



# The EPI Centre of Learning

**Gate duties:** From next week, you will find staff from across the school welcoming you in the mornings, or saying goodbye at the end of the day, at the school gates. The purpose of this is to allow you to meet more of the staff and put a face to the name you may have heard your child/children talking about. Do feel free to say hello or introduce yourselves.

**Gender equality:** this half term, our Equality, Diversity, Inclusion focus is on gender equality. In our Y1-Y6 assemblies last week, we explored generally what this means. We talked about how a group of boys at ISCA campaigned about an aspect of the uniform that did not feel was fair for the boys and how they got school leaders to reassess the fairness of this and change their policy. We talked briefly about some stereotypes and how people have sometimes viewed long hair and short hair, boys/men expressing emotion, job roles, colours and games. Over the next 4 weeks, we will be exploring these topics in more detail: equality in job roles, gender within sport, men and women in Science, girls and education.

**School Census Day-** Census Day will take place on Thursday, 18 January, and is an important day for the school. On this day, data is collected from the school which is used to calculate some of our funding for the next financial year. As well as recording the number of children on roll it also records our uptake of Free School Meals (FSM) and Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) on that particular day. This then informs our funding to run the kitchen for the next year. We do not make any money from the kitchen and school does need to use other funds in order to run it however we do get some grant funding that supports this.

It is for this reason that we are asking for your support to ensure that we maximise meal numbers on that day. As far as possible, we would like every child who is entitled to a Free School Meal or a Universal Infant Free School Meal (all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children) to have a school lunch. If they normally have a packed lunch and would like to try a dinner on this day, they can do this and still bring in their packed lunch in case they do not like it.

**Future date: Bags4Schools** following on from the success of our previous donation days the Bag 2 School team are coming back again on Wednesday 31 January so start collecting and ask family members and neighbours to do so too! Bag2School is a great initiative by the ESA to raise lots of money for the school and all you have to do is utilise what everyone has in their wardrobes - unwanted clothes and other items!

**The clothes must be brought to school on 31 January before 9am and dropped off to the outside classroom. Parents are able to bring cars down the back entrance to school on the evening before between 4pm and 6pm.**

The bags will be collected and weighed and the school then receives a cheque - simple! Your child will bring home a bag in the next week or so but extra bags of your own are also welcome. The clothing will then make journeys all around the world to begin their new lives! This could be a second-hand store in Eastern Europe or a market stall in West Africa. So not only are we raising funds for the school, we're also helping contribute to the circular economy and not being wasteful - it's a win-win all round. The team accept the following 'good quality' items for RE-USE\*: Men's, ladies' and children's clothing, paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around), handbags, belts and accessories, soft toys, household items such as linen, curtains, towels and bedding.

**Tuesday 16 January 2024**

**Dates for the future:**

**Thurs 8 Feb** – KS2 BSO concert at The Great Hall

**12-16 Feb - HALF TERM**

**Headteacher: Mrs S Whalley**



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They DO NOT accept: Duvets and blankets, pillows and cushions, carpets, rugs and mats (including bath, shower and toilet mats), school uniforms with and without logo, corporate clothing and work wear and textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material. \*They reserve the right to refuse any unsuitable items. If you want to know more visit <https://bag2school.com/>

**Headteacher: Mrs S Whalley**