

SCHOOL NEWS

Harvest Donations | Parents Evening Booking | Christmas Cards

A HUGE thank you...



We had such an incredible response to our harvest appeal. A staff member from the Wellspring came to collect the donations. On seeing how much we had, he said he would need to return with a van!! Brendan spoke to the children in assembly about the work the Wellspring does and it was a bit sad to hear how little some people have - but the children were then told how proud they should be that they've done something to help those in need. Brendan remarked on how politely the children listened to him and he was really moved by their singing - 'what have you done today to make you feel proud?' which they also perform by using the sign language, Makaton.

Another fabulous effort by the Etchells community.



Ofsted

You will be aware that this week we had an inspection carried out by Ofsted. It was what is known as a 'Section 8' inspection to check if our school continues to be a good school. The inspector was with us for 2 days and looked at a wide range of areas. The report has to be validated and Quality Assured and so it will be a few weeks until it is published. I am able to share with you a few days in advance of publication and will send to you as soon as I have it. My thanks to the whole staff team who worked incredibly hard to enable the inspector to see everything she needed to and also to the parents who showed such support by either speaking to the lady directly or through the parent questionnaire.

PARENTS'
EVENING

We will be holding Parents' Evening during the week beginning 8th November. This will be an opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress and ask any questions you may have. Appointments will be for ten minutes and conducted over Zoom. Next week you will receive an email with booking information and exact days of the consultations.





A few reminders....

- ◆ Orders for the Christmas Cards designed by pupils, need to be in school by 9.30am on Tuesday next week. Please send your order form, with cash or cheque for the exact amount, to your class teacher.
- ◆ Only stud earrings may be worn to school. Drop or hoop earrings are not allowed. Stud earrings will need to be taped or removed for PE for safety reasons. When swimming, earrings have to be removed completely.
- ◆ If your child is not well enough to come to school, please report the absence to the school office. Do not Dojo the class teacher as the message may well not be seen until the following day.

Well Done Phoebe!!

Phoebe in Year 6 has shown what a remarkable, generous young lady she is with a recent donation to the Little Princess Trust. This is a charity that provides real hair wigs, free of charge, to children and young people who have lost their own hair through cancer. But of course, this can only be done if others are willing to donate their hair. Phoebe did exactly this and you can see from the photo what a beautiful ponytail of hair she was able to donate. And actually, she looks fantastic with her new short look! Phoebe also raised £245 for the Trust too through a Just Giving page. What a fantastic effort, Phoebe, well done!! 🙌



Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

If you are in receipt of Income Support, Income-Based Job Seeker's Allowance, Income related Employment Support Allowance or the Guarantee part of Pension Credit or if you have an annual income (as assessed by the HM Revenue and Customs) of less than £16,190 each year (but not Working Tax Credit) you will be eligible for Free School Meals. Free School Meals could save you up to **£380 per year for each child**.

By applying for Free School Meals you could also trigger additional resources for your children's school through the Pupil Premium. For every entitled child and whose parent has registered, the school will receive £900 to help children from lower income families. This includes children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 who automatically receive free school meals under the Universal Free School Meals scheme. We need you to still register in order to receive the Pupil Premium funding. If you don't want your child to have the free school meals they can continue with packed lunch as normal – as long as you qualify and are registered. If you are making a claim for Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support the school will receive the additional funding.

How Do I Apply?

To claim Free School Meals you should fill in an online claim form.

You should also make a claim online if you are already receiving Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support and one of your children starts full-time nursery or school maintained by the Local Authority.

Access the Free School Meals online claim form **HERE**.

Once you have completed the online form and submitted it, it will be sent straight to the Free School Meals Team to be processed.

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows and the Etchells staff

