



# Eyrescroft Primary School



## Newsletter February Half Term 2026

### NEWS FROM MISS DINES

At Eyrescroft, we have had a fantastic start to 2026 with the half term ending with a fun filled disco!

This half term, I have spent a lot of time looking at children's books across a range of subjects to ensure they are making the expected progress. Part of this has been done with an external visitor. The biggest strength of these books is how they demonstrate how incredibly hard our children work. The children really do engage with their learning and try their very best. I hope all the children have a well earned rest this half term!

### LOOKING AHEAD

Next half term, we have lots of exciting events planned in school, including World Book Day and Red Nose Day in March. We will be dressing up for Red Nose Day, therefore we will not dress up for World Book Day. We will send out more information about both events after half term.

### ARBOR PARENT PORTAL / APP

Thank you to you all for signing up to the new Arbor Parent Portal and App. We will be using this for as much communication as possible so please make sure you check it daily for any updates / messages. **After half term we will be using the portal for Parents Evening appointments. You will need to book your own appointments with your child's teacher.**

**We have also now transferred payments over to Arbor from ParentPay for Trips. There will be a short time where both Arbor Payments and ParentPay will both run together which will hopefully make the transition smooth. From today please make sure all confirmation of attendance for trips and payments are done using the Arbor Payments on your Arbor portal / App.**

**Breakfast club payments will also change to Arbor. You will have to use your Arbor Portal /App to Book Breakfast Club and pay. Booking for Breakfast Club MUST be made via Arbor Portal/App and it will not allow you to book a space if payment is not made. If you currently have a balance on ParentPay for Breakfast Club this needs to be used up by Friday 13th Feb 2026. (Bookings which have already been made for the rest of this week and have already been paid on ParentPay will not need to be booked on Arbor and honoured). Any balance left after this time will be refunded from ParentPay back to yourselves.**

**Any bookings and payments starting from Monday 23rd February MUST be made in advance on the Arbor Portal / App.**

**We know that there are a lot of changes happening at the moment and obviously understand that it may be confusing. If you have any questions at all please do not hesitate to call or pop into the school office who will be happy to help in any way they can.**

### SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**16th - 20th February** - Half term

**5th March** - World Book Day

**20th March** - Red Nose Day

**30th March - 10th April** - Easter Holidays

**13th April** school closed -

Professional teacher training day

**4th May** - Bank Holiday, School closed

**25th - 29th May** - Half Term

**17th July** - Last Day of Term

### UPCOMING VISITS / WORKSHOPS IN SCHOOL

**5th March** - EYFS History Off the Page (Fairytale Castle)

**9th March** - Year 4 Peterborough Cathedral (Anglo Saxon Day)

**10th March** - Year 1 Bretton Baptist Church

**12th March** - Year 4 Beatles Singing Day at The Cresset

**21st April** - Year 3 Flag Fen

**29th April** - EYFS Wild Science (Mini beasts)

**19th May** - Year 1 Ferry Meadows

**4th June** - Year 2 History Off the Page (Coronation Day)

**15th to 18th June** Year 6 York Residential



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### ATTENDANCE AWARDS

We are now celebrating a Weekly Class Attendance Award for KS1 and KS2.

There is also an award for the KS1 and KS2 Class Attendance for each Half Term and Year so far.

**The winners for the forth half term were**

**KS1 - 1HJ 96.36%**

**KS2 - 4CS 97.06%**



**The winners for the year so far were**

**KS1 - 1HJ**

**KS2 - 4CS Well Done!**

### LEARNING IN EYFS

EYFS were very lucky to have a visit from our local police station. We have been learning all about people who help us in our community. We asked lots of questions to find out about how the police help us. We even got to listen and see the police siren on the police van! We had a great time learning all about how police help us.



Superhero Day - EYFS enjoyed coming to school dressed as real life Superheroes and fictional superheroes. During the day we completed different Superhero themed activities and challenges and each child created their very own Supertato!



### NUMBER DAY

Inspired by Donald Crews' Ten Black Dots', EYFS children explored how different pictures and patterns can be created using varying numbers of black dots.

KS1 and KS2 pupils used their understanding of the four operations—addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division—along with their logical thinking to solve multi-step word problems and explain the reasoning behind their answers. The whole school also participated in NSPCC Times Tables challenge and competed against other school across the UK.

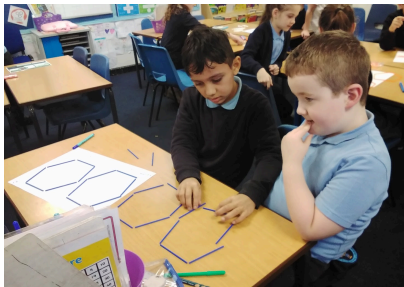




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### YEAR 5 - BURGHLEY HOUSE

Year 5 had a wonderful visit to Burghley House on Thursday 15th January. We started off the day by meeting Queen Victoria who told us about her life and times she's visited Burghley. Then we had a mini tour of the house and learnt about the kitchen and bell room. We also had a short presentation about the servants who worked at Burghley and what they were expected to do. After lunch, we looked at a range of Victorian artefacts and thought about what they were used for. We were very surprised at some of the uses! Finally we played parlour games, this was our favourite part of the day! We learnt that the royal family today still play these parlour games every christmas with their children!



### FOOD PARCELS

As a school we have the facility to provide food parcels to families who feel they could benefit from this. The parcels are available to ALL families every 2 weeks and you do not need to be claiming any benefits to be eligible. If you feel you could benefit from a food parcel please call or pop into the school office.



### PARKING

Please can we remind parents / carers to not park in the school carpark. The carpark is for staff only.



### SAFETY

When arriving and leaving the school premises please make sure you are using the pathway and not walking through the car park. The car park is in use at all times and can be especially busy at the beginning and end of the school day.

### MOBILE PHONES

A reminder, if you feel your child needs a phone e.g. they walk to and from school alone, then you must complete a permission form. All phones that come into school must be handed to the class teacher at the start of the day. The school accepts no responsibility for them once they are here.





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### NATIONAL YEAR OF READING

2026 is the National Year of Reading. The campaign has been launched - by the National Literacy Trust - to respond to the national challenge - fewer children, young people and adults are choosing to read in their free time. Only 1 in 3, 8-18 year olds enjoy reading according to a recent NLT survey and 1 in 5 are reading daily. The campaign's tagline is 'Go All In' and is a year-long national drive to make reading visible, valued and embedded. The aim is to embed reading for pleasure in every classroom. At Eyrescroft, we have been working on this since we engaged with the Open University's Reading for Pleasure program in 2022 and in a recent survey 82% of our children have told us they enjoy reading. That's closer to 4 in 5 enjoying reading and all of our children are reading every day in school. We will continue to promote reading in school, but also want to support you in engaging with reading at home. Last term, we held a book fair and this year we will be sending out newsletters and other information to support reading at home



### ATTENDANCE

Our attendance target is 96% and currently we have 94.75%. It is important that children are in school. We often teach in learning journeys with a sequence of sessions that follow one another, so missing days leaves gaps in learning alongside this, school helps to develop social skills and build friendships.

Please only request leave of absence in exceptional circumstances (not for holidays) and do so in advance. Please book any medical appointments around the school day where possible.

If you are having problems with getting your child into school, please contact your child's class teacher or Mrs Sibthorpe and we will work to support you.

We know that children get ill and sometimes this means they need to stay at home to get better and rest. If you are unsure whether to keep your child at home if they are feeling poorly, here is a link to current NHS guidance.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

**WE HAVE HAD A LARGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN ARRIVING AND BEING COLLECTED LATE.**

**PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT CHILDREN ARRIVE ON TIME. REMEMBER THE DOORS TO THE CLASSROOMS OPEN AT 8:40AM. CHILDREN SHOULD ARRIVE NO LATER THAN 8:50AM.**

**SCHOOL FINISHES AT 3:15PM. CHILDREN SHOULD BE COLLECTED FROM CLASSROOMS AT 3:15PM.**

### PE KIT REMINDER

We have had a number of children wearing hoodies with inappropriate logos or images on PE days.

Can we remind you that the PE kit uniform should be a white T-shirt, Navy or black shorts or joggers and a plain navy or black jumper with no logo.

