

SCHOOL NEWS

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Refugee Crisis

The refugee crisis has touched many of our hearts and many people have been wanting to do something but not sure how to help. Two of our parents have been very pro-active in setting up a donation day in order to help these people who are in such extreme need. If you would like to donate that is great but it is entirely your decision. We will be collecting in the school entrance on Friday 18th September (next week). We have had a list of the things that are most needed. We would like to politely ask not to send any other items as they will not be taken by the convoy and that donated items are in a good condition. The list of items is as follows:

- Clothing for men, women and children (including underwear, socks, hats & scarves) It would greatly assist the volunteers if these could be bagged separately and labelled.
- Sleeping bags
- Pillows/sheets
- Towels
- Tents
- Candles and torches
- Toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, sanitary products, first aid, baby wipes)
- Tin openers
- Longlife food and tinned food
- Cleaning equipment

I am told the most urgent need is for warm clothing and sleeping bags. I know how generous the Etchells community is and I'm sure we can do our bit to make a difference - thanks in advance.

Dates for the Year

We have now finalised the dates for the coming academic year. You will find them all on the website school calendar. Important dates such as Parents Evenings, Christmas performances, school trips, sports day etc are all there for you to make a note of. You will notice that the events on the calendar are multi-coloured. This is to reflect which class it is relevant for - there is a key above the calendar so you can get used to spotting the colour for your child's class. Anything in blue is an event that involves everyone. Remember, if you click on an event there maybe further information to read. We hope you find this useful and use the website as your first port of call when checking dates.

Homework

Homework sheets were sent home this Wednesday so please make sure they have emerged from bags! Homework will also be posted on the class website page, along with the Age Related Expectations of what the children are expected to achieve over the year. We hope you find these informative.



Reminders!

- As we are at the start of the new academic year, it seems timely to make some important reminders and inform our new parents of some of our expectations:
- Pick up time:** The school day finishes at 3.15pm and we expect all children to be picked up at this time. Any child who is still waiting after 3.20pm will be taken to After School Club and a charge of £5 will be made per child. Please make sure you are on time!
- Leaving the school at home time:** When you pick up your child we ask you to leave the school grounds immediately. We currently have a number of parents who are chatting and socialising whilst allowing their children to play on the playground and trim trail. We do not allow play on the school grounds after 3.15pm.
- Absences:** If your child is absent for any reason, please phone the office every day of the absence. When your child returns to school, please send in a letter to explain the absence which we can add to our records. It is part of our safeguarding duty to ensure no child is missing from education. The school office will make a telephone call home if no contact has been made from home.
- Appointments:** Please do not make dental and doctors appointments during the school day. These appointments should be made for after school or during the holidays. If you have a consultant appointment for example, which is determined by the hospital, please bring in the letter/ appointment card to school. We expect children to attend school before and after the appointment - depending on the time and do not accept a full day's absence in these circumstances.

Website

We are currently in the process of updating many of the website pages so bear with us if there are some empty headings at the moment. One change is that we have now incorporated a separate policies tab for easy reference. You may be interested to read the newly updated Behaviour policy which gives details about how we are rewarding children without using the house teams. You can also read 'The Etchells Way' which is a document outlining expectations for marking, presentation and assessment. Please let us know if you do not wish your child's photo to be used on the school website or the Twitter feed.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Please put Friday 25th September in your diaries and come and join us for coffee, tea and cake to raise money for this fantastic cause. We will be asking for cake donations nearer the time! The children will also visit the coffee morning and can chat to our visitors. If you could help to serve drinks and cake during the morning please let me know.



Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows and the Etchells staff

