



Friday 13th October 2017

Dear Parents / Carers,

It has been a very busy start to the year! Don't forget that it is Travel Smart week next week so it would be great to see more children scooting or walking to school whenever possible.

FIRE SAFETY



The Year 1 and 2 classes – Kingfishers and Little Owls have been studying The Great Fire of London this half term. As part of our ongoing work into citizenship and British Values, we have broadened this out to also look into the work of our emergency services. To help out with this, the local fire brigade came in to talk to the children about fire safety and the importance of staying fire safe both at home and in school. The children listened well and are now fully briefed in fire safety! They taught us all about what we should do in the event of a fire and lots of top tips about how we can make

sure our homes are fire-safe. Children learnt the STOP DROP and ROLL technique and even had a go at practising it in the classroom! Kingfisher and Little Owls children were also sent home with a checklist to see if their homes were fire-safe.

THE EYES HAVE IT

The Year 5 and 6 classes recently had a science enrichment visit from Mrs Thompson, friend of the school, who is an eye expert. She came to teach the children about how our eyes work, how we see things and how to look after the health of our eyes. It was a fascinating lesson and the children learnt so much. They especially enjoyed looking at the optical illusions and experimenting with peripheral vision and how our eyes work together to help us to see things. This has provided a great introduction to the topic and the children can't wait to learn more about light in the coming weeks. We would like to thank Mrs Thompson for such an enriching lesson!



SAFEGUARDING : ONLINE SAFETY

Miss Marriott has recently joined the Safeguarding team as part of her role as Online Safety Officer.

She will continue to raise the profile of Online Safety with pupils, staff and the wider community. If you have any concerns about your child's online activity, then please speak to Miss Marriott in the first instance. She also maintains the online safety areas of the school web site which contain lots of tips and advice – please visit this area and have a look. It is vital that all parents/carers know what their children are doing online and keep their child safe.



SAFEGUARDING : NSPCC WORK IN SCHOOL AND PARENT WORKSHOP

We will be continuing to promote the NSPCC's Share Aware Campaign and there will be an **NSPCC workshop for parents on 17th January 2018** during the



afternoon. For advice on keeping your children safe online, please remember to visit the Online Safety section on the school website or 'A Parent's Guide to being Share Aware'

(<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/advice-and-info/share-aware.pdf>).



The NSPCC's Speak out. Stay safe. programme is visiting our school to make sure our pupils have the knowledge and understanding they need to stay safe from abuse.

I'm pleased to tell you that we will be working with the NSPCC, the UK's leading children's charity, who'll be delivering their **Speak out. Stay safe.** programme on **Thursday November 2nd 2017**. This is a nationwide programme for every primary-school-aged child in the UK and Channel Islands. With the help of their friendly mascot Buddy, they'll be presenting an assembly to the KS1 and then KS2 children in our school as well as running a workshop for all Years 5 and 6. School staff will be running sessions on the Underwear Rule – PANTS on this day for all KS1 children.

What is the **Speak out. Stay safe.** programme?

Through child-friendly, interactive assemblies and workshops their specially trained staff and volunteers will give our children information about how to keep themselves safe from harm and how to get help if they have any worries, sensitively discussing issues like bullying and sexual abuse, without using scary words or adult language. We have studied the content of the materials and heard from other schools who have participated and are extremely confident that they are appropriate for primary-school-aged children. By the end of their visit, we're convinced children will feel empowered – knowing how they can speak out and stay safe.

If you would like any more information about the NSPCC **Speak out. Stay safe.** programme, including frequently asked questions, you can find it on the NSPCC website [nspcc.org.uk/schools](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/schools) or please come into speak to me and I can provide more information.

Talking about the Underwear Rule with your children

The NSPCC's work in schools will help encourage conversations about staying safe – and they have a number of child-friendly materials to help you carry on the conversation afterwards. That includes 'The Underwear Rule', a simple way for parents to help keep children safe from sexual abuse – without using scary words or even mentioning sex.



The guide uses the rules of PANTS to teach children that their body belongs to them and them alone. You can find out more and download the free resources at [nspcc.org.uk/pants](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/pants)

If you'd like to know more about the NSPCC's work, or take a look at the wide range of information and advice which is available for parents and carers, please visit their website



nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/

CROSS COUNTRY

On Monday 2nd October, lots of our Key Stage 2 children represented Etwall Primary School at cross country at South Derbyshire's Active Schools Partnership. Miss Marriott and forty-five very excited children attended the event at Pingle School in Swadlincote. All of the children seemed to enjoy the event, although they were very tired once they reached the finish line. The children in years 3 and 4 came second in the event and the children in year 5 came third. Well done to all of the children who took part and our thanks to all parents who helped transport the children to this event.



MINDFULNESS ATTENTION PROGRAMME (YEAR 5/6)

Our school has been chosen to take part in an exciting new project, which aims to introduce children to mindfulness. Mindfulness involves paying more attention to what is happening right now, with an attitude of curiosity and kindness. By teaching our children to focus a little more on what is happening now and how we are feeling, they can learn to manage day to day difficulties and enjoy themselves more. Children are taught by their own class teacher, who has been trained to deliver the programme. The programme

consists of nine sessions that are fun and designed to support children in developing skills that enable them to enable them to pay attention more effectively, cope with day-to-day stresses and get on better with each other. The children have completed 3 sessions, the response so far is positive and children are beginning to see the benefits.

SCHOOLS FUNDING CRISIS:

You may have seen a number of stories in the press around school funding in recent months. There have been worrying headlines and we felt it important that we let you know, as far as we are able at this stage, how this will affect our school. Newsletters last year alerted you to this crisis and some of the decisions that we have had to make at Etwall.

School budgets across the country have been under pressure for some time. The senior leadership team and Governors at Etwall Primary has been grappling with the funding challenges, leading to a number of tough decisions being made.

Our school is not alone. The National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) has shown that seven out of ten school leaders think that their budgets will be unsustainable by the 2019 academic year. In July, the Department for Education re-allocated £1.3 billion for schools from existing budgets, **but this is over two years and is not sufficient. Nationally, there is a £2bn gap in funding each year until 2022.** It's clear that the Treasury must now provide additional resources to resolve the funding crisis.

We will work hard to ensure that cuts have the least impact on teaching possible. However, rising costs and a frozen budget mean that tough decisions will have to be taken. We cannot guarantee that such cuts will not impact on teaching, despite doing our utmost to prevent this.





Please be assured that we will take the utmost care with budgets, to ensure all the money we have is spent effectively on your children. We promise to keep you well informed as the year progresses about the school's situation and whether funding will have a significant effect on staffing or activities. The schools Senior Leadership and school governors continue to monitor the school budget and plan ahead.

Schools now have to pay an increased amount of NI and pension contributions and also a new apprentice levy which will not help schools and stretch resources even further. At the same time it is scrapping the £600 million Education Services Grant meaning schools will have to fund additional services for children which are currently being provided by local councils. The real term cuts in school funding is having serious impact on the education of this generation of children. Investing in education is investing in the future and should not be seen as a burden on public spending.

More information can be seen on <https://schoolcuts.org.uk>



SCHOOOL MEALS DRIVER NEEDED

GV Group, who deliver school meals, are currently looking to recruit for a two School Meal Delivery Drivers for the dinner run between Etwall Primary School and Eggington Primary/Kirk Langley Primary from November. Are you interested? If this is something you are able to do please see below information:

- The role is available starting on 1st November is for 5 days per week Monday to Friday during term time only.
- Collecting thermos boxes from Etwall Primary at 11.25am delivering into Egginton Primary then taking empty thermos boxes back to Etwall at 12.30pm.
- Collecting thermos boxes from Etwall Primary at 11.35am delivering into Kirk Langley Primary then taking empty thermos boxes back to Etwall at 1.05pm.
- The role is self-employed paid as a daily rate.
- All staff must pass a full DBS check.
- Have a large estate car/van

If you are interested, then please call Kate Veevers, Regional Supervisor on 07956 018833 or email her at kate@gv-group.co.uk

Macmillan Coffee Morning

We would like to say a big THANK YOU for all of those who donated cakes and money to our Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 29th September. We raised a massive £341.76!! The coffee morning was really well attended by many parents, grandparents, aunties, uncles and family friends. The School Councillors also did a fantastic job in supporting the event and representing the school really well! We



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would also like to say a big thank you to Mrs Cadman, Mrs Marshall and Mrs Madden who gave up their day to serve cake and hot drinks! We really appreciate your support!

SCHOOL OFFICE NOTICES:

REMINDER: OLD POUND COINS

We are unable to accept the old pound coin, as per our text message, as the bank will no longer except them from us.

REMINDER: SCHOOL LETTERS AND REPLY SLIPS:

School letters are available on the school web site. If a letter has a reply slip and you do not have printing facilities, the please just provide the information on a handwritten note. Copies of letters are no longer given out by the school office. Thank you.

NEW DINNER MENU

A new lunch time menu is starting after half term. A copy per family will be sent home and it will also be available on the school web site in whole school letters and also in school information > school lunch. Please remember that you are always welcome to have a school lunch with your child, but are not allowed out onto the school playground with them for safeguarding reasons. Please book your lunch by 9.15am on the day that you wish to stay and pay for it at the school office - £2.80 for an adult meal. Thank you.

SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL STILL NEEDED

The school is still looking for a crossing patrol. This very responsible post helps to safeguard our children. If you are interested, and would like further information, please contact Mick Draycott at Derbyshire County Council on 07796 997577. Thank you



LITERACY COMMITTEE 2017-18

This year the Literacy Committee consist of Josie (Osprey), Grace (Eagles), Aeron (Sparrowhawks), Lucy (Falcons), Erin (Kingfishers), Jasmine (Little Owls), Jack (Kestrels) and James (Robins).

So far this year we have held our first Book Swap Friday. Lots of children went away very happy with the new books they had chosen. Jack even chose some books for his little sister – what a kind person he is!

Thank you for supporting us with this event.





The next Book Swap Friday will be on Friday 10th November - see you there!

OUTDOOR LEARNING ROUND UP **Fabulous Veg Boxes...**

Over the last year the children have been busy growing and harvesting crops



in the class veg box plots. We have grown potatoes, tomatoes, dwarf beans, garlic, onions, cabbages, lettuce and radish.

Wanted

We have an amazing outdoor environment at Etwall Primary School, including our wildlife pond, copse, willow palace, quiet corner and Wooden Gazebo.

However, they require constant maintenance and so could you donate any of the following....

Topsoil.

Child friendly wood preserver/stain for our Gazebo.

Stone or slate chippings to refurbish the memory garden.



Green fingers?

Can you spare some time to support our young people to develop their planting and growing skills in the school grounds. We are looking for adults to offer support to the children in small groups. If you have some time then please contact your child's class teacher or Mr Jowett at school for an initial chat.

Please join us to encourage our children to grow their food and manage the crops as they grow and are harvested.

If you can help in any way please contact Mr Jowett (Falcons class) or via the school office. Thank you

SPORTING AWARD FOR EPS

This week saw the culmination of an excellent year of sport for Etwall Primary. The school was well represented at the South Derbyshire Sports Awards following our well documented roll of honour from 2016-17. Not only did the football team scoop the Primary Team of the Year award, but the school also came runners up in the School Games Championships, which totals up the number of first, second and third places gained throughout the academic year. As a school, we also gained the Gold Games Mark Award for our efforts in getting children active, improving the quality of PE provision and promoting





competitive sport throughout the school. All in all it was a great evening for us and we will look to push on from this for the year 2017-18. Thank you for your continued support and to Mr Ormiston and all school staff for their hard work in organising teams and taking the children to all the events.

SCHOOL GROWN BEETROOT USED IN CAKES TODAY!

Robin's class (from last year) have all worked really hard to tend to their yellow beetroot during summer term. They harvested it this week and were really pleased when Mrs. Sage used it to make carrot and yellow beetroot muffins for lunch. They were absolutely delicious!



TRAVEL SMART WEEK IS NEXT WEEK!

This is where we encourage pupils to make the most of their school journey as a way to help them keep fit, beat traffic jams and pollution, as well making sure they remember to travel safely too. Pupils are encouraged to be **Travel Smart Heroes** and play their part in getting active and help beat the chaos caused by traffic, as well as doing their bit to save the planet in a superhero themed week.

Pupils will be encouraged to be Super Striders and walk to school for all or part of the journey, or to join the Wonder Wheelers travelling by bicycle or scooter. Those who can't stride or roll to school can join Team Riders and travel to school by car share or by taking the bus.

As part of this year's campaign pupils will also be encouraged to design their own Travel Smart hero and to share their ideas with us by asking an adult to send a photo or drawing via email:

sustainable.travel@derbyshire.gov.uk

We encourage the children to exercise on the way to school whenever possible. Many children scoot to school - KS1 children should be accompanied by an adult. (Unfortunately, unsupervised scooting can make some members of the public feel a little vulnerable on the pavement.) KS2 children, who come to school on their own, can only use their scooters if parents are happy to take responsibility for "training" their child to travel safely to school with due regard for other footway users. **All children must wear a helmet (as they would on a bike) when using their scooters to travel to and from school.** We do have scooter pods available for the children to use in school. Please ensure that they are put away safely and that children collect them to take home each day after school. It's just a different and fun way to head to school and one which many children are enjoying.

Children's leaflet is on the school web site on letters home > whole school letters.

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

PLEASE REFER TO THE SCHOOL WEB SITE CALENDAR – for key dates for 2017-18

INSET Days for 2017-18 : The following days have been set for 2017-18. Children **will not** be in school on these further 4 days.

Friday November 3rd 2017, Tuesday 2nd January 2018, Friday 16th February 2018 and Tuesday 10th July 2018

A calendar of term dates and INSET dates has been emailed to you and is also on the school web site. A summary is included at the end of the newsletter one for your reference, which can be found in the school web site

Term	School dates	Enrichment visits / visitors / days	Governor dates
Aut 1	16/10 3.45-6.30pm Parent Consultations 19/10 3.45-6.30pm Parent Consultations 16-20/10 Oct Travel Smart Week 2017	14/10 PTFA SPOOKY CRAFTS EVENT AT ETWALL CRICKET CLUB 2-4PM 20/10 NEW PTFA dress down Recycle Day	
Aut 2	3/11 INSET Day 9/11 New Parent Open afternoon 2-3pm 17/11 SCH COUNCIL CHN IN NEED 6/12 KS1 Nativity 2.45pm to parents 7/12 2.45pm KS1 Nativity to parents 14/12 Christmas Lunch day 15/12 Y56 party pm 18/12 Y34 party pm 19/12 EYFS/KS1 party pm	1/11 PFTA Meeting 6.30pm 3/11 PTFA Fireworks 6/11 Rev Fiona assembly 10.15 6/11 Guru Nanak afternoon 10/11 KS1 Space Centre visit 13-17/11 Anti-Bullying Week 2017 20/11 start of switch off Fortnight 29/11 PTFA Winter Discos 7/12 KS2 Peter Pan Derby Theatre 13/12 KS2 Christmas Concert@ St.Helens 2/6pm 14/12 EYFS Nativity for parents 2.45pm	7/11 Gov Resources Committee 5.15pm 21/11 FGB Governor mtg 5.15pm

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

Miss Dixey and Mr Ormiston

Headteacher and Co-Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher

