



Thursday 25th October 2018

Dear parents and carers,

I hope your children have enjoyed their first term back at school since the summer break. It seems to have been extremely busy, yet gone by in a flash! I have spent lots of time popping in and out of classes to see what the children have been up to, and it has been a pleasure to observe both high quality teaching and excellent attitudes to learning across the school.

STARFISH Values

Our STARFISH values remain the cornerstone of our behavioural expectations in school and on whole, the children can be relied upon to demonstrate them on a daily basis thanks, in part, to the way they listen in the weekly values assembly on a Monday. For those new to the school, STARFISH stands for:

- Sportsmanship
- Truthfulness
- Aspiration
- Respect
- Friendship
- Independence
- Sharing
- Helpfulness



Having started the week discussing what our weekly value is, it is always nice to end it with awards celebrating how well the children have been doing in relation to the value of the week and how hard they have been working in class. Further to that, we always like to celebrate any sporting achievements we have had in school, more of which later, and also anything the children have accomplished externally. Do please encourage your children to bring in any trophies, medals or awards they may have acquired in recent weeks.

Governing Body



As you are no doubt aware, we have recently held our elections for new parent governors. Firstly can I say a huge thank you to all the candidates, I've never worked in a school that has had so many people put themselves forward which is testament to how involved people want to get in the school and their local community.

I am now in a position to inform you that our new governors are Mrs Gill Baines, who has a child in Year 1 and Mrs Jenny Mitchell, who has a child in EYFS. They join our governing body on which members are invited to sit on one of two committees: either Teaching and Learning or Resources. For your information, the current make up of these committees is as follows:

Teaching and Learning – Mrs Angela Jenner (Chair and also Vice-Chair of the Governing Body), Mr Rishi Makwana (also Chair of the Governing Body), Mrs Shirley Bumstead and Mrs Hollie Millward;

Resources – Mrs Jo Jones (Chair), Mrs Sam Marshall, Mr Anthony Ball, Mrs Susannah Leask;

TBC - Mr Stuart McCready-Stocks, Mrs Gill Baines and Mrs Jenny Mitchell.

As a Governing Body, they pride themselves on being approachable, so please don't hesitate to contact them if you have anything you wish to discuss.





School Council Update



As you are no doubt aware, the School Council, supported by PTFA members and Mrs Dhillon, hosted this year's Macmillan Coffee Morning on Thursday 27th September in the school hall. The support from friends and relatives of the children was, as usual, fantastic. The children worked hard and managed to raise over £290 for a worthy cause.

Each year, the children, led by the school council choose a charity to support throughout the year and this year is no different. After considering a number of options, they have opted to support the local Air Ambulance. I'm sure you will agree that this is an excellent suggestion and I look forward to seeing the variety of fundraising events that are put in throughout the year.

We will also be supporting the annual Royal British Legion poppy appeal and Children in Need as we do every year, so look out for information about that after the half term break.

Parent-School Partnership



As a school, we are having a big drive this year on working more closely with parents. It may well be that you are contacted by your child's class teacher in the coming weeks in order that you can help us to support your child to make the best progress they can. This may be in the form of extra worksheets they can do at home to support what they will be doing over the following week; suggestions of

how best to plug any gaps they may have in their phonics knowledge, through games and fun activities; provision of websites that will help them to develop their reading skills; or a variety of other suggestions. Please do work with us to give your child the best education we can. Working together we can make a real difference.

The new homework booklets have gone out this week and can also be found on the class pages on the school website along with the new class newsletters. We hope this clarifies our expectations and also includes the popular supplementary task that some children and families choose to do in addition to our set homework. Please speak to your child's class teacher should there be any further information of guidance needed. Thank you for your continued support.

Star Reading Quizzes



As a school, one of the things that we are most proud of is our children's voracious appetite for reading. It is lovely to see the enjoyment that the children get from picking up a book and is something that has not gone unnoticed in recent Ofsted visits and Local Authority monitoring checks. Much of this is down to the hard work of both Miss Warburton, in her capacity as English Lead, and you as parents, for which we are very grateful.

One of the questions we often get asked as teachers is, "My child reads this book really clearly, can they move up a level?" This is understandable, however we also have to ensure that children have a good understanding of what they have read as well as purely decoding the words. To assist us with this, we have now introduced a system whereby, when the children have finished a reading book, they undertake a 'Star Reader Quiz' to gauge their understanding. If the class teacher feels that the grasp of what is being read isn't there yet, they will be asked to reread the book, in an attempt to take in more of what is happening. This element is perhaps something we haven't communicated well to parents in the past, however we hope this clears up any misunderstandings.





e-Schools Email and Texting Service



Hopefully, following the recent parents' evenings you will be up to speed with the eSchools messaging service. If you have not downloaded the app, you will not get essential updates and messages from school, so please take the time to find it through your app provider. If you are unsure of the process, or are struggling with any aspects of eSchools, please don't hesitate to contact the school office who will assist in getting you up and running.

PTFA: Support Needed



Our school PTFA are an incredibly hardworking group of parents and friends of the school and they need your help. All parents and carers are automatically a member of the PTFA and the school would strongly encourage you to get involved. We appreciate that many of you have jobs and busy family lives; the current committee are all hard-working folk leading busy lives too and they need people to help organise specific events throughout the year as they can't do everything. Many schools of a similar size to us can only dream of having a PTFA that raises **£9,000** (the total from 2017 – 18) and the children really benefit from the tremendous funds raised. Without our PTFA, there wouldn't be such things as outdoor equipment and enrichment activities, new classroom whiteboards, sound systems and projection equipment and so on, but this can only continue with your support. We would love to see you at the meetings or volunteering your time for specific events. Please see the school calendar for dates of meetings or look out for reminder texts.

Extra-Curricular Activities



As you are no doubt aware, we strive to provide the children in our care with a wide variety of extra-curricular offerings to grow them as people not just within, but outside of the classroom. As such, here are some details of the offerings we will be providing throughout this academic year:

Wrap Around Care

Through Active Bodies, we offer wrap around care 5 days a week from 7:30am – 9:00am and 3:30pm – 6:00pm.

Sporting Opportunities



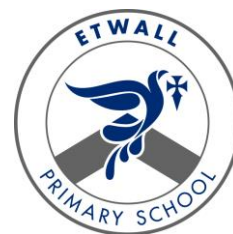
Lunchtime Sports Clubs – a wide variety of free sessions to cover EYFS, KS1 and KS2 with a different sporting focus for each term. Last year, sessions covered dodgeball, multi-sports, orienteering, cricket, boccia, tennis, dodgeball, mini hockey, orienteering and cricket. This will be run by Progressive Sports

This Girl Can – Free, half hour sessions for KS1 and KS2 focussing on developing sporting skills and increasing uptake of competitive sports for girls. This will be run by Progressive Sports.

Gymnastics - Monday afternoons – two, hour-long sessions (KS1 3:30pm – 4:30pm and KS2 4:30pm – 5:30pm) working on gymnastic ability and towards the British Gymnastics Proficiency Awards. This will be run by Active Bodies.

Soccerstars – *Tuesday 3:30pm – 4:30pm for KS1 and Thursday 3:30pm – 4:30pm for KS2* – Football based skills based drills and small sided games. This will be run by Soccerstars.





Various Sporting Clubs - Wednesday 3:30pm – 4:30pm – an hour-long session for KS1 and KS2, focussing on a different sport each term throughout the year. Last year, sessions covered dance, sports hall athletics, orienteering, multi-sports, cricket and tennis and this year will be much the same. This will be run by Progressive Sports.

Karate – Friday 3:30pm – 4:30pm – We will be continuing with the popular karate club, which has been running for a number of years. It will initially be offered to KS2 children, with the possibility of a KS1 offering dependent on numbers. This will be run by UK Karate Jutsu.

Non-Sporting Opportunities



Yoga – Tuesday lunchtimes – two, half hour sessions for KS1 and KS2 children focussing on relaxation techniques and the principles and practices of yoga for all pupils. This will be run by Yogic Frog.

French – Tuesday 3:30pm – 4:05pm (KS1) and Wednesday 3:30pm – 4:05pm (Y3/4) – We will be continuing our well-received French language offering as we have done in previous years. This will be run by La Jolie Ronde.

Imagineering – Monday 3:30pm – 4:30pm – Our after school club with a focus on engineering will be continuing, giving Y5/6 children the opportunity to build models and explore what it takes to become an engineer.

Code Club – Tuesday 3:30pm – 4:30pm – Code club, looking at programming language and the skills needed to become a computer programmer. This club will be open to Y3/4 children. TBC

Lego Club – Tuesday lunchtimes (KS1) and Friday lunchtimes (KS2) – Mrs Robinson will be giving the opportunity to make new friends and build lego models for free at the same time, throughout the year.

As you can see, we have tried to provide a balance of activities to interest as many children as possible throughout the year. Please take the time to discuss the contents of this letter with your child and keep your eyes peeled for further information on all of the above, as letters will be sent out in due course.

Guidance on Leave of Absence



Department
for Education

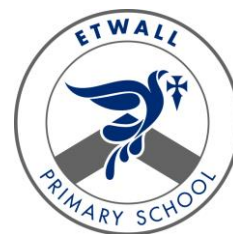
The Department for Education expects schools and local authorities to promote good attendance and reduce absences, including persistent absence. This is because we know that missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. Children with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both primary and secondary schools. It is also important to remember that by taking your child out of school during term time you may

be giving them an unspoken message that school is not important.

In September 2013 the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 came into force. These regulations made it clear that Headteachers should not grant approval for any leave of absence during term time including holidays, unless there was exceptional circumstances. These regulations also state that holidays cannot be authorised retrospectively. Any requests should be on the official school leave of absence request form and handed in to the school office **prior to any holiday or leave arrangements being made.**

Parents and carers may be issued with a Penalty Notice should any leave be taken which is not authorised. If unpaid this could lead to prosecution under section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996.





On 6 April 2017 the Supreme Court appeal, in relation to the Platt v Isle of Wight case, determined that under section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996 attending school 'regularly' means:

"in accordance with the rules prescribed by the school"

From 1 September 2017 the local authority will consider the issue of a penalty notice for any period of holiday absence which has not been authorised by the headteacher ***regardless of a child's wider school attendance.***

Please see the Headteacher to discuss any requests for leave well in advance of the dates requested and ensure that all information is provided with any application as lack of information can cause delays in the Headteacher responding once the form is received. Thank you for your continued co-operation.

Attendance and Lateness Monitoring

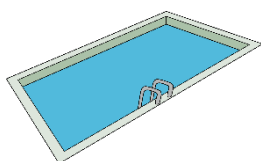


School starts at 8.55am. If your child arrives at school after this time, they will need to be signed in at the school office, so come straight to the main entrance. Your child will then be registered as late to school. If your child is unaccompanied, then the school office will text you to let you know your child was late as you may have sent them off on time! A reason is requested

and recorded. Lateness is monitored closely and meetings arranged to discuss continued lateness as required.

The Headteacher monitors attendance at least half termly. Good attendance is 96% and above. If your child's attendance becomes cause for concern then you will be notified via text or letter, sometimes requesting that you make an appointment to see the Headteacher. Please do so on receipt of the text or letter. We will work with you to improve your child's attendance and keep informed of any medical issues affecting their attendance. Appointments should be arranged out of school hours wherever possible please. If your child is ill, please inform the school office by 9.30am and send a note to the class teacher on their return – this saves the school office having to chase this up. Thank you for your continued support.

Swimming Pool



The end is in sight! We currently have the tiler in school, putting the finishing touches to the outside of the swimming pool. We are aiming to have this finished and the pool filled and checked over in time for the children to start their swimming lessons week beginning Monday 12th November. There will be additional improvements to make to the efficiency of the heating and air

conditioning in due course, but nothing that will affect the children's lessons. Thank you all for bearing with us over the past year, we hope that the changes we have put in place will mean that nothing like this will happen again.

Mr Ormiston
Co-Headteacher

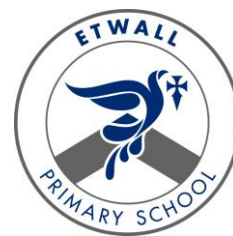




Diary Dates 2018-19

Term	School dates	Enrichment visits/visitors/days	Gov dates
Au 2	9/11 PTFA fireworks event 9/11 New parent open afternoon	7 & 9/11 KS2 WWI commemorative event at St Helen's	
	16/11 School Council Children in Need	12-16/11 Anti-bullying week 14/11 KS1 Pinocchio theatre visitors	12/11 Gov Policy Committee 13/11 Gov Resource Committee
	19/11	19-30/11 Switch off fortnight	
	28/11 PTFA winter discos 30/11 PTFA dress down day for Christmas hampers	19-30/11 Switch off fortnight	27/11 Gov FGB meeting
	7/12 PTFA Secret Santa event	4/12 3pm Falcons computing showcase 6/12 3pm Ospreys computing showcase 7/12 3pm Eagles computing showcase	
	10/12 PTFA Christmas hamper day 11/12 KS1 Nativity performance 12/12 KS1 Nativity performance 13/12 KS2 Christmas concert at St Helen's 14/12 EYFS Nativity performance 14/12 Christmas jumper day		
	18/12 UKS2 Christmas party	17/12 EYFS Christmas craft showcase	





Term	School dates	Enrichment visits/visitors/days	Gov dates
	19/12 School Christmas lunch 20/12 LKS2 Christmas party 21/12 EYFS and KS1 Christmas party 21/12 Last day of term	21/12 a.m. KS1 Christmas craft showcase	

Term	School dates	Enrichment visits/visitors/days	Gov dates
Sp 3			
			22/1 Gov Resource Committee
	29/1 PTFA Committee meeting 1/2 Y3/4 residential balance due		
	4/2 PTFA film night KS2 supervise	4-8/2 Internet safety week 5/2 Safer internet day	
	15/2 PTFA dress down Recycle Day 15/2 Last day of term		12/2 Gov T&L Committee





Term	School dates	Enrichment visits/visitors/days	Gov dates
Sp 4		1/3 Book People bus to visit school	
		5-9/3 Waste week 7/3 World Book Day	4/3 Gov Policy Committee
			19/3 Gov FGB meeting
	25/3 Parent Consultations 27/3 Parent Consultations		
	5/4 School Council chocolate bingo event	2/4 Autism Awareness Day	
	9/4 KS2 Easter service at St Helen's 10/4 KS1 Easter service at St Helen's 12/4 Last day of term	10-12/4 Y3/4 residential to Mount Cook	





Term	School dates	Enrichment visits/visitors/days	Gov dates
Su 5	1-10/5 & 20-24/5 Y2 assessment period	2/5 ACES day	
	1-10/5 & 20-24/5 Y2 assessment period		
	13-17/5 Y6 assessment week 18-19/5 Well dressing weekend		
	1-10/5 & 20-24/5 Y2 assessment period 24/5 PTFA dress down Recycle Day 24/5 Last day of term	21/5 Languages day	



Term	School dates	Enrichment visits/visitors/days	MDS/TA/JPS meeting/Gov dates
Su 6	6/6 PTFA summer discos		3/6 Gov Policy Committee
	10-14/6 Y1 phonics check week 11/6 New parents meeting 14/6 Sports morning and picnic		
	18/6 Reserve sports morning & picnic 21/6 INSET		18/6 Gov FGB meeting
	5/7 PTFA summer fair		
	12/7 School reports out 14/7 PTFA music festival		
	15/7 School open evening 19/7 Leavers' assembly 19/7 Last day of term	16/7 EYFS Change for Life festival 21/7 World music day	16/7 Gov T&L pupil progress meeting

