

# SCHOOL NEWS

School Lunches | sign2sing | Uniform

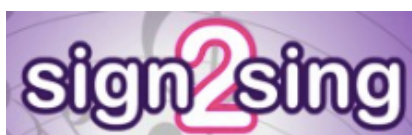
## Holiday requests

It is the time of year for booking holidays! I have had a significant number of requests for me to authorise absence for family holidays. It has been agreed across local schools that, in accordance with DFE regulations, we will not be authorising any holiday requests. I have inserted a paragraph from the new regulations which Headteachers have been asked to adhere to:

From the 1st September 2013 DFE amended the regulations surrounding holidays in term time. The DFE has removed references to family holiday and extended leave as well as the statutory threshold of ten school days. These new amendments make it clear that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances and gives no entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time. From the 1st September 2013 application for leave must be in exceptional circumstances only and the Headteacher must be satisfied that the circumstances are exceptional and warrant the granting of leave.

## Parent Council

In last week's news, I outlined the purpose of a Parent Council. The body of parents will meet once or twice a term to discuss issues which have been brought to them by parents of the same class. It is a good opportunity to ask questions about school life and to gain further understanding about school policies, for example, the marking of children's books. I would like to invite you now to come forward with your name, child's name and class if you are interested in being a class rep. Should more than one parent per class volunteer, we would hold a class ballot. Please forward your details to [headteacher@etchells.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@etchells.stockport.sch.uk) by Friday 7th February. I would like the first meeting to take place during the first week after half term.



As last year's 'sign2sing' event was such a success, we have

decided to repeat the experience for 2014. The children learn a song, and then sing and sign it together. This year, the children will sing and sign their chosen song on Wednesday 5th February. If you would like to contribute towards this good cause, we suggest a £1 donation which will help raise money for Signhealth, the healthcare charity for vulnerable deaf children and adults. More information (and songs) can be found on the sign2sing website.



## Uniform

It has come to our attention that a number of children are not wearing the appropriate school shoes. Trainers are being worn on a daily basis by some. Wearing any kind of trainer - whether it's a plain sports or a brightly coloured logo trainer - is not acceptable in school. We request that children wear black school shoes as this completes their smart appearance which we expect at Etchells.

## Next week...

### \* *Meet the headteacher*

A reminder that on Wednesday 29th January, I will be holding a meeting to give you opportunity to come and meet and chat with me. Thank you to all those who have responded so far. If you would like to attend please let me know by email.

### \* *Dressing up days*

On 19th February, as part of the current topic work, Nursery and reception children are being asked to come to school dressed as Superheroes. They will take part in a very exciting 'Superhero' day.

Likewise, KS1 will have their learning brought to life with a 'Pirate' themed day. Please send your Year 1 and 2 children to school dressed as pirates on 12th February.

## School Lunches

This week I met with our local area manager for Stockport Solutions, the company who currently provides our school meals. You will be aware that Mr Clegg has announced the provision of free school meals for all KS1 and EYFS children from next September. However, schools have not yet been informed about financial allocations in order for us to meet the potential increase in school meal uptake. I will give you more information about this issue once we know.

### *Halal Meals*

I am aware that last term a presentation was made to parents about the provision of Halal school meals for the children. Parents were requested to inform the school if they wanted to sign up for this provision. In order to make the provision viable and to avoid excessive wastage, we would need at least 20 children to commit to taking a Halal meal. We did not meet this number last time and so the initiative didn't go ahead. In response to renewed interest, I am offering to open up the invitation once again. If you would like your child to take a Halal school meal, please inform me by email before Friday 14th February. This will allow 3 weeks for your response. If there are sufficient numbers, it could be possible to start serving the meals after the half term holiday.

## Celebrations

This week, please find attached the details of this week's Star Pupils and other pupil achievements.

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows

and the Etchells staff

