



Ecclesbourne Primary School

Newsletter Friday 1st March 2013



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope everyone is feeling refreshed and ready to go after the half term break. There are lots of events in the upcoming weeks so please make sure you fill your diaries, in order that you don't miss out on anything.

Punctuality and attendance: The overall figure for attendance for the last half term was less than **94%**. This is very concerning as it falls below Ofsted's expected figure of 95%. Remember, parents whose children are repeatedly absent from school can expect court action and a fine. Please make an effort to make sure your child is in school every day because even missing the odd day has an impact on their learning. Although there has been an improvement overall, there are still some children who are persistently late to school. If you are someone who is repeatedly late to school please make the effort to get up 10 minutes earlier to make sure your child doesn't miss out on important learning time.

Lion Road gate and parking: I respectfully request that those parents who still drive their children to school pay attention to the restrictions when arriving at school. In particular, members of our local community who use the entrance to the allotments in Lion Road have asked that the entrance is not blocked. Hopefully, as the weather improves, more people will choose the healthy option of walking.

Haircuts: I have noticed that some children have returned from the holidays with 'interesting' haircuts. In line with many local secondary schools, our prospectus requires that children's hair is smart and sensible, without significant grading between the top and sides or extravagant markings. If children are desperate for an elaborate haircut I would recommend this being done in the summer holidays when the hair can grow back in time for school.

School trips: The school continues to provide rich learning opportunities for your children by offering school trips. In the past month, the Year 1 children have been to The London Transport Museum and Year 4 have been to The Victoria and Albert Museum. Keep an eye on the website for pictures and details of what they got up to. As ever, thank you to parents who helped with these trips.

Parent questionnaire: Many thanks to all the parents who completed the survey. I was pleased by the many positive comments regarding the progress the school is making. Of course, of more concern to us are the comments which suggest we can do even better. We are always looking carefully at how to improve further and we have already moved to address some of the areas mentioned. For example, some of you asked about spelling tests and although we don't spend time testing the children in school we are happy to support parents who wish to test spelling at home. We have published guidance for spelling on the website. These can be found in the year group zones under 'What we will be learning this year'. Remember, if you have any specific concerns, I would be happy to discuss them. Either catch me at the gate in the morning or make an appointment to see me.

Other events in the coming weeks

Tuesday and Wednesday 5th and 6th March: Parents' evenings

Thursday 7th March: World Book Day

Friday 8th March: Quiz night– Tickets from school office . See website for details

Friday 15th March: Red Nose Day - a letter has been sent this week

Wednesday 20th March: Y6 SATs meeting for parents

Paul Robins–
Head of School
Ecclesbourne Primary School