



Friday 15th December 2017

Dear Parents / Carers,

What a busy term! Don't forget to keep looking on the school web site – class pages – for up to date news about your child's class and what learning is taking place. The school calendar is also full of dates for the year.

School Funding continues to be in the news and is a burning issues for all schools whilst the National Funding Formula (NFF) is fully implemented by the government. We have previously outlined the cuts that we have had to make to ensure that we are only spending the budget we receive. Derbyshire schools have historically been underfunded, so the NFF will put us more in line with schools in other parts of the country.



However, although government funding is going to be more fairly distributed across all schools, it still remains an issue that the total education funding to ALL is not sufficient to meet the needs of schools. This is an issue that teaching unions, schools and parents continue to lobby the government about as a total of £2 billion extra funding needs to be given to schools to combat the 8% reduction in real terms that school budgets have suffered in recent years. If you feel this is something that you would like to write to your local MP about, then please do so. Thank you for your support.

Etwall Primary School has received very kind offers of support from many parents who wish to “do a bit more” for the school. This is very much appreciated! One of the ways that parents could support the school is by lobbying their MP for better funding for all schools as above. Governors and school leadership have also discussed other ways in which parents could support the school. The school have approached the **PTFA** to fund two more new Interactive boards for our classrooms. These cost £2000 each including fitting – we currently have new boards in Sparrow Hawks and Robins and a new one is due to be fitted before Christmas in Kestrels class. These are exceptional pieces of kit and work without a projector which is cost saving in the long term. The school is also looking to replenish the reading bands with more variety and boy friendly books. These would be funded through the PTFA events and parent donations.

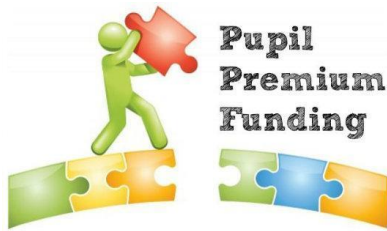
The school is also looking to set up an **Amazon wish list** – details of this will be published in the New Year. It is anticipated that staff and children will list items that they would like to enrich their learning or items for wet play activity etc and parents can then choose to purchase the item for the school or contribute towards an item. Mrs Gabbitas will publicise this after Christmas.



These are two ways of donating to the school for items that the school would really appreciate – please continue to support PTFA events and consider the Amazon Wish List when it is publicised.
Your support is greatly appreciated as always.



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PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING

This is another way in which parents can support their child's learning – please read carefully and consider whether you are eligible to apply for this funding. Some parents think that applying for this funding when their KS1 child already receives free school meals is pointless, but we would urge all parents to speak to the school office or Mr Ormiston if you are in receipt of any of the listed benefits as you may

be entitled to receive this funding to support your **child's learning** plus receive the extra benefits detailed below. **This funding is calculated from our census return on 18th January 2018** so it is vital that you contact us immediately so you can apply for it.

As you can see, the bulk of our funding goes to provide specific support for Pupil Premium children through teaching assistants and dedicated intervention staff and, as such, is a key source of funding for the school.

Area	Expenditure
Enrichment activities	£2,100
In class Teaching Assistant support for Pupil Premium	£28,234
Funding for inclusion	£2,455
Targeted interventions for pupils with additional needs	£5,491

Reduction in funding this year

Due to a number of children eligible for Pupil Premium leaving in Summer 2017, our funding has since dropped, which has had a knock on effect on what we can offer children. We have taken the difficult decision to maintain what we provide for intervention and support (as this is key to helping the children progress), leading to a drop in what we can offer to support enrichment and well-being activities, although recognising the importance of supporting the whole child.

How can I help?

Parents often see the Pupil Premium funding as just 'Free School Meals' when, as we have shown, the reality is much more than that. By signing up for Pupil Premium funding, you will have a direct impact on improving the education of both your child and those across the school for the next 6 years.

What does my child receive?

Your child will receive:

- Additional daily support from a Teaching Assistant in morning lessons.
- Personalised support in one-to-one or small group sessions for your child, whatever their academic ability, provided by a dedicated Pupil Premium teacher
- Specific 'pre-learning' sessions from class teachers as appropriate
- Access to a Pupil Premium Champion who will support their learning and talk to them about what they need
- 50% funded enrichment day visits
- 50% discounted wrap around care (breakfast and after school club)





- 50% funded extra-curricular activities such as sports, Imagineering and language clubs – one per term
- Music lessons should they wish to learn how to play a musical instrument (partially funded £1.50 per session)
- Subsidies for residential visits
- Provision of free books relating to the interests of each child up to £20 per year
- £25 contribution towards school uniform costs
- Free nutritious school meals on a daily basis which continue for 6 years

Is my child eligible?

Your child is eligible for Pupil Premium funding if you receive any of the following:

- Income support
- Income-based jobseekers' allowance
- Income-related employment and support allowance
- Support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of state pension credit
- Child tax credit, provided that you are not also entitled to working tax credit and have an annual gross income of £16,190 or less
- Universal credit



Your child is also eligible if:

- Defined in the Children Act 1989 as one who is in the care of, or provided with accommodation by, an English local authority
- Children who have ceased to be looked after by a local authority in England and Wales because of adoption, a special guardianship order, a child arrangements order or a residence order
- Has a parent who is in the armed forces

How Do I Apply?

If you think you may be eligible for Pupil Premium funding, please contact the school office immediately so we can process your application **before January 18th 2018**. We will happily discuss this with you and even fill the forms in on your behalf.

SCHOOL SPORT ROUND-UP

School sport continues on apace and this term has seen us participate in a number of different competitions: the Year 5/6 girls entered a football competition in October at The Pingle Academy, narrowly missing out on making the knockout stages; the 'A' league football has concluded, with one of the teams making the finals. We took two teams to the dodgeball competition in early November, where they represented the school in an excellent manner, whilst the basketball team has qualified for the South Derbyshire Finals; narrowly losing just the one match in the process. We took 6 teams to the gymnastics competition at Greenbank Leisure Centre in Swadlincote, representing all year groups from Year 1 to Year 6, with the Year 5 and 6 team finishing in second place.

There are lots more competitions on the way, so watch this space for more details. As well as all this, we sent 4 children to a Gifted and Talented football day, provided by South Derbyshire ASP and have





a inter-school sports competition running for the whole of Key Stage 2. If it is successful, we may well roll it out for Key Stage 1 in the Summer term.

On the awards front, the football team that did so well at Wembley in May, came runners up in the recent Derby Telegraph Sports awards.

Don't forget that we offer free, voluntary lunchtime sporting opportunities for all age groups and also sessions specifically targeted at getting girls more interested in sport.



SAFEGUARDING: Online Safety

Online Safety continues to be of paramount importance at Etwall Primary School. Year 5/6 Digital Leaders are currently being trained as peer mentors to offer support and advice to their fellow pupils regarding staying safe when online.

Online Safety Week

Safer Internet Day (SID) 2018 will be celebrated globally on Tuesday 6th February 2018 with the slogan "Create, Connect and Share Respect: A better internet starts with you". We will be holding our annual Online Safety week to coincide with SID. The children will be participating in various Online Safety activities.

There will be an NSPCC Online Safety workshop for parents on Wednesday 17th January 2018 2pm – 3pm. Please show your support by attending this extremely important and informative event.

NSPCC have teamed up with O2 to help you keep your child safe when they are using the internet, playing games online, social networks, apps and much more. Please look at their advice on this link:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Talk to your child – openly, and regularly – is the best way to help keep them safe online. You might find it helpful to start with a family discussion to set boundaries and agree what's appropriate. Or you might need a more specific conversation about an app or website your child wants to use or something you're worried about. If you're not sure where to start then come to the workshop and get the advice you need – great ways to begin conversations to keep your child safe online.

You can also talk to someone from NSPCC directly about online safety, whether you want to set up parental controls, adjust privacy settings or get advice on social networks, experts from the free O2 & NSPCC helpline are here to help on [0808 800 5002](tel:08088005002)



Keep Safe Committee

Miss Marriott, Mrs Jones (Safeguarding Governor) and Mrs Dixey were really disappointed that our first Keep Safe Committee meeting had to be postponed due to a lack of parental support. Keeping children safe is extremely important and we feel that parents and carers play a vital role in this. It is important that parents can express their thoughts and opinions on this matter and bring their concerns to the committee and the Keep Safe Committee is a perfect way to do this. If you are





interested in ensuring that your child is safe when online and would like to attend the next meeting (date to be confirmed), please see Miss Marriott, Mrs Jones or Mrs Dixey.



SCHOOL OFFICE NOTICES:

Please could you ensure that you use the office hatch / window if you need to see any of the office staff in the morning or after school. Parents/carers are not allowed into the school office.

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

SCHOOL LUNCH

Thank you to everyone who regularly pays for their child's dinners in advance and on time – this really helps with our admin processes. Please remember that dinners should always be paid for in advance, ideally on a Monday each week (or the first day back after a closure day). We return to school for the start of Spring T3 Term on Wednesday 3 January - dinners for this week will be £6.00. If any parent wishes to pay for the half term up to 15 February (Friday 16 February is an INSET closure day), the cost will be £64 (32 days); For the full term up to Easter, the cost would be £104 (52 days). If you pay in advance, if your child were absent for any reason, the dinner is carried forward and not lost. Cash or cheque payable to **DCC** are acceptable methods of payment. Current menus are available on the Derbyshire website <http://www2.myschoollunch.co.uk/derbyshire/primary-schools/about-us/menu/> (core menu). **We also politely request that all money coming into school is sent in with your child in a named envelope or bag. We cannot accept loose change over the counter in the admin office and do not give change.**



SCHOOL ADMISSIONS for Sept 2018 (Reception chn): If you have a child born between 01.09.2013 and 31.08.2014, just a quick reminder that you need to apply for your child's Reception school place by **15th January 2018** with Derbyshire County Council.

EXITING SCHOOL BUILDING: Polite reminder that the front entrance doors should only be used if you need to speak to the Admin staff in the school office. **Please do not use this as an exit door in the mornings – KS1 use class external doors, KS2 use exits by Osprey class please.**



END OF DAY ARRANGEMENTS: If you are changing your child's end of school collection arrangements **as a one off**, please remember to tell your child's class teacher/TA in the morning. The school office receive many messages throughout the day about collection arrangements and it would really help if this were sorted in the morning with the teacher and not via the school office. However, we do understand that sometimes circumstances change during the day and a message has



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to come through. Any permanent changes, please make the changes on the Home time Arrangements form at the school office. A copy is then updated in class. Thank you



COMMUNICATION: We have many comments about the amount of letters and messages coming home. We always endeavour to keep parents and carers as well informed as we possibly can and the easiest way of getting messages across for us is via text and email; this is also the most cost effective way of communication for school. Letters are always uploaded onto the website – if you think you have missed one this is a good place to check! Remember that letters do not necessarily need to be printed off for the reply slip – a hand written note with the requested information is often sufficient to be returned to school. We are in the process of moving the email system to e-schools, so please ensure that you keep the office up to date with email addresses. Thank you.

SCHOOL UNIFORM REMINDER: It is school policy that children do not wear nail polish to school. Please make sure nail polish on children is removed prior to coming to school. It is school policy that the children remove nail varnish in school following an initial warning. Also, wherever possible no earrings should be worn by children. We will accept small studs but these must be taken out for PE or swimming – and children must be able to remove these themselves. Etwall Primary School accept no responsibility for jewellery items that children bring to school – these are all sent in at parents & carers' own risk. ***Please refer to the school prospectus on the school web site for full details.***



KS2 CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT ST. HELEN'S CHURCH

Well done to all of the Key Stage 2 children who made us all very proud when they went to Church this week to perform the Christmas carol concert. The singing was beautiful, the readers were very clear, and the instrumentalists showed off their musical skills very well. Both performances were performed to full churches, and they really got everyone into the Christmas spirit. A big thank you to Mrs Dhillon who did the lion's share of the organising of the performance this year.

EYFS CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION 2017

After many weeks of learning songs and actions the children in Reception have presented their first Christmas Nativity at Etwall Primary School. The children have remembered a lot of words and songs and have enjoyed dressing up in their costumes. Thank you to parents and families for supporting the children by providing and making costumes and helping them learn songs at home. The children sang with enthusiasm and spoke clearly. A great way to start the Christmas celebrations.



MINDFULNESS ATTENTION PROGRAMME Y56 CHILDREN

Our Year 5/6 children were chosen to take part in an exciting new project, which aimed 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 were taught by their own class teacher, who was trained to deliver the programme. The programme consisted of nine sessions that were fun and designed to support children in developing skills that enable them to pay attention more effectively, cope with day-to-day stresses and get on better with each other. The children have completed the programme; the response received from the children has been positive and children are beginning to see the benefits.



CHRISTMAS COMPETITION AT SPREAD EAGLE

The Spread Eagle will be running a competition throughout December. Entry cost is £3 with the winner will be picked at random on New Year's Eve. All profits are being donated to the school so why not pop in and have a go!

SPEAK OUT STAY SAFE NSPCC WORKSHOP

The NSPCC recently came into school and delivered an assembly to KS1 and then KS2 all about how children can stay safe. The different types of abuse were described to the children as appropriate for the age group, and what they could do if they needed some help. In Y5/6 classes, the follow-up activities were all about things that are right or wrong; there were opportunities for children to discuss statements and share their thoughts and opinions. Children were given Stay Safe Kits and they were asked to keep them safe, in case they ever need them. The key message the children learned was that it is important to Speak Out and Stay Safe. They also all learned the Childline number, as this is a number where they can speak to someone about something that they are worried about. This is part of the schools ongoing safeguarding work with the children.



PETER PAN DERBY THEATRE VISIT

On Thursday 7th December KS2 children enjoyed a super visit to Derby Theatre to watch Peter Pan, to celebrate the literature of a classical author. The children thoroughly enjoyed their visit, the cast and



production were excellent and the ice creams were enjoyed very much during the interval! The children have been doing lots of writing from this visit back in school.

Thank you to the PTFA for kindly funding 50% of the coaches for this trip.

PTFA – THANK YOU...

Our massive thanks to the PTFA for running the highly successful Secret Santa event, which the children loved, and also the Christmas hamper Event. These are two really popular events in our annual calendar and they could not be run without the dedication of our PTFA members. THANK YOU. The class hampers were HUGE and really appreciated by all our winners. Thank you to all parents for supporting the non-uniform day a while ago, which resulted in our best hampers yet!



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KS1: "IT'S A NATIVITY"

At this time of year the nativity always takes centre stage in Key Stage 1 and once again the children excelled themselves. All of Years 1 and 2 came together to retell the traditional story of Mary and Joseph travelling to Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus. Many thanks to all the parents who helped to provide costumes, the PTFA who provided refreshments and the teachers who helped the children pull together a memorable performance.

JPS CONCERT – WHOLE SCHOOL WENT!

The whole school braved the cold and icy conditions recently to walk over to John Port for their annual Christmas concert. The children were a credit to the school and listened beautifully to a number of Christmas songs and carols. They even had the chance to join in with a few songs that they already knew. Many thanks to John Port for the invitation, to the musicians and singers who put on a wonderful show and to the John Port Sixth Formers who helped walk the children there and back safely. We hope this will become an annual event for the children.



ROLLS ROYCE GOVERNOR GRANT

We are pleased to say that once again we have managed to win a £1,000 governors grant from Rolls Royce. This year the money will be used to purchase new electronics science equipment that can be used across the school. We hope to introduce the equipment during British Science Week next Spring and then it will continued to be used to support science lessons throughout the year. We would like to say a big thank you to Rolls Royce for their kind and generous grant. Thank you to Miss Cox for putting the bid together.



KS1 SPACE CENTRE VISIT

KS1 had a very exciting trip to the National Space Centre in Leicester last month. This trip supported our Science and topic work this term on space. We visited the planetarium where we learnt about star constellations and how the Earth spins on its axis to create day and night. There was a very tall tower with 144 stairs to climb, from the top we were able to see part of a real space rocket! There was lots of exciting, interactive displays for us to explore and we had a fantastic time. Thank you to the PTFA for covering 50% of the transport costs.

REMINDER: SHOWCASES AND WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS / CARERS

Thank you for your lovely feedback so far and for supporting these events. We are really working hard to ensure that you are actively involved in your child's learning journey and these events not only showcase and celebrate what they can do, but keep you involved and up-to-date with their learning. Many other opportunities are there for you to discuss your child's learning with them and class teachers/class teaching assistants each day, but if you are unable to come into school, then please do get in touch with school staff via email or phone to keep up to date. The school really values all the contributions you make especially by supporting the homework activities, which focus





on all the basics that your child needs to learn – this will support their learning across the curriculum.
Thank you!

EYFS DINOSAUR DAY

As part of our dinosaur topic the Reception children took part in a dinosaur model making morning. With the wonderful help and support of parents and grandparents all the children created a junk model of a dinosaur using a variety of junk and joining techniques. Our helpers supported the children with their ideas and the practical aspects of making the dinosaurs. Lots of fun, talking, making and learning took place. Thank you for supporting this event – it was a real celebration of learning.



KS1 and EYFS have also planned the following dates next term, so please make a note of them on your family calendar! Please come and join us in supporting your child in these areas.



9am – 9.30am Reading Workshops parents/carers/grandparents: everyone welcome and more information nearer the time.

Tuesday 16th January for EYFS

Wednesday 17th January Reading Workshop for KS1

10-11am Tuesday 13th February Understanding of the world – people and communities showcase. The children will be sharing their Pancake Day celebrations and writing. Parents/carers/grandparents: everyone welcome



KS2 have planned the following events and dates for your calendar next term: Future showcases will be **3pm – 3.30pm** as follows to which everyone is very welcome:



- **Thursday 1st February Saxon Art showcase for Y5/6 children in the hall**
- **Friday 2nd February Saxon Art showcase for Y3/4 children in the hall**

The KS2 team have also planned some classroom based workshops for parents/carers/grandparents **9am – 9.30am** to help you to support your child as follows:

- **Thursday January 18th : Timetables tips, games and techniques for learning**
- **Thursday 8th March : Tips for helping your child read and understand inference**
- **Spelling workshop is being rearranged.**



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 and to the showcase/workshop list in this newsletter for next term.

INSET Days for 2017-18 : The following days have been set for 2017-18. Children **will not** be in school on these further 3days.

Tuesday 2nd January 2018, Friday 16th February 2018 and Tuesday 10th July 2018





Term	School dates Enrichment visits / visitors / days	Governor dates
Spr 3	2nd Jan INSET Closure day 3rd Jan Back to school 2nd – 9th Jan Big School Bird Watch 12th Jan KS1 First Aid training with St. Johns Ambulance 17th Jan NSPCC Online Safety workshop for all parents 2-3pm 26th Jan EYFS/ KS1 Zoolab workshops 30th Jan PTFA AGM in school tbc 5th Feb Safer Internet Week 2018 6th Feb Safer Internet day SID) 5th Feb PTFA Film Night 15th Feb NEW PTFA dress down Recycle Day 15th Feb Chn break up for half term holiday 16th Feb INSET DAY <i>Please see showcase and workshop dates for parents in newsletter above</i>	23rd Jan Governor Resources mtg 5.15pm 12th Feb Governors Policy Committee 13th Feb Governor Teaching & Learning mtg 5.15pm
Spr 4	26th Feb Back to school for Spring T4 26th Feb for week – World Book Week 5th March Waste Week 7th March World Book Day 13th March KS1 Open Centre Visit 16th March School Council Chocolate Bingo 19th March 3.45-6.30pm Parent Consultations 19th March Autism Awareness Week 20th March KS1 Easter @ St Helens 9.30am 21st March KS2 Easter @ St Helens 9.30am 22nd March 3.45-6.30pm Parent Consultations 23rd March Break up for Easter holidays <i>Please see showcase and workshop dates for parents in newsletter above</i>	6th March Full Governing Body mtg 5.15pm

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



We would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year from all the children, staff and governors. We look forward to the New Year and all it will bring.

Mrs Dixey and Mr Ormiston

Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher / Co-Headteacher (Wednesdays)

