



Wednesday 4th October 2016

Dear Parents / Carers,

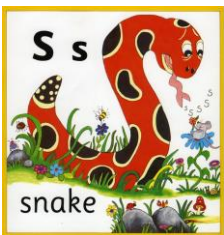
SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE: Macmillan Coffee Morning



The School Council and Mr Ormiston were really pleased at the turn out for the coffee morning. Thank you to everyone who donated cakes for the event or were able to come along and support this worthy event. Thank you also to everyone who bought cakes at the end of the day. The total raised for MacMillan Cancer Research is £256.38. Well done to the School Council!

LITERACY COMMITTEE : SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

We were very proud of many of our children from reception class to Year 6 last week, when they received their medals and certificates for taking place in this year's Summer Reading Challenge. It was great to see so many enthusiastic readers from across the school, with children dedicating time over their summer holidays to reading for pleasure and improving their reading skills. Their love of reading will certainly help them to learn well in all areas of the curriculum. Well done all!



PHONICS WORKSHOP – THANK YOU!

Thank you to all parents/carers who attended the school's annual Phonics Workshop. It was very well attended and your feedback was lovely. Many parents commented that they hadn't realised there was so much to teaching phonics to their children and thought the information and apps discussed will be extremely useful at home. The phonics and reading support given to all children at home is extremely important to their continued progress and is highly valued by class teachers. Children's Reading Diaries / Journals are checked regularly – we strongly urge all parents to support their child/ren at least 5 times per week and record this appropriately. Thank you.

PROMPT START TO THE DAY.

Please can we remind you that the school day starts at 8.55am. You are welcome inside school and in the classrooms from 8.45am for morning reading. The school gates open at 8.40am. Please could you ensure that your child is in class and ready to start their school day by 8.55am and exit through the eternal doors – not the main entrance please. If your child arrives in school after 8.55am then they will need to enter school through the main entrance and are considered late. Lateness is monitored by the school office and attendance is monitored by Miss Dixey. Letters are sent to parents as required. If you have any issues that are causing lateness to school, then please speak to Miss Dixey so that we may support you. Thank you.

GOVERNOR CORNER

Governors have held their annual AGM and have set their meeting dates for the year – these were included in Newsletter One. Since then a new Parent Governor has been elected – we are very pleased to welcome Mrs Marshall, who was elected unopposed to the Governing Body. The Governing Body still have 2





vacancies for Co-Opted Governors and we have advertised for these in the Etwall Express from our local community. If you have a neighbour who may be interested, please encourage them to pop into school to see Mrs East. Meetings this year are on Tuesdays at 5.15pm.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT 2016-17

Staff, Governors and children continue to work on identified school priorities for this year – we continue to strive for Outstanding. The school has been on a journey for the last six years. In May 2010 the school was graded Satisfactory and in October 2012 we were graded Good by Ofsted at Miss Dixey's first inspection at Etwall Primary. This was a great improvement but the improvement journey has continued year on year. During this time the criteria by which schools are inspected by Ofsted have changed at least twice and this has meant a shift in the Outstanding "goal posts". The schools improvement priorities this year are:



- To improve pupil outcomes in writing in EYFS, KS1 and KS2 through the introduction of the Talk for Writing approach to cross curricular writing across the school.
- To implement the mastery maths approach across school in order to provide outstanding teaching, learning and assessment for all pupils.
- To streamline school rewards and sanctions strategies, allowing pupils to take responsibility for their own behaviour and development. This will include a review of the school's mission statement and aims and the introduction of STARFISH (watch this space!)
- To ensure that Governors have a deep, accurate understanding of the school's effectiveness to enable them to challenge and support school improvement.

Please look out for updates in newsletters and chat to staff and Governors as the year progresses.

TOYOTA VISIT



Last week 30 Year 5 and 6 children had the opportunity to visit Toyota's manufacturing plant in Burnaston. They participated in the Art of Manufacturing programme which aims to introduce children to how Toyota produce motor cars. The children had a great time and were given lots of different tasks to do, from creating a production line to produce lego cars – ensuring that processes were improved upon each time – to working on their manual

dexterity by screwing nuts onto bolt 'blind'. One of the activities they enjoyed most was generating electricity by turning a wheel as many times as they could in a minute. The children all thoroughly enjoyed their time at Toyota and were a credit to the school. Hopefully this will be the first step on a journey that leads to some of them becoming engineers in the future.

Thank you to Mr Ormiston and parent volunteers.





SPORTS ROUND UP

Boys Football : Last week a group of Year 6 boys represented the school in the qualifying tournament for the annual Swadlincote Lions football trophy. All nine of the boys had the opportunity to play for the team and did so extremely well. The first match resulted in a 1-0 win against Hilton 'B', the second in a 1-1 draw against Foremarke and the third in a 2-1 win against Melbourne. As the undefeated record would suggest, the boys qualified top of their group to represent the school on Friday at Pingle Secondary School in Swadlincote. The games were all played in the right spirit and we can be rightly proud of how the team conducted themselves throughout. *Mr Ormiston*



Girls football :

On 26th September 2016, Trinity , Olivia , Florence , Chelsea , Isabella and Jessica took part in a qualifying round at John Port School. They played four matches against local primary schools. They worked hard during lunchtime training sessions and on the night managed to win one match and drew two others. Although they did not qualify this time, they displayed great sportsmanship and should be very proud of their efforts. Thank you to those parents who were able to walk over from school with the children and for the encouragement that was provided both during and in between matches. *Miss Marriott.*



Netball has got off to a great start this year with all 30 places being taken in the after school club which is run by Miss Cox on Wednesdays at Etwall Leisure Centre. We celebrated great success last year, finishing 2nd in the High Five tournament and winning the 7 a-side tournament. Four members of last year's netball team went on to have county trials over the summer and three of them were successful. With lots of hard work and practise, I am sure that this year's team will achieve these same high standards. Keep your eye on the website for updates of match scores. *Miss Cox*



SAFEGUARDING: KEEPING SCHOOL UP-TO-DATE

Please could we remind parents of the importance of keeping the school up-to-date with key information as this has caused us some issues already this term in a range of circumstances:

- **If your child attends an after school club** it is vital that you inform the school directly if your child is not attending the club as normal. This should be done in the morning when you drop off your child directly to the class teacher or during the school day directly to the school office. This information will then be passed on to the school adult in charge of the club who is responsible for ensuring that all children are present at the beginning of the club when the register is called. This is to ensure that your child is safe.
- **Contact information** must be kept up-to-date at the school office so that we can easily contact you should we need to.
- **After school arrangements eg tea at a friend's** – please inform class teachers when you drop off your child so any changes can be noted in good time. This means that class teachers do not have to contact you to query changes at the end of the day.
- **Changes to home time contact details or collection arrangements** – again, please keep your home time arrangements form up to date at the school office. We will not allow your child to





leave school with anyone who is not on the list you have provided us with. Please inform us directly of any changes – these will be amended on your form.

- Please could we also remind you that you are **not allowed** to take any child, other than your own, without their parent notifying school directly of this arrangement.

VISITORS TO ETWALL FROM OUR FRENCH FRIENDS!

We were very pleased to host a visit from the Marie de Val Divienne (Mayor), Michel Bigeau and his wife, together with the parents and children accompanying them on their visit to Etwall. Mrs Jenner joined the group at school together with a translator – only needed at times! It was a pleasure to meet the party and the children were able to join Sparrowhawks class on their Magician Day which they thoroughly enjoyed. We were able to discuss the similarities and differences between schools in the UK and France – we do much more outdoor learning and this particularly interested Marie de Val Divienne. We enjoyed a cup of tea and cake before our visitors had to leave for lunch in the village. A visit is being planned for next year – perhaps the school will be represented! It was a very enjoyable morning – thank you.



TERM TIME LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS – reminder

Changes to the regulations from 01 September 2013 state that Headteachers may not grant leave of absence for holidays during term time *unless there are exceptional circumstances*.

Parents needing a leave of absence for **Exceptional Circumstances** should complete an Application for Leave of Absence form, including as much detail as possible, and forward it together with any relevant supporting evidence to Miss Dixey **at least two weeks** before the intended absence.

Please note Absences which have not been agreed may be marked as unauthorised absences. These may be referred to the local authority for consideration of a Penalty Notice or other action.

Dates: please put up somewhere at home or in your diary.

PLEASE REFER TO THE SCHOOL WEB SITE CALENDAR – for key dates for 2016-17

INSET Days for 2016-17 : The following days have been set for 2016-17. Children **will not** be in school on these further 4 days.

Friday November 11th 2016, Tuesday 3rd January 2017, Monday 5th June 2017 and Monday 10th July 2017

OCTOBER – Black History Month

- 4th 5.15pm T&L Gov Committee mtg
- 4th/5th/6th Phonic demos for KS1 parents 9-9.30am
- 6th 6.30pm – 7.30pm Governor Cluster night at Etwall
- 10th Parent Consultations 3.45pm – 6.30pm
- 13th Parent Consultations 3.45pm – 6.30pm
- 11th 10am Harvest Festival assembly with Rev. Fiona
- 17th Y5/6 Residential week to Hollowford
- 17-21 Travel Smart week
- 18th 5.15pm Resources Gov committee mtg
- 21st 9-10 JPS German Band visitors concerts for KS2 9-9.30am and KS1 9.30-10am
- 21st Y5/6 return from Hollowford





21st End of Autumn Term 1
31st Back to school

Any changes in dates will be advertised well in advance and a text sent out.

WANT US TO EMAIL LETTERS TO YOU?



Please pop into the school office and let us know your email address – all letters can then be emailed to you. This is more environmentally friendly for the school and it won't end up on the corridor floor! All letters are also put on the school web site, so please check there too. If you type the school name into a search engine it will come up for you. It is always on the top of school letters too.

Please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher, Miss Dixey or Mr Ormiston should you have any concerns or questions. Thank you.

Miss Dixey and Mr Ormiston

Headteacher and Co-Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher