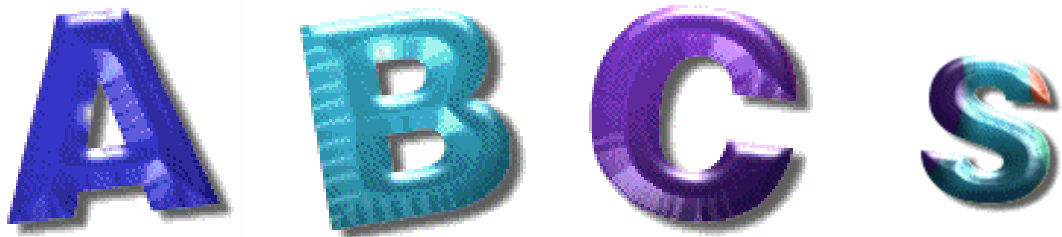


The



of

Kindergarten

*Westboro Handbook for*

*ECS Class*

**September 2018**



## Absences



If your child is absent from school for any reason, please call the school before the class begins at **780-467-7751**. It is important to ensure that all of the children are safe. Parents (or the emergency contact) of a student absent without explanation will be telephoned.

## Attendance



A successful school experience is the responsibility of the children, the parent and the school. Your child's progress, both academically and socially, is influenced to a great extent by daily participation. Regular attendance without tardiness is a key.

## Arrival



The ECS hours of operation for the Kindergarten program are 8:37 – 3:12 p.m. The warning bell is at 8:32 am. Please wait at the front door of the school.

## At Home



A link between school and home learning is important to your child's growth and development. You will be provided with many ideas of how to continue the learning process at home, including an at-home reading program.



## Backpacks



To help your child carry messages and information to and from school, you are asked to provide a backpack for this purpose. Please have your child share the contents of the backpack with you daily. The students will be given a communication pouch that will go to and from school daily. The pouch is 27cm x 33cm. Please ensure this pouch will fit inside your child's backpack.

## Birthdays



Birthdays are special occasions for young children. If your child wishes, he/she may bring treats for the class. We will celebrate summer birthdays with an un-birthday in the last few months of school.

## Book Orders



Every month book order forms will be sent home for you and your child to look over. These clubs offer wonderful books at reduced prices – a great way to build your home library! However, please remember that this is an optional program – you are not obligated to make purchases!

## Breakfast



Our kindergarten day is filled with lots of moving and learning. A healthy breakfast will help your child approach each day with energy. We will have our morning snack around 10:15 a.m.



## Centers



The best way for kindergarten children to learn is through active play. Our classroom is set up in learning centers. I carefully plan the activities in each center to develop skills and meet the needs of all the students in the class.

## Clothes



Please send your child to school in clothes appropriate for learning. Do not send your child to school so ‘dressed up’ that you might be concerned about her or him ‘getting dirty.’ Becoming involved in kindergarten activities often means that the students will get a little "messy”.

## Conferences



Parent/Teacher conferences are held in the fall and in the spring. At these conferences, we will be discussing your child's accomplishments, strengths and overall progress. Please feel free to schedule additional conferences at any time throughout the year if the need arises.

## Computers



We are fortunate to have 4 iPads and a SMART Board available in our classroom for the children to use. We use a variety of age-appropriate programs that reinforce math and pre-reading/reading skills.

## Communication



Communication between home and school is an important component of your child's education.

In an effort to consolidate information going home with students, I will be sending home a communication pouch. Notes to parents or important messages to the school or teacher should be placed in the front slot of the pouch.

I check my email frequently and can be contacted at [ashley.becigneul@eips.ca](mailto:ashley.becigneul@eips.ca). Alternatively, you may wish to call the school (780-467-7751) or include a note in your child's pouch.



## Differentiation



Because all children are unique and special, they may be at many different instructional levels. Since it is my responsibility to take each child from where he or she is to a higher level, students may be learning concepts different from his/her peers. With this type of teaching in the classroom, you can be sure that your child's individual needs will be met.

## Discipline



My philosophy of discipline is based on the belief that children need affectionate care and firm guidelines within a flexible structure. To establish good order and help the children learn self-control, the children will be guided to respect themselves and their companions through specific directions, positive reinforcement, suggested new activities and responsible actions.

## Dismissal



All children who are not bused to or from school are dismissed from the front doors of the school. Please wait at the front doors for your child as they are practicing how to independently get ready for home. **No child is released unless an adult is present to pick him/her up.** Written permission from the parents is required for any changes to the pick-up of the child.

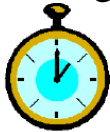


### Envelopes



When sending money (cash or check) to school, please put it in a sealed envelope labeled with your child's name, what the money is for, and the teacher's name. This ensures all of the money gets to the school and that we know what to do with it.

### Emergency Closings



If schools are closed for any emergency, or if opening is delayed, most of the local radio stations will make announcements beginning at 6:30 a.m. If an emergency occurs during the day, the radio will announce dismissal procedures and bus schedules. The school will also send out an automated voice message to all parents.

### Extra Clothes



Please keep an extra set of clothes in your child's backpack in case of a bathroom accident or a messy spill. This way we do not have to bother you at work or home. Please wash and return any spare clothes your child brings home before you send them back.



### Field Trips



We plan field trips that are both fun and educational for the children. We will need parent volunteers on the trips, and chaperones will be chosen on a first come, first serve basis. Please return permission slips as soon as possible after they are sent home.

### Fire and Emergency Drills



Fire drills are held periodically throughout the year. All students will participate and are expected to walk quickly and quietly to their designated exit. We will practice and become familiar with procedures before our first scheduled drill. We also practice Lock Down drills and other safety drills.

## Footwear



Please have your child wear shoes that are appropriate for running and active movement. Cowboy boots, dress shoes, or flip flops are not good for school activities because they are slippery and inappropriate for the gym or the playground. If your child has tie laces please teach the child how to tie their laces before they come to school.



## Guided Reading



The definition of guided reading encompasses a wide variety of behaviors. For example, some children may be working on alphabet recognition, some may require teacher support to read stories with predictable text, while others may read simple texts independently. Guided reading provides an opportunity to teach children a variety of reading strategies they need in order to become fluent, independent readers. During guided reading, the teacher monitors and evaluates each child's progress.

## Gym



Our class will have gym classes each week. The children are asked to wear sneakers (which are generally their inside shoes) on gym days, and girls might consider wearing pants or having a pair of shorts to slip on under their dress. We will also have extra gym classes outside when weather permits.



## Hands-on Learning



I feel that the best way to help children learn is to make learning fun. Important concepts can be learned by doing meaningful hands-on activities. There are times when seatwork is required and necessary, but for the most part, our classroom will be an active learning environment.

## Holidays & School Closures



There are often holidays or school closure days occurring each month. Westboro's monthly newsletter as well as my monthly newsletter will list the upcoming holidays and school closure days.

## Homework



Your child will be involved in an at-home reading program to support and encourage pre-reading and reading skills. Please take time to read each day with your child. Your child will also be bringing assignments that they have worked with in school to share with you. These assignments promote home involvement and allow for reinforcement of book concepts, reading strategies and beginning comprehension skills. Please take the time to enjoy this special reading time with your child.



## Illness



The question of when to keep your child home from school is often a difficult one, especially when decisions must be made first thing in the morning. It is important, however, to keep your child home if he/she is ill. This helps to make them more comfortable and prevents others from becoming ill. Children function more effectively in the classroom when they are healthy.

## Independent Reading



Because children learn to read by reading, they need plenty of opportunities to read independently. Sufficient time and appropriate materials are necessary to develop and strengthen reading abilities. By giving the children time to read both at school and at home, we can work together to provide a literature-rich environment and a life-long love of reading.



## Journals



One strategy that will be used to help convey the vital concept that 'print conveys meaning' is the use of journal writing. In these journals the kindergartners combine their emerging writing skills with their drawing skills. As the children are exposed to a variety of phonics and reading experiences, journal entries will move from drawings and inventive spellings towards more conventional writing.



## Kindness



Students in our classroom are encouraged and expected to treat all members of our class and others in the school with kindness and respect. Hitting, fighting, name-calling, and making fun of others will not be permitted.

## Keeping us informed



Please remember to send a note whenever there is a change in address, phone number, babysitting or pick-up arrangements. To continue teaching your children in a nurturing and caring environment, please advise me if there are any changes in your child's normal routine, and behaviors.





## Learning Centers



During learning centers, children practice many skills including reading and writing, math, fine motor, and listening. The center activities are designed to strengthen letter/sound knowledge, listening skills, oral language expression, rhyme, letter formation and cooperation. Parent volunteers are encouraged to join us at this time to help things run smoothly.

## Lost & Found



We have several Lost and Found boxes throughout the school. We ask that you label clothing items worn to school by your child. This will help us return a lost article to its owner.

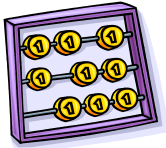
## Library



We will visit the library and take home 2 books every week. This is in addition to the home reading books that they will take home everyday. Mrs. White helps us in the library.



## Math



The kindergarten mathematics curriculum provides students with mathematical experiences that help them develop number sense and a positive attitude towards mathematics that will continue through their school career and their lives. We use a variety of resources, which utilizes a hands-on, problem solving approach.

## Music



Our music teacher will be helping the children and myself with the basics of music education and will be getting us ready for the Kindergarten Christmas concert. We will also be learning fun songs, alphabet, and seasonal songs as the year progresses.

## Mystery Bag



Mystery Bag is similar to Show and Tell. Each student will take a turn. On a child's Mystery Bag day, he/she is assigned to be Mrs. B's special helper.



## Newsletter



I will be sending home a newsletter every month to keep you informed of the happenings in our classroom. This is a great way to stay abreast of our curriculum, classroom news, special activities and upcoming events.

## Outside Time



The ECS program will have recess time opposite of the rest of the school for a portion of the year. We will also have extra gym classes outside when weather permits. Please dress your child so that he/she is prepared for our outside gym classes.



## Parties and Celebrations



We will have class parties from time to time for occasions such as Halloween, Teddy Bear PJ party, Christmas, and Valentine's Day. The Special Events Coordinator (a volunteer parent) and I will organize these events and coordinate volunteers, snacks and donations. All are welcome to participate in the festivities!

## Questions?



Since many of you are new to Westboro Elementary this year, I'm sure that you may still have some unanswered questions. Please feel free to email me at [ashley.becigneul@eips.ca](mailto:ashley.becigneul@eips.ca) or we can arrange a meeting at the school.



## Reading Buddies



Our class will be getting together with an older class to share books and read together. This is a wonderful learning experience for both the older and younger students, and a great time is had by all!

## Report Cards



Report cards are issued in June. Progress reports will be used in November and March. This report reflects the progress your child has made toward various kindergarten objectives and uses a grading system that reflects the developmental nature of kindergarten learning. Parent-Teacher Conferences are held in the fall and in the spring.

## Restrooms



The children are encouraged to go to the bathroom before they come into school in the morning. At all other times they are free to use the restroom in our classroom as the need arises. They do need to tell me before they go so I can keep track of where they are.



## Science



The focus of the kindergarten science curriculum is on developing an awareness of the world in which we live. Through scientific inquiry, concepts will be presented in the life and earth sciences, including the study of animals and plants, the five senses and general health, and the four seasons. These areas will be explored utilizing a literacy based, hands-on approach.

## Shared Reading



Shared reading is an interactive process used with the whole class. As the teacher reads a story, children join in on phrases or words that they know. During subsequent re-readings, children read more and more of the text, until they are able to read the story independently. Shared reading is an opportunity for the teacher to model conventions of print and the use of reading strategies.

## Snack



Nut free and healthy snacks are encouraged. Each day your child should bring a small snack that will take no more than 10 -15 minutes to eat.

There will be a morning and afternoon snack time in addition to our lunch period.

## Social Studies



The kindergarten social studies curriculum focuses on the students and how they relate to others in their families, classroom, school, and community. Activities will help the children focus their natural curiosity for the world around them.



## Toys



Bringing a toy to school is discouraged. If a toy is accidentally lost or broken, feelings may be hurt. Books are okay to bring in, but please make sure they are clearly marked with your child's name.

## Transportation



If you plan to pick up a child that normally rides the bus, you must send a written note. Do not rely on your child to tell us this information, because children often become confused and relay information incorrectly. **If no written note is received, your child will be sent home by his/her usual method of transportation.**



## Unique



Kindergarteners learn that they are special and unique. Students will have opportunities to describe how they are alike as well as different from others.



## Volunteers



Your support of school activities makes your child feel important and sends the message that you value school! Parent volunteers are appreciated during our mornings to assist with Learning Centers. There will also be a variety of special classroom activities and celebrations throughout the school year. I hope that you can come and join in the fun! Working parents can also be an active help in the classroom through various volunteer sign-up jobs. Please refer to the volunteer sign-up sheets on registration day or come see me.

We will also be looking for a Volunteer Coordinator who, along with the teacher, will arrange a schedule of parent volunteers who have expressed an interest and ability to volunteer in the classroom.



## Website



Our school website is a great resource for up-to-date information. It can be found at [www.westboroelementary.ca](http://www.westboroelementary.ca). By clicking on eTeachers and selecting Mrs. Becigneul from the drop-down menu you can electronically review the monthly newsletter, calendar, and at home projects, as well as access many useful learning website and apps.

## Wish List



Throughout the year we sometimes need supplies above and beyond our classroom materials (such as baby food jars). These needs will be posted in the class newsletter. Extras items that you think we might be able to use are always welcome!

## Writing



Our writing program builds on what each child already knows. Writing begins with scribbles and proceeds to lines and circles, random strings of letters, words and spaces and, eventually, sentences. Your children will be encouraged and praised for all attempts and accomplishments in writing. Providing a risk-free environment is paramount to your child's progress in writing. If possible, please provide your child with writing tools, such as pencils, crayons, markers and paper at home.



## X-tra Fun



We always have extra fun and get extra done when we have helpers!

## Younger Siblings



It is in your child's and the program's best interest to have our parent volunteers available without younger children. This not only allows your full attention to be focused on the class, but also allows for some special time between you and your kindergarten child. Thank you for making childcare arrangements for younger siblings.

ZZZZZZ



Make sure that your child gets plenty of rest. Setting and keeping a bedtime routine is a wonderful gift you can give to your child. It will help them to be alert and ready to learn each day!