

# **SCHOOL NEWS**

Cars | Flags | Winter Wonderland | Christmas Fair | Phonics

## Unsafe Parking and Driving on East Avenue

We are getting inundated with reports from concerned parents about dangerous driving and discourteous parking on East Avenue before and after school. There have been numerous reports of children almost being hit by cars. We strongly encourage parents to park well away from school if they have to drive. It feels now like, though there is little we can do, we must try to do something before someone gets seriously hurt. From next week, at least twice a week, one member of staff, plus two year 6 children who will remain behind the railings, will patrol the front of school from 3-3.15pm. They will record the registrations of any car doing any of the following:

Speeding or driving dangerously
Parking on the yellow zig-zag lines or over
driveways
Entering or blocking the staff car park
without permission.

We will try to speak to anyone identified and appeal to their better nature in the first instance but where this was not fruitful or actions were just too dangerous, we will report to the police. Please help us keep the walk to and from school safe for all of the children.

#### **Flags**

A small number of parents have contacted us to say that the flags that have been attached to lampposts near school have made them feel uneasy. None of us at school know the motivation behind the flying of these particular flags and we hope that they are expressive of nothing more than a bit of patriotic fervour in this month of remembrance. However, to reassure families concerned that the motivation may be otherwise, we will be flying our own small flags near the school entrance to represent the heritage of the diverse families who make up the Etchells community. We are all patriotic and British and we are all linked to a wide range of places around the world. All are welcome and make Etchells what it is - a great place to learn.

#### **Christmas Fair**

Don't forget - Etchells Christmas Fair is next Friday (28th November) from 5 - 7pm. Food and fun for all the family. We're looking forward to seeing you all there.







#### **Attendance**

Here are the top three classes this week for attendance. Well done to 3/4TL for having the highest attendance this week.

Class	Attendance
3/4TL	97.9%
3/4VR	97.3%
6C	95.7%

Please look at the School Hall window to see a full list of classes attendance this week.

### Fred Talk



#### **Phonics**

We have moved to a new phonics scheme (Read Write Inc). If you have a child receiving phonics teaching, either because they are in Reception, year 1, year 2 or are older but still need help with learning to read, they will be being encouraged to 'Fred talk'. The frog, Fred, shown above, can make the letter sounds but cannot blend them together into words. Please encourage your child to 'Fredtalk' tricky words when reading. This means making one sound at a time before blending them together. We hope that with intensive training over the next few months, even more of our children will learn all of the sounds, even more quickly, resulting in more reading fluency and more enjoyment of reading.

Kind regards,

Stuart Kelly

and the Etchells staff