

SCHOOL NEWS

Try School Meals | Key 103 Raffle | Healthy Snacks



Thank You

Thanks to all parents who have bought Christmas cards created by the children. The project has helped us raise almost £250 in commission which will be used to help update our musical instruments in school.

Healthy Snacks

We have now renewed our healthy snacks/treat Friday policy in our drive to be a 'Healthy School' and to promote fitness and physical well-being through initiatives such as the 'mile a day'. We are concerned that recent statistics (collated from 2013 to 2016) tell us that 19% of Reception children were overweight, with 8% being obese, whilst 33% of Year 6 pupils were overweight, 17% classed as obese. This is a local and nationwide issue and poses great concern for the future health of our pupils.

From next week, the ONLY snacks that will be allowed in school will be fruit or vegetables. The children have been told that these are foods which don't come in a wrapper unless berries, carrots sticks etc have been wrapped at home. Any snacks which are not fruit or vegetables will be taken off the children. Lunch boxes remain the choice of parents and food items will be eaten in the hall as part of a balanced meal.

Key 103 Ticket Raffle

The PTA are raffling a pair of tickets for the KEY103 Live concert taking place on Thursday 9th November. Tickets are being sold after school on the playground at £1. The draw will take place after the last tickets have been sold on Wednesday and the winner will be notified immediately. All proceeds will be donated to the PTA fund.



School Photographs

The last of the school photographs were taken today by Kelliejo. The new, more personalised approach to the school photos has taken much longer than first anticipated. We have looked at the organisation of this and have reviewed how the process can be quicker and slicker in future, with parents being more accurately informed of when their child's photo will be taken. Apologies for any frustrations caused this time round, but we hope you will think the final result is worth it.



School Trips

We strongly believe that school trips provide an excellent opportunity to enrich the curriculum and through first hand experiences, bring our topics to life. However, we are finding that more and more parents are showing reluctance to pay for trips which is resulting in a lot of chasing up from the school office staff.

Last year, the Parent Council consulted with the parents and reached a consensus that it would be acceptable for school to arrange 2 trips per year with the maximum cost of £20 per trip, as well as a visitor/experience in school which would cost under £10. (see Parent Council newsletter July 2016.)

The cost of each trip can be made up from coach travel, entrance fees, workshop fees and insurance costs. The total figure is divided by the number of children in the year group which gives us the amount to be paid for each child. If parents do not pay, the costs of the trip are not met. Last year, we had to cancel one of the trips for this reason which was very disappointing for many.

If you are experiencing current financial hardship and are in receipt of free school meals, we always invite you to contact myself to discuss payments.

Where parents have not paid or discussed payment with me by the date given in the letter, the child will not be allowed on the trip. Families will not be chased up individually by phone call or by text.



Thank you to our Year 6 staff who took the children away for a very successful few days at Robinwood. The year 5's have brought home a letter today regarding the trip next year as we like to give as much notice as possible and to allow the spread of payments. Please look at the photos on the Y6 class pages on the website to get a feel for what it's all about.

School Dinner Taster Session

A reminder that we will be holding a taster session for parents in order for you to sample the winter menu. This will be taking place on Monday at 2.30pm. Please come to the hall through the front door and then access will be made to the playground to pick up children at 3.15pm.

Path Lights

We will be replacing the remainder of the low level path lights which illuminate the pedestrian access to school round the staff car park. The work will start week commencing the 13th November, so please bear with us if the path isn't fully illuminated in the meantime.

Many thanks to all those who donated jars of sweets today. The 'hook a jar of sweets' is one of the most popular stalls at the Christmas Fair and it couldn't take place without your donations. Next Friday is non-uniform day for a voluntary contribution of £1. This is used to make up the cash raffle prizes which have been extremely popular in the last fairs.



Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows

and the Etchells staff

