

SCHOOL NEWS

Family Fun Evening | Clubs | HMI visit

Clubs

We are looking forward to introducing a new line up of after school activities for the summer term. Miss Pennill, our PE leader, has been working with Life Leisure to extend our provision. Due to a drop in demand, we will be re-introducing gym club in the place of rhythmic gymnastics and this will just be held on a Wednesday. We are also looking to bring in badminton, ultimate frisbee, dodgeball and hopefully some extra sports clubs for KS1. Final details will be published very soon, as well as how to book. We will be looking to use the same software used to book Parents Evenings and hope this will ensure the process is easier and fairer for everyone.

Eclipse Glasses

Great to hear that there has been so much interest in viewing the eclipse next week. Parents have been asking whether it's possible to share glasses. We're fine with this as long as an arrangement has been made between the children and parents.

Family Fun Evening

After the success of our Christmas Fair, the PTA have decided to hold a Family Fun Evening at the end of June. The date for your diary is:

Friday 19th June 2015

5 - 7.30pm

If we are lucky enough to have a fine evening, the plan is to hold a Barbecue and Asian food stall on the playground with various tombolas and stalls. On the field, we hope to hold stalls with children's activities such as penalty shoot outs, bouncy castles, sponge throwing, welly wanging and a coconut shy. As this is a fundraising event there will be a small charge for these activities and a nominal entrance fee. This time we have agreed that each programme will include a raffle number. The draw will be made at the end of the evening and the prize of a family hamper will be given.

These are just initial ideas at present. If you have any further ideas or feel you could offer or contribute something to the running or resourcing of any of these stalls, please come to our planning meeting on Monday 23rd March at 3.30pm. If you are unable to attend, but would like to contribute, please email me directly at the headteachers address.

We are hoping to hold a disco this side of Easter - final arrangements are just being made and we will let you know of a date as soon as it is confirmed.



Staff Car Park

Once again, an increasing number of parents are parking in the school car park. Please remember this is for staff ONLY. We have over 50 staff working in our school and already we often have to double park. This is fine for us but problems arise when parents are waiting in turning points and empty spaces. The only exception to this rule is for our children's taxis and parents who have Blue Badges. If you have a Blue Badge, please display it prominently so you won't be challenged unnecessarily.

Red Nose Day

Cake sales are always a success at Etchells due to the fantastic support from parents - and today was no exception. We had a fantastic array of cakes and red nose goodies which the children kindly exchanged their 50p donations for. Many thanks to the children who organised the sale today and Miss Le Couteur for overseeing them. We will let you know how much has been raised next week.



Visit next week HMI

As you are aware, HMI (Her Majesty's Inspectors) are monitoring very closely the progress we are making as a school, in meeting the targets for improvement identified at the last inspection. One of the key areas for us to develop is the teaching of Maths. Over the last term we have been working hard on developing the calculation policy, improving problem solving as well as providing greater challenge and more focussed feedback in children's books. I have monitored the books closely and have been delighted with the improvements made. The children are also very positive about their learning and yesterday, a small group of pupils told me how helpful the marking was and how they enjoyed the challenges they now tackle across the curriculum.

Mr Mark Williams (HMI) will be visiting us on Tuesday next week and will be focussing on maths in every age group of the school. He will look at plans, books, lesson observation notes and will ask us about the evidence we have to prove how well we think we are doing. We are looking forward to sharing the achievements so far and are confident improvements will be identified since his last visit. I will inform you of his findings in the newsletter next week.

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows and
the Etchells staff

