

6th September 2024

Dear Families, Staff, Governors and Friends,

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer and managed some important family time and relaxation. We have been quite busy in school, with one of our classrooms being extensively redesigned and developed, new reading sheds delivered, improvement to the office area at the front of school, major deep-clean and a huge overhaul to the look of our classrooms and corridors by using soft, calming materials - such as hessian cloth - to back all of our boards. We've also tried to bring in a more 'outdoors/nature' feel to the inside of our building. A huge thank you to two of our families, and their businesses, for supporting us with these projects.

We have also had PAWS (Protecting Animals With Schools) on site throughout the summer holiday completely and utterly renovating our tired (and empty) chicken coop. Please see separate email for more information.

They will be running sessions every single day with children across all classes, with the upkeep of the chickens. PAWS are also in the process of having their dog, Fizzle, trained as a School Therapy Dog and we hope to take advantage of that at Edgworth in the future too. A massive thank you to the parents (and children) involved in this brilliant project that our children will take so much out of.

We intend to focus on 'personal development' more than ever in our school offer going forwards. This is something we have always been good at here at Edgworth - never to the detriment of Learning and Teaching - but we want to get even better. More information to follow in the coming weeks.

Parents with Gmail Accounts

I need to start with a plea for your help! As many of you will be aware, over the last couple of years we have been having trouble sending emails to parents who have an email address from Gmail or Googlemail when we send emails from our class distribution email lists. This is down to Google using aggressive firewalls and of course is excellent for spam emails, etc. but not good for us trying to send you information about your school. Every now and then Google seems to re-instate these firewalls and they have at present.

We have been forced in the past to send emails to gmail accounts individually but this has now become simply too time consuming to continue. Please can we ask that anyone who has a gmail account please set up another email address from a different provider that you would be happy for us to use? Then please contact the school office with

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the new address. We apologise for the inconvenience but having tried - unsuccessfully - to find a solution with our technical support and with the LA, we have no other choice. Please do feel free to contact Google to explain the problem if you wish! Thank you for your help and understanding.

Reception, other new starters and vacancies

What a FANTASTIC start our new Reception class have made. They have been so grown-up and settled into school really well. The other children are brilliant at helping them too. We also have a few new starters in other year groups who have settled in seamlessly with the help of their new friends. **We have a limited number of spaces in most year groups.** If you know anyone who is new to the area, considering a change or may be unhappy with the choice they got, please do point them in our direction for a friendly, no-commitment chat or visit to school. Please feel free to share on all your socials.

We also have a few job vacancies at the moment:

- Teacher (maternity cover) from December 24
- Kitchen assistant (5 hours) permanent
- Welfare (3 days: 12pm-1pm) permanent

If you or anyone you know may be interested in any of these jobs, please get in touch! Please feel free to share on all your socials again.

Fundraising opportunity - would love as many people as possible to engage with this PLEASE!

Asda has announced an amazing new fund raising opportunity for schools that could help our PTFA raise much needed funds to support us, and it is so simple.

All you need to do is register for the "Asda Rewards" app (if you haven't already) and then click on the "cashpot" link at the bottom - it looks like a little piggybank. Once there, it asks if you have a school in mind to support, and you can select us!

If you start to type, "Turton and Edgworth", the school appears and you can then select it. Asda will give us £50 to get us started, and then donate 0.5% of any spends in Asda to our cashpot. **You just need to register, select us and then remember to scan the Rewards app whenever you buy anything.** This will also help build up your own cashpot reward. What a 'win-win'!

You don't have to be a parent/carer of the school to select us, so if everyone was willing to share this on their social media platforms and ask all their family, friends, work colleagues, neighbours, sports clubs, etc. to select our school, we could really

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maximise how much we can earn. There are 85 days left so we would be extremely grateful if you could start as soon as possible. There is a poster attached to this email with more details.

Looks like I'm going to be shopping exclusively at Asda for the next 85 days!

OUTSTANDING attendance and punctuality

I just wanted to say a big thank you and well done to all families and children for this week. We have **averaged OVER 97%** and Mrs Page has had to register very, very, very few lates! Fantastic work; please keep this up!

Kids Zone

A reminder to all our families that we offer before and after school care, on site, here at Edgworth School. Kids Zone is a really friendly, really flexible resource for anyone who may need childcare from 7:30am in the morning or until 6pm after school. We accept all major voucher schemes. Please get in touch with Mrs Murphy or Miss McGuinness in the usual ways if you want any more information, again, with no commitment.

For existing Kids Zone families, just a note to let you know that voucher issue is now fully cleared up. *****Going forwards, please could families ensure that the screenshot shows evidence of that specific payment in order for it to be approved.*****

The Bishop Fraser Trust (TBFT)

We will continue to work with TBFT this year, discussing the best ways forwards regarding academisation. As I said in July, we will be holding formal consultation periods for staff, families and the community in the Autumn Term. As always, any questions, please do ask!

Missing reading books

Some of our missing reading books have returned which is great news but we are still these books short:

Lilly Parr scores goals x 4 missing

The Royal Spy x 1 missing

Red Planet Rescue x 1 missing

They are all "Collins Big Cat fluency books". PLEASE can everyone check every nook-and-cranny at home as we need complete sets to deliver our scheme effectively to the children.

Thank you.

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I am filled with optimism and enthusiasm about the year ahead. We understand we won't get everything right for every family, but please do speak to class teachers, front office staff, kitchen staff, Mrs Sears (SENDCo) or Mrs Carr and me if you have any concerns. Please don't let it fester or take it to social media/Whatsapp as this almost always exacerbates the situation. We will always listen and will do our best to explain or sort out any problems you may be experiencing.

With many thanks,

Craig Wheatley
Headteacher

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