

SCHOOL NEWS

Mission Christmas | SEND Week of Action | School Photo Catch Up

Ofsted October 2021

I am pleased to be able to attach the final report for our recent Ofsted inspection which took place in October. We are delighted that after such a challenging 18 months, we have remained a 'good' school. The report is extremely positive about the Etchells Curriculum, as well as our provision for children with SEND and pupils' personal development. Ofsted have a significant focus on reading and phonics at the moment and we were very pleased that all our hard work in this area was recognised. The report states: "The teaching of reading, and developing a love of reading, are high priorities across the school.....All staff use the school's phonics programme consistently well..."

I was particularly pleased that the children were recognised for their excellent behaviour and attitudes towards their learning. The inspector told me that every classroom she went in, the children were fully engaged with their learning. She reports: "Most (children) are much too busy enjoying their learning to distract each other."

All Ofsted reports give at least two areas for further improvement. Our first is regarding subject leaders checking up on the curriculum in the same way as we did before the pandemic. I'm pleased to say that we had already started this the week before the inspection, with all subject leads having time to look at pupil's work so far and look at planning. It is great to be able to resume this work once again, now that staff are not restricted to their bubbles.

Our second area is around subject plans being refined to incorporate the new Early Years curriculum which was introduced this September. Whilst the Nursery and Reception staff are confident with new framework, we have staff training planned for the subject leaders in January.

My thanks to all the staff for their tremendous ongoing hard work and commitment; achieving such positive comments after all the disruption deserves huge congratulations. My thanks to all the parents who gave such positive feedback to the inspector and we have taken on board the comments from others regarding improvements. And finally, special recognition should go to our amazing pupils who have shown resilience, determination and risen to the challenges presented to them. For the children to demonstrate such an enjoyment for their learning means everything to us. The Core Values, which underpin our provision here at Etchells, could not have shone through more strongly. The children told the inspector that the Core Values "help us become a better person and they give us the motivating message '*You can do this*'."

If you have any comments or questions regarding the Ofsted report, you can post them on the parent forum I have set up on the school website - please go to the 'Parent Area'.





Remembrance Sunday

Our Head Boy and Girl, Kaif and Grace, did a fantastic job of laying the wreath on behalf of Etchells at the Remembrance Service on Sunday. It is always a special event. My thanks to Mr Cope and Mr Crompton for attending too.



Next week is the Stockport Week of Action for SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities). A wide range of workshops and information sessions are taking place which may well be of interest to you. Sessions include: 'Understanding Sleep', 'Stockport Autism Strategy', 'Stockport Targeted Youth Service' and 'Finding Information to Support Your Child'.

For further information and booking details for both parents/carers and professionals, please click [here](#).

School Photo Reminder

If your child was absent for the individual school photographs this term, or they weren't photographed with their sibling, please remember that there will be a further opportunity on Thursday 2nd December. Please email admin@etchells to request this.



Every year we take great pleasure in supporting the Mission Christmas charity and ask, if possible, for you to buy an extra gift and be a secret santa. The charity ensures the gifts get to disadvantaged children to ensure they have something under the tree on Christmas morning. If you would like to donate a gift, please bring to the drop off point in the school entrance, ensuring the item is new and unwrapped. This is to ensure the gifts are given to the most fitting age groups. See below for ideas:

0-3 YEARS

Teddies, Musical Toys, My First Toys, Rattles, Books, Play Mats

5-7 YEARS

Lego, Art and Craft Sets, Skipping Ropes, Make Your Own Photo Frame, Snow Globe, Jewellery Set, Action Figures, Board Games

3-5 YEARS

Cars, Dolls, Jigsaws, Dress Up Items, Playdoh, Colouring Books and Pencils

7-9 YEARS

Football, Board Games, Remote Control Toys, Stationery Sets

9-12 YEARS

Board Games, Make Up Sets, Nail Varnish

12-18 YEARS

Toiletries, Electrical items (Straighteners, Mini-speakers), Aftershave and Perfumes, Jewellery, Puzzles, Make-up, Books, Lunch Boxes, Duvet Sets

If you prefer, there is also an option to buy a gift online and it will be sent straight to the Mission Christmas depot. Click [here](#) for further information.

Snow...?!!

There is a low chance that it may snow in the next few weeks and so I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our Snow Policy. Please find it attached and keep for your reference. Any decisions to close the school are not taken lightly and always in collaboration with the Chair of Governors.

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows and the Etchells staff

