

SCHOOL NEWS

More Dates | Dodgeball Champions | Reporting sickness

Sporting Success!!

You may recall last week, I described how we use the Sport Premium Grant to provide staff professional development and boost participation in sport. Today Miss Laurie and Mrs Chappell took 2 teams of Year 5 children to Kingsway to participate in an inter-school Dodgeball competition. The children and teachers tried to feign disappointment on their return to school, but it didn't last long and I'm delighted to inform you that Etchells were overall winners. The children thoroughly enjoyed the sporting morning and showed just the right amount of competitive edge and sportsmanship. Well done - we're very proud of you!

Dates for your diary

- Y2 SATs information session for parents next Monday on 14th March at 3.30pm. To be held in Mrs Wilson's classroom. Please enter the classroom from the playground
- Fish and Chip Bingo (now sold out) is taking place next Friday on the 18th March
- Castleton residential trip information session for current Y4 parents, next week on Friday 18th March at 3.30pm in 5LC's classroom (first classroom on left in new building). The trip will take place when the children are in Y5 but important information needs to be shared now.
- Sport Relief next Friday 18th March. Children to come to school in sports gear and will be taking part in a physical activity during the day. If you can, please send in a voluntary donation to be put directly towards this excellent cause. We suggest around £1



Reporting Sickness

We would like to remind parents that all sickness should be reported to school via the office. We realise that some parents inform teachers on the playground in the morning when dropping other siblings off as a matter of courtesy, but a call also needs to be made directly to the office.

You can now leave a message on the phone answering system giving your child's name, class and reason for absence. You do not need to phone back to check it has been received or follow up with email. Please be assured that it is one of the first jobs of the day to check the messages and take down the details.

If your child is off for several days, we do ask you to keep us updated, for example every other day after the first day's absence.

If an absence is not reported to school, it will be followed up with a phone call from us. If we cannot make contact with parents the child is deemed 'Missing From Education' and a house call is made by the EWO (Education Welfare Officer).

We hope the new phone message system is more convenient for parents as it can be used out of office hours.

Safeguarding Training

On Wednesday this week, the complete staff and governors of Etchells took part in training for the Prevent Duty. Teaching assistants, office staff, site manager, as well as teachers and governors attended. The aim of the training is to increase our understanding of radicalisation and our responsibilities under this legal duty. Our main duty is to continue our vigilant approach to the safeguarding of children and to share any concerns. If we feel it is appropriate, we then report directly to Social Services. Many thanks to all who attended the training this week.

Chester Zoo

Year 2 had a wonderful time on their school trip to Chester Zoo. It was a very busy day with lots of animal experiences packed in. We would just like to extend a huge thank you to all the parent volunteers who came and ensured that the children were safe and had an enjoyable time. Thanks to all those who offered but on this occasion were not pulled out of the hat - we had so many offers of support. We hope to include you in other events in the future.

Holi Assembly

Next Monday, the Ethnic Diversity Team from Stockport will be coming into school to give an assembly about the upcoming Hindu festival 'Holi'. We teach the children about a range of religions in school and aim to develop a compassionate understanding of different religions and beliefs.

The Kingsway School

Next week I will be meeting with Mrs Lowe, the Head of Kingsway School. We maintain good links with our feeder secondary schools and discuss transition and joint events. If you have any feedback or questions you would like me to raise during our meeting please let me know.

Please check the website calendar for all upcoming dates and ensure you are clear about the way the Easter holidays and bank holidays fall. If you ever notice a date missing from the website calendar, please let us know.

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows and the Etchells staff

