



# PTCPS Newsletter



Issue 2

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

After the very welcoming sunshine we are now being prepared for the slightly wetter morning drop offs and collections. The large puddle which forms outside was a somewhat unexpected surprise for me this week! Now that we have experienced the splash I am sure we will all be more prepared as I am sure this will become an added feature. The speed on the road also remains a concern. I have contacted East Sussex Highways and Sussex Police and will inform you of their responses. Please help us by reinforcing road safety rules with your children, thank you.

Thank you for those of you who are wearing face coverings whilst dropping off and collecting. As a school we are working hard to ensure we are doing everything possible to help everyone feel safe and remain well.

Now that all pupils have returned to school and the one-way system is embedded as a successful system the gates will open at 8.35am. As I am sure you appreciate time is valuable especially before school to ensure teachers can brief support staff on provision for the day. Therefore, please only arrive, at the earliest at **8.35am** to avoid long queues on the pavement. The gates will close at **8.55am** giving all families a 20 minute window to drop off safely.

Collection times remain as **3.05pm** for Beech (R/Y1) and Hazel (Y2/3) and **3.15pm** for Oak (Y4/5) and Elm (Y5/6). If you have children who are in the 3.05pm collection and have siblings higher up the school please come at roughly 3.13/14pm to help ease the congestion.

When waiting in the courtyard area please keep to the left (where the arrows are) to ensure Pre-school and parents going straight through can do. Children must not climb on the pergola or sundial for safety reasons. Thank you

In light of the Governments ongoing updates please remain vigilant when using the park and field out of school hours.

The majority of families are now joined up to StudyBugs, this is our main form of communication with families. This allows us to monitor attendance directly with our school data base so it is crucial all families sign up. If your child is unwell please send a message to the office using StudyBugs to help us monitor illnesses. We will also send email communications e.g. newsletters, class information etc via this platform. Parent Pay is designed for payments for those having school lunches and Parent Mail is for the payments of uniform and any school outings.

### School Census Day:

This is on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October. As a school it really helps if as many pupils as possible have a Chartwells lunch on this day, this will ensure that we get the maximum amount of funding for the meals from the government.

The menu will swap with Thursdays menu however the menu selection will not change on Parent pay please let the teacher know what you would like your child to have. If you have already selected on parent pay we will swap the selections for you.

If your child has a school lunch, please remind them of what you have ordered as this helps their independence and service at lunchtime.

#### Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October

Fish Fillet & Chips  
Quorn Nuggets & Chips (v)  
Tomato Pasta (v)  
Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans  
or Tuna Mayo  
Peas  
Baked Beans  
Oatie Biscuit with Fruit Slices  
or Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt

#### Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

Veggie Sausage and Mash  
Tomato Pasta  
Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans or Tuna Mayo  
Sweetcorn and Carrots  
Chocolate Cake, Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt

#### Entitlement to Free School Meals:

The last few months have been unprecedented and many of our lives have changed in ways we could never have imagined. People have been made redundant and others furloughed often at very short notice. If you are on income support you may be entitled to Free School Meals.

To find out if you are entitled to this please visit the East Sussex County Council Website admissions page. This also includes KS1 and EYFS children. Even though they are entitled to Universal Infant Free School meals the school will benefit if you make an application for your Free school Meal entitlement.

This funding has a direct and positive impact on our school budget, so if your financial situation has changed we urge you to look into this for us.

#### Snacks and packed lunches:

Children may bring in fruit, vegetables or cereal bars (not covered in chocolate) for their mid-morning break. Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 pupils are provided with an additional free piece of fruit or vegetable on a daily basis.

#### PE lessons:

Thank you for sending children in in their PE kits on their PE days as the warmth starts to disappear (all too quickly) please ensure they are wearing their school cardigan/ jumper and/or fleece to help keep them warm. Obviously we still have to keep rooms well ventilated and we don't want to children to be cold, on their PE or non PE days so please provide school layers. If your child has their ears pierced, please can I remind you to send in micropore tape so they can cover their earrings, alternatively please keep earrings out (if this is safe to do so) on your PE days.

#### Harvest:

Harvest will undoubtedly look very different this year. As a school the children will work together in their classes to understand the importance of Harvest and will work in classes to share a poem, song etc... We will then compile a recording to share with families. Mrs Saunders will send an additional consent form asking for your permission for this to be shared with Punnetts Town families. We recognise that some families may not want their children to be included, and that is respected. All children will still learn about Harvest and the presentation and then for filming will not play a visible role.

This year we will be asking for donations of tins and dried food which we will be donating to Hailsham Food Bank. We will have collection boxes out of the front of the school in the courtyard on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October before our celebration on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October.

### Reading:

After such a long absence from school it is fantastic to have the children back at school. Our school library is now in the newly renovated and decorated atrium. This is to promote the school and everyone in its love and emersion into books, from the minute they step into the school. It has been lovely to listen to their enjoyment when reading on their own, in small groups and as classes. As we all know Reading is so important and due to Covid restrictions I cannot encourage volunteer readers into school. So now, more than ever I appeal to you all to please read regularly (every night, if possible) to help strengthen and extend their reading skills. We are sending books home with the yellow reading records and urge you to add comments to help inform the staff at school. Adults will be washing hands before and after contact with the books that are coming home to you.

### Parent Forum:

The parent forum encourages feedback from the parent body through appointed class representatives. If you would be interested in becoming your child's class representative, please email Mrs Saunders via StudyBugs to express and interest. This involves a termly meeting with myself and the representatives to share any parent questions and offer suggestions to the school.

### Music Lessons:

Our Woodwind teacher, Mrs Freeman, has some space to for our pupils to start Flute or Clarinet lessons. The lessons take place in small groups during school time, or online if they can't be offered in school. The lessons are for children in years 4, 5, 6, and there is assistance with fees for families in financial need. For more information and to apply please click here:

<https://www.eastsussexmusic.org/>

After a letter full of requests and messages I am delighted to now share the work that your wonderful children have been immersed in for the last two weeks.

### Class updates:

#### Beech class



I will like to extend a warm welcome to our new EYFS pupils and their families. They have all settled into school amazingly well and are certainly enjoying being at Punnetts Town. The year 1 pupils are certainly rising to the occasion and it is heart-warming listening to our youngest members of the school walking past my office discussing the rules with a wave as they go! I would also like to say well done and thank you to the support of our new parents, never has a school drop off been so clinical but the children have settled in beautifully.

Beech class have been talking about our feelings and emotions and thinking about how we can recognise how other people are showing their feelings and if we can help them.

### Hazel class

#### Ahoy Captain Cook!

Hazel class had a very exciting visitor from no other than Captain Cook! He came to visit our class and we were able to ask his questions using information we had read and researched. We asked him all about his life, the names of the parts of his ships, and the different countries he found and visited. He had some good answers! We have then used this information to write up our own fact file about him. We are working hard to finish them and will then display some of them in our classroom. We have then used an atlas to find the different countries in the World he sailed to and found. We are working to show these on a map.



### Oak Class

Oak have completed their self-portraits and have thought about words that show their qualities. These are now on display in the hall for other children and adults, to see if they can work out who's who. We have also been looking at objects from the past and have been developing our sketching skills through observational drawing, which we will add to as we 'travel through time'.

Our food tasting was enjoyed by all:  
we had some interesting facial expressions and generated some super verbs and adjectives we can use in our writing.



### Elm class

This week in Elm we have been focused on hyphens and using them to avoid ambiguity in English. We have had lots of fun with a man eating shark or was it a man-eating shark. anyway lots of fun was had.

In maths we have been doing our 3 times table and looking at addition and how to represent this in different mathematical ways to solve the calculation.

In topic work we had a time jump to WW2 and looked at the anniversary of The Blitz and discussed life during the war. We drew artefacts from the war and developed our drawing skills. On Thursday we time travelled to the 1960's and looked at pop art where the children produced a self-portrait in collage. It was very colourful, very messy and very funny. The results have been put in the hall for all the children to see.



### Punnetts Town Friends Association

This week the children enjoyed a gingerbread man given by The Friends of Punnetts Town (PTA) as a welcome gift. The Friends support the school by fundraising throughout the year and these funds are then used towards purchasing learning materials and improving the facilities and the school environment.

Can we remind you to return the completed templates for the Christmas cards recently sent home if you would like your child's artwork design on your Christmas cards this year. Mr Agates class has already completed these in class.

The Friends have set up their own dedicated PTA Events page which can be reached by clicking here:

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofpunnettstown>

All parents/carers are members of the PTA and it would be wonderful if the Friends could keep in touch with you easily and let you know of any events or activities that are running or that are coming in the near future. Fundraising is challenging at the moment and we would really appreciate your support of the Friends at this difficult time.

The Annual General Meeting will be coming up soon (November) and will be held by Zoom. More details will follow so please keep a look out for ways in which you can join the PTA.

If you have any queries or need any help, please email: [friendsofpunnettstown@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofpunnettstown@gmail.com)

### Star of the week:

These are awarded by the classroom staff based on pupil's attitude to learning, behaviour, effort and progress throughout the week.

This week I am delighted to have presented these certificates to Flynn in Elm, Finn in Oak, Charis in Hazel and Griff in Beech. Well done to you all!

Thank you once again for your patience and support.

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend

Kind regards

Mrs Claire Kinsella  
Acting Headteacher  
Punnetts Town Community Primary School