

SCHOOL NEWS

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Local Elections



Local elections are being held next Thursday and once again, we are being asked to make the school available as a Polling Station. Due to the lack of alternative facilities, we are obliged to fulfil this request. As the footfall for local elections is significantly lower than that for General Elections or Referendums, we are able to still open school for our pupils and allow voting to take place in the staff room. We can close the staff room off completely to the rest of school and voters can enter via an external door.

Therefore, children must attend school as normal on Thursday 6th May.

Eid

We have had a couple of enquiries about celebrating Eid the week after next. I would like to remind families in advance that children can have one day's authorised absence from school to celebrate. Any other absences will be unauthorised. Please phone the school office if your child will be absent for this special day.

Y5/6 Hot Dinners

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, we are starting to re-introduce hot dinners to Years 3 and 4. Unfortunately, as it stands, we are unable to do the same for Years 5 and 6. We are extremely limited for space in the hall due to year group bubbles having to sit at least two metres apart. Until we can get all the children safely back into the hall, we will be unable to extend the hot meal provision for Y5/6.

Community Exercise Track Update

Thank you for some great suggestions and questions regarding the proposed exercise track. It is important to confirm that the exercise track would only be open to the community outside of the school day ie. late afternoon or weekends. We have yet to receive any comments via the parent survey in the Parent Area of the School Website. Please log on and make your comments if you can. I have attached a community poster to this newsletter - please share with any groups you may know of who may benefit from the facility.



SEND

(Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)

Co-Production Charter

In previous newsletters, I have brought your attention to the Co-Production Charter, developed by The Local Authority. The aim is to provide all those involved with children with SEND with a productive and pro-active approach. It is important to keep re-visiting the charter and consider whether the principles are being applied. The concept of Co-production was developed and defined as:

Co-production happens when all voices are actively listened to from the start of the planning process. This involves a mutual respect for each other's views, with an open and honest relationship that is transparent and continually evolving to achieve meaningful and positive outcomes.

In short, this means that families, children, young people and health, care and education colleagues will all work in partnership following these principles:

- Be open and honest
- Actively listen
- Value the lived experience
- Do what matters
- Be accountable and responsive
- Work together
- Be respectful

If you would like more information about this way of working, please click [HERE](#) for the easy to read leaflet.

School Website Update and App

GUIDE TO OUR APP FOR PARENTS & CARERS



The school website has had a 'behind the scenes' upgrade. The website itself appears to be the same but the working areas for staff, pupils and parents looks a little different. Ultimately, it will be much easier and more efficient to use. As a result of these changes, you will need to upgrade the App which is directly linked to the website. Please click [here](#) for further details. The App is really useful to get quick access to the Newsletter, calendar and to access the Parent Area of the site.

Year 6 Forest School

We are really proud at Etchells to extend our Forest School Provision to the Year 6 children. They are embarking on a Forest School Challenge: 'I'm a Year 6 - Get me out of here!' Whilst we don't want to say goodbye to Year 6, these sessions give them the opportunity to develop their team skills and creative thinking. Each week a star has to be gained to earn the ultimate final camp fire experience. This week involved setting up tarps to protect themselves from the enthusiastic water-throwing Mrs Plumb! Team flags were created using Hapa Zome techniques (yes, I had to google it!) Next week: 'Bushtucker' Trials!!



For more photos, please visit [@EtchellsPS](#)



Enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend and we'll see everyone back at school on Tuesday

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows

and the Etchells staff

