

Head Teachers Autumn 2019 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

There is nothing more exciting than a new school year, so I'd like to start by wishing you all a huge welcome back! An extra special welcome goes out to our new Year 3 parents and I look forward to meeting you all over the coming weeks.

At Ernevale we're always working hard to make our school the best place it can be to nurture and develop your children to their full potential. Whether that be through physical changes to the school building both inside and out or developing new learning ideas and making sure our curriculum offer is creative, exciting and meaningful!

One thing you may have noticed while standing in the playground is the new additions we've made to our outdoor environment. There are lots of new items to run around and play both in and on. There are also a few still in development! The children are thoroughly enjoying our new outdoor areas and it's amazing watching their creativity in action. These will create more all-weather playtime spaces, which is especially important as we head into autumn and winter. The lovely seating areas also help provide some shade and calm for those who want to sit and relax or have a chat with friends. As our school numbers continue to grow- we want playtime to be fun for everyone!



We've been wanting to update our play areas for a while and have been saving lots of different pots to do this including our sports money grant and the 'little extras' pot from the government. However, some of the main contributions have come from our amazing PFA and you. They're a fantastic group who tirelessly fundraise to support our school. If you fancy getting involved a little more this year do let them know because the children benefit so much from this. When you join in with any of their schemes from the Summer Fair to Pop up shops- this is what it can result in. So, thank you all!!

Outside, our garden plans continue to grow and thrive. We have moved the greenhouse and set up a new area for growing our veg. Our gardening team- lead by Mr Manchester are doing a fabulous job. The plants, flowers and vegetables are going from strength to strength and I am sure you have noticed how colourful the front of school is too. During the summer months we feasted on our lettuce and tomatoes for our lunches and now our winter veg is now planted. We can't wait to taste and cook these too. I can't believe how quickly our garden has matured and love watching the gardening club in action at lunchtimes.

Moving inside our school we have some exciting updates in our ICT Suite. We're incredibly lucky to have been able to refurbish our suite with some brand new computers. They will be much speedier and allow the children to develop their skills and coding! Who knows what they may invent or code in the future?

When it comes to the children's learning we have all been very excited as we are delivering the curriculum in a slightly different way. The question we are focusing on across the school is 'Where do I belong?' This gives us the opportunity

to look in depth at our local area and also look at the question on a more personal level. Each of our year groups will be looking at a different aspect of our locality so be prepared to find out lots of things you might not have known before. As the staff have been carrying out research, they have certainly learnt lots of new things! We are hoping the children really enjoy the topic and it will provoke lots of conversations at home. If you have some fascinating stories to tell and share about Nottingham through work or family let us know. It would be great to share in school. We have such a wide variety of jobs and experiences to draw from in our community. Have a chat with your child's class teacher when you see them and let them know. It's always great to have parental support in school.

Our focuses this year:

It's always good to know what these are as they shape the curriculum and learning that your child undertakes.

- Reading is still a key priority. We have changed our timetable to ensure that we teach it every day and also have time to share a class novel. We want all our children to develop a love of reading. It impacts so much on all learning and is such an important life skill.
- Our new curriculum: We are working hard at this so that it's creative, relevant and has real impact for all our learners. We want your children to develop a love of learning.
- 5 ways to wellbeing: as gold standard Mental Health school we want to ensure all our children know how to look after their mental wellbeing as well as their physical health and will be developing lessons around these areas.

How you can help:

- Ensure your child reads daily- this can take many forms! Sharing a book, listening to a story, reading a newspaper. The key is to develop the skills and fluency needed, but mainly to recognise that reading is fun! Remember it's always good for your children to see you reading too. Also, if they get five signatures in their reading diary a week they are entered for our school reading raffle and get the chance to win a brand new book!
- Help your child to learn their times tables. These are so useful for all maths and once your children know them automatically it saves them so much time. You can learn them anywhere too- in the car, walking to school. It doesn't need to be a sit down and writing activity.
- Watch out for your child talking about 'Purple Mash' - it's a new IT platform where they will be able to access homework. We will keep you informed!

Exciting News: International principal visiting school.

Everyone at Ernehale is very much looking forward to the arrival of Dale Bruce, a Principal in Sydney, Australia who will be visiting us for 2 weeks in October. She will be shadowing me around and about school and is really looking forward to seeing our fantastic teaching and learning. I'm sure our children will have lots of questions about what life is like there and what the children learn about in Australian schools.

As you can see we have a fantastic term to look forward to. Keep in touch with us- all teachers are around on the playground at points in the day and will respond to emails you send. We know that working together helps to create the very best school for your children and we really do appreciate your ongoing support. Remember to join us on Twitter for up to date photos of what we are up to.

Yours sincerely



Ms. A Batley
Head Teacher

