

SCHOOL NEWS

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Parent Council Feedback

The full minutes of the Parent Council meetings can be found on our school website should you wish to find out about the items discussed in more detail.

Please find some points of the meeting summarised below:

We were asked about the provision of holiday clubs at school during the holidays: Clubs take place during the weeks in which Mr Bebb is working in school. This will be for the first 3 weeks of the summer break. I will endeavour to let parents know exactly which clubs are running as soon as possible in order for childcare plans to be made for the long holiday.

SATs: The provision of the breakfast club for Y6 before their end of Key Stage SATs tests was well received. A discussion took place around the way school administers tests and prepares children for such occasions. On the whole, we prefer to keep assessments low key in order to keep anxiety and stress levels low for children. The Y6's took their SATs in the classroom, though under strict test conditions. Children do take tests during their time at school, but very often, they are not aware they are happening. I am pleased to say, the Year 1's did a magnificent job with their phonics screening this week.

Making cards in school: some parents feel very strongly that Father's Day cards should be made as well as Mother's Day cards. School have never in the past produced Father's Day cards as it places a considerable demand on precious teaching time and impacts on our ability to deliver the National Curriculum as fully as we would like. There was discussion about it being a more 'free' task where children could have the opportunity to make their mark. It is a discussion I will take up with staff, but would also be interested in your views.

School Dinners - important information!!

On Monday we will be sending a very important letter home. It is particularly relevant for parents of Nursery, Reception and Year 1 children. In September, ALL children in Reception and KS1 will be entitled to a free school meal. We would like everyone to give us an indication about whether they intend their children to have a school meal from September. We will be moving to an ordering system in the next few weeks - you will find the week's menu attached to the newsletters so you can discuss the options with your child. A Halal option will be included. Please read the letter carefully and return to school if your child will be having a meal in September. More information about the pre-ordering will be given in the coming weeks.

FAMILY PERFORMANCE NIGHT

Plans are coming together very well for our Family Performance Night. Many thanks for all the offers of help and to the people who have come forward to help organise too. We are hoping it will be a fantastic evening. You should have received a letter yesterday indicating the line up for the performances. Please return the permission slip if your child will be taking part. It would really help us too if you could indicate how many people you think will be coming to the evening.

CAKES!!

We had a tremendous response to the request for cakes for the Cash for Kids cake sale! We would like to hold a cake stall alongside the other food stalls on the performance evening. We would be grateful to anyone who can send cakes into school on the morning of Wednesday 25th June. Thanks in advance!

Sainsbury's Vouchers

Thank you for a magnificent effort in collecting the Active Kids vouchers from Sainsbury's. Mrs Kemp has done a sterling job in counting them all up. We have passed them on to Miss Pennil, our leader of PE to decide how best to use them. We may opt for some sessions of specific sports coaching for the children or we may buy no equipment for our PE and games lessons. We will keep you posted as to what we decide. Please don't send in any more vouchers as they can no longer be accepted.

School Trips

School trips are such an important part of school life and really bring the curriculum alive for our children. Staff work extremely hard to ensure trips are planned in accordance with all safety guidelines and with detailed risk assessments. Many schools find this off putting and off-site visits do not take place. I was delighted to witness the determination of our Early Years staff to make a trip to the seaside happen for the children. It was a huge success and if you follow us on twitter, you will have been updated during the day with photos and assurances of a safe arrival! It was a fantastic day - enjoyed just as much by the adults as the children!

Year 4 also visited Jodrell Bank and took part in a range of experiences and learning activities. I was proud to hear how wonderfully the Y4 children had behaved and how much they had gained from the day. Year 3 will be out next week as well as Year 5 and 6, who are visiting the Museum of Science and Industry. Thanks for your support with these trips and enabling them to go ahead. Please check out the class pages on the website for photos.

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows

and the Etchells staff

