

SCHOOL NEWS

PTA events | Dress up & Donation Days | Attendance

Lost Property

In the final newsletter of last term I asked parents to be thorough in naming school uniform. The pile of lost property that has accumulated since then and this first week back is huge. Please look out for texts that will inform you when lost property will be out on the playground to be claimed. But please, help us save precious time and name your child's uniform clearly so it can be returned immediately. Remember there is a useful link to excellent stick on name tapes on the website under *School Uniform*.

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Welcome Back!

It has certainly felt like the summer term this week and the children have enjoyed both playing and learning outside. We have invested in new outdoor table cloths, clips and umbrellas so the children can enjoy their lunches outside too.

We look forward to an extremely busy term ahead - this half term we focus on Key Assessments for Y2 and Y6. The next few weeks are crucial for them and so we ask that they attend school every day and get some good nights sleep. After the half term holiday the Y1 children will have their phonics test. They are working everyday in school on phonics but you can help even more by accessing the online activities suggested by the teachers on this term's homework sheet.

Homework sheets and Year group letters will be sent home by the end of this week or early next week. Please keep a look out for them as they contain key information. Next Wednesday we will be finalising dates of events for this term and they will be entered on the website calendar. Please make this your first point of reference for dates. Remember that events on the calendar can be double clicked to lead to further information where appropriate.



School Disco

You should have received this week a letter about the school disco which will be taking place next Friday. Please refer to the letter for exact times, pick up arrangements and ticket information. Slips and money need to be returned to the school office as soon as possible.

We are trialling a new DJ this time. He is also a talented magician and the KS1 and Early Years children will be treated to some magic during their disco. We are considering holding a family magic evening for families to attend - your thoughts about this would be welcomed.



ATTENDANCE!!!

The winners of the half termly attendance award was class 5LC. They were rewarded with a non-uniform day this Monday!! Well done 5LC.

Unfortunately our attendance figures are still cause for concern. Our current average attendance rate is 95.2%. This is a long way under National Average and would almost certainly sit us in the bottom 20% of schools in the country for attendance. We need to work together to improve this and above all, ensure family holidays and visits to see family abroad are kept to the school holidays.

The holiday dates for 2015 - 2016 are available on the website. Fines have already been issued to some families. Please note that full documentation, including evidence of flight bookings will be required to justify an 'emergency' trip abroad.

PTA Family Summer Evening

A reminder that our PTA family summer evening will be held on Friday 12th June from 5pm - 7.30pm.

We will be holding the popular barbecue, Asian food and drinks stalls. We will also be holding the tombolas, face doodles and win a jar of sweets stall. There will be some different stalls and games on offer too. There will be a bouncy castle (for which a small charge will apply), a coconut shy, decorating a plant pot and sowing a seed. We're even hoping to get some Y6 volunteers to suffer wet sponges in the stocks!! We have decided not to hold the traditional raffle this time and have replaced this with 2 alternatives. A charge will be made on the door for the evening programme as we did at Christmas - this time however, the programme will show a raffle number and every number will be put into the draw for a chance to win a scrumptious family hamper.

We would also like to hold a clipboard auction. There will be a long table with clipboards on for you to write down your bid for special items and donated treats. For example, this could include a family ticket to a local attraction, a restaurant meal but also we are asking for donations such as a night's babysitting, a car wash/valet, a meal cooked for 6 people. Please offer what you can - I'm hoping you will have some imaginative ideas!! If you can offer something, please let me know by email.

We will be holding donation days as before. Donations are not compulsory and children are welcome to join in the dress up/down days either way. Your donations however, are very much appreciated and make all the difference to events such as this.

Date	What to bring?	What to wear?
Fri 15th	Bottles	Multi-coloured outfits - brighter the better!
Fri 22nd May	Jar of wrapped, nut free sweets	Fancy Dress
Fri 12th June	Chocolate or cakes	Non-uniform

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows and the Etchells staff

