

# SCHOOL NEWS

Curriculum | Eid Cards | New Governor



## Sainsbury's Vouchers

Sainsbury's have now finished giving out their vouchers for the Active Kids Scheme. If you have any of these vouchers at home please send them into school as soon as possible as we are now in the process of counting them. This time we are intending on using them to acquire equipment for the Early Years outdoor areas. You may have noticed that we have now enlarged these spaces for reception and nursery and are looking to get them fully resourced.

## Freddy Fit

As you are aware the school receives a PE and Sport Premium Grant from the government in order to provide staff training and to increase participation in sports activities. We have been using the Manchester City development coaches with our staff which has been very successful. This week we used some of the funding to bring Freddy Fit back into school to work with our Y5 pupils. He spent a full day training them in leading lunchtime sports and games for the other children in the school. They will take over this role from the current Year 6 in September. Last year, we used our Sainsbury's vouchers to acquire equipment for these groups. The children enjoy these groups and they encourage them to be more active during the lunch breaks.

## Governors

I am delighted to welcome a new parent governor to our governing body, Mr Joel Vacara. He has a son in 2M and currently works in the education sector, specialising in Special Educational Needs. We very much look forward to working with him and know his skills and experience will be invaluable for this important leadership and management role in our school.

I was pleased to welcome another of our governors, Hamayoun Choudry, into school this week. He came to see how the Key Stage 2 SATs were administered as we have to deliver them under strict national guidance. We were able to show him how the test papers are kept secure and only given to the staff moments before the tests begin. He saw how the classrooms were set up and how adults were deployed. He was completely satisfied with what he saw and can verify that the tests were administered in appropriate conditions.

The governors' curriculum committee met on Thursday to discuss and approve the following policies: Teaching & Learning; Foundation Subject Curriculum; Homework, PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) and Relationships and Sex Education. All the policies have been approved after minor amendments were made. These will be available for parents to read in the curriculum area of the website before the half term holiday.





## Reminders

- The school car park is for staff only; we have 55 staff who work in the school and often they are not all able to park. The car park is NOT for parents' use. The only exceptions to this are children's taxis and those who have displayed a blue badge. One of our staff cars was damaged this week by someone who drove into the car park and found it difficult to turn round.
- As part of our Health and Safety policy, we do not allow dogs onto the school playground. This is the policy for the majority of primary schools and we ask you to respect it.
- As the weather is hotting up we would like to raise awareness of keeping children safe in the sun. Attached to this newsletter is a leaflet with guidance for parents. We ask that children come to school with sunscreen already applied - there are lots of 'once' a day formulas available or the guidance states that a factor 15+ should be ok for during the school day. We prefer children not to bring bottles of sunscreen to school as they can get lost and we have some children with allergies to certain types.
- As you are aware, the school does not authorise absence for family holidays abroad. However some parents still insist on taking term holiday - these will result in a fine. Whatever the circumstances, a request form for authorised leave MUST be completed, otherwise your child may be deemed "Missing from Education". A copy of this form can be found on the Attendance page under the School Info section of the website.

## e-safety

The link I provided in last week's newsletter had a character missing, so if you are interested in watching the video designed for 9-11 year olds about keeping private online please click the link below. I highly recommend it:

<https://youtu.be/599IIE-rWTU>

I have also added some further useful documents onto the e-safety section of the website, including a parents guide to You Tube. The e-safety page is under the 'Additional' section of the website.

## Eid Cards

This week all the children have been designing Eid cards. We are using the same company who produced the Christmas cards to turn the artworks into professionally printed cards with the child's name on the back. As with the Christmas cards, all children will receive a proof to look at and decide whether they would like to purchase. It is entirely optional. The activity this week has enhanced our RE curriculum as well as contributing to our cultural development in school.

## Curriculum Development

We are now in the process of embedding the New National Curriculum into our lessons. Our Foundation subject books which the children use to put all their work in, apart from English and Maths, have been looked at by another school as an example of good practice. Please take a look at the Curriculum area of the website which has recently been updated by all the subject leaders and gives you an overview of what is taught in each year group and how each subject is delivered.

Kind regards,  
Cathy Beddows and  
the Etchells staff

