Ebchester
Church of England Primary School
Newsletter

www.ebchester.durham.sch.uk

Dear Parent,

Harvest Festival
Our Harvest Festival will be held in school on the 21st October at 2pm. Due to the limited space in St. Ebba's Church we have made the decision to welcome you all into the school hall for our celebration. Everyone is welcome. The school council have decided that our harvest gifts will be sent to The People's Kitchen this year. Please send any tinned or dried food donations into school from the week beginning the 12th October – I have attached a wish list of items the People's Kitchen need. Please note that pupils will be able to leave with parents/ carers after the festival and clubs will be cancelled that day (wrap around provision will still be available). Many thanks.

Sponsored Event
Many of you will know that we usually host our annual sponsored event—typically a sponsored walk—during the first half term of the year. This year, we have decided to shake things up! We will be holding our sponsored event in the summer term instead. With the promise of hopefully better weather, we are really excited to try something a little bit different this year. Watch this space for more exciting details later in the school year.

Arbor App
Please ensure that you have downloaded the Arbor App and that you have the notifications enabled to ensure that you do not miss any school messages.

School Fund
We rely on donations to our school fund to subsidise school trips and resources for the pupils. Donations can be made via the Arbor app. Many thanks.

Attendance - Holidays during Term Time
Could I remind you that school should be informed of any planned absence? An absence request form is available from the school office. Requests for leave are never taken lightly and Headteachers may not grant leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. If absence if not authorised, it will be recorded on your child's attendance record as unauthorised and may mean that you are liable to incur a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Online Safety
We know that many of our children love exploring online games, which can be fantastic for their creativity, problem-solving, and building friendships. However, as a primary school, we also know that navigating the digital world can bring challenges for parents—from managing screen time to understanding age ratings and text chats. To support you, we highly recommend exploring the NSPCC Guide to Online Gaming Safety. This

excellent resource is designed specifically to help parents understand the risks, set up age-appropriate parental controls, and confidently talk to younger children about staying safe and happy while playing online.

Vacancy - Wrap Around Club Leader

Ebchester CE Primary School is hiring an enthusiastic, motivated, and passionate After School Club Leader. The school runs a highly successful, on-site after school club that benefits from excellent school facilities. The team is looking for a dedicated candidate who can bring fresh ideas to the role, supporting children between the ages of 3 and 11. Key responsibilities include supervising pupils, planning engaging activities, and ensuring the children's safety, general well-being, and positive behaviour.

Vacancy Details: After School Club Leader

- **Hours: 12.5 hours per week** (3:00pm – 5:30pm, term-time only)
- **Contract:** Permanent
- **Start Date:** Required from **2 November 2026**
- **Closing Date for Applications: 12:00 noon on Wednesday 21st October 2026**
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Key Candidate Requirements

- Passionate about all aspects of childcare and primary education.
- Able to design and lead appropriate, engaging activities for mixed age groups.
- Confident in monitoring child well-being, safety, and maintaining good behaviour.
- Please note that an **enhanced DBS check** is an essential part of the selection and recruitment process.

How to Apply

Application forms and further specification details are attached to the official listing. Completed application forms should be returned directly to the school office:

- **Address:** Ebchester CE Primary School, Shaw Lane, Ebchester, Consett, County Durham, DH8 0QB
- **Telephone:** (01207) 560349
- **Email:** ebchester@durhamlearning.net

For more details on the application process or to view the official job board publication, you can check the full posting on the North East Jobs Portal.

Halloween Disco

The annual 'Friends of Ebchester' Halloween Disco will take place on Monday, 2nd November, with pupils getting ready in their classrooms from 3:00 pm in time for the fun to start at 3:30 pm. Following the same format as last year, collection times are staggered, with Reception and KS1 pupils finishing at 5:15 pm

and KS2 pupils at 5:30 pm**.** The 'Friends of Ebchester' will kindly provide each child with a hotdog and a drink during the event; please contact the school office as soon as possible if your child requires a vegetarian hotdog so that numbers can be finalised. As previously, a voluntary donation of £2 would be greatly appreciated to help cover costs.

Y5/6 Robinwood Residential – Parent Information Meeting

We will be holding a session for parents of pupils in Y5/6 to share information about the residential trip to Robinwood. The meeting will take place on the 19th October at 3.30pm in the Y5/6 classroom. We look forward to seeing you there.

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Clasper
Headteacher