

SCHOOL NEWS

Geography Week | Punctuality | Football Heroes

What's in the box?

'What's in the box' is an annual event at Etchells. For one week, the regular curriculum is paused and the week's learning is centred around what's in the box. This year, the challenge was Geography focussed and the children have had a fantastic time, acting as agents and hunting out clues to solve their mission. They have had the opportunity to develop an impressive range of geographical skills and improve their knowledge of the local area, whilst making comparisons with Mexico. It has been wonderful to see the children making the most of our extensive school grounds and the enjoyment they have had in taking their learning outside. Many thanks to Mrs Gale, our Geography subject leader, who has put so much hard work into organising the week and the fantastic range of activities and resources. Many thanks to Mr Bebb and his cleaning team for clearing up the mud (they won't be sorry to see the wellies go home!!)



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◆ Congratulations!!

Well done to Etchells Football Team who came home with a fantastic win against Bolshaw on Tuesday. They were triumphant 8-1 winners!

◆ Punctuality

This week I met with our Education Welfare Officer (EWO) to discuss the attendance and punctuality of all the children in the school. We meet with the EWO every 4 weeks to monitor attendance and to address individual cases where a drop in attendance is giving us cause for concern. We have been advised to remind parents that the children should be in school for registration at 8.55am. Arrival after this time and before 9.20am will be recorded as Late. After 9.20am, the absence is recorded as Late after registers close.

◆ Parent Council

Many thanks to those Parent Reps who have given their contact details to the school office. These are being distributed to the relevant classes as they come in. If you are a rep and still need to do this, please simply forward a short introductory note with your contact details to the school office. Parents can then forward their questions and issues for discussion to their you. I would ask each Parent Council member to forward me a list of all issues raised before the first meeting in order for an agenda to be drawn up. I would like parents to feedback to their reps any thoughts you may have about the current school meal provision as we are currently in the process of reviewing the service.

Parents' Evening

On the first Monday back after half term, you will receive a slip to return in order for you to state your preference for your consultation time with your child's teacher(s). Please return to school as soon as possible in order to secure your preferred time.

You will find that for Years 1-6, the APP sheets (Assessing Pupil Progress) can now be found in the front of the English and Maths book, rather than in a separate booklet. You can see clearly which level your child is working within and the mid-term report will give you an indication of whether this is in line with national expectations for your child's age. You will see that some statements are ticked and others highlighted. Children have to show 3 times that they are able to carry out the statements and then it is highlighted to show it has been achieved. We hope this will give you a clear idea of exactly what is needed for your child to make progress and which areas need further development.

Happy Holidays

I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy half term. Everyone is certainly ready for a holiday after such a busy 7 weeks! Many thanks to everyone for making my first half term at Etchells so enjoyable and rewarding. We return to school on Monday 3rd March. We would love to see everyone present in school, on time and well rested.

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows

and the Etchells staff

