parents and schools in Leicestershire

Most pharmacies can help you with some common conditions without needing a GP appointment.

Did you know that pharmacies can now offer clinical appointments with medication available if required for four clinical conditions particularly relevant to school age children?

- Ear ache (children aged 1-17)
- Sore throat (over 5s)
- Infected insect bites (over 1s)
- Impetigo (over 1s)

GP practices are busy and it can be difficult to get a same-day GP appointment. When your child is off sick from school with any of the above conditions, by going straight to your local pharmacy you can have a consultation with a trained clinical professional and receive advice and even medication if it is needed, meaning they could be on the road to recovery and back at school as soon as possible.

The majority of Leicestershire community pharmacies offer the Pharmacy First service. Remember – if your child has an ear ache, sore throat, impetigo symptoms or suspected infected insect bite think

Pharmacy First!

For more info on community pharmacy services visit www.leicestershire-rutland.communitypharmacy.org.uk

Attendance

At Eyres Monsell Primary School, our attendance target for all children is 96%. All children will have some days of absence due to illness; it is highly important that they're in school and ready for learning on days that they're medically well; if you are not sure if they are well enough you can refer to the NHS guidance online called 'is my child well enough for school?'

If you're struggling with before and after school arrangements, please get in contact as we now offer both a breakfast and after school care. We want to work with families to ensure your children are in school and striving to reach their potential each and every day. The government has announced changes to penalty notice charges which came into play from the 19th August 2024, which we will be following as a school. If there is anything we can do to support you with your child's attendance, please get into contact with Mr Dowsing would will be able to support with this.

Autumn Half Term 1 Diary Dates



Please see the important diary dates below. As we know, things sometimes change due to unforeseen circumstances, and we will do our best to give you as much notice as possible about any upcoming changes.

Date	Event
Monday 10th November	Odd Socks Day—Anti Bullying Week
Wednesday 12th November	Y3—Bradgate Park trip
Friday 14th November	Children in Need Day—dress up
Monday 17th November	SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS—INSET DAY
Thursday 20th November	Y2—Selly Manor trip Reception Open Day for prospective parents (booking required)
Monday 24th November	Christmas Decorations Day (EYFS & KS1 parents welcome to join in)
Friday 5th December	EYFS and Branches—Curve theatre trip
w/c Monday 8th December	Reception Nativity (timings and dates to be confirmed)
Wednesday 10th December	Y1&Y2—Curve theatre trip
Thursday 11th December	Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 12th December	Winter Disco (timings in the newsletter)
Monday 15th December	Rocksteady concert to parents and whole school (timings to be confirmed by Rocksteady)
Wednesday 17th December	Y5—Beaumanor Hall trip
Thursday 18th December	Christmas Dinner Day
Friday 19th December	Look in on Learning Event 12—1pm (optional 1pm finish) END OF TERM
Tuesday 6th January	Spring Term 1 begins