

SCHOOL NEWS

Bright Sparks Day | Charity Collection | Homework

Christmas Carol Service

Children from KS2 put on a lovely carol service in Heald Green United Reform Church. I am pleased to tell you that the collection held by the church at the end of the service raised £57.45 for their charity. Many thanks for your donations.

We have decided that next year, the Carol Service will be organised and performed by ALL the Y5 pupils. Year 3 and 4 will participate in their own seasonal performance in the school hall and as this year, Y6 will perform the carol service in the school hall. It is extremely difficult to ensure that all our pupils get a chance to perform and that we can offer all parents the opportunity to be in the audience. We hope this will address the issue. Christmas performances and events will be discussed further in our upcoming Parent Council Meeting so please forward your feedback and suggestions to your class rep

An inspired idea from our Eco Team

Our Eco Team, led by Mrs Lambert, met this week and safety during our dark evenings was top of the agenda! They wrote me this message to pass on to our school community.....

"On Friday 23rd January, the Eco Team are going to organise a 'Bright Spark Day' to raise awareness of not being seen on dark mornings, so we would like everybody to wear their brightest clothes. To make the day as fun as possible we are holding a competition in every class to see who is the brightest spark!!"

No money is needed - this day is all about raising awareness of the need to be seen on dark mornings and evenings.

Safety at hometime

Following on from the eco team theme, we are asking parents to ensure that children, where possible, are accompanied on the way home - especially after clubs. There have also been a couple of reported incidents in the locality in the last few weeks of strangers approaching children. We need to keep their awareness of 'Stranger Danger' high and avoid any potential vulnerable situations where we can.

We also have a growing number of children who are not picked up on time. Last Friday there were 12 children who had to be booked in to after school club and a charge will be made. Repeated incidents of lateness in picking up children will result in a referral being made to Social Services. We are NOT responsible for children after 3.15pm unless booked in after school care or in a club. **Please respect and follow this rule.**





Dogs

We have noticed a significant problem outside school with dogs fouling the pavement. This may not be linked to families in our school but it is a community issue which needs to be addressed as it makes the walk into Etchells extremely unpleasant. The council website states the following: *“Some dog faeces contain a parasite which, if ingested, can lead to the onset of the disease Toxocariasis in humans. Children are more susceptible to this disease which, in the worst case scenarios, can lead to blindness.It is a criminal offence for the person in charge of a dog to allow it to foul on designated land within Stockport and fail to remove and dispose of the faeces appropriately.”*

Please support us in combatting this problem. Some parents reported the issue to the council this week (thank you) and successfully had the pavements cleared, but we need to avoid this situation in the first place. We need these people to be reported:

“A text alert system for members of the public to use if and when they witness a dog fouling has also been set up by the Dog Warden Service. If you witness someone allowing their dog to foul you can text the time, date, location and a brief description of the dog and owner to 07624 805 662.”

Please remember that dogs are NOT allowed on the school premises.

Homework

We have had some very positive feedback about the new homework - thank you for your comments. We are very pleased with the consistency we now have across school, the clarity in what is expected as well as how motivated the children have been to get started on the challenges.

A couple of points have been brought to our attention. Some parents have asked if it is possible to hand in homework before the date on the sheet. This is fine - though Monday would be a preferred day in order to keep registration periods during the rest of the week as smooth and quick as possible.

We have been asked about providing a folder for children to put their work in and to carry to school. The teachers have said this will be addressed though some classes do already have them. Please bear with us whilst we get these out to you.

Please be reminded that homework will not be marked in the formal way. Tasks will be looked at, discussed, shared with the class and rewarded with a raffle ticket. This may not happen immediately - classes have times set aside when this can be fitted into an extremely tight timetable, but be assured it will happen at some point during the half term.

We have a busy week ahead - the staff are receiving extended after school training on problem solving in maths, the reception children are having their vision screening tests and Year 5 will be participating in Bikeability, learning how to be safe on their bikes!

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows

and the Etchells staff

