

SCHOOL NEWS

Picnic in the Park | Nut Free School | Christmas Holiday Dates

Newsletters and Homework

Today you will receive the newsletter for your child's year group. The letter contains information about what your child will be learning during the Autumn term. There is also information about PE days, expectations around reading and homework, as well as introducing staff working in the year group team. Our website has a page called "Meet the Staff" where you can see photos and names of all the staff in school, should you wish to put names to faces. Homework sheets will be sent out for Years 1 to 5 detailing the tasks for this half term. Some parents ask for additional work to be completed at home; we decided with the Parent Council a few years ago that we wouldn't do this as it puts additional pressure on parents. Instead, we recommend the books published by CGP which contain age related work across the core subjects. These can be obtained cheaply at www.cgpbooks.co.uk Year 6 receive weekly homework tasks to prepare them for their SATs assessments as well as the transition to High School.

Term Dates Reminder

The last day of the Autumn term will be Tuesday 21st December, 2021. Wednesday 22nd December is being taken as an extra day in lieu of the Queens Jubilee Bank Holiday taking place during our half term holiday in June 2022. Children return to school on Monday 10th January, 2022.

COVID-19 Update

I would just like to keep you updated in regard to positive cases in school. Unfortunately, we have received notification of a positive case in every year group in school. We are not considering this to be an outbreak at the moment and cases seem to be contained within just a few families and a couple of staff. We are keeping a close eye on cases with the Local Authority and monitoring the situation. I do not intend to cause alarm, I am just asking you to continue to be vigilant with your hygiene practices, social distancing and Lateral Flow Testing where possible. If your child is symptomatic, they should be taken straight away for a PCR test and kept at home until the result comes through. When family members are positive, testing is extremely important - some families have found that even though children have tested negative on a PCR, they have shown as positive on a lateral flow test a few days later. Please keep us informed of any positive test results, whether Lateral Flow or PCR, by phoning the school office.

Home Learning

As a school, we still have an obligation to provide home learning in certain situations. In accordance to our home learning policy, when individual children have to isolate, a basic level of home learning tasks will be set. Under 18's no longer need to isolate due to being a close contact, however, if they test positive, then they will need to stay at home for 10 days. Home learning tasks will be available for them but we are also mindful that they may be unwell too. We will carry out welfare checks to see how you are doing.



Nut Free School!!



Just a reminder - especially for our new parents - that we are very strict about keeping our school nut free. We have several children in school who have severe reactions to nuts - they can be affected even through airborne particles. Snacks and lunch boxes must not contain nuts - this includes chocolate hazelnut spreads, snack bars, peanut butter etc. Thank you, as ever, for respecting this.

Picnic in the Park



This Sunday, from 1 - 3pm, Friends of East Avenue Park are

holding a fun event to bring the community together, whilst enjoying our amazing green space. All the Primary Schools in Heald Green have come together to form a choir from children in Year 6; they will be performing at 1:15pm. There will be a number of stalls such as beat the goalie, tombola, raffle and fun children's games - so come along with your picnic and enjoy this long awaited fun event!

Further information can be found on the Facebook page and on posters displayed at the park.

Book Fair

Usually, during the Autumn term, we hold a book fair in the Key Stage 2 library by the front door. The fair really promotes reading for pleasure and the enjoyable experience of looking through books to choose one to buy. We have taken the difficult decision to cancel the fair this term due to safety reasons. Part of the fun of choosing a book is about looking through what is on offer and handling the different texts. It is usually busy with a lovely bustling atmosphere and as I'm sure you can appreciate, this is not conducive to our Covid safer working practices. We would really like to encourage your children to read for pleasure however. They are able to choose books from the school library and we also send home a list of recommended books for your child's year group. This is a good reference point for birthdays, Christmas, Eid and even just a treat. They can be easily purchased online.



Fundraiser

Every September, the classes hold a sponsored fundraiser to raise money for resources to support the topic curriculum. These are items which aren't easy for us to order from our usual sources, such as ingredients for baking, specialised art and craft material, props, clothing etc for drama. The funds raised really help us bring the curriculum alive and so your support with the sponsor events is very much appreciated.

Clubs

For a number of reasons linked to Covid, available hall space and the closing weather, we have decided not to run after school clubs for the time being. We will let you know if this changes.

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows and the Etchells staff

