

SCHOOL NEWS

Curriculum Developments | Lost Property | Be Safe!!

Rhythm Gymnastics

A few places have become available for Rhythm Gymnastics both on Wednesdays and Fridays. We need to fill these places quickly to ensure the club stays viable. If you would like your child to take up a place, please come to the office with payment and we can take your details. If you are unable to come to the office, it is fine to ask a friend or relative to do this for you.

Healthy Snacks

Just a reminder that children should bring healthy snacks for playtimes on Monday through to Thursday. This could be fruit, crackers raisins etc Please do not bring snacks containing nuts as we have several children who have severe allergies. As we believe everything is good for you in moderation, Friday is treat day! Treats do not include sweets or lollipops however. Snacks could be a packet of crisps, some chocolate or a snack bar. We will be monitoring the children to ensure these guidelines are being followed. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

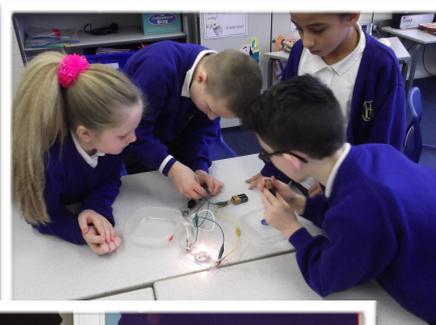
Stranger Danger

You may be aware of a number of incidents that have been reported in the press recently describing how children are being asked to get into the cars of strangers. We do get news of this through the Local Authority - hence the warnings in the newsletter last week. We continue to be concerned about some of our younger KS2 children who are walking home alone and the fact that they could be at risk. Please consider travel arrangements to and from school very carefully and reinforce the 'Stranger Danger' message as indeed we will at school too.

Mad Scientists!

Y4 became mad scientists this week as they took part in a hands on workshop teaching them all about electricity. They had the opportunity to make circuits, explode balloons, solve problems and make their hair stand on end with the Van der

Graaf generator!! It was a fantastic way to bring their science learning to life and to take part in such a wide range of



Handwriting

Maths Developments

This week the staff were involved in an extended after school training session focussing on problem solving. We were given the opportunity to consider carefully how we can improve our delivery of this aspect of maths in school and gained a deeper understanding of what it feels like to be a child tackling a challenging maths problem. We have begun work on organising the different skills and processes the children need to be taught and in which year group. Alongside this training we are also developing our calculation policy which will be shared with parents when completed. This will inform you how about the progression of calculations in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division through school. More information to follow.

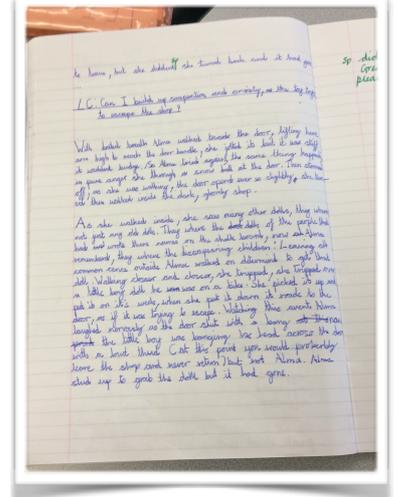
Lost Property!

Once again, lost property has built up into an enormous pile. We will put all lost property out on a table in the school entrance on Monday and Tuesday after school. Please come and check for any lost items. Anything left unclaimed will be donated to charity. Please assist us in naming ALL school uniform and belongings. This way, we can return lost things and avoid having a lost property collection!

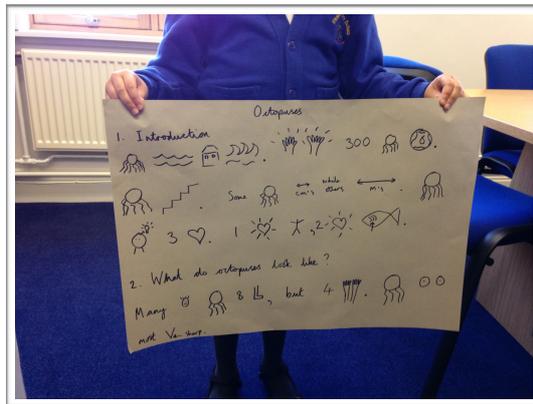
We are very pleased with the amazing impact of our new handwriting approach. All the way through school we can see such a difference in the presentation of children's work and the children themselves have said how much they like the new style and how easy it is for them to now join.

Thank you for your support with this at home. Here is a beautiful example from Y6.

Please be assured that our focus on handwriting is just for a few weeks and guided reading will soon be re-established on a daily basis.



Talk for Writing



Another new initiative we are working on is Talk for Writing. All the classes are now 'talking' their writing first with the use of a pictorial plan they have

devised as a class. Here is a wonderful example from Y2 - can't wait to see the final reports about octopuses!

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows and the Etchells staff

