

# SCHOOL NEWS

Parents' Evening | PTA meeting | Homework

## World Book Day

We are looking forward to World Book Day next Thursday! Please refer to the last newsletter to check the theme for your child's class. We do not expect parents to go to huge expense with outfits - a little imagination and routing around in wardrobes usually does the trick! I look forward to sharing some fun photographs next week!

## Freddy Fit

It was fantastic to use some of our PTA funds on a special treat for the children which also played an important role in enhancing our PE and PSHE curriculum. Freddy Fit had all the children (and staff!) moving energetically to his music, hula hooping and understanding key messages of being healthy and maintaining a balanced diet. He will be coming back in May to train up a new team of lunchtime leaders (pupils) and we look forward to a festive workout for everybody next November.

## Parents' Evening

Next Wednesday and Thursday we will be holding our Spring Term Parents' Evening. The main purpose of the parent consultations is to inform you about the progress your child is making. We hope you will be able to see this in the children's workbooks and appreciate how much our new feedback and marking approach is helping the children move forward with their learning. Having recently looked at the books, I have been delighted to see how hard the teachers have been working on providing effective feedback to children and ironing out their misconceptions. The level of challenge in maths has been a real focus for us recently and I would like to point out to parents that seeing your child make a number of errors in the maths work is a good sign they are being challenged. We have moved away from full pages of ticks and the children getting everything right!

Please ensure you have booked your appointment(s) with the teachers using our online system - this will remain live until 11pm this Sunday.

You will have received your child's mid-term report today. Please read it carefully and bring to your appointment. May I also remind you that children are not to come to school during Parents' Evening - next term we will hold our Open Evening when they are welcome to accompany you and share their work.



## Homework

This week your child will have received their homework sheet for this half term. I was delighted to hear how enthusiastically the Y6 children received their tasks today. The level of engagement and interest with homework has significantly increased and has enabled the children to develop their understanding of their topic in a range of imaginative ways, as well as learning those all important spellings and key maths facts. Thank you for your continued support with this.

## PTA

The next meeting of the PTA will be held on Monday 9th March at 3.30pm. We try to change the day and time to give everyone a chance of attending. Please come along - even if you haven't joined us before. It is great to have new support. We will be discussing a potential family event for this half term, a children's disco as well as setting a date for the summer fair and getting the planning for this event underway.

## Halal Meals

We have had a number of children, who normally select the main meal choice for their school dinner, wanting to take the Halal option. We will not allow this without parental consent. If you are happy for your child to take the Halal meal choice please inform us in writing.

## Outdoor Learning in Reception and Nursery - help!!

The EYFS team are busy planning improvements for our provision of outdoor learning for reception and nursery children. It is very important for children of this age to engage in their learning outdoors in order for them to use different resources, have more open space and develop their learning in imaginative and creative ways. Our teachers have the challenge of providing resources and outdoor opportunities for the children to develop their mathematical and Literacy learning too.

But.....we need your HELP! We need to collect an interesting range of resources to help improve the outdoor provision. The best resources are not those that cost a lot of money, but are items which can often be collected, donated or found in old store cupboards and garages. Our first request is to enable us to develop a 'waterwall'!! It sounds very exciting! The EYFS team are asking for any donations of plastic tubes, guttering, pipes, jugs and funnels. If you are able to help, please give your items to any of the EYFS staff who are on the playground for the morning bell.

Thank you in advance!!

**Please find attached to this School News a copy of the Parent Council Newsletter. They have done a fantastic job in presenting the discussions from the meeting in an easy to read format - please take the time to read it.**

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows and the Etchells staff

