

# SCHOOL NEWS

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## Spellings

The way we are teaching spelling in KS2 is currently being reviewed. New strategies are being trialled which do not always require children to learn a weekly list of words. We have found this is not the most effective way to retain and apply knowledge of spelling patterns. We will provide more details about this as we finalise our approach, but in the meantime I want to reassure you that the teaching and practising of spelling is taking place in school, even if a word list isn't being sent home.

## Children's photos on the Website and Twitter

As part of our drive to maximise communication channels with parents, we will be launching a Twitter feed. This will contain news, reminders and celebrations. If you **DO NOT** wish your child's photo to appear here or on the School website for any reason, please inform me by email by **next** Friday.

## Holiday dates

It's that time of year when we start to plan our holidays for the year. Since I highlighted in last week's School News that holiday absences will be unauthorised, I am very pleased to report an immediate decline in requests. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. In order to assist you with your holiday planning, I have provided an overview of the school holidays for the rest of this academic year, as well as 2014-15. The INSET days have been included also.

## Parking

Unfortunately parking outside the front of the school continues to be a cause for concern. Problems are frequently brought to my attention and my primary concern is for the children whose safety is being compromised. Parents are habitually parking on the zig-zag lines (which is a contravention of parking regulations and parking tickets can be issued). Cars are being parked up on the pavement and when the doors of these vehicles are opened, collisions with pedestrians are occurring. I have had several 'near misses' of serious accidents being reported. The Parking Manager of Stockport Council has made contact with our school after complaints have been made. She has asked me to remind parents to park legally, sensibly and with due care for the children. She informed me that patrols were being stepped up around schools that were causing concern in Stockport.





## This week...

\* We were very excited to receive our new maths scheme in school this week. The scheme will significantly enhance and support the teaching of Maths throughout school and has been designed to encompass the National Curriculum, due to come into effect in September. The scheme provides excellent opportunities to challenge the children's understanding of maths and stimulating ways to apply their knowledge

\* Thanks to all those who came to 'Meet the Headteacher'. We had some useful discussions which I hope will continue through the Parent Council. We have 6 class reps so far; if you are interested please let me know via the headteacher email. It is likely that meetings will take place at 5pm, lasting for one hour.

## Visit from the Fire Service

The Early Years children in both Reception and Nursery were thrilled to be visited by the White Watch Fire Service this week. The children were able to look at and explore the fire engine, finding out about the 'Jaws of Life' and the water hoses. Every child had a chance to spray water from the hose - unfortunately they didn't manage to wash the staff cars!! The firemen taught the children about safety, checking smoke alarms and how to use 999 responsibly.



*Even Mrs Rae enjoyed dressing up in the uniform!!*



## Star of the Week

Please find details of the 'Star of the Week' and other awards presented this week, on the reverse of the holiday dates.

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows

and the Etchells staff



