

# SCHOOL NEWS

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## RSPCA

Some of our Year 5 pupils have decided to hold a raffle to raise money for the RSPCA. They have generously donated prizes which range from a giant cuddly tiger and small teddies, to chocolate treats. They are currently selling tickets at £1 a strip or 20p each. The draw will be made on Monday 20th January. Well done Jannat, Narisa, Alisha, Briony, Izzy and Chelsey for a great effort.

## Clubs

Letters have been sent home about clubs which are due to start next week. Places are offered on a first come first served basis, so please return as soon as possible.

## Rugby for Y5

A reminder for Y5 that there is an opportunity to try out rugby on a Sunday morning at Stockport Rugby Club. Sessions are held at 10.15am. See the flyer sent home for further details.

## Happy New Year

I would like to open the first edition of 'School News' with a huge thank-you to the school community for such a special welcome. Children, staff, parents and governors have made a fantastic effort to greet me with smiles and many words of encouragement. Thank you! If you have not yet been able to meet me yet, please come over and say hello on the playground before the school day starts.

## 'School News'

'School News' will take the form of a weekly newsletter which will be sent out each Friday. It will contain important information for parents as well as a summary of what has taken place that week, what to expect for the next week and lots of celebrations of the children's achievements.

Ideally, I would like to send the newsletter home via email. There are many advantages to this: with your agreement, photos of the children and their achievements can be included and you will be able to view in colour; it will allow you to read the letter on mobile devices such as phones and tablets; it is great for the environment as it cuts down on paper; and last but not least, it is less admin time for the office staff and teachers.

Next week, we will be sending home a data collection sheet. Please could you ensure that your details are correct and if you would like to receive 'School News' electronically, please provide us with your current email address.





## Car Parking

Can we politely remind all parents that the school car park should not be used when picking up children. You will find that some children are entitled to Blue Badge parking and we ask you to respect their need to use the car park. Thank you.

## New Head Boy and Girl

I am delighted to announce that the Head Boy and Girl for this term is Harrison Duff and Kara Nicholson. They have started their roles very well, already helping me out and setting a good example to others.

## Next week...

- Clubs will re-start
- Please return data collection sheet with your email

## English in Key Stage 2

You will be aware that the children in Years 4, 5 and 6 have been taught in ability sets for English. We have now taken the decision to teach the children in their class groupings for English from this term. There are several reasons for this: it allows all children to experience a range of stories and language - especially higher level language and the range of 'WOW' words we want to see children using in their writing. Also, it allows a class story to be read and be used to support English teaching. One factor that the staff are very keen to develop is the maximising of opportunities to teach English throughout the day. For example, if a class is learning about World War 2 as their topic, the English focus may be based on writing letters or recounts linked to that time. The children will continue to read in focussed guided reading groups.

## This Week...

On Monday, the staff undertook INSET training on the New National Curriculum. This is expected to be introduced in September 2014. We will send more information home about this as we learn more and finalise the approach we will take here at Etchells. Watch this space.

On Tuesday, I was able to meet all the children in a full school assembly. We shared our understanding of the 'ingredients' for a new headteacher in the style of a recipe. I was delighted to be visited by children later that morning with their own recipes and some additional ingredients for me!

On Friday, Mrs Beddows and Mrs Nazir, the Chair of Governors, met to discuss the role of the governing body and the areas of focus each governor will have in 2014.

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows

and the Etchells staff

