

SCHOOL NEWS

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Parent Council Feedback

A very productive Parent Council meeting was held last Monday. Thank you to everyone who put forward questions and items for discussion. You will find the minutes of the meeting presented in a very readable newsletter format, expertly put together by the 4R rep, Nicola Watson. My thanks to her for the time taken to do this.

We have already actioned one of the points regarding the sandwiches and drinks provided as part of the school dinner. There has been very mixed feedback about the introduction of sandwiches for the summer term and the reduction of jacket potatoes to one day a week. Some parents felt that a sandwich wasn't appropriate when a hot meal was being paid for. Others stated that opting for hot dinners was more for convenience than the actual hot meal. As a compromise, we have decided to re-introduce jacket potatoes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and offer sandwiches on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

There was a question regarding the provision of juice at lunchtime. The drinks are provided on the following basis:

Mon, Wed, Fri: water, juice and milk

Tuesday/Thursday: water and milkshake

All of these details can be found on the amended summer menu for 2016 which can be found on the website.

Testing

Our Year 6 have been working extremely hard getting ready for their end of KS2 SATs tests. These take place on Monday to Thursday, week beginning 9th May. It is really important that the children have early nights and arrive in school on time - preferably for the special breakfast club which the Y6 staff are organising.

The Year 2 children are also taking part in end of KS1 assessments. There is more of an emphasis on teacher assessment at Y2 but some test papers still have to be taken. These will be taking place week beginning 16th May. You will have heard in the press that the Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling test has been withdrawn. The tests that were delivered to school in sealed secure packaging were in fact the same tests which were published online for schools to use as examples. For this reason, they have been cancelled and instead, the teachers will carry out their own assessments.

Y1 will be having a phonics screening test after the half term holiday: week beginning 14th June. Please make sure your children are in every day this week as the screening takes place over several days.

I would like to emphasise that these tests are national assessments and not driven by school.



Safeguarding

One of our parent governors, Mrs Catherine Stuart, is linked to safeguarding in school. This means that she checks all procedures and policies are in place, ensures record keeping is rigorous and that training is up to date and relevant. We worked together last week to audit all of the safeguarding through school which confirmed that the school's work to keep children safe is effective and procedures are robust.

We both felt it would be prudent to remind parents that if you felt there were concerns around safeguarding, the first point of contact would be myself as the Designated Safeguarding Lead. In my absence, Mrs Mallinson has the role of deputy Safeguarding Lead. Our safeguarding policy is available to read on our website in the policies section.



Thank you!!

I would like to say a huge thank you for all the book donations we received today. They really will make a difference in boosting the stock in our school library. Also I'm very appreciative of the parents who have been in school today sorting through the books and putting them on the library shelves. We are very grateful for the time they have spared and their energy for the project.



PTA Sangam ladies night

A letter has been sent home today regarding this event taking place on Thursday 12th May

e-safety info evening

Many thanks to all those who came to the e-safety information session last night. We only had around 20 parents attend which suggests that the 3.30pm time for meetings is more convenient for parents. It was, however, a really useful session with lots of helpful guidance as well as alarming facts about the risks our children face when being online. I have put the parent guides for Snapchat and Instagram which we have previously circulated with this newsletter, on our website. They can be found in the e-safety section under the 'Additional' tab. These two forms of social media are just the tip of the iceberg we learnt last night. Tanya Cross has sent us some useful links which we have included on the email with this letter. They can also be found in the e-safety section of the website.

I would also like to draw your attention to the ICT page under curriculum on the website. Here you can see the schemes of work we use for teaching digital literacy and e-safety.

Reminder

Parents are not permitted to stay and watch after school clubs. This is solely due to safeguarding reasons. All our coaches and after school staff have DBS checks and we must ensure that children do not come into contact with any other adults. Thank you for respecting this.

Enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend - let's hope the temperatures rise a little! We'll see everyone back on Tuesday morning.

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows and the Etchells staff

