

SCHOOL NEWS

Homework | Sainsbury's Vouchers | Book Fair

Summer Term 1

Class Attendance

Well done classes 4M and 5LC for the highest attendance this half term. They were rewarded with a non-uniform day yesterday. Our current overall average stands at 95.5% - unfortunately this is still below the National Average of 96.1%. We need to really make a difference for this last half term and make sure everyone attends school every day.

4M	98.7
5LC	98.7
2M	97.9
6MC	97.6
3R	97.5
1H	97.1
3A	97.0
4FT	96.5
5L	96.3
6F	96.3
1C	96.2
RR	95.9
RG	95.6
2W	95.5

(Figures for Summer 1 half term only)

Parent Council feedback!!

We had a very useful Parent Council meeting this week and addressed a good number of issues. We will provide full details of the discussion after half term but I can give you feedback on a couple of issues now.

Homework was discussed at length. It was agreed that the majority of parents liked the new homework system. What seemed to be of most concern was the amount of time the tasks were taking. There was also concern that some children choose not to do any of the writing tasks, preferring the more creative activities and other children put themselves under a lot of pressure to complete all six tasks in order to gain raffle tickets. It was decided that instead of having a choice of 6 challenges, the tasks will be grouped into 3 writing tasks and 3 creative tasks. Children will be asked to choose one from each group - 1 writing and 1 creative. Raffle tickets will no longer be given. If children want to complete more then that is absolutely fine too.

The Parent Council are invaluable in giving us feedback so we can hear parent views and take them into consideration. The homework approach is a great example of us all working together to find the best way forward.

The new proposed double yellow lines and zig zag markings were discussed. I have submitted this application to the council to ensure that our pedestrian entrances are correctly marked, as parked cars in this area pose a danger to our children. The current zig zags still reflect the original pedestrian entrance to the centre of the school.



Book Fair

We would like to thank parents for the support they have given the book fair this week. It unexpectedly arrived into school last Friday and as it has been such a busy time with staff meetings and the Limelight Drama Club productions, it was not possible to hold the fair after school. This is not our preferred approach and we made it work the best we could in the time allowed. I have had feedback from a number of parents regarding the cost, quality and range of books and take all your comments on board.

We would like to reassure parents that in order to improve the book fair experience, we have gone with a different company (Travelling Books) who offer better deals e.g. 2 for 1 or buy 2 get a 3rd free. We can also specify the price range and request that overpriced books and books with gimmicks attached are not put on the shelves.

We have arranged the fair for Parents' Evening week in October so parents can have a look and buy books if they wish, though it will also be open on other nights that week after school so parents and children can come together to choose books. We will let you know the exact dates nearer the time. Thank you for bearing with us on this matter.

All books sold do earn commission for the school, which is used directly to improve the selection of books we have in both the library and classrooms.

Sainsbury's Vouchers

The vouchers for schools scheme with Sainsbury's has now come to an end. We are in the process of counting up all the vouchers that have been posted in the collection box. The closing date to send the vouchers off however is still open into June and so we are asking you to check if you have any at home that could still be brought into school. If so, please bring in after the holiday so they can be counted. We are looking to use the vouchers to acquire sports equipment which will be used by our new 'Freddy Fit' lunchtime leaders. Many thanks for supporting this initiative.

Limelight Production

It has been a hectic week for the Limelight Drama Club! Their 2 night production of 'Simba's Story' was simply fantastic. An incredible amount of talent took to the stage, making staff and parents very proud. Again, our thanks go to Mrs Mallinson and Mrs Fumagalli for their amazing energy and commitment. Thanks to those parents who recognised this and commented on our Twitter feed.

It has been an incredibly busy half term and even though it has been much shorter than others, it seems the half term holiday is very timely! Enjoy the 2 weeks off and we look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday 8th June at 8.50am for our last half term of the year!

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows and the Etchells staff

