

King Edwin Primary School



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Tuesday 22nd September 2020

Various 'bits n' bobs'

Photographs

On **Tuesday 29th September** our annual individual photographs will be taken by Wrates Photographers. We know that families like a little reminder as they want the children to look their very best on the day. We will **not be offering sibling photographs this year** due to COVID 19 procedures.

Our procedures for taking the photographs this year are as follows:

- Children will remain in their bubbles at all times during the day
- The photographer will not come within 3 metres of any child
- The photographs will take place in the hall - a very well ventilated room
- Seats will be sanitised after photographs and all classes will sanitise before and afterwards
- Between each bubbles set of photographs... extra cleaning will take place

We are very disappointed that we cannot offer sibling photographs this year but hopefully there will be an opportunity to make this happen before the academic year is out. If you have any further questions regarding school photographs, please contact the school office.

Physical Education - Earrings

At King Edwin Primary School we believe that all children should take part in games, swimming and PE lessons as part of our broad and balanced school curriculum. Only if there is a clear medical reason would a child be exempt from participating in physical activity.

If your child is unable to take part through illness or injury, please inform your child's class teacher via email. It is helpful if we are given as much notice with this so as to work with you and achieve the best outcome for the child...sometimes we can adapt to keep a child active and find ways to participate safely.

It is our policy, as in most schools, to discourage the wearing of jewellery at school. We wish to avoid unnecessary and potentially dangerous accidents. Children who wear stud earrings at school will be asked to remove them for swimming and physical education. If they cannot remove the jewellery, we ask parents to do so on the day that the child has PE. Plasters over earrings will not be allowed.

We recommend that children with long hair, tie it up for PE lessons with a bobble, plait or band. It is helpful if a parent can do this for our younger KingEdwinners...especially at the moment as staff are not really encouraged to get close to children or 'tie their hair back' for obvious reasons.

Parents are asked to ensure that children who need medication or inhalers for asthma, have them in school with clear written instructions and they should be available at all times, particularly for PE lessons and swimming.

It is essential that parents provide appropriate clothing, footwear and equipment for their children. If a parent has any difficulty providing this, please contact the school and we will see if we can support in any way possible.

Your child's PE Kit should be in school on the appropriate day. All children's clothing should be named.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding anything in this letter, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



Packed Lunches

A few parents have contacted me to ask about if there are any changes in lunch time arrangements at school. Hopefully this communication will reassure all parents that there have been very few changes this year that could impact the children's lunch experience in school.

- Each class has their own midday supervisor
- Year groups stay in a bubble at lunch when they go out to play
- There is no movement from class to class or from class to hall during lunch (this saves the children significant time compared to usual arrangements)
- Younger classes have started their lunch a few minutes early to help get in to a routine so early in the term
- Midday supervisors encourage children to eat but do not force them to eat everything
- Children typically have at least 20-25 minutes allocated to eat their lunch with a further 20 minutes suggested for play time (these times are flexible as some children can take a while to eat)
- Children are allowed to go out to play as a group if they feel they have finished their lunch (within reason obviously - some children are so desperate to go and play...they would skip lunch if they could!)
- Occasionally the odd child takes 40 minutes to eat and we try to support these children in this instance. It is not encouraged though as this reduces activity and has a negative impact on their time in school.

We have noticed that some children come with huge packed lunches and whilst this is a parent's choice ... it is worth looking at <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes> for advice and support with regards to a positive packed lunch meal.

To reiterate...we want children to be able to say 'I have had enough food' when they genuinely don't want any more. Equally, we want to sensitively encourage them a little when they are clearly not eating enough to help them be ready for learning in the afternoon.

If you are concerned about any lunch time arrangement or worried about the amount or lack of food your child eats during lunch breaks, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are always readying and willing to support wherever we can.

After School Clubs and Half Term Session

I am pleased to announce that our staff have decided to offer **many more clubs this term** as part of a bid to help children to catch up a little. There will be many clubs on offer as staff have volunteered to do one, two and even three sessions per week in some cases ... from phonics to football and yoga to maths.

We think that our clubs will add a further 30hours per week of education to our timetable. The broad mix of clubs will also help children to experience some new activities not yet tried before...I am personally going to look into the Yoga sessions! **Mrs Woodhead will send a letter later this week with further details.**

Our staff have also agreed to offer **two mornings of support on Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th October** (second week of half term). The sessions will begin at 9.15 and be completed by 12.15. Further details will be communicated in the next couple of weeks. We will try to allocate the sessions as fairly as possible. Once again, our intention is to add a little extra during what is clearly a challenging period of time for everyone.

I am particularly grateful to our staff for offering to go above and beyond to provide additional support during what is essentially their holiday. We very much hope that the little extra support will go some way to giving our children that additional time before they start back for the second half of the term.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Andy Callaghan-Wetton - Headteacher



