
SCHOOL NEWS

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Our new school website!!

I am delighted to announce that our new school website will be up and running from Monday next week. Our aim is for the site to have several purposes: one, to celebrate our happy, vibrant and busy school; two, to provide an up to date source of information for parents; three, to provide a safe portal for our children to learn the skills of blogging and online interaction.

We have kept the same address so it is easy to find for everyone:

www.etchells.stockport.sch.uk

Please read the points below to enable you to make the most of what our website has to offer:

-  Whilst the site is best viewed on a computer screen or tablet, you can view it on your phone - please be patient and allow it some time to load up the first time. I have found that once you have done this, it is there immediately thereafter.
-  Class pages: we wanted to include the class pages on the main website rather than on the old style VLE. Not only does this enable the world to see what fantastic work the classes are doing, it allows you and your children to access the pages quickly and without the need for a password. Please make a habit of visiting your class page frequently, as they will be regularly updated with news and photos. (remember, if you don't want your child's photograph to appear on the main site, just let me know.)
-  A link to the most recent 'School News' can be found at the bottom of the home page. Past editions of the newsletter, dating back to January 2014, can be found under the 'School Information' menu.
-  The calendar will be kept up to date so please use it as your first point of reference for events taking place in school. If you click on an event on the calendar it will take you to more detailed information such as timings.
-  You can see our latest 'tweet' on the homepage - but remember to sign up to Twitter and follow us @EtchellsPS for day to day information, photos and reminders.
-  At present the children DO NOT have log-ins. This will be our next step in the re-design of the website and we will let you know when this area is ready to access. Because so much of our school information is on the main site, the log-in will simply enable children to engage with homework tasks, communicate through blogs and to participate in forums to further their learning. These aspects of using computers are fast becoming life skills and we will be ensuring children of all ages develop a secure understanding of e-safety.



Snacks

* There has been a great deal of support for our healthy snack initiative. It has been a pleasure to see so many children enjoying fruit and other healthy alternatives at playtime. We realise that habits are hard to break, but would like to encourage everyone to follow our new guidelines. Thank you to everyone who has supported us in this.

Scooters

* It has come to our attention that a number of children are riding scooters on the playground before and after school. This is a busy time in the playground and it is simply not safe for scooters to be ridden. Please ensure that they are pushed and carried once in the school grounds to ensure everyone's safety

Summer Dates

* As well as the new website calendar, we have attached to this newsletter a list of important dates up to the end of the school year.

Teaching and Learning Council

As you are aware, we are working hard to get our New Curriculum for Etchells shaped up in time for September and to coincide with the introduction of the new National Curriculum. We have firmed up our topics which have been chosen by the children and are well underway with planning the detail. We very much want to involve the children further in this planning process and to this end, are setting up a Teaching and Learning Council. This will be a group of children who are interested in putting forward their ideas and developing the school's curriculum and approach to teaching and learning. More information to come in the next few weeks.

Is summer here?

Only last week I was giving reminders for everyone to bring their coats on rainy days and this week, summer seems to have arrived. As usual on sunny days, we request that children come to school with suncream applied and water bottles. Children will be allowed to wear sunhats/caps outside at playtimes, lunchtimes and outdoor games lessons, but NOT inside school.

We would really appreciate any feedback you have on the new website - please put your comments on twitter or email me directly on the headteacher's email. Any suggestions of information you would like to see will be warmly received. Many thanks.

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows and the Etchells staff

