

# SCHOOL NEWS

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## Phonelines

Apologies for the difficulties we have experienced with the phone line this week. Our old system finally gave up on Monday leaving us without any connection for a day or two. Many thanks for bearing with us during this time. Some of you took the wise move of emailing me directly with any important messages and I hope the urgent message placed on the website explained why you wouldn't have been able to get through. Just a reminder - to clear any urgent messages placed on the website home page you need to click the circular refresh arrow button, which you can find at the end of the address bar. Once this has been done, the message won't show again on the device.

I am pleased to inform you that we have now upgraded the phone system and this came into use yesterday. We have brought an additional line into school as well which should double your chances of getting through and not hearing an engaged sound! You will also find that there is now an option to report an absence by pressing 1 when you first ring the school. This can be done before the office opens at 8.30am. Please ensure you leave your child's name, class and reason for absence clearly on your message. Consecutive days of absence need to be reported to school on a daily basis.

## Parent Council

Our Parent Council has been up and running for around 18 months now and it has been instrumental in putting forward the parent voice. Discussions have been held around Christmas Performances, homework, curriculum issues, communication, handwriting, school dinners, to name a few. We have listened carefully to what parents have to say and have adapted our practice where necessary or simply explained why a certain approach is being taken. The meetings last for 1 hour and start at 5pm on a Monday. We usually aim for at least one meeting per term.

We are looking to set up a new Parent Council for 2015-16 and we need a representative from each class. Their role would be to communicate with other parents in their class, gather questions and queries and bring to the table at the meeting. Minutes of the meeting are posted on the website for everyone to read. Parents in the past have set up an email just for this purpose. If you would be interested in taking on this role, or indeed, stepping up again if you have previously been involved, please email me directly with your name, child's name and class.





Next Friday, between 9 and 11am, we will be holding our Macmillan Coffee Morning. Please come along with friends and family to have tea, coffee and cake with us and make a donation to this amazing charity.

The children will be joining us during the morning and will be given a biscuit and juice. If they would like to buy a cake for their morning snack please send in 20p. You may be unable to attend the morning and still like to make a donation; if this is the case, please send it with your child in an envelope marked Macmillan.

Of course, a cup of coffee or tea is just not the same without a tempting cake to go with it. If you are able to, please donate any cakes or biscuits. These can be brought to the hall before school on the Friday morning.

I look forward to seeing you all there.

**COME FOR  
COFFEE**  
IT'S FOR MACMILLAN

## Robinwood

At the end of this half term, many of our Year 6 children will be taking part in their adventurous 3 day residential trip to Robinwood. Mr Malone will be leading the trip and will be accompanied by Miss Le Couteur, Mrs Chappell and Miss McDonnell. An information pack is being sent home with children today. A question and answer session will also be held by the staff with the children so any queries and anxieties can be addressed.



Many of you follow us on Twitter and enjoy the news, photos and updates. Please can I remind all followers that we do not use Twitter for 2 way communication. Therefore, questions and complaints will not be answered or addressed. If you have an issue that concerns you, please contact me by email and I will endeavour to get back to you as soon as I can. If you don't yet follow us, look us up @EtchellsPS .

We are pleased to inform you that our building project is going well and to time scales. We will be given a definite date for handover at the end of this month but expect to be back to normal by half term at the latest!

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows and the Etchells

