



# Ecclesbourne Primary School

## Newsletter Friday 25th January 2013



### Dear Parents and Carers,

It seems a little late to say a happy new year to everyone but I wish you all the best for 2013, all the same. We are already in full swing and the term has started with lots going on, despite the snow. Children have already been out on trips—with Year 3 visiting The Tate Modern and Year 6 visiting The Golden Hinde. I know the children had a great time and there are many more exciting learning opportunities planned for the term ahead. Many thanks to the parents who helped out on the trips.

**Meet the team:** Some parents have commented that, following all the changes of the past two years, they are not sure who all the new faces are around the school. I would like to invite all parents in to 'meet the team' on Tuesday 5th February. We will be running a drop-in in the morning (from 8:40-9:30am) and the afternoon (from 2:45-3:30pm). Come along and have a coffee, a chat and get to know everyone. We'll also have some computers set up for people to complete the parent questionnaire, if you don't have internet access at home.

**Packed lunches:** I am becoming increasingly concerned by the content of some of the children's lunch boxes. It is important that the children have a nutritious, balanced meal at lunch time. Some children are coming to school with just biscuits and crisps for lunch. For advice and suggestions on what makes a good packed lunch, at an affordable price, check the menus at [www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk/advice/1packed-lunches/packed-lunch-menus-and-recipes](http://www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk/advice/1packed-lunches/packed-lunch-menus-and-recipes).

**Punctuality and attendance:** The overall figure for attendance for this term is 93.5% which is, unfortunately, way below where we need to be. 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 travelling to school has been difficult in the last few days the vast majority of children still made it to school on time. When weather conditions are bad please remember to allow extra time for your journey to school.

**Mobile phones:** I am sad to report that a child's mobile phone has recently gone missing from school. Although I would prefer that children did not bring valuable items to school, I recognise that this is sometimes unavoidable. We do have procedures in place for keeping mobile phones safe, however, we cannot accept any responsibility for items that go missing. If you or your child knows anything about the missing phone I would be glad to hear of anything that can help me return it to its rightful owner.

**Snow closures:** It is never an easy decision whether to close or stay open in the snow. While many people are grateful for not having to arrange emergency child care others, with longer journeys, find it difficult to get to school. Although many schools in Croydon took the decision to close I feel that, as a Trust, we can be proud of the fact that we managed to offer your children continuity in their education. It is testament to the dedication of your children's teachers and other staff in the school that everyone made the effort to get in. I would like to thank them all for their commitment to the children. While we will always endeavour to keep the school open sometimes, if staff cannot get in to school or the site becomes unsafe, it may be necessary to close. We will inform parents of any closure by sending a text and by updating the school's website. Parents can also check for details at <http://map.lgfl.org.uk/opencheck>.

**Parent questionnaire:** A big thank you to all the parents who have taken the time to complete the Parent Questionnaire. We are aiming for 100 responses before we close the survey—currently we have 49. It provides us with important feedback on how to improve the school further. If you haven't yet completed the survey it can be found on the website at [www.pegasusacademytrust.org](http://www.pegasusacademytrust.org)

Paul Robins—  
Head of School  
Ecclesbourne Primary  
School

### Other events in the coming weeks

Tuesday 5th February – Meet the team— see above  
Friday 15th February – End of half term