



Thursday 24th February 2016

Dear Parents / Carers,

We hope that you had a relaxing half term holiday with your family. There is lots of events and news to catch up on – enjoy reading about it all.

FAREWELL TO MRS BALDWIN

Mrs Baldwin has retired after 29 years at Etwall Primary School. The whole school met together to give her a big send off in a special assembly on her last morning. We think she was very surprised! KS1 children presented her with a big card from each class and KS2 children did individual postcards, which they collated in a lovely keepsake box for Mrs Baldwin. The children also presented her with a beautiful bouquet of flowers, two plants for her garden and a voucher for a local garden centre so that she can choose some more plants for her garden. She was very pleased! Mrs Baldwin has always been a very valued and appreciated member of staff who has always worked diligently to safeguard our children and support them in their learning. We are very lucky to have had her at the school for so long and we will miss her cheery disposition and dedication to the school very much. We all wish you a very long and happy retirement Mrs Baldwin.



BOOK SWAP FRIDAY



On Friday 3rd February we had our first Book Swap Friday, which was run in the library by Miss Warburton and the Literacy Committee at lunch time. It was a very well attended event, with children from across the school enjoying bringing a book or two that they had finished reading, to exchange with another child. It was a real pleasure to see the children engaged in discussions about how much they had

enjoyed their books, and recommending them to their peers. Thank you to those of you who supported this event by allowing your children to bring in books to swap. We hope that this will continue to be such a well-attended and much enjoyed event, that will encourage our children to read for pleasure! ***Book Swap Friday will take place on the first Friday of every month – next one Friday 3rd March!***

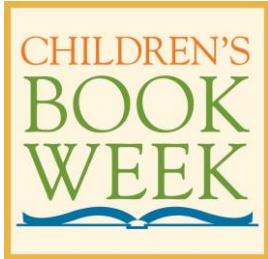


GOVERNOR CORNER

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.



BOOK WEEK : Monday 27th Feb – Friday 3rd March – Authors Who Inspire Us

Next week is Book Week and Miss Warburton, Mrs Millward and the Literacy Committee have been busily planning an exciting week for all to enjoy! Please refer to letter sent home on Monday about this event – highlights include dress up day on Thursday 2nd March (dress as a character from a book by a favourite author); a sponsored read and a workshop with visiting author and illustrator Steve Smallman.

We are looking forward to an enjoyable week of celebrating our most inspirational authors!

SCHOOL DRESS CODE REMINDER

Please could you ensure that all your child's clothing items are named as we have a huge pile of unnamed jumpers etc in the tub in the main entrance. We do empty this termly into the PTFA clothing bank so please claim back what is yours before the end of term.

Art and Craft clothing

Everyone needs a painting apron. An old T- shirt or an old adult shirt is ideal and in our experience more practical and hard-wearing than many commercial plastic art aprons. Aprons should be kept in the P.E. bags. Children are expected to wear painting aprons or shirts to protect clothing whenever doing 'messy' activities. Please ensure that your child has one in school to protect their clothing.

This information is also available in the school prospectus on the school web site.



CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS



As the Year of the Monkey ended in January 2017, many people from around the world, as part of the Chinese calendar, were preparing to welcome the Year of the Rooster. Children at Etwall Primary School have celebrated this festival for several years and are becoming quite the experts as they move through the school. It was a good opportunity to gain a deeper insight into a community that is part of UK culture and an event celebrated by children at our school. As our children know the importance of understanding and respecting diversity, they all enjoyed participating in activities to help

them along the way to becoming little Chinese New Year experts. Mrs Dhillon introduced the day by reminding the children about the story of how the years got their names. At the end of the day, all classes were proud to showcase their learning from an exciting day in school.





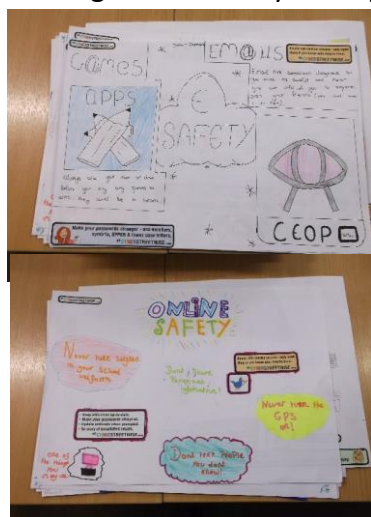
ST JOHNS AMBULANCE TRAINING FOR KS2 BI-ANNUAL TRAINING

During the last week of half term, St John's Ambulance came into school to do first aid with all KS2 classes. This Years 3 and 4 did a half day bleeding and bandaging course, which also included emergency phone calls, and the recovery position. Year 5 and 6 built on this course they did two years ago, and did a full days first aid course. Amongst many other things, they also learnt about CPR. The children really enjoyed, and got a lot of important information out of this worthwhile day kindly funded by the PTFA – THANK YOU!

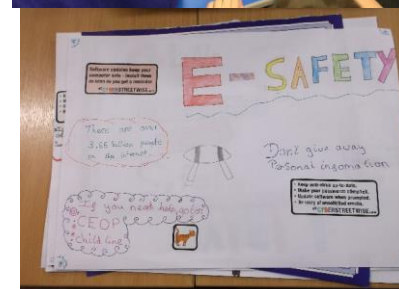


SAFEGUARD UPDATE: ONLINE SAFETY WEEK.

During Online Safety week just before half term, each class engaged in a



wide range of Online Safety activities, including a workshop led by an e-Safety advisor, Traci Good. Many classes focused on what information is appropriate to share online, including selfies. We also recapped what we must do if we have any concerns about things that we see/experience online. We also held our second parent (and teacher) Online Safety training workshop during this week, focussing particularly on the different apps that young children are using today and how to keep our children safe when online.



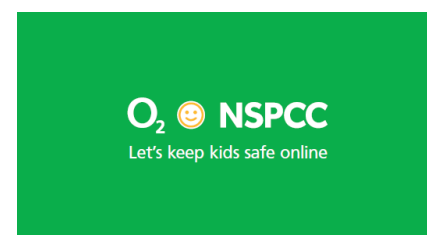
Thank you to the parents/carers who took the time to come to the workshop and learn more about this important safeguarding issue. We will continue to educate the children in school about Online Safety issues throughout the school year.

REVIEW OF E-SCHOOLS LEARNING PLATFORM AND ONLINE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The school is currently reviewing its use of the e-schools learning platform. Pupils log in to this via the school web site. It has been used more extensively in KS2 for introducing blogs, class discussions and links to useful web sites to support your child's learning. If you would like to provide any feedback on your child's use of the LP, please send it to enquiries@etwall.derbyshire.sch.uk or via the contact form on the school web site.

The children do have passwords for a range of sites eg Bug Club. Passwords do need to be secure and we do a lot of work in school training the children to:

- not share their passwords
- have secure passwords (ie not their name)
- not NEVER save their password on the PC/tablet/smart phone





they are using and above all

- ensure that their use of technology is closely monitored by parents at all times.

In light of this, it was very disappointing that parents did not engage in our Online Safety workshop – the 2nd this year. Many online issues were discussed including:

- inappropriate content of various apps and web sites
- online grooming
- Lack of online safety features on sites children are known to use
- sharing inappropriate images
- safe passwords
- children's use of social media at inappropriate ages
- need for parents to closely monitor their child's online activity.

Your child will probably know far more than you about what they can do online so we need to ensure that they are safe by being more aware.



Our Digital Leaders are going to produce a guide about the safe use of passwords to be sent home to all parents and put on the school web site. **Online Safety is a huge safeguarding issue for all children and one that we cannot tackle alone – we need all parents to engage with us to keep your children safe.** Please look at the advice on NSPCC Online safety – share aware that we have previously detailed in newsletters. Just google *NSPCC Online Safety*... today.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT WORK

BEHAVIOUR POLICY

The policy has been reviewed by all stakeholders and Mr Ormiston is currently designing new certificates around the new STARFISH values. These form the backbone of the policy along with the existing Golden Rules. The policy will be uploaded to the school web site in due course and a text will be sent out to alert you. Extract from the revised policy...

Rewarding good choices

We believe we should strive to recognise and praise good behaviour / good choices as it occurs, reward children for behaving well, explain and demonstrate the behaviour we would like to see, ensure that criticism is constructive and encourage children to be responsible for their own behaviour and make good choices. Many of the rewards are linked to our "starfish" values:

Sportsmanship

Truthfulness

Aspiration

Respect

Friendship

Independence

Sharing

Helpfulness





HOMEWORK SHOWCASES

Following consultation with staff, pupils and parents, we changed our approach to homework in order to focus on the essentials: reading daily, learning spelling rules / phonics, Rapid Number Recall that focuses on mental maths and lastly learning our multiplication and division facts so all children can more easily apply these to their everyday maths work. If you are unsure of any aspect of this, then please speak to class teachers. The topic based voluntary homework projects were well received by the children and we saw the fruits of their labours in the KS1 and KS2 Homework Showcases. They were brilliant! Thank you to parents for engaging your child so well in this.

KS1 SHOWCASE



In KS1 we held our first ever 'Homework Showcase' to show off all of the amazing work children (and parents!) have been completing at home! Our topic was 'Inspirational People' and children were asked to complete a 'project' based on their chosen idol. We had an array of very inspirational people from Nelson Mandela to Tim Peake- even William Shakespeare! All of the KS1 staff were blown away by all

of the effort children have been putting into their homework projects. We would also like to thank all of the parents and carers who were able to attend the showcase, the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves! All homework's will be on display in classrooms or in the KS1 corridor, so please do come and have another look! We very much look forward to what our next topic brings...



SPORTS UPDATE:

SPORTSHALL ATHLETICS

Members of Y5/6 represented our school at Greenbank Leisure Centre in Swadlincote, at an athletics competition. We are pleased to say that out of 12 schools we managed to win 3rd place! The children did an excellent job of competing in the events, particular highlights being Lewis' 1st place in the long jump, with an incredible jump of 1.88m, and

Olivia, Trinity, Bella and Eleanor taking 1st place in 4 x 1 relay. The children tried their hardest in all track and field events that they competed in, and they did us proud. Well done to all of the children (Trinity, Bella, Olivia, Olivia, Erin-Rose, Eleanor, Lewis, Tom, Joseph, Zak, Finlay, Denholm) and congratulations on winning bronze!

LOCAL FOOTBALL FINAL AT MORR FARM TRAINING GROUND – 27TH JANUARY 2017

Having got through to the Local Final, we were invited to Moor Farm Training ground to participate in the Local Final. Six teams had made it through after competing at DW Sports the week earlier. Etwall played St Johns in the first game which we drew 2 - 2. The second game was much the same, drawing 0 - 0. We desperately needed 3 points to still be in with a chance as the bottom two teams



were to go home, leaving only the top four to fight it out. Fortunately, we won the third game against Melbourne, giving us 3 points. We then went on to lose the game against Mickleover Primary School 1- 0, who had one every game so far. The final game was against Gayton which we drew 1-1.

Fortunately, this was enough to get us through!

This left us third in the table with Mickleover Primary finishing first, Gayton second and St Johns fourth. This meant we played Gayton in the semi-final. It was tense stuff as after 0 - 0; it went to extra time. A fantastic header from Jack in the last few minutes saw us through to the final. Surprisingly Mickleover Primary were out after St Johns took them to penalties. In the final, we showed what a fantastic team we were. Conor scoring two goals and Jack one. Ending the final at a 3-0 win. WELL DONE LADS!



This now means that Etwall have finished first out of a total of 62 teams. What an achievement! We now go on to represent Derby County in the regional finals at Barnsley during March. ***If we win this, then we will be playing at Wembley in the national finals.*** Wow! Watch this space!



PARENT VIEW: YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

In the Autumn term, the school conducted a survey amongst parents/carers, the results of which were published. The school has been working on the main issues raised by parents/carers, one of which was homework. As you are all aware, our last Ofsted inspection was in October 2012 when we were judged a "Good school". The goal posts have moved several times (updated frameworks), but we still

strive to be an Outstanding school. Please could we ask all parents/carers to go onto Parent View to give your views about the school. An inspection could happen anytime so we would encourage you to complete the questionnaire in preparation. Google Ofsted Parent View or follow this link <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk> All you have to do is register on the web site and agree to the terms and conditions, one of which is that only parents/carers of children who attend EPS can complete the survey. As always, if you have any worries or concerns, please come and talk to us so that we can work together to resolve them. Thank you in advance.

CHANGES TO END OF DAY ARRANGEMENTS

For safeguarding reasons, please notify your child's class teacher at the beginning of the school day of any changes to your child's end of day arrangements. Any permanent changes should be noted on your child's form. Message via a third party will not be accepted and cause school staff extra work as they then have to contact you to check arrangements – we appreciate your cooperation in this matter. ***Please notify the school office of an end of day emergency changes so that they can let class teachers know.*** Thank you.





VISITOR MOBILE PHONES

Please could we remind you that your mobile phone must be switched off at all times whilst in school as a visitor. There is a reminder notice in the visitors book where you would sign in. Thank you for your cooperation in this safeguarding matter.

WANT TO TRY OUT OUR LETTERS EMAIL SYSTEM?

We would like to appeal to any non-email parents to give the school email system a go! This is more environmentally friendly for the school and it will not end up on the corridor floor! All letters are uploaded onto the school web site for all to access also. If you would like to try it out, please complete the form at the end of the newsletter and return to your child's class teacher. Mrs East or Mrs Collins will promptly add you to the email system. Thank you for your support.



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 days: Monday 5th June 2017 and Monday 10th July 2017

FEBRUARY

Mon 27th start of Book Week
Tues 28th Shrove Tuesday – pancake activities in class

MARCH

Wed 1st St. David's Day – class activities
Thurs 2nd World Book Day plus visiting author!
Fri 3rd 9.05am Kingfisher Class assembly
Fri 3rd Book Swap Friday
Mon 6th Spring Parents Consultation 3.45pm – 6.30pm
Tues 7th Rev Greaves in school – KS1
Thurs 9th Spring Parents Consultation 3.45pm – 6.30pm
Fri 10th Football Final in Barnsley
w/c 13th Science and Engineering week – letter to follow
Wed 15th Brain Awareness Day – whole school / pm Team event NEW
Fri 17th St Patricks Day – class activity
Fri 17th 9.05am Sparrowhawk class assembly
Tues 21st 5.15pm Full Governing Body mtg
Fri 24th Red Nose Day – School Council leading
Fri 24th 9.05am Ospreys class assembly
Fri 31st School Council Chocolate Bingo Charity event – letter to follow

CLASS ASSEMBLIES FOR THIS YEAR

The 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





NEWSLETTER FIVE

Little Owl class: Friday 12th May
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.

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

Please print clearly one character in each box including dots and any dashes, underscores etc.

1st

This email address relate to:
Please complete details below – one line per child

	Child's Name	Class	Year Group
1 st		
2 nd		
3 rd		
4 th		

Please return to your child's class teacher.

