



# Parent Council Newsletter

November 2015

Edition 2

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## MATHS SUPPORT



Parents have asked for support to enable them to assist their children at home. In line with the new curriculum, the school are no longer pushing children up to the next level without them having a much deeper understanding of the basics. For example, Year 2 children will no longer work with numbers over 100, the benefit of this being to improve their deeper learning

prior to them moving on to bigger numbers. A calculation policy has also been devised and this can be found by clicking <http://www.etchells.stockport.sch.uk/page/calculaiton-policy/17307>. Mrs Wilson and Miss Arnold are the maths leaders within Etchells and their intention in the spring term is to hold a meeting with parents so that they can start to understand the importance of the new methods and offer their children additional support.

## LUNCH TIMES

Parents are concerned that pupils don't have enough time to eat their lunch. KS1 do get longer to eat their lunch so this doesn't appear to be an issue. KS2 however, are on a rota and take turns to go in first. This means that pupils only have to experience going last into the dining room on one day per week. If they do go in last they have 15 minutes to eat their lunch and staff do try to keep chatter to a minimum in order to ensure the children have enough time. There is now a vacant room in the school which has been earmarked for children to eat their packed lunch in and to try to alleviate the numbers entering the dining room.

### Reading diaries and times tables

There have been occasions where parents are working with children on certain tables and then the children are being tested on a different set, causing some of them to feel upset.

Teachers will now write in the reading diaries which tables are being tested week on week. It will be noted in the reading diaries on a Friday for tests taking place on the following Friday.

We have a fantastic PTA committee who are committed to furthering community spirit within the school whilst raising much needed funds. They can't do this alone and any offers of help at the upcoming Christmas fair would be gratefully received. To keep up to date, please like their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Etchells-PTA-689575954510131/>



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## BREAKFAST AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Due to the increasing demand on the before and after school offering, Mrs Beddows has confirmed that the decision has been made to outsource the provision to an external organisation.

Three companies were asked to tender for the business and meetings have been held with all three. The successful tender came from a company called Marple Childcare. Their ethos and culture is very much in keeping with the current facilities and the existing Etchells staff will all be able to continue to work at the club, should they wish to do so.

The outsourcing of the facility will reduce the current issues with places, streamline the booking process and will enable to parents to book places up to a year in advance. Childcare vouchers will be accepted.

Discussions have also taken place regarding parents utilising the new offering on an ad hoc basis, and at short notice, when numbers allow.

Marple Childcare held a meeting at school yesterday evening to meet with interested parents. It is envisaged that the new offering will commence in January 2016 and Mrs Beddows will send further communications once details have been finalised.



## School photographs

**The majority of parents feel that school uniform should be compulsory.**

**Taking feedback into account, the school are also going to look at alternative companies**

## Physical Education

PE is back on the school agenda now that the building work has been completed. Some classes have been doing a little bit, but with immediate effect classes will partake in two sessions a week. If your child goes swimming then this will be classed as one session. Children should do a hall/gym/dance session and one outdoor physical lesson. Teachers will be informing parents what days PE will fall on.

## Homework

KS2 children must choose two homework activities per half term, one written and one creative. Pupil rewards have been abolished. KS1 homework is now optional as it's felt that it is much more beneficial for KS1 children to focus on their reading, counting and spellings. It would be counter intuitive for homework to detract from those core learnings.

Parents have also requested that spellings are printed and stuck in the reading diary so that they can decipher what they are. Spelling is top of the agenda for the literacy leaders at present and there will be an update in the next meeting.