# Eastern Green Junior School

7th November 2025 – Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a fantastic first week back at school! The children have returned with great energy and enthusiasm, and we've already had some exciting moments, including our Year 6 pupils taking part in Sports-hall Athletics. Huge shout out to Mrs Pearson-Dodd who works tirelessly to provide these opportunities for our children.

There's a real buzz in school as we begin the run-up to Christmas, and we're already thinking ahead to our festive performances. Please do make a note of these in your diaries – the office will be in touch soon with details about how to secure tickets.

Sadly, we also need to share that the Eastern Green Junior School PTA is now coming to an end. Despite our best efforts, only one new parent attended the AGM this week, and without a larger committee, it is not possible to continue. We are incredibly grateful for all the support and creativity parents have contributed over the years. The remaining PTA funds will continue to support trips and activities this year, and if any parents wish to restart the PTA in future, we would be happy to support that process. I have included the communication that was sent out regarding this at the end of the newsletter.

As the weather turns colder, please ensure your child comes to school with a proper coat – not just a fleece – and that their PE kit is in school every week. Outdoor PE continues throughout the winter, so kits should include dark jogging bottoms and a warm fleece.

Please also see information below about uniform – all children should be in correct EGJS uniform now including tie and shirt – this is our correct uniform which is only relaxed in summer months for warmer weather.

**There is an important meeting on Monday for parents of children in Year 4 regarding the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC). We encourage you to attend to learn more about how we're preparing the children and how you can support at home. I have included information below about why times tables are absolutely vital and why the children need to learn them – all of them – by the end of Year 4. Please do have a read!** 😊

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to another great week ahead.

Ms Brown

Headteacher

# Diary Dates

Monday 10th November – Assessment Week for Years 3, 4 and 5

**Year 4 parents meeting in the hall at 3.45pm – if your child is in Year 4 please be sure to attend this – *vital information regarding the Year 4 Multiplication Check in June***

Tuesday 11th November – Open Morning for Reception families and Parents of Year 2 children

Wednesday 12th November - ***Panathlon competition at the Xcel centre 9.30-11.45***

Wednesday 12th November **New date for our Bring and Buy Sale! Do come to school at 3.30 with some pounds and pennies for our Bring and Buy Sale in the school hall!**

Friday 14th November – Come to school in your pyjamas for Children in Need! Donations gratefully received for the charity

Monday 17th November – Year 6 Height and Weight Checks by the school nursing team

Year 6 SATS information evening – if you have a child in Year 6 this event is **vital** – 3.40pm in the school hall

Tuesday 18th November - ***Y3/4 girls football at the AT7 centre 3.45-5pm***

Wednesday 19th November – Year 4 have a visit from West Midlands Fire Service

Friday 21st November – Year 3 visit to The Herbert Art Gallery, Year 5 Coding workshop

Monday 1st December- ***Y4 Dodgeball competition at the Alan Higgs centre***

Thursday 4th December – Whole School Dress Rehearsal for the Christmas Performance

Tuesday 9th December – 3.45 pm – Christmas After School Performance

Wednesday 10th December – 10am – Christmas piano concert – parents of children having piano/ keyboard lessons are invited to watch

Christmas Afternoon Performance and Christmas dinner day

Please do encourage your child to have a Christmas dinner from the school kitchen – our Christmas dinners are delicious!

Friday 12th December – Rock Steady concert at 2pm – Parents of children accessing Rock Steady Music Lessons invited into school

Wednesday 17th – Thursday 18th December – Children invited to wear their Christmas jumpers to school on these two days **with their school uniform!**

Thursday 18th December – Christmas crafts day

Friday 19th December – Christmas toy / party day – **full non-uniform** - bring a board game or a non-electronic toy to play with your friends

As we move into the colder months, all pupils should now be wearing **our full school uniform**. Please ensure that **summer uniform items such as polo shirts, summer dresses, and shorts are not worn until after the Easter break**. This is not the correct uniform and is only permitted when the weather requires it.

👦 **Boys Winter Uniform:**

- Grey trousers
- White shirt
- School tie
- Grey socks
- Grey sweater
- Black shoes

👧 **Girls Winter Uniform:**

- Grey skirt, trousers, or pinafore dress
- White blouse
- School tie
- Grey sweater or cardigan
- Grey tights or white socks
- Black, flat shoes

In Celebration Assembly each week, two pupils from each class are chosen to receive a Headteacher's Award and a Values Award. These awards are for pupils who consistently demonstrate our school values, *or* demonstrate to the teacher something exceptional that week that deserves recognition.

## This week's Headteacher Award and Values Award Winners are:

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| Year 3 | 3J | | 3C | |
| | Ariella | Osian | Ella | Henry |
| Year 4 | 4BC | | 4C | |
| | Blake | Helena | Martha | Harriet |
| Year 5 | 5LA | | 5C | |
| | Erica | Maisie | Ayaan | Alahna |
| Year 6 | 6PS | | 6M | |
| | Joel | Kenny | Oscar C | Jude M |

## Kind Hearts Award

Each week the children and staff are invited to nominate a 'Kind Hearts' winner – these are children who consistently show our school values and whose actions are infused with kindness, empathy and love in all of their interactions – there is a nomination folder where our school community are encouraged to recommend someone who has been kind in some way to their friends and school family.

**This week's Kind Hearts Winner is Keegan in Year 3 who was nominated for being such a lovely, kind and supportive classmate**

## Lunchtime Award

Each week the midday team are invited to nominate a 'Lunchtime Award' winner – these are children who consistently show our school values and behave beautifully at lunchtime, both in the school dining hall and out on the playground.

Our **Lunchtime Award Winner** this week is Taite in Year 5 - We are so proud of you! You have been spotted showing beautiful manners and respectful behaviours at all times at lunchtime! 😊

## 🧠 Year 4 Multiplication Check & The Importance of Times Tables

As part of the national curriculum, all Year 4 pupils will take the **Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)** — a short online assessment designed to ensure children can recall their times tables up to 12 × 12 quickly and accurately. This check is not just a test; it's a vital milestone in your child's mathematical journey.

**Why Are Times Tables So Important?**

Rapid recall of multiplication facts is **essential** for success in upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6). Many mathematical concepts rely heavily on knowing times tables fluently. Without this foundation, children can struggle to keep up with more complex ideas, as their working memory becomes overloaded trying to calculate basic facts.

Here are just a few areas where times tables are pivotal:

- **Fractions**: Simplifying, comparing, and finding equivalent fractions all require multiplication and division.
- **Percentages**: Calculating percentages of amounts (e.g. 25% of 240) depends on knowing multiplication facts.
- **Ratio and Proportion**: Understanding and solving problems involving scaling and sharing quantities.
- **Area and Perimeter**: Especially for rectangles and compound shapes.
- **Volume**: Calculating volume of cuboids (length × width × height).
- **Long Multiplication and Division**: These methods are built on solid times tables knowledge.
- **Algebra**: Solving equations and understanding patterns often involves multiplication.

**Working Memory Matters**

When children know their times tables by heart, they free up their working memory to focus on problem-solving and reasoning. If they don't, they may fall behind - not because they can't understand the concepts, but because they're slowed down by basic calculations.

**How Can Parents Help?**

Every child has access to **Times Tables Rock Stars**, a fun and engaging platform to practise multiplication facts. We strongly encourage parents to support their children in using this regularly.

- **By the end of Year 4**, children should know all their times tables up to 12 × 12.
- If your child is still working on this, it's **crucial** to continue supporting them through **Year 5 and Year 6 as without them, they will struggle as mathematical concepts get harder when they make the transition to secondary school**.

Mastering times tables is one of the most powerful ways to boost your child's confidence and success in maths. Thank you for your continued support!

Mrs Lawless – Maths Leader EGJS

***Please read this communication that went out this week about our school PTA.***

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with great sadness that we must inform you that the Eastern Green Junior School PTA has now come to an end. Unfortunately, due to a lack of support and interest, we are unable to continue. At our AGM meeting last night, only one new parent attended, and without a larger committee, it is not possible to keep the PTA running. This means that, sadly, there will no longer be PTA-run events such as the children's discos, themed evenings like Roald Dahl Night or Bedtime Stories, and other special occasions that have brought so much joy to the children over the years.

The current PTA funds will continue to support school trips and activities for the remainder of this school year, ensuring that the children still benefit from your previous generosity and efforts.

It is truly the end of an era - the PTA has been part of our school community for many years, and we are so grateful for all the enthusiasm, creativity, and hard work that parents have contributed to that time. We have loved seeing the excitement on the children's faces at our events and are proud of everything we have achieved together. If, in the future, parents wish to start up a new PTA group, we would be delighted to offer our support and guidance to help get it going again. Please do not hesitate to speak to us if this is something you would be interested in. Thank you to everyone who has been involved and supported us over the years - your contributions have made a real difference.

Kind regards,

Eastern Green Junior School PTA

## Hot School Dinners – Your Support Really Matters

We'd like to remind families of the importance of supporting our school meal service by choosing hot dinners for your child—ideally at least once a week. Our school meals are freshly prepared, balanced, and designed to give children the energy and nutrition they need to thrive throughout the day. They're also a great way to introduce children to a variety of foods and flavours in a warm, social setting with their peers.

There's no need to pre-order—just choose a day that works for your child and let them enjoy a tasty, wholesome meal. Every hot dinner selected helps us keep the service running and affordable for everyone. Without enough uptake, it becomes increasingly difficult to sustain the catering provision, which could impact the variety and quality of meals we're able to offer in future.

We know that routines and preferences vary, but even one hot meal a week can make a big difference. Thank you for your continued support in helping us provide healthy, accessible meals for all our pupils.