

SCHOOL NEWS

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Parent Council

Last week we held an excellent Parent Council meeting and covered a wide range of issues. We were particularly pleased to receive such positive feedback about the new homework approach but also listen carefully to concerns around the Active Learn maths and will look into the issues immediately. The full minutes of the meeting will soon be posted onto the parent area of the website and the class reps were keen to summarise the discussion in a newsletter format - watch this space!

Help with Readers

The Parent Council also brought to our attention the fact that some of you have offered to help with readers but haven't been taken up. We really do need additional help with hearing readers and changing books, so if you can give an hour or so of your time, please contact your child's class teacher directly. Many thanks - your time is much appreciated.

Snow disruption

This week has been significantly disrupted by snow. We would like to thank you for your patience and understanding in dealing with this. Yesterday, the vast majority of children were picked up quickly and many of you made arrangements for your children to go home with others. We appreciate you phoning the office to arrange this as it enabled us to ensure children were leaving school safely.

A few parents have said they didn't receive the snow closure text - please can you contact the school office to check we have your correct contact details. As soon as a decision is made about school closure due to snow, a message will be posted on the home page of the website. We will also text and tweet! Please make sure you check these various sources of information before contacting the school office. Our telephone line was unnecessarily kept engaged due to enquiries about whether we were closing. No message on the website means no decision has yet been made.

In deciding whether to close the school we take into account the safety of the school site, the ratio of available teaching staff to children and the safety of parents and children making their journeys to school. We have a significant number of staff who live in outlying villages and find it very difficult to commute after a heavy snowfall. This can sometimes explain why we may be closed and other schools in the area remain open. However, over 70 schools were closed in Stockport yesterday and around half remained closed today.

The forecast is clear for the weekend and so we fully expect to be open on Monday morning. If snow is still on the ground, please ensure your child has wellies and warm clothing in order to fully enjoy playtime! Boys currently wearing shorts may also want to bring long trousers, such as jogging bottoms, to change into at break times in order to stay warm and safe.



Next Week at Etchells

We have lots of things planned next week for the staff and the children. We like to establish and maintain as many links with the community as possible as it is an important aspect of the PSHE and citizenship curriculum. We have the fire service coming in to talk to Year 6 about keeping safe in the winter. Our local MP is also coming into to talk to Y5 - I'm sure they'll raise some very pertinent issues with him!

We also continue to drive our staff development forward as part of our School Improvement Planning. Next week some staff will be attending training in the teaching of Maths, the delivery and provision of ICT (computing), enabling ADHD friendly lunchtimes, as well as the Y6 teachers meeting with other schools in our local area to moderate assessments.

PARKING!!!

It has come to our attention that a number of parents are using the school car park when picking up children. Please remember this is a STAFF ONLY car park and it can get extremely congested. The only exception to this rule is for people with Blue Disabled Badges and the designated taxis for some of our pupils. No other taxis should come into the car park.

Bright Sparks

Our Bright Sparks day last Friday proved to be very successful. It was very timely to be drawing attention to the need to be seen and safe as we are walking to and from school, as safety in the community has been a focus for us recently. Our Eco Team picked out the best Bright Sparks from each class and here they are.....



Well done to Isaac (1H), Jaydon (1CA), Mikey (2W), Musa (2M), Amelia (3R), Summer (3A), Li (4M), Chloe (4FT), Holly (5LC), Thomas (5L), Zack (6M), Louis (6P)

Enjoy the snowy weekend and we look forward to opening the doors again, Monday morning 8.45am.

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows and the Etchells staff

