

SCHOOL NEWS

Head Boy and Girl | Bright Sparks Day | Parent Council

Welcome Back

Happy New Year to all our families. We have been back just over a week and such a lot has been going on already. This week's School News is slightly extended as there will be no letter next week due to my attendance at a Stockport Headteachers' Conference.

We always start the new term with the announcement of the Head Boy and Girl. These positions are elected by Year 6 pupils and the posts are held for a term. I am delighted to announce that Ewan and Edie are the proud wearers of the red jumpers this term!



Be bright, be seen.



Next Friday we will be holding a Bright Sparks Day. We are encouraging the children to 'Be Bright, Be Seen' and to raise awareness of being safe during the dark afternoons and mornings.

We are asking children to come to school dressed in bright clothing; we will be nominating the best and brightest dressed in each class. The children do not need to bring anything to school - this is purely an awareness day.



Next week the children will also be busily involved in Operation Eagle Eye. The older children will be observing parking, taking vehicle speeds, looking for mobile phone and seatbelt use. Some of the younger classes will be involved in road safety activities - you may spot them in their hi-vis vests!

INSET Dates for 2018 - 19

The INSET dates have now been set for next academic year and hopefully will make booking holidays easier for parents. Please always refer to term dates ahead of booking holidays; we aim to give parents as much notice as possible. Holidays taken during term term will continue to be unauthorised. <http://www.etchells.stockport.sch.uk/page/term-dates/4755>



Message from the PTA Chair

Dear Parents

Your PTA would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year.

Fresh from a break over Christmas, we are raring to get going and start planning some wonderful events for the rest of the year.

We are keen to hear from as many of you as possible with your ideas and suggestions of what YOU would like to see take place and what events YOU would be interested in coming to.

As promised, we want to make the PTA as open and available to as many people as possible.

As such, we are holding an open PTA meeting on Monday 22nd January 2018 at 8pm at the Hallmark Hotel, Stanley Road. We would love to see as many of you as possible there to get your feedback and discuss new ideas for the future.

In addition, it is with great regret that our current treasurers have unfortunately made the decision to stand down from the committee owing to personal commitments. I would like to thank Darren and Nicola for all their help and hard work they have put in so far. Therefore we now have an exciting vacancy open for a new treasurer on the committee. A letter will be coming out with regard to this next week and we will be looking to vote in a new treasurer at the upcoming meeting.

If anyone has any ideas, queries or suggestions and is unable to make the meeting then please feel free to get in touch with one of us either by email, Facebook or in the playground at school.

Many thanks for your ongoing support and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the 22nd.

Kind Regards

Christopher Dean
PTA Chair

Parent Council

I am delighted that we have 9 parents who have put themselves forward for the Parent Council. Our first meeting will be taking place on Monday 29th January and hopefully if you have a rep, they will be making contact with you shortly. We just have the following classes without reps: Nursery, 1P, 3C, 4M, 5R and 5W.

I have asked the reps to gather opinion for 2 items on the agenda.

1. Feedback on the new style of individual/family photographs. We have reviewed the process of having the photos taken and will have a much smoother and quicker plan in place. I would like to know what parents thought of the quality of the photographs themselves and if they are happy with the new photographer.



2. In our efforts to become a healthy and fit school, we are considering putting an end to birthday sweets being brought into school to give out to classmates at the end of the day. We are finding that this is happening for an increasing number of occasions and some classes are taking home 2 or 3 bags of sweets a week. Please could you feedback to your class rep if you think it would be a good idea to put an end to this practice.



Any other points for discussion can also be put forward for the agenda; please ensure that the issues are general and not something that can be taken up directly with the class teacher.

After the meeting, we will report back to parents what has been agreed and discussed.



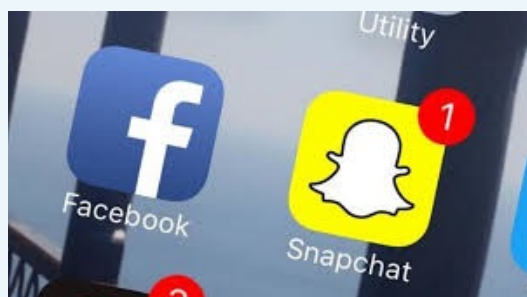
Life in Likes



You may have heard in the news last week about a report that has been released called 'Life in Likes'. It looks at 8 to 12 year olds use of social media and the effect it has on their well-being. It highlights how a growing number of children under the age of 13 are using social media platforms, even though most of them have a minimum age of 13. The reports explains how our children are at risk of 'growing up chasing likes' and are vulnerable to 'significant risk emotionally'. It finds that while 8 - 10 year olds use social media to play games, be creative and discover new things about the world, the focus shifts onto social interactions and image as they begin secondary school. I have asked all staff to read the report and we will be responding through our e-safety curriculum in school.

I urge all parents to take a look at the report - it's in an easy to read format. You will find it both interesting and concerning. Social media will not be going away and we all have a role in helping our youngsters use these platforms responsibly. Read via the link below or you may prefer to open the PDF attached to this newsletter.

www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/life-in-likes/



Mid-Day Assistant Required!

We are looking to recruit a Mid-Day Assistant to work with our lunchtime team of staff. 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, 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

Communication reminders

- ▶ We hope parents are enjoying the class dojo communications which are available via the App. We would like to remind parents however, that messages should not be sent to the teacher through Class Dojo. We cannot guarantee that they will be seen and we ask that communication is made directly with the teacher or through the school office.
- ▶ You can also keep up to date with news and events from school by following us on Twitter: [@EtchellsPS](https://twitter.com/EtchellsPS)

Just another reminder, there will be no School News next week.

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows
and the Etchells staff

