

# SCHOOL NEWS

MDA Vacancy | Freddie Fit | Enrichment Afternoons

## Assessment Tests for Year 2 and Year 6

### Year 6

Next week Year 6 will be taking their SATs tests in Reading, Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling, as well as Mathematics. They will sit the tests at the same time as all other 10 and 11 year olds in the country. We aim to keep the children as relaxed as possible about the tests whilst also giving them the best chance to do well and perform to their full ability. We ask parents to ensure that bedtimes next week are not too late, screen time kept to a minimum and that children attend the breakfast club before school. A letter has been sent home to Y6 about the breakfast club; this gives the children a chance to socialise, eat breakfast and relax with their friends a little before school. No charge is made for the club.

We wish our Year 6 the best of luck and hope you have the opportunity to shine and show off your skills.

### Year 2

Year 2 will also be taking SATs over the next few weeks. However, it is much less formal for them and the teachers can choose when best to do the tests within a given time frame. We strive to make the conditions as normal as possible for the children within their own classroom environments. We suggest that Y2 also have early bedtimes, limited screen time and good breakfasts over the coming weeks.

### Mid-Day Assistant **STILL** Required!

We are still looking to recruit a Mid-Day Assistant to work with our lunchtime team of staff. If you know anyone in our local community who maybe interested in this position please ask them to get in touch.

The hours are 12 - 1.15pm, Monday to Friday and the annual salary is £2,264. A hot lunch is provided which can be taken at 1.15pm.

We are looking for someone who enjoys being with children and can encourage positive play and good relationships. We need someone who is caring, energetic and enthusiastic and is able to use their initiative.

The role involves helping the children in the dining room and assisting in developing play and cooperation skills during the lunchtime.

If you are interested please phone the school office or email me directly at [headteacher@etchells.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@etchells.stockport.sch.uk)

### Thank you!

Thank you for the donations brought to school today. These are put directly towards the cash prizes for the raffle at the Summer Fair. The prizes of £75, £50 and £25 have been very popular and are well received by everybody!

**100% attendance must be given the upmost priority over the coming weeks.**

## Parent Council and Mathematics

You will find the minutes of the last Parent Council meeting attached to this newsletter. These are written by parents for parents. We aim to answer your questions and queries and explain some of our practices.

You will see who the class reps are down the left hand side of the letter - if you are able to fill in any of the gaps please let me know.

One area that created particular discussion this time was the teaching of maths and homework. We have made recommendations which are included in the minutes and discussed the new 'Mastery Approach' to teaching maths. This was born out of Singapore and has been further developed to complement the mixed ability style of teaching which is proving to be so effective. Please read the final page of the Parent Council minutes for a brief outline of the approach. We hope to hold a further Parents Curriculum Evening in the near future to update parents on these new developments.

## Keeping Active

### Freddy Fit

Next Tuesday we will be welcoming Freddy Fit back into school. For the majority of the day, he will be

working with our Year 5 pupils, training them up to be lunchtime play leaders when they are in Year 6. He will also be delivering our whole school sponsored active session in order to raise money for a defibrillator. Please remember that children need to come to school dressed in sports gear and if you can, send in any sponsor monies on the day. Thank you in advance. Freddy will be finishing his day with a stress busting exercise session for Year 6!

Year 6 are to come to school on Tuesday in their school uniform and bring a sports kit to get changed into.

## Prompt Pick Up Needed Please!!

We are finding that an increasing number of children are being picked up late - some as late as 3.45pm. We cannot look after children after 3.15pm - teachers are in meetings and the office staff are extremely busy and often have to leave the office which means children are left unattended. Children who are not being picked up on time will be referred to the Education Welfare Officer and a formal parent contract will have to be put in place. If this is not followed, a fine can be issued.

## Enrichment Afternoons

All teachers have an entitlement to PPA (Planning, Preparation and Assessment) time each week. We have now changed the way that this is covered and have introduced enrichment afternoons. Years 1, 2 and 3 have their session on Tuesday afternoon and Years 4, 5 and 6 have theirs on Wednesdays. Early Years take their time on Tuesday mornings. During these sessions the children will take part in a wide range of activities as well as an assembly at the end of the day instead of during the morning.

We are introducing Forest School to all Year groups over the coming months as well as increased outdoor learning opportunities. The children will also take part in Philosophy4Children sessions, have Spanish taught by a professional fluent speaker, develop practical skills such as sewing, increase outdoor adventurous activities (part of the PE curriculum) with orienteering and develop team building skills.

We have been running the programme for 2 weeks now and so far it has been a real success. The children will have a half term on each activity.

Let's hope the sunny weather continues for the weekend!

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows and the Etchells staff

