



SCHOOL NEWS

Reading | World Book Day | Parents' Evening | DT | History

Phonics and Reading Books

Everyone in reception and KS1 plus those in KS2 still securing all of the sounds will have a 35 minute phonics and reading lesson every morning from 9am. On Fridays these children will bring home a book linked to the book they have been reading in these lessons. The book will contain some red words (common words but with less common ways of making given sounds, like 'said') but will otherwise only contain words with sounds that they have already been taught. The idea is that children build confidence and fluency over repeated readings to an adult, using their 'storybook voice'.

If they read the book with no mistakes, this is great, but they will not get a new book before the following Friday as we want them to repeatedly read the same book to build fluency. They will also bring home a library book for someone to read to them.

We are already seeing improved reading results and hope that extra practice at home will mean the children become confident, fluent readers much quicker.

Please ensure you get your child to school on time so that they don't miss out. Arriving late will mean not learning to read.



World Book Day

Next Thursday is World Book Day. We want to concentrate on celebrating reading and great stories instead of dressing up this year. Please send us photos of your child reading or being read to and get them to bring in a favourite book on the day. It will be a day filled with stories and we are very lucky to be welcoming into KS2 a very funny author, Daniel Peak. He has written the books Little Horror and Grimstink and also written for television programmes, including Not Going Out and Horrible Histories.

Getting our children to love reading is the single biggest contribution we can make towards their success in school. Studies consistently show that children who read for pleasure encounter 100s of thousands if not millions more words over the primary phase than children who are not read to and don't develop a love of reading.

Escaping into the story-world of a good book is brilliant for our mental health and resilience too. Put simply, you are likely to earn more and be happier as an adult if you develop a love of reading as a child.



Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings are taking place on Tuesday and Thursday next week. Please make an appointment if you haven't already done so. Teachers will be sharing how to best support your child and discussing their challenges and successes. We learn much more about how to support them when we speak to you.

Failing to book an appointment gives your child the impression that you don't care about their progress. Please get in touch if you can't make Tuesday or Thursday but would like to arrange an alternative time.

Year 5 trip to Kingsway for DT

On the Friday before we broke up, seven y5 children went to Kingsway to design and construct an eco-friendly classroom, competing against other local schools. It was a highly challenging task but they all did brilliantly.



Heald Green Heritage

As the oldest school in Heald Green we are very proud to be featured on the Heald Green Heritage website. They visited school in the autumn a number of times, trawling through our records and archive photos and have produced this really

interesting, in-depth account of the history of Etchells. It is a fascinating window into the social history of our area over the last century. I'm sure lots of you will see yourselves, your families or friends in their somewhere. Let us know if you have any interesting tales of Etchells long-ago.



Attendance

Here are the top three classes this week for attendance. Well done to 1H for having the highest attendance this week.

Class	Attendance
1H	99.4%
2J	97.6%
1P	94.9%

Please ensure your children are in school every day on time. Every day counts.

Kind regards,
Stuart Kelly
 and the Etchells staff

