

# SCHOOL NEWS

Y3 and Y4 Performance | Book Fair | Parent Council

## Happy Retirement

We say a very fond farewell to Mrs Cleary this Easter as she is retiring from her teaching post at Etchells. Her time with us spans an impressive twenty seven years. During this time, she has not only been a valued and very much respected class teacher, but also a member of the Senior Leadership Team. She will be missed very much and we wish her a very enjoyable retirement.

After the Easter Holiday, Mrs Townend, who currently teaches in Year 3 and 4, as well as supporting groups, will be taking over the teaching role in Y1. After a successful interview, Mrs Townend has been appointed as a permanent member of staff and will work alongside Mrs Macfarlane who is currently covering the maternity leave of Miss Laurie.

## Book Fair



Thank you for your support at the book fair this week - it has been very well attended and children have been enthusiastic about the books. The fair will be open after school today as well as Monday and Tuesday next week. Opening times are 3.30 - 4pm.



## Year 3 and 4 Performance

Year 3 and 4 will be performing songs, dance and poetry with an animal theme for parents during the last week of term on Thursday 30th March. There will be two performance times, the first starting at 2pm and the second at 7pm. Initially, we will make two tickets available per family. More information to follow next week.

# RED NOSE DAY

## Friday 24 March

We will be raising money for the Comic Relief charity by holding a cake sale on Red Nose day, Friday 24th March. If you are able to bake or donate cakes for the sale we would be extremely grateful. Any cakes can be brought to the hall (which should be accessed from the playground not the front door) before school on Friday 24th, next week.

We are asking children to bring around 50p/£1 for cakes which will be on sale at break time and after school if there are any left!



## PTA Fish and Chip Bingo Night

We are delighted that this PTA family event is a sell out! We have people on a waiting list so if you are unable to attend and have tickets, please let the PTA know.

In addition to the games of bingo, which will result in plentiful Easter egg prizes, we will be holding a special bingo game in aid of Comic Relief. Please bring some extra money if you would like to make a donation to play this game and be in with a chance to win an Easter hamper. All proceeds will of course go straight to the charity.



## Parking Update - Taking Photos

Some parents have asked about whether it is legal for photos to be taken of cars parked on double yellows lines, zig zags and restricted areas. I have checked with our link officer and he has assured me that as long as the photos are not being taken secretly, it is perfectly fine and doesn't break any data protection act. If any parent would like to contact him directly regarding this, please ask school for his email address and he will be happy to answer your questions.

Please remember the single line area outside school is a **no stopping** area between 8am and 9am. Stopping, not just parking here, is an offence. For the sake of our children's safety, please keep the photos coming in as they are being followed up on an individual basis and please park legally! Thank you.



Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows and the Etchells staff

## Funding Crisis

### Have you written to the MP yet?

We have until the 22nd March to make a response to the Government's consultation on the Fairer Funding Formula. If you feel this is too complicated to complete, we would urge you to still write to Mary Robinson MP to make your voice heard. We need to send the message that more money needs to be set aside for schools and that MPs should be presenting the viewpoint of parents and children of Heald Green and Cheadle. At Etchells, we have already been affected by funding cuts and after Easter will be running with a reduced support staff. We need to complain about this and ask why should the unfair funding for school affect the outcomes for our children.

It was agreed at a headteacher's meeting yesterday that parents possibly have the strongest voice as they are bigger in numbers. Some Local Authorities are considering closing schools at Friday lunchtime to children in order to save money. This would allow staff to take PPA time (Planning, preparation and Assessment) without the need for schools to cover the cost. If you are outraged by this suggestion and don't want to be picking your child up at lunchtime, please write a letter or email and make your voice heard!

## Parent Council - next Monday

The next Parent Council meeting will be held on Monday 20th March at 4.45pm. Please forward any issues or questions to myself or your parent rep. We would also appreciate any feedback regarding parents evenings too.

