

Friday 27th January 2017

Dear Parents / Carers,

It's been another busy term with lots of news to catch up on and information to pass on to you. Don't forget to check the school web site for information and look at your child's class pages to see what they have been experiencing in school and in class.

School eco council : RSPB BIG GARDEN BIRD WATCH

This term the Etwall Primary School Eco Committee started the first of a number of school projects. They will be contributing to the annual RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch. They have spent one lunchtime watching through classroom windows, becoming more familiar with the bird species around school and recording their observations. The children spotted many of the usual garden bird favourites, including Blackbirds, Robins, Blue Tits, Magpies and Coal Tits. Their findings will be shared with the children in school and the RSPB, helping both organisations to support the wildlife locally. The Eco Council also look forward to supporting **Switch Off Fortnight** in March.

**Big Schools'
Birdwatch**
4 Jan-12 Feb 2016

GOVERNOR CORNER

The Governing Body still have 3 vacancies for Co-Opted Governors and we have advertised for these in the Etwall Express from our local community. There is plenty of information on the school web site about what the role involves. It is really rewarding and the school is building an excellent team of governors. If you have a neighbour who may be interested, please encourage them to pop into school to see Mrs East. Meetings this year are on Tuesdays at 5.15pm. A governor newsletter will be sent home this term.



KS1 Author Workshop

As part of our on-going work to improve our writing skills we had a special visitor come in to help us! Award winning author 'Billy Bob Buttons' visited the y1/2 children and gave them some top tips to make their writing more interesting and exciting! The children looked at character and setting descriptions and came up with their own descriptive phrases with the authors support and guidance. Billy Bob Buttons also read some of his favourite books to the children- which the children thought were hilarious! We are now putting these top tips and hints to good use in our own writing lessons!

SAFEGUARDING: KEEPING SCHOOL UP-TO-DATE

Please could we remind parents of the importance of keeping the school up-to-date with key information as this has caused us some issues already this term in a range of circumstances:

- Please could we also remind you that **you are not allowed to take any child, other than your own, without their parent notifying school directly of this arrangement.**
- If you see that a KS2 child has not been met by their adult as they normally are, please tell them that they **MUST come back into school to their class teacher** who will care for them



whilst their parent(s) are contacted. The children are reminded of this on a regular basis but sometimes they feel they should give their adult a few more minutes. Thank you for safeguarding all the children.

- Reminder –please do not exit the school building in the mornings via the Y3/4 door as this is kept locked. Thank you.
- Reminder – please do not exit via the main entrance doors in the morning. Please do not open these doors for children as they MUST be signed in by office staff when they are late after 8.55am
- *All staff have just received further training on positive behaviour support including physical interventions. The model DCC policy is now being reviewed in school and will be put on the school web site when agreed and adopted by all staff and governors.*
- **ROBINS AND WOODPECKERS** – *please do not forget that the children will be dismissed from their classroom (rear doors) from Monday 30th January.*
- **Online Safety** : Etwall Primary School continues to empower our children to keep themselves safe online. This term, we will be holding our annual Online Safety Week (Monday 6th – Friday 10th February). During this week, we will be continuing to train and educate children around all aspects of Online Safety. Traci Good, an e-safety advisor, will be running workshops for all classes on Thursday 9th February and then running a workshop for parents/carers after school (3:45pm-4:45pm). A letter containing all of the necessary information will be handed out separately on Monday. Please attend – the issues that children are having to potentially face online are **HUGE** and are vastly under estimated and understood by parents/carers. We did not grow up with the enormous range of technology and means of social communication that the children are now facing. **Come and find out how you can keep your child safe.** If you have any queries regarding this, please do not hesitate to speak to Miss Marriott.
- *Thank you for closing the main school gates – the system is working very well ☺*

SPORTS ROUND UP

FOOTBALL

Mrs Giles and Jake (from our Breakfast Club) took seven year 6 boys to the Power League Soccerdome to compete in the local stage of a national football tournament. Etwall topped the group and then went on to play in the quarter final. Etwall



beat Glebe Primary School to then go into the semi-final.

Willington were difficult opponents and Etwall were 2 - 0 down. However, our strength, determination and fight managed to finish the match winning 3 -2. Fantastic result and great team play!



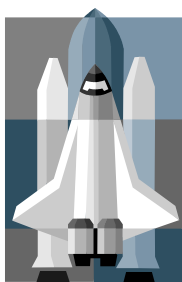
Etwall and Mickleover are now through to the finals which are being played at Moor Farm Training Ground next week. The winning team from the local final will represent Derby County in a regional final and if successful, within the national final at Wembley. A Great achievement! Well done to everyone. They are playing in the next stage tomorrow so we will let you know how they get on!



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT 2016-17:

Homework :

Following consultation with staff, children and parents, the homework policy was changed and a letter sent out to parents outlining our expectations for your child's homework. All children are expected to read at least five times each week at home, to learn their multiplication / division facts, practice their Rapid Number Recall target and also to learn their spellings / practice phonics. Details of all this was sent home to each parent via the homework book or reading diary. Please speak to your child's class teacher should you need to discuss any aspect of this. The letter can be found on the school web site if you have mislaid your copy.



A voluntary **homework project** was also detailed for each key stage and we look forward to seeing this in school later this term. ***The new Homework Showcase is on Wednesday February 8th from 2.45pm for KS2 and Monday 6th February from 2.45pm in the school hall.*** Homework projects are due in to class teachers by Friday 3rd February – we are really looking forward to seeing them!

RAPID NUMBER RECALL – Note from Miss Gale.

As you will be aware, your child spends the first few minutes of the afternoon each day practicing their rapid number recall target, and doing a mini 'test'. If your child gets all of the questions right on three separate occasions they will be moved up a step. When your child has done this, the new target is stuck in their reading diary so you can help them with it at home. With this step there are ideas of how this can be practised and what the target means. Thank you as always for your support.



Behaviour Policy:

The school has reviewed its behaviour policy with staff and parents and is currently awaiting feedback from the children via the school council. This policy will be uploaded to the school web site when the review is complete – you will be alerted to this via text. Thank you for the feedback we received. It was all very constructive and really focused on improving school practice.



SCHOOL COUNCIL AND MISSION STATEMENT UPDATE

The school council are currently working with classes to find out what they think of the revised behaviour policy and are also searching for a ***new school motto!*** Staff and governors have been working on a revised school vision and mission statement which will be ready soon.

We have worked hard to ensure we capture the ethos and vision for the school in words that the children will understand and use every day as part of their school life.

We would welcome any suggestions you may have also!

DINNER MONEY POLICY

Please could we remind you that the Dinner Money Policy is on the school web site. The school office would like to remind you of the payments required for lunches within this policy:

- Please put payments in a sealed envelope – child's name, class and amount on the front.
- Please **do not** hand in at the school office but send via your child's class teacher on Mondays.





- The school office will contact parents should unpaid meals be ordered requesting payment. This will be by telephone or text. Please settle this payment immediately.
- *If dinner money debts are not settled in a timely manner, the school will formally write to you and **will expect you to provide packed lunches from home** until the debt is settled.*
- Debt limits are £10 per child or £20 per family. The school cannot allow a debt to exceed these limits.



- Please speak to Miss Dixey or Mrs East if you are experiencing problems as you may be entitled to free school meals and the school can help check for you.

Please do not be offended if you are asked to provide your child with a packed lunch – this is to help you as we do not wish the dinner money debt to increase. Thank you for your continued support.

HOLOCAUSE MEMORIAL DAY JANUARY 27TH 2017

Today is a day for everyone to remember the millions of people who were killed, or whose lives have been changed, by an event in history called the Holocaust and we are reminded of what can happen when prejudice and persecution are left unchallenged. The reason it is held on 27 January is because this was the day in 1945 that the soldiers fighting against the Germans took over the largest Nazi concentration camp called Auschwitz-Birkenau and freed the prisoners there who were still alive.



**HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY 27/1**

Holocaust Memorial Day is a day to remember how important it is not to spread messages of hate, or to exclude people because of things like the colour of their skin or what religious beliefs they have. Sadly, the Holocaust is not the only genocide that has ever happened.

On 27 January, we also remember the millions of people who have been killed or affected by other genocides in the world, in places like Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

All staff and children attended an assembly given by Mrs Toynbee this afternoon and participated in an activity in class to reflect on this day (age appropriate).

CLASS ASSEMBLIES FOR THIS YEAR

These will start after half term and dates are as follows. Please make a note of them on your family calendar:

Woodpecker class: Wednesday 21st June

Robin class: Tuesday 23rd May

Kingfisher class: Friday 3rd March 2017

Little Owl class: Friday 12th May

Falcon class : Thursday 23rd February 2017

Kestrel Class: Thursday 18th May

Sparrow hawk Class: Wednesday 17th March 2017 Science and Engineering week

Osprey Class: Friday 24th March 2017 Red Nose Day

Eagle Class: Thursday 15th June





All assemblies start at 9.05am, so please make your way to your seat in the school hall after the bell at 8.55am. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you. Dates for the other Homework Showcases will be sent home termly with the new homework projects.

Monday 3rd April 2017 : 9.30am KS1 Easter Celebrations at St.Helen's Church with Rev. Fiona.

Wednesday 5th April 2017: 9.30am KS2 Easter Celebrations at St.Helen's Church with Rev. Fiona.

PTFA SUPPORT URGENTLY NEEDED.

The schools hugely valued PTFA held their AGM last night in school, where the new committee was elected and future fund raising ideas discussed. We are all automatic members of the PTFA but we are struggling to get parents and friends along to the meetings. We have been lucky to have a hard working core group of parents that have worked incredibly hard on behalf of the children ever since I became Headteacher at EPS. They are parents who mostly work full time, support the school and raise thousands of pounds for the children so they can have new experiences and new equipment. They have funded so many events in school for the children and are, this year, funding all transport costs to enable us to take the children out of school much more. The list of what they have done to support the school is endless and will be displayed in the PTFA notice board. ***Please get involved in some way.***



The children and the PTFA need parents and friends to step forward and help them. It might be that you could help to arrange one event, you may be able to do a bit more. Please contact the PTFA committee or myself if you would like to know more. Thank you in anticipation.

DIGITAL LEADERS

Our Digital Leaders continue to be a great asset to the development of the use of technology in our school. Our next project is going to be creating a virtual tour of the school using an app called Thinklink which will hopefully be posted on our school website. Watch this space! Miss Dunford (Derby University Student) has expressed an interest in working with the Digital Leaders and so will be playing a huge part in their development next term.



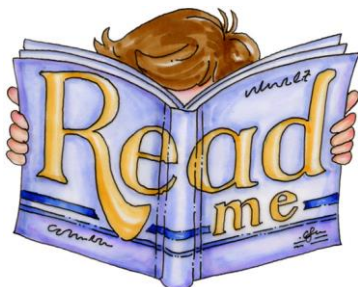
KEEP SAFE COMMITTEE – PARENT REP URGENTLY NEEDED PLEASE

Online Safety and Anti-bullying are matters we take seriously at Etwall Primary School. We already have an annual Anti-Bullying Week and Online Safety week to address these issues with the children. This is in addition to our continuous cross-curricular approach. As part of our ongoing work, our 'Keep Safe Committee' is meeting on **Wednesday 1st February 2017** and **Wednesday 28th June 2017** and **we need your help and support.** The committee will consist of a selection of pupils, parents, governors, teachers, midday supervisors and teaching assistants to give a broad and balanced opinion and input regarding Anti-bullying and Online Safety. The committee will be overlooked and organised by Miss Marriott (Online Safety Officer) and Mrs Millward (Citizenship and Anti-Bullying Leader). The committee will meet termly to discuss any current and relevant issues regarding these matters. If you are a parent who is interested in being involved with the 'Keep Safe Committee' and can attend the meetings on the above days, ***please see Mrs Millward or Miss Marriott as a matter of urgency as they have had not had any response to the letter they sent out in early January. Thank you for your support.***



LITERACY COMMITTEE NEWS

The Literacy Committee are excited to announce the arrival of Book Swap Friday! This exciting event will take place in the school library on the first Friday of every month, with children from all year groups encouraged to bring in to school a book of their own that they have finished reading, in exchange for a book donated by another child. The purpose of Book Swap Friday is to encourage the children to read for pleasure, and to give them access to a wider variety of authors and genres of books, as recommended by their peers. Miss Warburton and the Literacy Committee will run Book Swap Friday. The first one is on Friday 3rd February – letter to follow later in the week!



Dates: please put up somewhere at home or in your diary.

PLEASE REFER TO THE SCHOOL WEB SITE CALENDAR – for key dates for 2016-17

INSET Days for 2016-17 : The following days have been set for 2016-17. Children **will not** be in school on these further 2 days.

Monday 5th June 2017 and Monday 10th July 2017

JANUARY

Fri 27 th	Sportshall Athletics for both KS1 and KS2 at Greenbank
Fri 27 th	Football playoffs pm – will we get to Wembley?!
Fri 27 th	Holocaust Memorial Day
Mon 30 th	Whole school celebration: Chinese New Year activities

FEBRUARY

Friday 3 rd	Literacy Committee's first Book Swap Friday
Fri 3 rd	Homework projects due in to class teachers
6 th – 10 th	Safeguarding: Online Safety Week
Mon 6 th	2.45pm KS1 Homework Project Showcase
Tues 7 th	Safer Internet Day
Tues 7 th	3.45pm PTFA Film Night (unless cancelled)
Tues 7 th	5.15pm Governors Teaching and Learning Committee
Wed 8 th	2.45pm KS2 Homework Project Showcase
Thurs 9 th	Online Safety Workshops for the children in school – Traci Goode, expert visitor
Thurs 9 th	3.45pm – 5pm Parent/Carer workshop also attended by all staff
9 th /10 th	St Johns Ambulance 1 st aid course for KS2
Friday 10 th	Break up for half term holiday
Mon 20 th	Children and staff return to school Spring T4 2017
Thurs 23 rd	9.05am Falcon class assembly
Mon 27 th	start of Book Week
Tues 28 th	Shrove Tuesday

Any changes in dates will be advertised well in advance and a text sent out.

Thank you.

Miss Dixey, Headteacher and Mr Ormiston : Deputy Headteacher (Co-Head Wednesdays)