
SCHOOL NEWS

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Welcome Back!

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to school for the new academic year and to also welcome all parents who are new to us. We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead and really embedding all the changes and improvements that we have put in place. Last year was our best yet in terms of outcomes and test results for the children. I will share more details in the coming weeks but at the moment we can celebrate that Etchells children achieved higher than the National Average in ALL assessment points through school (Reception, Y1 phonics, Y2 SATs and Y6 SATS). Some areas were significantly above the average. The amount of progress that our Y6 children made from the end of Y2 to the end of Y6, put us in the top 25% of the country, certainly something to celebrate.

We look forward to getting going with all our new topics for the term and today you will receive a newsletter for your Year group outlining details of what your child will be learning in the coming months. The homework sheet will also be coming home today.

The staff have been involved in lots of training both last week and this. Last Friday we spent the day with Gareth Metcalfe who got us all thinking about deeper learning in Mathematics. We also analysed the Reading SATs papers and considered the questions we are asking in our guided reading sessions. This week all year groups have been working with the LA consultant for Geography and History, with a focus on how we can use our school grounds and local area to enhance our teaching of these subjects. Hopefully you will be finding that the classes are getting out and about much more than previously and really engaging with outdoor learning.

Start of School

The school day starts at 8.55am. Doors are opened at 8.45am and classes are taken in at 8.50am. At 8.55am the doors into school and classrooms will be CLOSED. Please do not knock on classroom windows and doors after this time. You need to come to the office and sign in as late.

You may find that the cloakroom door at the Nursery end of school shuts before 8.55am due to staffing - we do not want to leave a door open without a member of staff there. The cloakroom door nearest the hall will remain open until 8.55am so please use this one if you find the other has been closed.

Late arrivals after 9am will be marked as an unauthorised absence - repeated lateness will result in involvement from the Local Authority and a fine. Lessons do start at 9am so please ensure your child is in school and ready to learn at this time.



Eid

Many of our families will be celebrating Eid on Monday. As is usual practice, please send a written note into the office to explain your child's absence due to Eid celebrations. We can authorise one day absence for Eid, but only on receipt of a letter. Please note that Tuesday is NOT an authorised day to be absent for this reason.

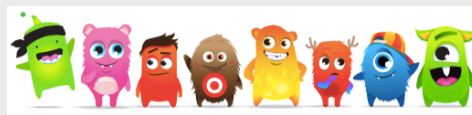


I am delighted that we will be linking with Cheadle Mosque to continue the Eid celebrations here in school. On Tuesday next week, volunteers from the Mosque will be coming in to share cakes and fruit with all the children in school. These will be given out at playtime and will give the opportunity for the children to celebrate together, as we do with Christmas. Many thanks to any parents who may be involved with this.

Reminders

As we have returned from the long summer holiday, I would like to remind parents that rings, earrings other than small studs, nail varnish and friendship bracelets are NOT allowed in school.

Pencil cases can be brought in to school for Y5 and 6 if the teacher has said it is ok, but we ask that they are not brought to school for younger year groups.



CLASS DOJO

After a successful trial with Year 3 and 5 last year, and excellent feedback from the Parent Council, we have decided to introduce ClassDojo throughout the school this year. ClassDojo is a reward system which is managed either on the Interactive whiteboard or an iPad. Every child has an avatar and when they have been awarded a dojo, they tap their avatar and it is recorded. Staff have been working together to draw up a list of what dojos can be awarded for. KS2 have stuck these into their homework diaries and KS1 will share with parents in due course. To clarify a few points, Dojos will not be awarded for homework but will be awarded for reading at home. In KS2, if a child has read 5 times in the week they will be awarded 5 dojos. Dojos can be given out for good work, good behaviour and conduct in school, and for showing a good attitude e.g. persistence, determination, team work etc.

During these first few weeks you should receive a letter from your class teacher with log on details for ClassDojo. This is entirely optional, but if you sign up you can receive alerts to your phone when a dojo has been awarded for your child.

When you sign up you will also find there is a messaging system to contact teachers. Will are NOT using ClassDojo as a form of communication so please do not message the teachers as they will not respond. We will continue to use text messaging from school and ask parents to either see teachers before the morning bell or to leave a message via the school office.

Dojos will replace merits. Bronze, silver and gold badges will continue to be given out, but in exchange for dojos rather than merits.

If you are having any technical difficulties with ClassDojo please log on to www.classdojo.com/parentsupport

We hope you enjoy the new system and value the regular updates about how your child is doing in school.





Extra-Curricular Clubs

Clubs will commence from Monday next week. Outdoor clubs will be running only until half term due to light and weather conditions. Please ensure your child is collected on time from these clubs. Repeated lateness will result in the place being lost at the club. We take registers at the beginning of every club - please ensure you let the school office know if, for whatever reason, your child is unable to attend.



Website

The staff are busy updating the class pages for the new year. Please visit your child's page regularly to see photos, news and useful documents such as ARE expectations.

If you do not want your child's photo to appear on the website or on our Twitter feed please ensure you let the school office know if you haven't already done so.

All parents must ensure they have their log-in for the parent area of the website. Everyone was issued with a website user agreement form which, when handed to the office, was returned with log-in details. We will be using the parents area of the website to book Parents Evening appointments in a few weeks so please make sure you have your log-in. Please contact the office to organise this if you need to - they will NOT be able to book your appointment for you.

By the end of next week, we will have updated the website calendar with all the key dates for the school year. Please use this as your first point of reference and let us know if there is anything we have missed.

EAL

English as an Additional Language

Every term we have to submit information about the children in our school to the DfE. This year, they are asking for more information regarding EAL. Please note that EAL is referring to English being an additional language. It is really important that we have our records right regarding the number of children who have EAL as we receive additional funding into school to provide teaching support from the Ethnic Diversity Service.

Your first language is defined as the language your child heard first as a baby. It will be the language they still hear at home or in the community, even if they usually speak English now.

We are sending home a letter today which we would like all parents to complete and return giving us the correct information for each of your children. We would be very grateful if you could send this back into school by Friday next week.

Reception and Nursery parents will be receiving a paper copy of the newsletter this week. Please note that from next week School News will be sent out electronically to ALL parents. All new parents need to ensure they have returned their data collection sheet to the school office with the correct email address. Newsletters are emailed to parents every Friday and are usually only 2 pages long!

I hope the children have enjoyed their first week back in school and have a good weekend.

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows and the Etchells staff

