



Thursday 6th September 2018

Dear parents and carers,

Firstly, welcome to all our new families, children and staff and welcome back to those returning after the summer break.

I have been so impressed with the way that all the children have started the school year: behaviour has been impeccable and there has been an atmosphere of calm across the school, allowing learning to take place right from the very beginning. This is a credit both to the children and to you as parents and carers for preparing them so well for the coming year.

In addition to all our new Reception children and new starters in other year groups, we warmly welcome Mrs Day, who has taken over the reins in the school office from Mrs Gabbitas. Mrs Day brings with her a wealth of experience from other schools in Derbyshire and I'm sure you will welcome her as she finds her feet!

Please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher, the school office or a member of the school Senior Leadership Team if you need to have a chat about anything or just need some information

Macmillan Coffee Morning



The School Council, supported by PTFA members and Mrs Dhillon, will be hosting this year's Macmillan Coffee Morning on Thursday 27th September from 9:30am – 10:30am in the school hall. It would be great to see as many of you as can make it there supporting this splendid annual event. So many of us have, or know someone who has faced cancer and the money we raise at the coffee morning will help us make sure that no one has to face cancer alone. We look forward to your fantastic support as always.

Sun Awareness – Be Sun Safe



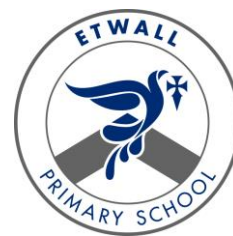
We are ever hopeful that the sun will continue to shine for at least the next few weeks. Thank you to everyone who has ensured that their child is in school with a sun hat - **it is part of their school uniform between March and October**. We prefer children to have a bucket or legionnaires style hat as they offer the most protection to the head and neck. Please could you pop your child's inside the hat – along with all other school uniform - as we already have "found property" with no names so we cannot return it to the appropriate child. Thank you.

e-Schools Email and Texting Service



As you are aware, the school's email and texting service has now been migrated over to the eSchools app. 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 so that you can be kept in the loop. If you are unsure of the process, please contact the school office.





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 hardworking 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. TBC

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.

Class Newsletters and Homework Booklets

The new 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 for homework and also includes the popular homework 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.

Guidance on Leave of Absence

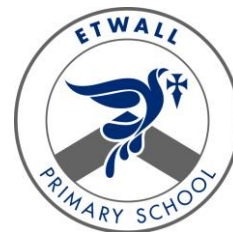


Department
for Education

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 cooperation.

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.

Letters Reminder



We have been very pleased with the year on year increase in parents and carers who have opted for email communication. This saves the school a huge photocopying bill, but we are having to reduce this even further. To this end, we are no longer providing paper copies in the majority of cases.

If letters are emailed with a slip to return (for example an after school club or school trip), we ask that you either print out the slip, provide the info requested on a piece of paper and return to your child's class teacher in the normal way, or email to enquiries@etwall.derbyshire.sch.uk





Is Your Child Entitled To Pupil Premium Funding?



As you may be aware, the issue of education funding has been in the news a lot recently, with schools facing reduced budgets alongside increased costs. At Etwall we are no different and a number of difficult decisions have had to be made regarding expenditure for 2018-19. The situation is not expected to improve in the foreseeable future, as the government seeks to reduce costs still

further.

One way that schools such as ours look to support pupils learning is through Pupil Premium funding, which allowed us to provide additional support to pupils in a variety of ways throughout 2017-18, for example enrichment activities, in class support through Teaching Assistants, funding for inclusion and targeted interventions for pupils with additional needs. 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.

People often see the Pupil Premium as '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.

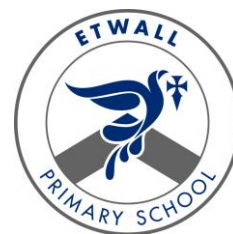
Your child will receive:

- Additional support in the form of a Teaching Assistant in morning lessons on a daily basis
- Targeted 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
- Fully funded enrichment day visits
- Discounted wrap around care (breakfast and after school club)
- Fully funded extra-curricular activities such as sports, Imagineering and language clubs
- Fully funded music lessons should they wish to learn how to play a musical instrument
- Subsidies for residential visits
- Provision of free books relating to the interests of each child
- Contributions towards school uniform costs
- Free milk
- Free nutritious school meals on a daily basis

You are eligible for Pupil Premium funding if: you receive 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

You are also eligible if your child is 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; or has a parent who is in the armed forces





If you think you may be eligible for Pupil Premium funding, please contact the school office. We will happily discuss this with you and even fill the forms in on your behalf.

Please help us to help your child and their fellow pupils.

Diary Dates



In the first instance, please refer to the calendar on the school website for key dates throughout 2018 – 19. The following days have been set for 2018 -19. Children will **not** be in school on these further 2 days: **Tuesday 15th October 2018** and **Friday 21st June**.

Any changes in dates will be advertised well in advance and a message sent out, whilst assembly and showcase dates will be sent out in due course.

Relief Midday Supervisors



As a school that strives to provide the best for our pupils throughout the day, we are always on the lookout for Relief Midday Supervisors to help with lunchtime duties. If you are good communicator, enjoy working with children and pride yourself on a flexible and adaptable approach to life, why not give Mrs Day in the school office a call on 01283 732301? Alternatively, pop in and see us or email admin@etwall.derbyshire.sch.uk. In return, we can offer you: up to 7 hours per week; first aid qualifications; safeguarding cpd; and a variety of other opportunities to work with primary aged children.

Public Toilets



As you may be aware, the toilets on the playing fields have been closed for a number of months. As you can imagine, we get a number of requests from people to use our loos in the interim. This provides both a logistical and safeguarding headache for us, therefore we would ask that you do all you can to ensure your children use the school toilets before leaving for the day and toilet any little ones have been toileted prior to you coming to school.

School Elections



Please do talk to your child about the forthcoming school elections, where we are looking to appoint Eco Councillors, School Councillors and new members for the Literacy Committee. I know that, last year, I personally put on a number of school reports that it would be great to see children take part in wider school life and this is the ideal opportunity. Elections will take place on Friday 14th September, so please encourage your child to take part.

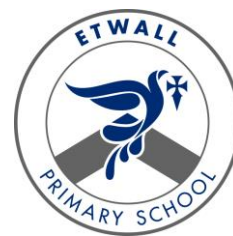
Cardiac Arrest in the Young



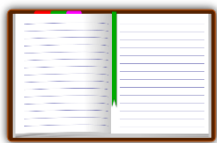
A huge well done should go to the outgoing school council for their fantastic efforts in raising money throughout the year for their chosen charity: Cardiac Arrest in the Young. They raised almost £1,000 to help detect heart problems in young people, allowing early identification to make a huge difference to the lives of young people in the local area.

Many thanks also to those of you who have helped to support such a worthy cause.





Learning Diaries

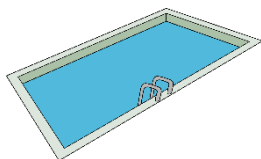


Please look out for your child's new learning diary, which will replace the reading records we have used in previous years. It will be sent home with your child this week and is to be used as a learning and communication book between the parents, children and teachers, to be used in the following ways: to record reading done at home and in school by school staff and parents/family members (please note that as per homework policy we ask that children record reading in their diary at least 5 times a week); to record comments about any learning done at home, e.g. times table practise, phonics practise, spellings practise; to record children's logon IDs for Bug Club, Interactive Resources, Purple Mash etc. (as appropriate to year group); and to glue in children's current writing targets, Rapid Number Recall targets etc.

The purpose of the learning diary is to allow for a dialogue between home and school related to children's learning, in a supportive and positive way for the children. Please note that any concerns or comments you may have about anything other than your child's learning need to continue to be addressed in person or by telephone to your child's class teacher, rather than written in the book.

We hope that you will find the learning diary to be a much improved version of the reading diaries that we used to use, and a supportive record of your child's home/school learning relationship.

Swimming Pool



We cannot thank you enough for bearing with us whilst the issues regarding the school pool are being resolved. We are now entering the final phase of the project – the vast majority of which is being funded by Derbyshire County Council – which will provide us with a pool which is fit for purpose and one that we can all be proud of. As you can imagine with a project of this size, there have been a number of unforeseen issues that have cropped up, but it is heartening to know that the children should all be swimming again before the end of this term. Many thanks again for your patience and we will keep you updated with progress.

Year 5 and 6 John Port Open Evening



On 19th September, John Port will be holding an open evening for all Year 5 and 6 pupils. During the evening, there will be the opportunity to visit the faculties and there will be a presentation at 5:30pm from Mrs Squire (Principal). For more information on admissions, please visit www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/school_places.

Mrs Dixey



Last, but by no means least, some of you may have read on the school Facebook page that Mrs Dixey has had an accident over the summer holidays. She is at home recovering and won't be in school for a number of weeks. It is very much the intention that the pupils will see no difference in the day-to-day running of the school, however for any queries you would have directed to Mrs Dixey, please contact me instead, through the school office.

Mr Ormiston
Co-Headteacher





Diary Dates 2018-19

Term	School dates	Enrichment visits/visitors/days	Gov dates
Au 1	3 & 4/9 INSET 5/9 Children back 6/9 School newsletter out		
		14/9 School elections	12/9 MDS meeting (every 2 nd Wed)
	19/9 PTFA committee mtg	17/9 Dr Hendriksen in UKS2	18/9 Governor AGM 5.15pm
	26/9 KS1/EYFS Phonics workshop for parents	26/9 Y6 Mini leader training 27/9 Macmillan Coffee Morning 28/9 Stand up Day	
	1-3/10 Phonics demos 4/10 Individual Photos am	2/10 Harvest Festival at St Helen's (no parents)	
	8/10 PTFA Film Night KS1 supervise	10/10 KS2 trip to National Memorial Arboretum	9/10 Gov T&L Committee
	15/10 INSET 16 & 18/10 Parent Consultations		
	26/10 PTFA dress down Recycle Day 26/10 Last day of term	22-26/10 Y5/6 Residential	





Term	School dates	Enrichment visits/visitors/days	Gov dates
Au 2	9/11 PTFA fireworks event	7 & 9/11 KS2 WWI commemorative event at St Helen's	
	16/11 School Council Children in Need	12-16/11 Anti-bullying week	12/11 Gov Policy Committee 13/11 Gov Resource Committee
	19/11	19-30/11 Switch off fortnight	
	28/11 PTFA winter discos	19-30/11 Switch off fortnight	27/11 Gov FGB meeting
	7/12 PTFA secret Santa event		
	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		12/12 MDS meeting (every 2 nd Wed)
	18/12 UKS2 Christmas party 19/12 School Christmas lunch 20/12 LKS2 Christmas party 21/12 EYFS and KS1 Christmas party 21/12 Last day of term		





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



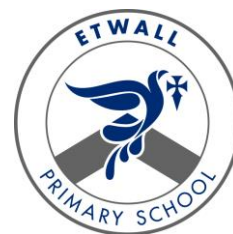


Term	School dates	Enrichment visits/visitors/days	Gov dates
Sp 4		1/3 Book People bus to visit school	
		5-9/3 Waste week 7/3 World Book Day	4/3 Gov Policy Committee
			19/3 Gov FGB meeting
	25/3 Parent Consultations 27/3 Parent Consultations		
	5/4 School Council chocolate bingo event	2/4 Autism Awareness 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

