

---

# SCHOOL NEWS

---

Parking | Parent Council feedback| Parents' Evening

---

## **Feedback from the Parent Council:**

For parents new to the school, you may not be aware that we have a Parent Council. This is made up of class representatives who field questions and concerns from parents of the same class and then bring to the table to be discussed with the Headteacher and Deputy. This gives parents a good opportunity to discuss day to day issues related to school and to help drive decisions and understand procedures and practices that currently take place. Our first meeting was held this week and I have summarised the main points below. You can find all the minutes to the Parent Council meetings on the parents section of the school website. There are vacancies for some classes. Please check the attached document with this email to see who your rep is and where the vacancies are. If you are interested in filling the gap, please email the head teacher's address.

## **Booking After School Clubs**

---

Taking into account the numerous helpful emails I received and a very useful discussion with the Parent Council, we were able to make a decision on a positive way forward. I think many people agree that an online booking and payment system would be the easiest and most effective, however, we felt that the issue needed addressing immediately and an interim arrangement put in place. The fairest and most popular system was 'names in the hat'. It was agreed that a first come first served system could never be fair for all people and so random selection seemed to make sense. Parents will be asked to send in slips with contact details etc for each of the clubs they would like to sign up for and they will be put into a hat. Successful entrants will be informed and payment will be expected within 2 or 3 days. If payment is not made, the place will be offered to the first person on the 'reserve' list. The other important issue seemed to be the number of clubs individual children could sign up to. I agree that for some children to have 4 or 5 clubs and others to have none is unfair and isn't in the spirit of our enhanced provision at lunchtime and after school. Therefore clubs will be limited to 2 per child in the first instance; if places aren't filled however, they will be offered to those who are interested. We will trial this system in January and give more details nearer the time.

## **Online Calendar**

---

The website calendar with key dates for the whole year has been updated today. We hope you find this useful. If we have missed anything, please let us know!

## **Parking**

---

Some parents, once again, are parking irresponsibly outside school. Cars must not be parked on the zig zag lines or up on the pavement. The safety of our children is paramount and they must be allowed a safe approach to school. The parent council requested the traffic wardens be brought back and for parents to respect parking legislation outside schools. Parents must NOT use the staff car park either, as it is needed for our 50+ staff and taxis for some of our children.<sup>1</sup>

## PARENTS AT REGISTRATION

Whilst we very much promote an open door policy, it has come to our attention that a number of parents are requiring an increasing amount of the teachers' time just as the children are coming into school. We of course need to be made aware of any pressing issues which are relevant for the day ahead, but other concerns need to be raised at hometime or an appointment made with the teacher. The staff are always happy to make time to meet with parents to discuss issues concerning them.

What we are asking is that the children and staff are able to come quickly into school at morning bell and to allow registration to take place in the allotted time. Phonics and guided reading sessions start promptly at 9am every day but I have noticed that some classes have been unable to do this due to registration delays. We appreciate your understanding with this matter.

### *Strike Action*

You may be aware that strike action was proposed for next Tuesday. Our school would have been unaffected and incidentally, the action has now been suspended.



## Parents' Evening

We are delighted that our newly introduced parent consultation evenings are taking place next week. Please make sure you have made an appointment to see your child's teacher and take the opportunity to discuss their start to the year. You will be asked to check your data collection form - please amend any details which may have changed. It is vital that we hold up to date information. You will also be given a leaflet outlining the new 'Age Related Expectations' for your child. This is in line with the New National Curriculum and will form the basis of learning for your child in the year to come. Assessments will also be made against these expectations, as the levels as we know them (3c, 3b, 3a for example), are no longer in existence. The exception to this is Y2 and Y6 who will be following the old National Curriculum and will take the old style SATs tests at the end of the year. This is to allow the New Curriculum to embed in school and will be the practice nationally. More information linked to the new assessment procedures will be sent out in the near future.

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows

and the Etchells staff

