

# SCHOOL NEWS

Homework | Snow Policy | Smart Watches/Fitbits



**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

## Welcome Back!

We have been extremely busy this week getting stuck into our new topics and English and maths learning. The staff had a very productive INSET day on Monday thinking about metacognition and working on subject leadership. Metacognition is thinking about the ways in which we learn. We have linked lots of strategies to our Core Values; this has really strengthened the curriculum philosophy at Etchells and will help to develop the learning culture even further. Look out for these metacognitive strategies on the Star of the Week certificates. If you would like to understand this further, please look at the Metacognition page on the school website which can be found here: <http://www.etchells.stockport.sch.uk/page/metacognition-at-etchells/61134>

Our curriculum work continues to go from strength to strength and I have been asked to present once again next week to other schools in Stockport about our successful practice.

## Measles in Stockport

There have recently been a number of adult cases of measles in the Local Authority. We have been advised to remind parents about the importance of the MMR vaccination and the need for children to have two doses. For more information about the impact of measles, please see the attached document.

## Attendance



**EVERY  
SCHOOL DAY  
COUNTS**

Our attendance is once again taking a dip and at 95%, is currently below the National Average of 96%. Unfortunately, a significant number of our families extended the Christmas break to take family holidays or to visit family. Absences for these reasons are NOT authorised. Please refer to the term dates on the school website when booking holidays. The Education Welfare Officer came into school this week to discuss all pupils with low attendance. A number of referrals for EPNs (Education Penalty Notice) have been made which could ultimately result in fines.

## Smart Watch and Mobile Phone Reminder

We are aware that some children have received Fitbits and smart watches for Christmas. Due to the high cost of these items, they are not allowed in school. We also have to take precautions regarding the advanced abilities of these devices, for example, cameras, microphones etc. If a child comes to school with a smart watch or Fitbit it will be taken to the office and will need to be collected by an adult.

Some of our older children who walk to school unaccompanied, have a mobile phone. Please note that an agreement form must be completed and the phone is to be left at the office, in a named case or bag, for safekeeping. The policy and consent form can be obtained from the school office.



## Snow....?!



January is often the month for snow and so I have attached our Snow Policy for families who are new to us and as a reminder for us all. The policy can also be found on the school website at: [http://www.etchells.stockport.sch.uk/serve\\_file/278066](http://www.etchells.stockport.sch.uk/serve_file/278066)

Please remember that a decision to close the school due to snowfall is not based on other local schools remaining open or closed. It is based on the safety of the school site and the number of staff who are able to safely travel. A decision to close will be posted on the homepage of the school website and a text will be sent by 7.30am. Please do not phone the school to enquire about closure; instead, please make the school website your first port of call.

## Wrap Up Warm!

During these winter months it is extremely important that children come to school adequately prepared for outdoor play and learning. Please ensure that your child comes to school with a named coat and in more extreme temperatures, a hat and gloves too.

We finished last term with a huge amount of lost property. We do endeavour to return lost items to children, but are unable to do so if clothing is unnamed. For ease, we recommend the stick on name labels from: <https://www.mynametags.com/>

The stickers are extremely hardwearing and the children can design their own!



## Newsletters and Homework

Today your child will bring home the year group termly newsletter. Please read this for information about the curriculum the children will be covering as well as important information about PE kits, swimming dates, trip information etc. The letter also includes key dates for this term such as Parents Evening, World Book Day, Performance dates for Year 1, 3 and 4. Please note these down in your diaries.

The homework sheet for this half term will also be coming home. We would like to thank parents for your support with the homework programme. We have had some fantastic tasks completed which children have enjoyed sharing in class and communicating their learning. As well as the creative and writing tasks, we cannot stress enough the importance of regular practice of the key skills at home. These include regular reading, spelling, counting and times tables. Children who practise these regularly at home are undoubtedly able to make more progress in the classroom. The partnership between home and school cannot be stressed enough and the support provided is much appreciated.



Kind regards,  
Cathy Beddows  
and the Etchells staff

