EASTLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2026

It has been lovely to welcome everyone back to school this week. We hope families enjoyed the half-term break and would like to wish a Happy Diwali to all of those who are celebrating.

November is shaping up to be another busy month at Eastlands. We have TLCs taking place next week, during November activities linked to both Road Safety Week and Anti-Bullying Week, and an exciting visit from children's poet Andy Tooze, who will be inspiring pupils across the school.
Our much-loved Story Explorers Workshops return for EYFS parents, and we are also looking forward to seeing some of our children represent Eastlands as the Cross Country Heats get underway.

Although Christmas may still seem a little way off, staff preparations are already beginning! Children can look forward to pantomimes, Rocksteady concerts and Christmas play performances, with rehearsals starting shortly in readiness for the festive season.

As the darker mornings and evenings are now with us, please take extra care when travelling to and from school. If your child cycles to school, we encourage families to ensure their bike is fitted with working lights and reflectors so they can be seen clearly and stay safe.

Term Dates:

Wednesday 11th November - Flu Vaccinations
Wednesday 11th & Thursday 12th November - Termly Learning Conferences (TLCs 3:30 - 6pm)
Friday 13th November -Children in Need - yellow or spotty clothing
Friday 20th November Year 2 Celebration Assembly
Friday 27th November Year 1 Celebration Assembly
Tuesday 1st December Rock Steady performance 2:30pm
Tuesday 1st December Year R & Nursery Theatre visitors in school am
Wednesday 2nd December Y1 -Y6 visit the Belgrade - Beauty and the Beast Panto
Friday 4th December PSA Christmas Raffle - coloured boxes/non uniform day
Monday 14th December EYFS Christmas Performance 9:15am
Monday 14th December Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Performance 2pm
Tuesday 15th December Year 1 and 2 Christmas Performance 9:15am
Tuesday 15th December Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Performance - 2pm
Friday 18th December last day in school.

Empowering & Preparing for Success in a changing world.

Attendance

October attendance- Whole school - **97.5%**

R– 94.5%
Y1– 98.5%
Y2–98.3%
Y3– 98.3%
Y4–97.7%
Y5– 97.6%
Y6– 97.6%

Overall attendance for the Whole school was averaging at **97.4%**
This is **just above** our Target of **96%** which is fabulous. Please help us to keep this % high or higher yet by ensuring your child's attendance is good or better.

To all our children who celebrate their birthdays in **November**
Rec- Noah, Layla, Logan, Adam, Dexter
Yr 1-Birdie, Jacob, Amogh
Yr 2-Samarth, Aadam
Yr 3-Florence
Yr 4-Felicity
Yr 5- Imani, Ellie, Maveesh
Yr 6- Heidi, Leo, Durphine, Amelie, Yashwanth, Greyson.

Time to say Goodbye

Next week, we will be saying goodbye to Kate Hinchcliffe, our Learning Mentor and valued member of our school Inclusion Team. Over the past few years, Kate has made a significant contribution to Eastlands, supporting many children and families with care, compassion and dedication. Kate is leaving to take up an exciting new role as an Family Support Worker with Children and Family Services in Warwickshire County Council, a position in which we know she will continue to make a positive difference to the lives of children and families. On behalf of the whole school community, we would like to thank Kate for all she has done for Eastlands and wish her every success and happiness in her new career. We know she will be greatly missed by staff and children alike.





Next Friday (13th November), Eastlands will be supporting BBC Children in Need as part of a fundraising event chosen and organised by our School Council. Children in Need raises money to support disadvantaged children and young people across the UK, helping to fund services and opportunities that make a real difference to their lives. We are proud that our School Councillors have taken the lead in explaining how our school can contribute to this worthwhile cause in this week's assembly.

To join in, on Friday, children are invited to come to school wearing something **yellow, something spotty, or both!** We would be grateful for a voluntary donation (suggested £1) towards Children in Need, and every contribution, no matter how small, will help make a difference. Throughout the day, children will enjoy taking part in the 26-Step Strictly Dance Challenge and watching the CBeebies Read & Rave assembly - live from The British Library.
We hope it will be a fantastic day full of fun, dancing and laughter and we thank you in advance for your support in helping us make a difference together.



Remembrance Day



On Wednesday 11 November, we will be marking Remembrance Day in school as an opportunity to remember and honour the men and women who have served, and continue to serve, in the Armed Forces. We do have a few past EPS children who have gone on to join the various armed services. Through a whole-school assembly and classroom discussions, we will help children understand why Remembrance Day is important and encourage them to reflect on the values of courage, sacrifice and service shown by so many throughout history.

Thank you to everyone who supported our recent Poppy Appeal before half term on behalf of the Royal British Legion. Your generosity has helped raise valuable funds that support serving personnel, veterans and their families, and we know that this money will be put to good use. We still have a small number of paper poppies available in school, so if your child would like one for Remembrance Day, please encourage them to speak to their class teacher before Wednesday. We look forward to coming together as a school community to remember those who have given so much in service to others.



Our TLCs - A Teaching & Learning Conference

Next week we will be holding our Teaching and Learning Conferences (TLCs) on Wednesday and Thursday from 3:30pm to 6:00pm. These meetings take place each Autumn and Spring term and are an important opportunity for parents, children and teachers to come together to discuss learning and progress. Each appointment lasts for 10 minutes, and although that time can pass very quickly, it provides a valuable opportunity to celebrate successes and discuss how your child has settled into their new year group.

We encourage, and it really helps, when all children attend alongside their parent or carer, as the TLCs are very much a shared conversation. During the meeting, you will have the opportunity to talk together about how your child is progressing both academically and socially, look through some of their work and gain a better understanding of the expectations for the year ahead.

Working together as a partnership between home and school helps us ensure that every child has the best possible start to their new school year and they continue to thrive throughout the year. We look forward to welcoming you and celebrating all that your child has already achieved this term.



We would like to thank our wonderful Parents' and Staff Association (PSA) for all the hard work they continue to do to support our school. Unfortunately, due to dwindling numbers within the PSA, the traditional Christmas Fayre, which was due to take place on Friday 4 December, will no longer be able to go ahead this year. We know this event is enjoyed by many families and appreciate that this news may be disappointing.



The PSA is, however, very keen for the much-loved Christmas Raffle to continue. Our raffle boxes have become something of an Eastlands tradition and are a fantastic way of raising much-needed funds for the children in our school. Raffle tickets will be coming home with children shortly, and we would be grateful if families could take a look and support the appeal if they are able. The planned non-uniform day on Friday 4 December will still take place, and children are invited to bring in items for the raffle boxes on that day.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents, carers and members of the PSA, past and present, for their continued support. The money raised genuinely makes a difference to the opportunities and resources we can provide for our children. Last year, the PSA donated over £5,000, which enabled us to purchase a complete new set of Read Write Inc. phonics books. This year, they have already contributed more than £4,000 towards new books for our school library, helping to foster a love of reading across the school.

Finally, if you feel you could spare a little time, share an idea, lend a helping hand or bring a particular skill to the group, we would love to hear from you. The PSA is a fantastic team of volunteers whose efforts benefit every child at Eastlands, and new members are always warmly welcomed. Together, we can ensure this valuable support continues for many years to come.





Attendance



At Eastlands, we are incredibly fortunate to have such supportive families who recognise the importance of children being in school every day. Thanks to the commitment of our children, parents and staff, our attendance figure for 2025-26 was an impressive **96.1%,** which is significantly above the national average. As a result of this success, Governors have raised our whole-school attendance target from 95.5% to **96%** this year. While this may seem a small increase, maintaining attendance above 96% across an entire school is a considerable achievement, and one that we know can only be achieved through our continued partnership with families.

Of course, attendance can be affected by factors beyond our control. Last year, seasonal illnesses, coughs, colds, sickness bugs and even periods of exceptionally hot weather all had an impact. As part of our work with our School Improvement Adviser, our attendance team recently completed a detailed review of attendance patterns from last year. Interestingly, we found that attendance dipped during several weeks at the end of November and beginning of December, largely due to a higher-than-usual number of absences caused by fevers, sickness and common winter illnesses. Identifying these trends has enabled us to think carefully about what we can do to help reduce their impact this year.

One of the ways we are responding is through education and prevention. We are delighted to be welcoming Dr Daniel Cowen, from the Public Health Team at Warwickshire County Council, to work with our Key Stage 2 children later this month. Alongside Dr Jonathan Youngs, they will deliver a series of engaging sessions covering important health topics including antibiotics and antimicrobial resistance, vaccinations, and hand hygiene. These lessons form part of the nationally recognised e-Bug programme, supported by the UK Health Security Agency, and are designed to help children understand how simple actions can help prevent the spread of illness. We will also be delivering age-appropriate assemblies and activities for our EYFS and Key Stage 1 children focusing on effective handwashing and healthy habits.

Alongside this educational work, we are also increasing the hours of our cleaning team to further support the health and wellbeing of our school community during the winter months. While we know that children should absolutely stay at home when they are genuinely unwell, we also want to support families in making informed decisions about attendance. If you are ever unsure whether your child is too ill for school, the NHS provides helpful guidance, including advice on common childhood illnesses and when children can safely return to school. Parents may find the following resources useful:

- NHS: Is my child too ill for school? Guidance for parents [https://ww...or-school/
- Department for Education: Top tips for keeping your child healthy and in school Read more [https://ed...hy-school/]
- Handwashing and hygiene video: Watch here [https://ww...i5KxggkPTw]

Together, we can continue to ensure that Eastlands' children benefit from every possible learning opportunity. Every day in school matters, and with your continued support, we hope to achieve another fantastic year of attendance. Thank you.