



# Edison Primary School

## Weekly News

8 September 2023

### **A Warm Welcome Back!**

We hope you have all had a restful summer break! We have welcomed our Year 1 to Year 6 children and parents to school this week. The children have settled well in their new classes and have enjoyed meeting their new teachers. There has been a real buzz of excitement in the air, and it has been so lovely to see how quickly the children have adapted to their new surroundings.

### **RAAC**

You may be aware from media coverage that the government has asked some schools to close or partially close due to the presence of reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) in their school buildings. We understand that this is an unsettling news story and that it may naturally have led you to wonder about the safety of our school building.

**Our school building does not contain RAAC and is fully safe to open.**

I hope that this provides reassurance, and we look forward to welcoming your child to our safe and secure learning environment.

### **Staffing Information**

We are pleased to welcome our three new members of school staff. These are:

Mr Romeril – PE and Sports Coach

Ms Francis – Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo)

Miss Noor – Teaching Assistant (Reception Class)

Please do say 'hello' if you see him, Ms Francis or Miss Noor around the school!

### **School Uniform**

We expect all children to be looking smart in their uniform, with smart black shoes (not trainers). All items of uniform are available to purchase from Sanco.

We had a lot of lost property in school last year. To avoid this happening, please label everything you do not want to lose, especially your child's new winter coat! All items that are clearly labelled can then be easily returned.

### **Drop Off and Collection**

All children from Years 1 to 6 can come to school from 8.35am ready for an 8.45am start.

Please drop off and pick up your child(ren) as follows:

Year 1 – External Main Hall Doors (door closest to car park gate)

Year 2 – External Main Hall Doors (middle set of hall doors)

Year 3 – External Small Hall Doors (door closest to the school office)

Years 4 to 6 – Main Pupil Entrance Gate.

Children will finish school at 3.45pm prompt.

### **Breakfast and After School Club**

Breakfast Club will run as normal from 8am and After School Club will run from 3:45pm to 5:45pm daily. Parents are able to book their child's breakfast and after school club sessions on ParentPay 48 hours in advance.

Please note that the following charges apply:

Early Birds Breakfast Club - £4 per session (45 minutes)

Night Owls After School Club - £6 for one hour and £12 for two hours.

If you need to book a slot at short notice, please contact the School Office to check for availability.

Enrichment Clubs will start week commencing Monday 18 September and there will be a separate email regarding this which you will also be receiving today.



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### Attendance – Late Arrivals

This is a polite reminder that if your child/ren are late in the mornings, please ensure you bring them to the school office as they would need to be signed in by the adult.

We have a new electronic sign in system, the office team will assist you with this.

Please **DO NOT** drop your child/ren at the gate and allow them to come into school on their own.

### Early Pick-Up Procedure

If you require to collect your child/ren early for any reason, you would be required to send an email to [info@edisonprimary.org](mailto:info@edisonprimary.org) with a reason to why you are requesting an early collection, the email will be passed onto Mrs Dokal to authorise.

If collection is for medical appointment, you would need to provide proof of the appointment, and this should be provided to the office at least 24 hours before the appointment.

To help the attendance of the pupils in class and ensuring that they are getting the best out of the education, early collection will not be permitted unless authorisation has been by Mrs Dokal in a reply to your email.

We thank you for your support and understanding.

### Car Parking

Please remember that parking on school premises is for **STAFF ONLY**. Please support our school and its safety by parking a short way away and walking with your child. **Please** can we urge you all to continue to support the school and be aware of not blocking local residents' driveways, double parking and bus routes. Also please remember parking on double yellow lines is **NOT** permitted at any time. We would like to say a big thank you to all those parents that have been mindful to the local residents when parking.

### Scooters and Bikes

We would like to remind you that if your child rides a scooter or bike to school, you must park it under the bike sheds, near the main school entrance. Wherever possible please keep them locked too. These should only be left here for the duration of the school day. Please **DO NOT** leave anything overnight or over the weekend as this would be left at your own risk. We appreciate your support with this.

### Bringing Children to School

Your child should arrive at school by **8.45am**, the school gate opens from 8.35am so you can drop your child at their year group entrance from this time onwards. Please ensure you support your child by ensuring they arrive on time and ready to learn. Any late arrivals should need to report to the main school office. If your child is going to be absent for any reason, please inform the school office by **8.30am** using our automated telephone service and choosing option 1. Lateness, at either end of the school day, is disruptive and can make the children anxious. Please make every effort to arrive at school on time to help your child have the best school experience possible. Persistent latecomers (more than three episodes) will be referred to Mrs Dokal and, if the lateness is not then resolved, will be passed onto the Education Welfare Officer for further action.

### Night Owls Collection

Our school office closes at **4.30pm**. If you are picking up your child from After School Club after this time, please use the bell at the school office entrance, and Mrs Mahal or Mrs Gill will come to meet you, and fetch your child from the club. If you have rung the bell and there is no answer, please call the school mobile: 07814 021729. This will only be necessary on the occasions that the children are taken outside to play. We appreciate your patience and support with this.



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### Parent Pay

We have now implemented Parent Pay fully as our new paying system for Clubs, School Meals, and Trips.

Please ensure that you have activated your child/rens accounts. You will need to be using this system to give permission and make payments for clubs and trips as well as booking your child/rens lunches for the weeks ahead.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to the office team.



Get our latest news on Twitter: @Edison\_Primary or visit our school website: [www.Edisonprimary.org](http://www.Edisonprimary.org)

### School Meals

We are glad to inform that the Government have decided to give Free School Meals to all children in primary schools for this academic year (September 2023 – July 2024). If you would like to take advantage of this please log in to your Arbor account and give your consent if you have not already.

Due to this new change please note that there is NO charge for children taking school meals and going forward parents and carers for children in Years 3 to Year 6 will no longer need to pay for them.

It is important that you sit with your child/ren to book the correct lunch, booking for school meals needs to be completed on Parent Pay, as previously all lunch bookings should be completed 7 days in advance.

Please note that once the lunch is booked for the week, you **will not** be able to make any changes.



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### Key dates for your diary

<b>Monday 11 – Friday 15 September</b>	Reception children start 8:45am to 11:45am
<b>Tuesday 12 September</b>	Induction Meetings Year 1 at 4:15pm and Year 2 at 5pm (Via Zoom)
<b>Wednesday 13 September</b>	Induction Meetings Year 3 at 4:15pm and Year 4 at 5pm (Via Zoom)
<b>Thursday 14 September</b>	Induction Meetings Year 5 at 4:15pm and Year 6 at 5pm (Via Zoom)
<b>Monday 18 to Friday 22 September</b>	Reception attend 8:45am to 1:15pm (Children will have lunch)
<b>Monday 18 September</b>	All Enrichment Clubs begin
<b>Monday 25 September</b>	Reception attend full time 8:45am to 3:45pm
<b>Friday 20 October</b>	Last day of half term (school closes at 1:30pm)

### Thought of the Week

Scientists have become the bearers of the torch of discovery in our quest for knowledge.  
*-Stephen Hawking*





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## Picture News

Please share this weeks Picture News with your child/children.



## The World's Happiest Country - Again!

Finland has been declared the world's happiest country for the 6<sup>th</sup> year in a row! The 2023 World Happiness Report, which states it is the first report to rank countries by how their populations feel, compiled a list of 146 countries. To do this, data was used that had been gathered by the Gallup World Poll, which asked about 1,000 people from each country to evaluate various areas of their lives and grade them between 0 and 10 in terms of their happiness. A 0 score is the worst and a score of 10 is the best. Once all the results were in, Finland topped the table with an impressive score of 7.804!

'Happiness can change, and does change, according to the quality of the society in which people live,' said John F. Helliwell one of the chief editors of the World Happiness Report.

*Do you think this is a good way to work out how happy nations are?*



Pictured: Northern lights between pine trees in Finland. Source: Canva.



Pictured: Person with the Finnish flag. Source: Canva.

## Spotless Giraffe

Brights Zoo in Tennessee, USA, has welcomed a very special rare spotless baby giraffe! The baby giraffe was born at the zoo on 31<sup>st</sup> July. Experts believe that she is the only solid-coloured reticulated giraffe on the planet today and the first to be born in more than 50 years.

Tony Bright, the founder of Brights Zoo, talked about the media interest said,

'The international coverage of our patternless baby giraffe has created a much-needed spotlight on giraffe conservation. Wild populations are silently slipping into extinction, with 40% of the wild giraffe population lost in just the last three decades.' Dr Fred Bercovitch, a giraffe expert, referred to her lack of spots saying, 'In biology there are always exceptions to the rule and when exceptions pop up it is really cool.'

The zoo launched a public vote to choose a meaningful name for the new baby giraffe.

The names (and definitions) that people could choose from were, Kipekee (unique), Firyali (unusual or extraordinary), Shakiri (she is most beautiful) and Jamella (one of great beauty).



Pictured: The rare spotless giraffe born at Brights Zoo. Source: Brights Zoo Facebook page.

*Which name would you have voted for?*

*Why do you think this would be the best name for the spotless giraffe?*

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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### Wind Powered Cargo Ship

Pyxis Ocean is the world's first wind-powered cargo ship and it has just embarked on its maiden voyage. The freighter, which has been retrofitted with two sails (built from the same material as wind turbines) to help cut down emissions, is travelling from China to Brazil. The WindWings sails, developed by British company BAR Technologies, are designed to reduce fuel consumption and therefore the carbon footprint of shipping. The 37.5m tall wings (folded down when in port) are opened out when the ship is in open water. Experts say having the ability to power ships with wind, instead of relying entirely on engines, could reduce the lifetime emissions of a cargo ship by 30%.

Researchers believe that the six-week journey will help them work out how much of a reduction the large metal sails can have on the industry's estimated production of 837 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> each year. 'Wind power can make a big difference,' says Dr Simon Bullock, shipping researcher at the Tyndall Centre, at the University of Manchester. 'Ultimately, we do need zero-carbon fuels on all ships, but in the meantime, it is imperative to make every journey as efficient as possible. Slower speeds are also a critical part of the solution.' ***What do you think of using this technology to help reduce the shipping industry's emissions?***



Pictured: Pyxis Ocean. Source: Cargill Facebook page.

Last week's topic:

### Can pets make good companions in schools?



I think it would be good because if someone gets stressed and you had a dog it could calm you down or cheer you up. You could play with it at break and lunch but I would only like it if you could bring your own pets.

Isla

Yes, they can but also sometimes people are allergic or scared of them, so we need to be careful and consider everyone before getting one.

Alexandra

I think that is a great idea for schools to have pets, as long as they are well looked after. A lady who works in our school office brings in her dog so we know that he is well cared for and happy.

Mario

### Let us know what you think about this week's news?



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# TAKEHOME



## In the news this week

In Canada, the government in the province of Ontario is set to pass a new law that will make it compulsory for children aged 12 and under to wear lifejackets on boats. Parents, guardians, or other adults supervising children could be subject to a fine of up to \$200 (£130) if they do not comply. In the UK, currently, there is no legal requirement for anyone using rivers and seas for leisure purposes to wear a lifejacket/personal flotation device (PFD).

### Things to talk about at home ...

- Share your experience of lifejackets. Have you ever been required to wear one? Where were you? Did everyone wear them?
- Can you make a list of all the times you think lifejackets should be worn?
- Do you feel there should be laws in place to ensure people wear lifejackets on boats at sea? If so, do you believe they should apply to everyone?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments



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