

# SCHOOL NEWS

Absence Fines | Booking Clubs | Limelight Drama

## Email!

We had a few teething problems with our first newsletter by email and so for this week only, we are sending by paper. It is vital that all email addresses and mobile contacts are completely up to date. Please ensure you inform us of any changes. We will try to send by email again next week and hopefully we can have the system running effectively by Easter.

## Parents' Evening

Thank you to all the parents who met with teachers to discuss their child's progress this week. We had some fantastic positive feedback about how the children are doing and some excellent appreciation of the hard work of the teachers. I know many of you were able to look through your child's work and I hope you were impressed with what you have seen. Your feedback is always appreciated.

## Twitter

Our Twitter following is growing steadily and more and more parents, governors, colleagues and friends are keeping up to date with news from the school. Please note that whilst I will 'retweet' comments made, I do not intend to use this form of social media to communicate directly with parents.



Follow us: @EtchellsPS

## Attendance

We have just been informed about how our attendance levels compare with schools in the rest of the country. I was very disappointed to learn that Etchells was placed in the lowest 20% of all schools. I'm sure you are as shocked as I am but we can't deny the fact that our attendance for 2013 was 94.2% and the national average was 95.2%. We are ranked 69th out of 81 Stockport schools, indicating that our attendance is the 12th worst in the authority. This is an issue we really need to address as not only does attendance affect our Ofsted grading, it also has a marked detrimental effect on the learning and progress of the children. I am asking all parents to strive for the highest levels of attendance and to support the school in our goal to surpass the National Average level in 2014.

## Penalty Notices

As I'm sure you have heard in the news, schools are being asked to issue fines for unauthorised absences. This is a route that the governors have now agreed and attached to this document, you will find a letter which outlines the details of these measures. I would like to remind parents that attendance and lateness is monitored closely by school and the Education Welfare Officer. Home visits will be made by the EWO for persistent absences and fines will be issued.

It would be unfortunate to pursue these routes; I'm sure we can work together to improve attendance and time keeping, whilst at the same time, increase the chances for our children to make the progress they are capable of.





## This week...

\* KS1 have thoroughly enjoyed their trips to Staircase House in Stockport where they were transported 500 years back in time. The experience was brought to life with characters in role who asked the children to explain to them all about this mysterious 'electrickery' that seemed to be making things work! The children loved it!

\* We are all very much looking forward to the much anticipated production of the BFG by the Limelight Drama Club. The performances will take place in the last week of term at the Heald Green Theatre. Children in school will be able to watch dress rehearsal performances in the school hall next Friday. Families of cast members should have received a letter home for Theatre performance tickets.

## After School Club Booking

We have decided to change the way we book places for the after school and lunchtime clubs in response to issues raised by parents. We would like to firstly state that some clubs, such as gym and karate, do give priority to children already attending as they are working towards awards. If there are places they will be allocated and where possible, we are looking into making extra provision for popular clubs such as gym.

We would like to offer a system where you can come to school, book your place, pay the money and know immediately if a place is available and can be confirmed. Therefore, on Friday 28th March, we will be open at 7.45am for you to come into school to book places. Please come to the School hall where you will find our office staff who will either confirm your place on receipt of immediate payment or will be able to tell you if the club is full. We will be available after school for bookings too until 3.45, but please note, places are allocated on a first come first served basis. We appreciate that many parents work and may not be able to come to school at those times. We are happy for another parent to book places for ONE other family if they can't attend.

We hope this system will improve communication and efficiency. We are working on extra provision of clubs

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows and the Etchells staff

