

# SCHOOL NEWS

Parents' Evening Booking | School Funding Crisis | Police & Parking



**FUNDING CRISIS FOR SCHOOLS!! We need YOUR help!**



For years, school budgets have been unfairly allocated across England. Every child brings in a figure per head and this is how the differences come about. In the past a child in Hackney in London would attract £6,680 whereas a child in Stockport brings £4,206. This hasn't just been a London weighting either as a child in Nottingham would generate £5,308. The bottom line is that funding has been unfair for years, with Stockport being the 5th worst funded Local Authority in the country (ranked 146th out of 150)

Finally, a couple of years ago, the government decided to do something about this and proposed the National Fairer Funding Formula. We have been waiting for this with great anticipation in Stockport and this month, the proposed figures for April 2018 were finally revealed. I have attached an easy to understand table to this email for those who would like to see the comparisons in more detail.

The result of this Fairer Funding Formula is that it still remains grossly UNFAIR. Funding per pupil hasn't been equalised and whilst some authorities have had cuts to their budgets, they will still receive significantly more money per child than Stockport. We will remain the 5th worst funded authority, with our neighbours in Cheshire East being ranked the worst - 150th out of 150 Local Authorities. In fact the new formula will mean that Stockport children on average will attract an increase of £40 a pupil. Now whilst this isn't a loss, it doesn't make up the vast differences that still unfairly remain across England. Watch the ITN clip to see how the headteacher at Poynton High School has summed up his concerns for secondary schooling - these issues are the same for us in Stockport.



<http://www.itv.com/news/granada/update/2017-02-14/watch-are-cheshire-schools-being-unfairly-penalised/>

Already we have had to make cut backs in school, reducing monies for teaching and learning resources, reducing Teaching Assistant hours and Leadership and Management time. Training has had to be reduced as well as monies we would normally spend on the upkeep of the building. We have become increasingly reliant and hugely grateful to the PTA who have helped by buying new reading books as well as improving the playground.

So what can we do? We are asking as many parents, staff and friends of the school to write to our local MP Mary Robinson to voice your concerns. Headteachers have spoken to local MPs and we have been told that they need emails from parents in vast quantities. They will then present them to Nick Gibb MP in Parliament and discuss questions raised.

I have attached to this email a template letter which can be completed extremely quickly and emailed to Mary Robinson MP. ([mary.robinson.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:mary.robinson.mp@parliament.uk)) You will also find a document with more detailed suggestions such as questions that could be raised in Parliament.

Please take a few minutes to make a response to this funding crisis that is already upon us and only set to get worse in 2018. Thank you!





## POLICE ACTION WITH PARKING

We are now working closely with the police to address the ongoing parking problem outside school. The first approach we would like to take is educating parents about the dangers of illegal parking eg parking on zig zag lines, double yellow lines and up on the pavement. For the first week of monitoring after half term, the police will talk to offenders and explain the dangers they are posing. However, for the rest of March, fines of up to £80 will be issued and points may be put on driving licenses. This is not an issue to take lightly. Many of our parents have expressed their frustration about not being able to report offending parking. This has now changed and I am now asking any parent who has a photograph of anyone parking illegally and unsafely outside our school to email the photo to me and I will forward it on to our link officer who will then make a prosecution.

Let's avoid this and just park sensibly for the safety of our children!



## PTA Family Bingo Night

A letter will be coming home about the PTA Family Bingo Night which includes a fish and chip supper. This event was hugely popular last year and is likely to be a sell out again. Get your tickets early and join in the fun. The evening is taking place on Friday 24th March from 5.30pm to 7.30pm and we hope to be eating at around 5.45/6pm. As it is Comic Relief Day we will be playing a special charity round where proceeds will go directly to this cause.

# COMIC RELIEF



## Midday Assistants needed!!

We are looking to recruit a couple of new Midday Assistants to join our lunchtime team. This position is one and a quarter hours a day, from 12 noon to 1.15pm and so is ideally suited to someone living locally. If you are interested in the role, please look at the attached information. You will find a detailed advert, job description and application form. Come and join the team!!

## Well done 6L!!!

This half term's attendance award goes to 6L and they have been wearing non-uniform today as a reward. 6L's attendance stands at 97.8% - a figure definitely to be proud of. Our overall school attendance is rising very slightly and is now at 95%. The national average however is 96% and we still have a long way to go to meet that. We need everybody's support and effort with this!

## Parents' Evening Booking

Parents' Evening will be available to book via the parent area of the [school website](#) from 3.30pm today. The parent consultations are taking place on Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th March. Please ensure you arrange childcare as this is a parents ONLY event.

## First week back

World Book Day is taking place on Thursday 2nd March and we will be marking this by dressing up. Please refer to earlier newsletters to check your child's class theme. There will be no school news first week back as we have a Monday INSET and I am attending Headteacher training on the Thursday and Friday.

Have a lovely half term holiday and we will see everyone back at 8.50am on Tuesday 28th February.

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows and the Etchells staff

