

Etwall Primary School

NEWSLETTER SEVEN



Tuesday 23rd May 2017

Dear Parents / Carers,

Busy term! Here is some of the news and events from the last few weeks. We break up for half term holidays on Friday 26th May, with an INSET day straight afterwards on Monday 5th June 2017. Children will not be in school on Monday 5th June but we will see you at the normal time on Tuesday 6th June. Enjoy the break!

We are officially a Sun Safe School!



We are all very excited to have been awarded the 'Sun Safe Schools' award. The children must still remember to be 'sun safe aware' by following the 5 S's rule! **SLIP, SLOP, SLAP, SLIDE, SHADE!**

This means: SLIP on a t-shirt, SLOP on some sun-cream, SLAP on a hat, SLIDE on some sunglasses and find some SHADE!

For the past two years a sun hat has been part of the school uniform between Easter and October. This is vital for the children to be protected against harmful UV rays. Please avoid base ball type hats as they do not provide sufficient protection – research has shown that a full brim will do this best. ***Please ensure that your child has a sun hat in school every day in order for them to go outside.*** We also ask them to apply sun cream ***before*** they come to school and then reapply using our sun-cream dispensers, which are dotted around the school. Please do a test on your child's skin if you haven't done so already. Please fill a form in at the school office if your child cannot use this cream. Thank you for your continued support in protecting the children.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT WORK : BEHAVIOUR POLICY STARFISH VALUES

As a school, we have launched Starfish values through the work that we have done on the school Behaviour Policy. We told you about this in a recent newsletter and I am sure you will have seen the new posters around school. Children are encouraged to demonstrate sportsmanship, truthfulness, aspiration, respect, friendship, independence, sharing and helpfulness in all aspects of their life and we focus on these in school as part of our daily school life. Children are rewarded for demonstrating these values by:

- receiving certificates in our reward assembly
- working together to earn STARFISH time for the class at the end of the week
- and earning STARFISH points for their house for which the winning team receives a weekly trophy.



The children are really on board with the new system and we are pleased with the way they have all responded. As part of this work, the school is updating the school mission statement and aims, alongside the starfish values. The children have been suggesting new school mottos, which are being looked at over the next few weeks. This will be launched ready for the new school year. Exciting!

SCHOOL FUNDING IN CRISIS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

You will have heard a lot in the news over the last few months about funding in education and the issues that many schools across the country are facing. We, like all schools, have had to "tighten our belts" for the new financial year, which began on April 1st 2017 and draw on our reserve to ensure that governors can balance the





budget this year. Derbyshire County Council are used to managing a poor budget as historically, school funding has not been fairly distributed across the country. The situation will get worse for all schools and we would like to make you aware of a few facts.

- Each primary school will lose £403 per pupil by 2020, with 99% of schools being affected. This amounts to £3 billion by 2020 (analysis of DfE data).
- Schools will have to pay increased national insurance and pension costs of over 5% for all staff.
- The Education Services Grant to Local Authorities is being abolished with a loss to education of £600 million.
- National Apprentice levy has been introduced which is a new cost to all schools.
- As a result, all schools will have a real term increase of 8% in the running costs of the school. This is based on data from the National Audit office.
- 18% of schools have already reached a deficit budget ie they do not have sufficient funding to run their schools without making severe cuts and these are usually to equipment, staff training and Teaching Assistants.
- It is predicted that by 2018 68% of school budgets will be unsustainable and this is predicted to reach 78% by 2020.
- The National Funding Formula is designed to make things fairer for all schools – this is a good thing and school applaud this. BUT...the problem is that the pot of money is not big enough to sustain school budgets and this is the issue that is worrying every school. All schools are losing in real terms and there are no winners.

There is more information and figures for the country on www.schoolcuts.org.uk . Obviously, there are different political views on education spending, but we aim just to provide the facts as they are.

At Etwall, we are having to use our reserve and have also explored with staff and Governors, how we could make savings in order to balance our budget this year. More savings will be needed next year. To give you an idea of what the school expenditure covers :

- A large part is allocated to staff costs – teachers, teaching assistants, cleaning contracts, supply teacher costs, Midday Supervisors, school office, catering staff. *We have had to reduce additional teaching assistant hours that provide extra support through interventions. We are currently looking at the needs of the children and will have to provide ALL extra support within TA contracted hours only. This does not affect the hours that TA's currently spend in class each morning, but two TA's will continue on temporary contracts for 2017-18. Other local schools have had to make TA redundancies. Governors have elected to continue paying the Living wage for this financial year, but the decision is taken annually. For the year, we have managed to make savings in other areas also.*
- The school also has costs relating to gas, electricity, rent, grounds and school alarm maintenance, hardware maintenance, telephone, broadband link, security, water rates, which are substantial. *These are all essential services and it is hard to make huge savings in this area.*
- Part of the schools income are ring fenced for sport, English as an additional language (EAL) and pupil premium children. *This part of the budget cannot be used for anything else and the school works with the LA to get best value.*
- School has to allocate £6000 for each child who needs extra SEND support in order to meet their additional needs. Extra funding can be accessed through an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) – used to be called a Statement of Educational Needs. *We are reviewing how we allocate this funding and how we can use existing staff to address these needs.*
- Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) funding is only used to help the school fund IT provision eg laptops and ipads as well as premises



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work eg new lighting, refurbishment of classrooms etc. This is usually around £7/8,000 a year. *This part of the budget cannot be used for anything else.*

- Other parts of the school budget are allocated to staff training (CPD), subscriptions eg Bug Club, First News, software, Non IT learning resources eg books, exercise books, pencils etc, art and craft resources, topic resources, cleaning and caretaking equipment, furniture, photocopying costs, premises improvements and printing and stationary. *We have shaved these budgets in order to make savings and are looking at further ways to make even more savings eg providing all children with a "toolkit" that they have to look after (pencil, ruler etc) and will be looking to parents/carers to support the school as we cannot continue to replace lost/damaged items. All these budgets have been reduced to a bare minimum.*
- We have been very pleased with the year on year increase in parents /carers who have opted for email communication . This saves the school a huge photocopying bill, *but we are looking to reduce this even further. We currently provide hard copies for non email families and put all letters on the school web site. If your child loses a letter, please refer to the school web site as the school office will no longer be providing an additional copy as this is a further cost to the school.*
- From September, we will strive to become a paperless school and we look to parents/carers to support this. ***We would like more parents/carers to opt for the email system. This can be done via the school office.***
- From September, all parents/carers will complete ONE parental consent form for visits – saving time, effort and cost. This can be updated if any changes occur at the school office as needed.

We are committed to continuing to support the children, staff and parents of EPS and will continue to keep you informed of the difficult decisions that we will have to make moving forward.



WRAP AROUND CARE AT ETWALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

A letter was sent out to all parents last week and can be found on the school web site. Bookings can be made in readiness for Tuesday June 6th 2017 from Monday May 15th 2017 by emailing Sporting Bodies on sparsons@sportingbodies.co.uk . Bookings cannot be made through the school. The last day for block booking is Tuesday 30th May 2017. All bookings MUST be made and paid for in advance please. Please email Scott Parsons for an information pack before you make your booking. He is quite happy for parents to contact him also if they have particular things they wish to discuss.

Parents who already use the Breakfast Club – please ensure that you talk to your children to see if they have any particular activities they would like to do at the club and feed this back to Scott or to Jake when you drop off your child/ren. Thank you.

EYFS NEW STARTERS SEPT 2017

Next term we welcome the children and families who will be starting at Etwall in September. As part of this induction process there will be a **new starter information evening on the 13th June.** Miss Dixey has written to each new family. At this meeting parents will be given all the information as well as an opportunity to book a home visit. Staff have starting contacting pre-school settings to start the transition of information. On the 4th and 5th July the





children will have the opportunity to have a morning in reception, a chance to taste one of our wonderful school meal and then have a taster swimming lesson. It is an exciting time for all.

EYFS PIRATE DAY!

Reception Woodpeckers and Robins, staff and children had an exciting environment day-Pirate Day. Everyone dressed up as pirates and took part in Pirate Phonics, Yoho Yoga, message in a bottle writing, buried treasure words and a Pirate walk the plank obstacle race. It was a great way to end our pirate themed week. Thank you to all our lovely parents who made so much effort with the costumes – we do all REALLY appreciate it.

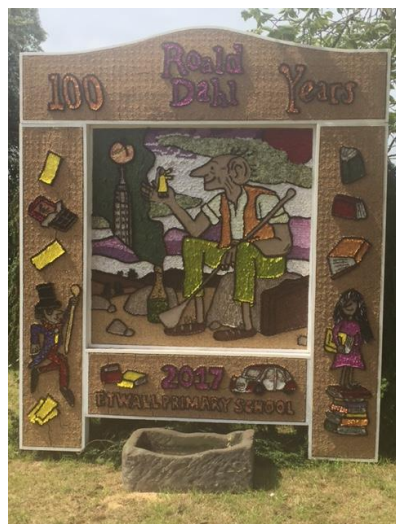
GOVERNOR CORNER

The Governing Body still has two 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 who will pass their details on to our new Clerk to Governors, Mrs Ruth Bailey.



DIGITAL LEADERS

Our Digital Leaders continue to be a great asset to the development of the use of ICT in our school. They have created a video to highlight the importance of using strong passwords which can be found on their page on the school website. 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.



PTFA WELL-DRESSING

Thank you yet again to Donna Millington and her merry band of helpers who have put in an enormous number of hours this week in preparing the schools well dressing for this year. It is fantastic, and I hope that you all managed to see it on full display in its usual place on the grass near the willow tree in school grounds. It is a marvellous time of the year and the children and parents really enjoy it! Thank you to everyone who has contributed. Pictures on the school web site next week.

This year's well dressing – 100 years – Roald Dahl.

YEAR 2 CHILDREN – MAYPOLE DANCING AT THE WEEKEND

Y2 children performed their Maypole dancing for the village's entertainment on Sunday at Noon. The children worked really hard to learn each of the routines, creating different patterns with the ribbons. After lots of counting and practise at





weaving in and out in time with the music (plus a few knots along the way) the children were ready to perform as part of Etwall Well Dressing. Thank you to everyone who turned out to support them and to Miss Cox who attended with them.

NETBALL ROUNDUP

The year 4's, along with a couple of helping hands from year 5, played their first netball match this term. They played two matches against Heathfields year 5/6 team and although they didn't win, they played brilliantly. They have demonstrated how much they have improved throughout the year, showing great skill in throwing, catching and defending. Most importantly, the team showed great sportsmanship, cheering each other on throughout the game, maintaining a positive and happy attitude and congratulating the other team on winning. Super performance!



SAFEGUARD UPDATE:

e-schools

The school has reviewed its use of the e-schools platform. E-schools hosts the school web site and this enables the school to use its wider online facilities. We are now looking at changing provider over the coming year to make use of the e-schools bulk emailing to parents, parents evening online booking and texts to parents etc. We have looked at online epayer for parents but the transaction costs incurred are too great for the school and at a time when we are having to make saving, it would not be viable for the school. We have made a decision not to use the children's learning platform as it is not adding anything to the quality of the curriculum the children receive. Class areas on the web site will now include suggestions of any enrichment activity the children could do outside of school in topic areas, so please visit these areas regularly with your children.



Safeguard Training – Neglect

Miss Dixey (Head and Designated safeguarding Lead) and Mrs Toynbee (Deputy Designated safeguarding Lead) will be attending training in June around neglect of children as part of the schools ongoing training and commitment to safeguarding all children.

"Neglect is the ongoing failure to meet a child's basic needs and is the most common form of child abuse. A child may be left hungry or dirty, without adequate clothing, shelter, supervision, medical or health care. A child may be put in danger or not protected from physical or emotional harm. They may not get the love, care and attention they need from their parents." (NSPCC)



Training this year has included an update to PREVENT agenda, online safety and more recently safeguarding children under private fostering arrangements. This year we have also ensured that all our school volunteers have

undergone a safeguarding training session with Mr Ormiston – we are very pleased with the response to this.





ONLINE SAFETY

Etwall Primary School continues to empower our children to keep themselves safe online. Please remember to talk to your child regularly about online safety as it continues to remain prevalent in the news.

Fact:

Children aged from three to four years old spend 6.5 hours per week on the internet. Five to seven year olds spend 9.2 hours a week there, eight to eleven year olds spend seventeen hours per week on the internet. The more time spent using the internet, the more chance there is that they will encounter a predator that is looking to exploit them.

(see <http://nobullying.com/internet-safety-statistics/>)

Useful Link: <http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>



If you have any queries regarding Online Safety, please do not hesitate to speak to Miss Marriott or the schools safeguarding team (Miss Dixey, Mrs Toynbee and Mr Ormiston).

SPORTS UPDATE:



Since the last newsletter, the school has participated in a couple of sporting tournaments. On 5th April we went down to Burton Hockey club in Shobnall for the Year 5/6 Mini Hockey finals. The team did really well and made it all the way to the final where, after extra time, they lost on penalties to Pennine Way Juniors. The tournament was played in a great spirit and there were some excellent skills on display. On the 6th April, having coming second in their qualifying

group, the Year 5/6 Tag Rugby team, played in the South Derbyshire finals at Melbourne SSP. They were extremely unlucky not to qualify from the group, with some excellent rugby being played. We have high hopes for Tag Rugby next year due to the calibre of player that we currently have in school. Again, the children were a credit to the school and did their very best.

SWIMMING SUCCESS

The school swimming team recently won the South Derbyshire Sports Partnership gala and were given the opportunity compete in the East Midlands regional heats of the English Schools Swimming Association qualifiers. The qualifiers took place in Louth, Lincolnshire on a Friday night and there were schools from as far afield as Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire. **The children gave their all and qualified for the national finals** which are to be held at Ponds Forge, Sheffield in June. The children were extremely well behaved and were a credit to the school and their parents. We look forward to updating you on their efforts in forthcoming issues. Well done to the children, our thanks to parents who supported the event and also to Mr Ormiston and Scott Parsons (Sporting Bodies) who gave up their evening to take the children to the event. THANK YOU.





ACES DAY

Continuing the sporting theme, the whole school recently took part in their annual ACES Day event. This stands for All Children Exercising Simultaneously and is something that children all across the world participate in to promote healthy lifestyles. At Etwall, the children took part in various activities from parachute games and skipping to relay races and javelin throwing. The weather was very kind to us and the children all had a great time.

FORTHCOMING PTFA EVENTS

We are extremely grateful to our school PTFA for the financial support that they provide us with in order to enrich the lives of our children in ways such as providing equipment that would otherwise be beyond our reach and funding coach journeys to allow the children to go on school trips. There are a number of forthcoming events that they are putting on that you may wish to be aware of. In school, they will be running discos for both Key Stage 1 and 2 children after half term, along with running the school Summer Fair on Friday 7th July from 5pm – 7pm. They will also be running the successful music festival at Etwall Cricket Club on Sunday 16th July. We will keep you informed of details in future issues.



Our PTFA is still looking for parents volunteers to take on a role in organising the school's summer fair. We have appealed a couple of times. It is such a lovely evening and enjoyed by staff, children and parents alike but the PTFA team are struggling to find people to organise things. If you are interested, please contact the Chair of the PTFA, Richard Davies or any of the committee members as a matter of urgency. Thank you.

LANGUAGES DAY – DERBY UNIVERSITY

On Wednesday 17th May, we had our annual Languages Day. Students from Derby University came into school and spent the day teaching children how to say different animal names in German, French or Spanish. A great day was had by all, culminating in an assembly at the end of the day where each class could showcase what they had done. Kestrels class also did a lovely languages assembly on Thursday which showcased the excellent work that Miss Marriott leads in German across the school. Well done to everyone!



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NOTICES FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE



No matter how hard we try we have a never ending lost property basket! (no it's not magic just children's clothing!!) Please make sure ALL your child's belongings are CLEARLY NAMED (full name is best as your child may share initials with another!) and remember that after a few washes names written in pen tend to fade and disappear! All clothing left at the end of next week will be put in the PFTA clothing bank. Thank you.

We always have vacancies for relief midday supervisors to cover for illness etc, working from 11:55am to 1:20pm. If you are at all interested please call in at the school office or speak to Miss Dixey for more information.

Don't forget to let us know by 9:30am if your child is off school for any reason. It is school policy to ring home if no reason has been received in the office for safeguarding reasons. If your child has been sick or suffered from diarrhoea / vomiting, please leave 48 hours from the last 'episode' before they return to school. For any absence, on their return please send in a letter confirming the reason for the absence.

HOW DO WE SUPPORT CHILDREN WITH AUTISM AT ETWALL PRIMARY SCHOOL?

The school have used the National Autism Standards to make autism a focus for development over the last three years. Sensory audits have been completed and intervention groups have been set up to support the children with their social communication and understanding. This year, an autism voice group has been created, which has been used to gather the views of children with autism at our school. The children have fed back information about the school building, their classroom, break times and school staff. They have had some very good ideas and as a result there will be changes made to these areas based on their needs. Mrs Jenner, SEND Governor, works closely with Mrs Giles, SENCo, to support this work across the school and reports her findings to the Governing Body.



DEMOCRACY DAY AND THE SCHOOL'S GENERAL ELECTION

As part of the schools continued work on British Values, we will have a Democracy Day to raise the children's awareness of the electoral process in Great Britain. We will be looking at main political parties and trying to summarise their views about the key issues and encourage them to think about what they would want the new government to do! The children will "mount" a campaign for the day, designing posters and write campaign speeches to help them be elected! Please could you talk to your child about what the General Election is all about eg what is a government, where is the House of Parliament, what is an MP, what do they do etc (age appropriate).





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This will be followed by our very own polling station for the children on June 8th when they will vote— I wonder if they will pick the same one as the adults! Please send into school any election leaflets you have delivered at home for the children to use. Thank you.

REMAINING CLASS ASSEMBLIES FOR THIS YEAR – start 9.05am

Woodpecker class: Wednesday 21st June

Eagle Class: Thursday 15th June

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. Children **will not** be in school on these further 2 days: Monday 5th June 2017 and Monday 10th July 2017

MAY

Wed 24th Y3/4 residential to Lea Green (3 days) – texts sent out to classes affected.

Wed 24th 2.45pm KS1 Project Homework Showcase for parents/carers

Fri 26th Y3/4 back from residential

Fri 26th End of Summer Term 5 (one week off school)

28th/29th Mr Ormiston and the football team are off to Wembley! We wish them luck ☺

JUNE

1st and 2nd Holiday club in school – Premier Sports

Mon 5th INSET DAY: school closed for children

Tues 6th Children back in school, Breakfast club as normal.

Tues 6th 3.30pm After School Club start! Please book ☺

Wed 7th PTFA 3.45pm KS1 and 5pm KS2 summer disco

Thurs 8th Imagineering Club / Y6 visit to Land Rover - Gaydon

Fri 9th Enrichment visits - EYFS visit to Birches Valley and KS1 to Twycross Zoo

Fri 9th Book Swap Friday

Mon 12th Y1 and y2 retakes Phonic checks – please DO NOT mention them at home! We are keeping them very low key.

Tues 13th 6-7pm New EYFS Starters Evening

Fri 16th Sports morning and picnic

Sat 17th Rolls Royce Design Challenge – Y6 teams and Miss Cox

Sat 17th Swim Team at Ponds Forge, Sheffield with Mr Ormiston and Miss Goodchild

Tues 20th 5.15pm Full Governing Body meeting in school

Fri 23rd RESERVE Sports morning and picnic (No school picnic provided today)

26/27/28 Open swim sessions – letter to follow

Wed 28th 6.30pm PTFA meeting

Thurs 29th KS2 World Cup morning

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

Please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher, Miss Dixey or Miss Warburton should you have any concerns or questions. Thank you.

Sally Dixey,
Headteacher