

SCHOOL NEWS

[Website log-ins](#) | [Christmas Cards](#) | [Parent Council](#)

Christmas Cards

This week you will have received a proof version of your child's Christmas card design. You now have the opportunity to order cards, tags, wrapping paper and thank you notes in your child's design. This is of course completely optional. All orders placed however, will raise additional funds for the PTA.

In order to have the cards etc returned to school for you by the first week in December, we do need you to return your order forms to school by Monday (9th) at the latest.

Many thanks to those of you who have already submitted your orders

Attendance

Attendance figures for the first half term stood at 95.9%. Unfortunately this means that we are already under the National Average of 96.1%. 304 pupils out of 385 had at least one day of absence from September 2nd up to half term. Whilst I acknowledge we have had Eid celebrations and a certain amount of illness, I'm sure you can appreciate that such a high number cannot continue. We need to work together to adhere to holiday dates and avoid appointments etc in school time.

Congratulations to class 3A who had the highest attendance of 97.7% last half term and have earned themselves a non-uniform day on Monday (9th).

Parent Council

We had a very well attended Parent Council meeting yesterday afternoon. The main topic of discussion was the Breakfast and After School Club. Current issues were discussed and possible ways to make improvements. We will provide more information about this very shortly. Other items on the agenda included a maths information evening for parents, lunchtimes, school photos, PE and times tables. We will be publishing the minutes in the form of a Parent Council Newsletter which we will post under the parents menu on the website. Also included with this will be the contact details for your class rep. Many of the reps have set up direct Facebook pages to make communication even easier. When you have their address, please email your rep for more details of this. I will let you know when the newsletter is made available to parents.

The next Parent Council meeting will be held in January but you can forward your comments and questions to your rep at anytime.

The Parent Reps will also be asking for support from their classes to help out with the upcoming Christmas Fair and Makers Market. If you can, please offer half an hour of your time to help set up, clear away or look after a stall for your class.





Website Log-ins

Today you will have received via your child, a website home/school agreement form. The school website has a secure area for both pupils and parents. A username and password is needed to log in. We hope to use the areas to develop blogging and discussions with the children as well as open up forums and surveys for parents. In the future, we may move to booking events such as parents' evening and performances. We will let you know when this is set up.

It is vitally important that you read the home/school agreement and discuss it with your child. Keeping children safe on the internet is a high priority for us and we would like this to be re-affirmed at home. Teaching children how to blog respectfully is an important life skill for them. Any posts that are made by both parents and pupils to the website blogs and forums, will be approved by teachers and myself first.

Log in details will be issued ONLY when we have received the signed agreement form back. The details will be written onto your form, copied and returned to yourselves. Only then, will you be able to access the parent and pupil areas.

May I also remind parents and pupils that if you see anything that you do not consider to be acceptable, suitable or safe, please press the report button. This then takes the comment back off the website and will be re-checked. This applies to blogs for other schools which you will be able to view in the pupil area.

Let's keep our children safe online!!

PTA news

There will be a PTA meeting on Monday (9th) at 8pm. It is being held in the bar and coffee area of the Hallmark Hotel (Belfry). We now have a core committee of 4 who undertake the overall running of the PTA but we do need other parents to come to meetings and offer their ideas, suggestions and assist with the organisation of events. A few people have said they will attend so far - please attend and support our new PTA!!

You can also be part of PTA communications by looking up the Facebook page: Etchells PTA.

Dark Nights

Several parents have brought to our attention the issue of the lighting down our pathway which runs adjacent to the park. We checked all the lights during the half term holiday and have identified all those with broken parts and failing bulbs. Replacements have been ordered and we hope to have this rectified as soon as possible.

Parking

Stockport Council have issued a press release regarding parking around schools. I have attached the full article to this newsletter to ensure all parents are aware of the changes taking place. The key point is that Civil Enforcement Officers will now be able to issue parking tickets even when a car is being driven away. The article states that you cannot wait or stop momentarily to drop off on zig zag lines.

Please read the article in full.

The Children in Need appeal takes place next Friday. We are inviting children to wear something spotty with school uniform and to bring in a voluntary donation if you wish.

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows and the Etchells staff

