

SCHOOL NEWS

New Dates | Parents' Evening | Y3/4 Performance

A Chilly Week!!

I would like to extend a huge thanks to the staff who have valiantly made their way to school every day this week, enabling us to keep the school open. We have gritted paths through the playground and ensured that the children and staff are safe on our site. Our heating has been keeping us all warm and as the roads have been passable to school, there has been no reason to close. Only one primary school in the Heald Green cluster closed today and so it has been a great effort all round.

Earlier in the week, when the sun was shining a little and the winds less strong, we were able to get out in the snow and enjoy some outdoor fun.



Date changes

We have had to re-arrange a couple of meetings and events due to the weather. Please take note of the new dates below:

Year 5 Castleton trip parents' information session - **Thursday 15th March at 3.30pm**

World Book Day Dressing up

Although the children took part in lots of World Book Day activities yesterday, we decided the weather was too cold for dressing up. We don't want to miss this opportunity and so would like the children to come in their World Book Day costumes next **Thursday, 8th March.**

The PTA have donated a book voucher prize for the most imaginative costumes (NOT the most expensive). There will be a prize for Early Years, Y1/2, Y3/4 and Y5/6. It's an open theme or 'bee' inspired. Please see earlier newsletter for ideas.



Mid-Term Reviews Home Today

Today you will receive an envelope from your child containing their Mid-Term Review and 2 copies of the Home-School Agreement. Please read the letter accompanying these documents for further explanation. One copy of the signed Home-School Agreement should be handed to the class teacher at parents' evening next week.

Parents' Evening

Please ensure you have booked a parents' evening appointment. Around a third of parents have not yet made an appointment. This is a really important point in the academic year to meet with your child's teacher and to find out about the progress they are making. I am particularly concerned about the low numbers of Year 6 parents engaging with this opportunity. The booking on the school website will remain open until the end of Monday. Appointments will not be allocated on the day.

Please take the opportunity to look at your child's workbooks before your appointment with the teacher. There is a national drive to reduce teachers' workload in schools and so you may well notice there has been a reduction in the quantity of marking in the books. Teachers can often have over 90 books to mark in one evening, which I'm sure you will agree, is not sustainable after a full day's work. We have been looking at ways to reduce written comments whilst still maintaining quality feedback to pupils. Marking is done during the lessons, with the pupils where possible, which enables children to make an immediate response. Feedback can also be given orally and the pupils given time to make improvements with their purple pen. The older pupils are getting increasingly involved in self-assessing their work and setting their own targets.

In the front of English and Maths books you will find your child's ARE tracker (Age Related Expectation) sheet. You will see what has been achieved so far this year and what has yet to be covered or areas your child is finding difficult. The class teacher will be able to talk to you about this.

Letters Attached

There are 3 attachments to today's newsletter. Please take the time to read them:

- ✓ SolutionsSK, the company who provide our school dinners and security, are re-branding under the name of the Totally Local Company. Please see their letter to parents for further information.
- ✓ Teacher2parents, the company who provide our text messaging service for parents, are making some changes to the service. They have written a letter to parents with details of this. Please read it carefully.
- ✓ Parking! Please find a letter from the chair of the PTA, Chris Dean, about parking. We would really like parents to understand the reasons we ask for cars not to be parked on zig-zags, double yellow lines and on the pavement. The letter also gives details about fines and fixed penalty notices. The Police have already been on East Avenue this week and will be stepping up their visits in the coming months.

Performance for Y3/4 Parents

A reminder that the Y3/4 Performance is taking place on Wednesday 28th March at 6pm. Y3/4 did not perform at Christmas and so this is their opportunity to shine.

Keep warm this weekend and we'll see everyone wrapped up on Monday morning.

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows

and the Etchells staff

