

SCHOOL NEWS

Elections | Sainsbury's Vouchers | 30 hours Funded Childcare

Upcoming Elections

Next Thursday (4th May) the council will be holding their elections and school will be used as a polling station. I have asked the Local Authority to consider an alternative polling station to our school as it can be extremely inconvenient. However, due to strict guidelines around parking, disabled access, available space and toilet provision, finding an alternative venue has not been possible.

When the predicted turnout for voting is estimated to be fairly low we are able to keep school open and use the staffroom as this has a separate access and can be shut off from the rest of school. This is what we will be doing next Thursday and so school WILL BE OPEN on the 4th May.

For elections such as a General Election or a Referendum where turnout is anticipated to be high, we have to use the school hall and therefore the school has to close for children for safeguarding reasons. The upcoming General Election, being held on the 8th June, falls in our school holidays and so we will not be affected on this occasion.

Sainsbury's Vouchers



The final day for collecting Sainsbury's vouchers is Tuesday 2nd May.

Please check to see if you have any vouchers which need handing in and help us beat our total of 9630 last year. We are hoping to use the vouchers for new netball equipment which will be used in PE lessons and for our after school netball club.



PTA Positions

Our current PTA have been really successful in raising much needed funds and organising family events for our school. However, several members of the committee will be stepping down at the end of the year and we really need some new parents to come in and continue the good work. There are four positions: chair, vice-chair, secretary and treasurer. We have to have these positions in order to maintain the charity status. You don't need to have been involved with the PTA previously; we are looking for people with lots of enthusiasm, energy and a little spare time. Please consider whether you could take on one of these roles - there will be plenty of support and you won't be left on your own to do the job. You may wish to speak to current members to find out about the role or post a question on the Facebook page. Nomination forms will be coming out later this term, so please give it some thought if you can.

Sports Day Dates

Just a reminder that we have moved our Sports Day this year to May. We are hoping for better weather conditions after last year either being too hot or rained off! New date: Wednesday 17th May (reserve 24th May).





I have been made aware of two new Apps being used by children which are inappropriate and unsafe. They are called 'Loovo' and 'Simisimi' and are communication type applications which are rated at 18+ and are not aimed at children. They enable cyber bullying and do not have any parental controls. It is also useful to know that the Loovo App can be accessed through Facebook accounts. If you would like more information about these Apps please follow the links below:

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/simisimi-news/>

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/loovo-news/>

There is also updated information around live streaming on the internet:

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/live-streaming-news/>

These links can also be found in our safety area of the website which can be found under the 'Additional' tab. I have placed further guidance here around age ratings for x-box/play station/wii games as we are increasingly aware of our pupils playing games not suited to their age.

Defibrillator Sponsor Event

Sponsor forms for the defibrillator were sent out this week. We have attached another copy to this email in case the form didn't make it home! Children have already started to collect sponsors which is fantastic. Please remember that monies should be brought to school on the day of the event which is taking place on Tuesday 9th May.



30 Hours Free Childcare

From September, eligible families will be able to take advantage of 30 hours free childcare a week for 3 and 4 year olds. To be entitled to this provision, both parents must be working at least 16 hours a week and earning less than a combined total of £100,000. We are hopeful that we will be able to provide the 30 hours in our school nursery and will be able to give parents more information about this when offers of places have been made on 17th May. If you would like to know more we have leaflets at the office reception and you can also visit:

www.stockport.gov.uk/childcare

It may also be useful to know that the hours can be used in other providers as well as our nursery for example Kidzone@Etchells for before and after school care and other local childminders.

Swimming

In recent years, Year 2 have been involved in the school swimming programme. This is something we have now decided to change. Swimming is part of the KS2 (Y3-6) National Curriculum for PE and we are finding that a significant number of our older children are not reaching the expected standard. Therefore we will be giving these children additional lessons and will start the Y2 children when they are in Year 3. We highly recommend that parents take their children swimming where possible in order to build their confidence and basic skills in preparation for school swimming.

Enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend and we look forward to seeing everybody back on Tuesday at 8.50am

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows and the Etchells staff

