

# SCHOOL NEWS

Homework | Parent Forum | Reception & Nursery Places

## Happy New Year!

Even though we are already half way through January, I would like to wish all our families, friends and partners a Happy New Year. I know the Christmas period was a little different for many of us due to Covid isolations, but I hope you all managed to get some family time whenever it may have been!

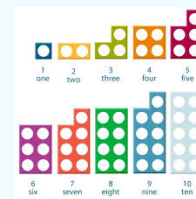
The guidance around Covid-19 restrictions and isolation periods continues to be ever-changing. We are continuing to work with the arrangements we had in place last term in order to keep our school community as safe as possible. We have, however, decided to suspend our already reduced assemblies whilst we are in the period of 'Plan B'. Assemblies will be held in classrooms instead.

We are asking for everyone to continue to use the one way system for drop offs and pick ups, respect social distancing and to wear a face covering when on the school premises. If we are aware of cases in your child's class we will drop you an informal message to let you know. Should cases escalate, we would send you a 'Warn and Inform' letter. I would have to meet with Public Health Stockport and we decide any course of action together.

Although lateral flow testing is only required for secondary school pupils, we would recommend testing your children if they have had any close contact with positive cases or are displaying any symptoms. Any positive results on a lateral flow test should of course be followed up by immediate isolation according to the most up to date guidance. If you are unsure, please drop me an email or phone the school office and we will be happy to help.

## INSET Training

On the 6th and 7th January, the staff took part in several training workshops, learning how to use Numicon in different ways in the classrooms. Numicon is an approach to teaching maths which is based on a multi-sensory way of learning, particularly *seeing* and *feeling*. The system uses a range of tiles and pegs like these on the right.



Children in Early Years use the tiles - sometimes in a bigger format or for a hands on feeling and sorting activity as is shown here.



Numicon is great way to build understanding and fluency in number and is used all the way to Year 6, where it supports the teaching of fractions, decimals and percentages. Here you can see the Numicon in action this week:





## Reception Places September 2022

The final date for putting your child's name down for a Reception place in September is **tomorrow**. If you, or anyone you know, has still to apply please make sure it is done today to secure your place.

## Nursery Places September 2022

The final day to apply for our popular Nursery provision is Thursday 31st March. Places are strictly limited. Please note that we do not have a January intake so it is important to apply for your place if your child is 3 before 31st August 2022.

## Parent Council

Have Your Say!

In previous years we have convened a very successful Parent Council. Every class elected a representative who would gather questions and viewpoints to present to myself and members of the Senior Leadership Team. It has been a really useful way to gather parent voice and we have made significant decisions and changes based on what was discussed at the meetings. An example of this is our homework approach - we tried out several ways to set homework and made a number of adjustments to make it work for all. We also listened to feedback regarding school photographs, PTA events, reading at home, to name a few. However, interest in the council dropped and it was no longer viable to hold the meetings. As an alternative, I have set up a forum in the Parent Area of the website, which can be accessed via the School Spider App. Please use this forum to raise any questions or points of view you may have and we will either explain an approach or procedure or answer your queries. Please note this is for whole school issues; anything that is particular to your child's class should be sent to the key stage email addresses.

## Homework and Year Group Newsletter

# HOMeWORK

Today you will receive by email the homework sheet for this half term as well as the termly year group newsletter.

The homework is carefully designed to support key learning at home, notably reading and the learning of number facts and multiplication tables. The children have to sit a national times tables check when they are in Year 4 and it is expected that they have instant recall of ALL the multiplication facts up to 12x12. Regular practice of this at home is vital in enabling your child to be successful with this test.

We also set a range of tasks to choose from. These are provided with various levels of challenge. Please encourage your child to be ambitious and go for the most challenging task they are comfortable with.

Homework should be uploaded to either the ClassDojo portfolio or via the pupil area of the website.



The termly newsletter gives you an overview of what your child is learning in class. When asked, parents sometimes say they don't know what their children are learning. This newsletter provides you with the curriculum information you need as well as providing important dates and PE days. The letter can be found on your child's class page on the school website should you need it later in the term.

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows and the Etchells staff

