



## January 2022 Newsletter



Happy New Year! I hope that you have all had a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas and New Year and are looking forward to what 2022 may bring. Last term was very busy and I hope that the children have had the time to relax and enjoy the break. We have lots of things happening this term which we hope the children will enjoy so things will be equally as busy!

When planning for the new year, it has sometimes felt a little disheartening to know that we are still unable to organise opportunities for our families and friends to come into school. Staff are full of ideas of things that they would like to share with you, so we will be looking for some creative ways to do this. Although you may not see your child's teachers as often as before, please do get in contact if you need anything. They will always return calls, emails and messages if you have any questions, concerns or even suggestions!

*Mrs Lizzie Jackson*

### Covid 19

The latest information we have is that there are to be no new restrictions imposed on schools at the present time. We are aware of a high number of cases in the community and we will continue to remain vigilant. Although we are no longer expected to group the children into 'bubbles', we will continue to keep the number of large groupings to a minimum. We will also continue with high levels of cleaning and children will be reminded about good hygiene. Staff will continue to wear face coverings in communal areas of school and we would kindly ask that visitors to the office would also continue to do so.

If your child develops **a high temperature, a new, continuous cough and/or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste** they should not attend school and should take a PCR test. Please continue to inform the school of the results of any tests that have been taken. In line with DfE guidance, the attendance of children who are awaiting Covid test results will be recorded as an X, which does not affect their overall attendance percentage. However, if your child tests positive, this is then recorded in the same way as all other illnesses.

## **Reading**

At Amble First, we place a huge importance on the teaching of reading. It is important to us that our children not only learn to read but that they want to read. This year, we are investing heavily in our reading provision through staff training, purchasing of new resources and excitingly we await the arrival of our new reading hut, which will give our children the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of books and texts at break and lunchtimes should they wish.



Children will continue to come home with reading books which we hope you will find the time to share with them each day. Just 5 minutes every day can make a big difference. We will also be looking for further ways in which we can help to support families in developing their children's reading skills so please look out for these over the term.

Each half term, we will be introducing a new **reading challenge!** Look out for this starting the 10th January.

## **Times Table Rockstars**

In the summer term, all children in Year 4 will take part in the Multiplication Tables

Check, which is a statutory assessment to ensure that children have a secure

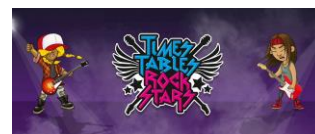
recall of the times tables 2 to 12. In order to support our children with this, we

subscribe to the Times Tables Rockstars programme which gives children the opportunity to practise their

recall using a simple app. All children have a log in for the app and we would strongly encourage them to

practise as often as possible. It can take as little as 2 minutes to complete one of the challenges and it allows

the children to collect points for their rockstar characters.



## **Lifesavers**

Last term, the children took part in our first Money Day where we looked at 'where

does our money come from?'. This half term we will be starting to look at 'how

does money make us feel?'. Also, this term, we will be establishing our own

school bank! Some of our children will have the opportunity to apply for jobs as bankers and will undertake

special training from the Lifesavers team. Following this, all of our children will be able to set up their own

savings account. Each week they will be able to bring any money that they wish to save and will be issued with

a savings book so that they can keep track of their money. Time to get saving for next Christmas!!



## **Swimming lessons**

Year 3 will start swimming lessons on Friday 14th January. All children must bring suitable swimwear (one-

piece swimwear for girls) and a towel in a bag as well as wear a warm coat for the journey. Parental

contributions will be £4.00 per week which will cover part of the cost of the transport. The additional cost of

transport and the cost of the lesson will be subsidised from the school PE budget as we recognise this is a key

life skill. The payment is now set up on Eduspot (please let us know if you need your password reset).

## Year 4 Residential

Please can you ensure that all payments for the forthcoming residential trip are paid through Eduspot. The payment dates are requested by the company and are not determined by school. If you have any difficulties in paying by the specified dates, please get in touch with us as soon as possible.

## Contact details

Please can you ensure that if you change your contact number, work number, address or want to change your list of people on the contact list, that you let school know as soon as possible. If we need to get in contact with you for any reason, it is important that these details are up to date. If we are unable to contact the first person on the contact list, then we will work our way through the other names and numbers. Therefore, if you would like to add or remove someone from this list, please let us know. Likewise, if your email address has changed or you find that you are not getting emails from school, please contact the office and we will sort this for you.



## PE

A reminder that on PE days children are encouraged to come to school in their PE kits. This should consist of their school t-shirt and jumper, dark (black/grey/navy) joggers/shorts and suitable footwear. Earrings should not be worn on PE days.

PE days this term are:

<b>Reception</b>	Wednesday and Thursday
<b>Year 1</b>	Wednesday and Thursday
<b>Year 2</b>	Tuesday and Wednesday
<b>Year 3</b>	Monday and Friday
<b>Year 4</b>	Monday and Friday



## E-safety

Some of our children may have received new devices for Christmas this year and you might be wondering about the best way to ensure that they are using these safely. Increasingly children are watching videos online and sometimes they come across content which is unsuitable.

Having a conversation with your child is the best way to find out exactly what they are watching. Here some questions you can ask to start a conversation:

- What videos have you watched online recently? Do you have a favourite? Why is it your favourite?
- Apparently, most children and young people watch videos online now, rather than on TV – is this true for your friends?
- Do you have a favourite YouTuber or online creator? What do you like about their videos?

Visit <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> and look for tips on how be safe when watching videos.

## Key Dates Spring 2022

**Tuesday 4th January - Teacher Training Day**

**Wednesday 5th January - children return to school**

**Monday 10th January - after school clubs begin**

**Friday 14th January - Year 3 to start swimming**

**Wednesday 26th January - Money Day**

**Tuesday 1st February - Chinese New Year**

**Week beginning 14th Feb - parents' evening meetings**

**Friday 18th February - break up for half term**

**Monday 28th February - children return to school**

**Thursday 3rd March - Y4 Bikeability**

**Thursday 3rd March - World Book Day**

**Wed 16th-Fri 18th March - Year 4 Residential**

**Friday 18th March - Red Nose Day**

**Friday 25th March - Teacher training day**

**Friday 8th April - last day of term**

**Monday 25th April - children return to school**

*We will endeavour to give as much notice as possible if there are any changes.*