

SCHOOL NEWS

Christmas Post | Key 103 | Nativity Tickets

Lateness

In previous newsletters, I have expressed my concerns at the regular lateness of some of our pupils. Doors are open at 8.45am, the children are taken into school to be registered at 8.50am and at 9am, the first lesson starts.

We met with our EWO (Education Welfare officer) this week who has made the recommendation that we reduce the period of acceptable lateness. Currently, if children arrive after registration but before 9.20am, they are marked in late. This creates a huge demand on the office staff who have to take dinner orders and then ensure children are taken to their classrooms. These pupils are also missing one of the most important lessons of the day: phonics in KS1 and Guided reading in KS2.

As from Monday, if children arrive after 9am, they will be marked in as an unauthorised late, which is marked as an absence. Repeated occurrences of this will then result in a fine being issued by the LA. We are aware that lateness can be a one off occurrence for all of us and these circumstances will be taken into consideration.

We need to be in school, on time, every day!

Christmas Nativities

The Christmas nativities, carol concert and plays are fast approaching. Please check the website calendar for all the dates of these. We are still getting parents ringing the school office for dates - we ask you to refer to the website before calling school.

Because of fire regulations we have to restrict the number of people in the audiences. Therefore, we will be allocating 2 tickets to every family. If your children are in different performances, then you will receive 2 tickets for each. If you have several children in the same performance, you will still only receive 2 tickets.

For Y1 and Y2 there will be 2 performances. Please note that one performance is for adults only.

During the family performances we ask parents to encourage younger children to watch quietly and give the performers the attention and respect they deserve. A letter will be sent home next week with a return slip asking you to state which performance you would like.

Christmas Post

The school Christmas post will commence from next Monday. If children would like to send cards to their friends and teachers they can use the post box. Please ensure all cards are marked with the child's full name and class on the front of the envelope.





Easy Fundraising!

The PTA have signed up to a fantastic initiative which involves effortless fundraising!! It requires parents and friends of the school to sign up to the easyfundraising website and then going through this site whenever you make online purchases at retailers such as Amazon, John Lewis, Sainsburys, Clarks, Lakeland, ToysRUS, M&S, Waitrose, to name but a few. Each company will make a donation against every purchase you make - the percentages are varied but can be viewed on their website.

It is also possible to download an icon which sits on your menu bar. If you choose to do this, it will remind you every time there is a possibility you could be raising money for the PTA.

Please take a couple of minutes to sign up. Attached to this newsletter is a flyer with further information or you can access the site directly by using the following link:

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/etchellsps>

Every little helps and we hope to announce some exciting fundraising projects that the PTA will be focussing on in the new year.

Help needed!

Plans are in place for our Christmas Fair and Makers' Market on the 4th December. Thank you to all those who have signed up to help already. We still need more help however! Just half an hour of your time makes all the difference. If you can help, please contact the PTA using the Facebook page or get in touch with your Parent Council rep.

Key 103 Mission Christmas



Once again, we will be supporting this very worthy cause. 1 in 3 children in Manchester are currently living in poverty and the drive behind this charity collection is to provide a present for a locally disadvantaged child to help make their Christmas morning special. If you would like to make a donation, please send in a new and unwrapped gift to suit any age from 0-18.

Gifts should be brought to the school entrance on Tuesday 8th December, in the morning.

Clubs!

Unfortunately, many of our outdoor clubs have been affected by the very wet weather this half term. I have listened to feedback from parents regarding this and have found that whilst some parents would prefer clubs to be cancelled, other parents are hugely inconvenienced by this. We have decided that outdoor clubs will re-commence after the February half term to avoid the level of disruption we have experienced in the last few weeks. The clubs for next half term will be available for booking very soon. We will let you know the schedule in next week's newsletter.

Please find attached to this edition of School News, the latest newsletter from the PTA. It is quick and easy to read and very informative.

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows and the Etchells staff

