

SCHOOL NEWS

Final Week Arrangements | Staffing | New Library

Well Done!!

I would like to say a huge 'well done' to all the children and staff who have been involved in putting on the many Christmas performances over the last couple of weeks. Early Years got us started with their memorable performance of 'Christmas Counts', followed by Year 5 who staged a beautiful carol concert at the United Reformed Church. Year 3 went into the community to perform at Smithy Croft and The Griffin, topped off with Key Stage One performing their version of the nativity: 'It Takes a Village'. Such a lot of hard work, but seeing how much enjoyment has been gained from from the children and the audiences makes it all so worthwhile. Thank you to everyone who has been involved, including the PTA for providing refreshments, a raffle and photographs.

Visitors to School



Yesterday we had some rather unusual visitors to school. Numerous birds of prey were brought to the school hall for Year 6 to look at and even hold. This was a very exciting enrichment activity to complement the evolution and adaption work being completed as part of Science for our oldest children.

Our new curriculum approach is all about bringing learning to life and giving opportunities for the children to explore and communicate their new knowledge.



Freddy Fit

Next week Freddy Fit will be here to give us our annual dose of festive exercise. His sessions are hugely popular and its quite a sight to see so many children in the hall, synchronising their aerobic moves to well known Christmas tunes! When it is their day for Freddy Fit, the children can come to school dressed in sports gear and trainers. Please check below which classes are on which day:

Monday: Years 3, 4, 5 and 6

Tuesday: Reception, Years 1 and 2

Last Day of Term

We break up for Christmas next Wednesday, on the 19th December. The classes will be having their Christmas parties on the last day and so the children can come to school in their party clothes. We will be having our fun Christmas sing-a-long in the afternoon and then will head back to the classrooms to collect all our things before the day ends at 3.15pm. PE kits will be sent home for washing over the holidays.



Attendance

Well done to 3TL for an amazing 98% attendance this half term. It is a tremendous achievement! It is also really pleasing that six other classes also achieved above the national average of 96%.

I would like to thank the large number of families who have supported us in improving the attendance of our pupils and who really value every day spent in school.

We still have a worrying number of 'Persistent Absentees' who have attendance of less than 90%. The Local Authority are now issuing a record number of fines and are following up in court those who don't pay.

There is a direct correlation between attendance and success at school. It may seem a long way off but its worth noting that 90% of young people with attendance rates below 85% fail to achieve five or more good grades of GCSE and around one third achieve no GCSEs at all. Its important to get our children into good habits and ensure they are receiving the education they are entitled to.

Group	% Attend
3TL	98
5M	97.4
1H	96.6
5L	96.3
3C	96.2
6R	96.1
2V	96
4R	95.9
1P	95.7
4M	95.2
6W	94.7
2W	93.7
Total	96

Please do not book family holidays in term time.

Football Team

This week we took two football teams to participate in a tournament hosted by Stockport County Football Club. One of the teams made it to the final without conceding a goal but were unfortunately beaten in the end. The children played very well and showed great sportsmanship. Our thanks to John and Chris Williams for coaching the teams and to all the parents who transported the children and stayed to support.



New Library

We are looking forward to our new KS2 library being fitted during the INSET days in January. It is being built in the entrance area next to the hall. The current library in the corridor will be focussed for KS1 use. Many thanks to the PTA last year for their amazing fundraising efforts which has enabled this project to be completed.

New Staff

In January, we look forward to Mr Cope starting with us in Y5 in his role as Assistant Headteacher and Mrs Allaby, who will be teaching Reception until the summer. We wish Mr Malone every success in his new Deputy Headteacher role and look forward to hearing news of a new arrival from Miss Gilham.

We have two INSET days in January and so the children will not return to school until Monday 7th January 2019. I would like to wish everyone in the Etchells community a very happy and enjoyable holiday.

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows

and the Etchells staff

