

SCHOOL NEWS

RSPB Birdwatch | Safer Internet Day | Parent Council



Our Eco-Team, with the help of Mrs Lambert and Mrs Gunn, were outside last week participating in the annual RSPB birdwatch. This is a national event which enables the RSPB to acquire a bird population count. Our spotters counted lots of pigeons and gulls and recorded an increase in sightings of blue tits and robins. The eco-team are currently looking at how we can improve our grounds to encourage more birdlife and are hoping to raise funds to acquire a hide for more camouflaged bird spotting!



Even though we address the issue of safe internet usage with the children throughout the year, we will be marking Safer Internet Day next week with some focussed activities and discussions.

UKS2 will be holding an information session and workshop for Year 5 and 6 parents and grandparents on Wednesday 8th February from 8.45am. You will be able to join the children in really useful discussions around protecting ourselves on line and being aware of potential dangers. The session should last around an hour. A letter was sent home with Year 5 and 6 children yesterday - please return the slip to your class teacher.



Here is our Head Boy and Head Girl proudly showing off the amazing collection of new books, purchased with a generous £2000 donation from the PTA. We have been able to buy new sets of books for Guided Reading, as well as much needed new individual reading books for the high demand colour bands. We have also bought books for teachers to read to classes and to support topic work in class. This has made a big difference to our reading resources so our thanks to all parents and the PTA for enabling this to happen. Look out for books stamped with 'Donated by the PTA' which your child may be reading.



Parent Council

Unfortunately we didn't manage to meet as a group last term, though I did attempt to recruit some new members! We are looking to get the Parent Council kick started again this term and would like to invite anyone who has agreed to be a class rep or return as a class rep to come to a meeting on Monday 13th February at 4.45pm. The meeting will last around an hour. For those parents new to the school, the purpose of the Parent Council is to give parents a voice and raise questions, concerns or suggestions with myself and another member of the Senior Leadership Team. Each class has a rep who will take items from parents to put on the agenda. Sometimes, we may ask class reps to gather parent opinion about an issue we are considering, for example, in the past we have discussed homework, school meals and trips. If you are interested in becoming a rep please just turn up to the meeting and see what it's all about.

If you have anything to raise with the Parent Council please contact your class rep directly if you know who they are. Alternatively, please drop me an email. We will confirm reps and contact details at the meeting and update the information on the website.



PTA Dates

Please note the following dates for upcoming PTA events:

Fish and Chip Bingo Night:

Friday 24th March, 6 - 8pm

Bag2school collection:

Bags will be sent home before the Easter holidays for you to put in any second hand clothing. Please keep any unwanted items to one side ready for the collection. Thank you!



Forest School Opportunities

As I explained last week, Mrs Plumb, currently teaching in Year 2 will be leading our Forest School teaching after Easter. I would like to let parents know that Mrs Plumb will be working alongside the ranger team at Lyme Park over half term to deliver three Forest School Sessions. They will include an environmental learning focus on the current felling project at Hasebank North Woods on the Lyme Estate. Each session will include opportunities to explore the woodland through games, scavenger hunts and craft activities. Booking is essential for these sessions and should be done through Lyme Park's website where you will find the dates, times, prices and booking conditions. Please follow the link below:

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events/5b86cb6b-fadc-4a8f-9f44-cd082ab4ab08/pages/details>

This is a wonderful opportunity for children to get into the outdoors at half term and enjoy the woods at Lyme Park. If you do attend, please email or tweet your photos!

Reminders!!

- We rely on payments from parents to cover the costs of trips and visitors to school. Without these, the experiences will not be able to go ahead. Reductions can be made in hardship cases, but will need to be discussed with myself first.
- Please do not park cars on pavements outside of school. It is extremely dangerous for pedestrians trying to get past, as it not only restricts passage, but opening car doors can cause accidents.

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows and the Etchells staff

