



# The Weekly Hill

Issue 4

21st December 2023

## Headteacher's Column

It has been an action packed half term here at Etching Hill and we have had so much fun making memories. The children all shone brightly during their Christmas performances and we hope you enjoyed them as much as we did. Thank you for your support in attending all of our Christmas events, including our PTFA Christmas Fayre which raised an incredible £2035.89!

As you know, we had a visit from OFSTED last week. We were delighted with how the inspection went and the inspectors were absolutely blown away by how fantastic your children are (Of course we already knew this). They were proud of their school and spoke so confidently about their learning and we are all incredibly proud of their behavior and attitude. Thank you all for your support during this important time and we look forward to sharing the outcome with you when we are able to.

Next term is a busy one again with lots of exciting things happening in school. Please see the final page of the newsletter for key dates.

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas

Mrs Marie Smith & Mrs Alison Morganti

### Some extra special news just in time for Christmas...

The wonderful Mrs Morgan gave birth to a beautiful baby girl—Hallie Rose, on Thursday 14th December (literally hours after playing a key role in our inspection!). We are all absolutely delighted for her and her husband and I am sure you all join us in wishing her and her family the very best.

## Parent Survey November 2023

Thank you for taking the time to complete our school parent survey in November, the responses were overwhelmingly positive and we appreciated the additional positive comments which help us to know we are doing the right things for your children. We are a dedicated staff team, committed to doing the best for your children and so, we were delighted to hear that the children feel happy, safe and enjoy learning.

As a school we pride ourselves on always looking for ways to be even better and appreciate your feedback to do so. As a result, we hope to have addressed the following:

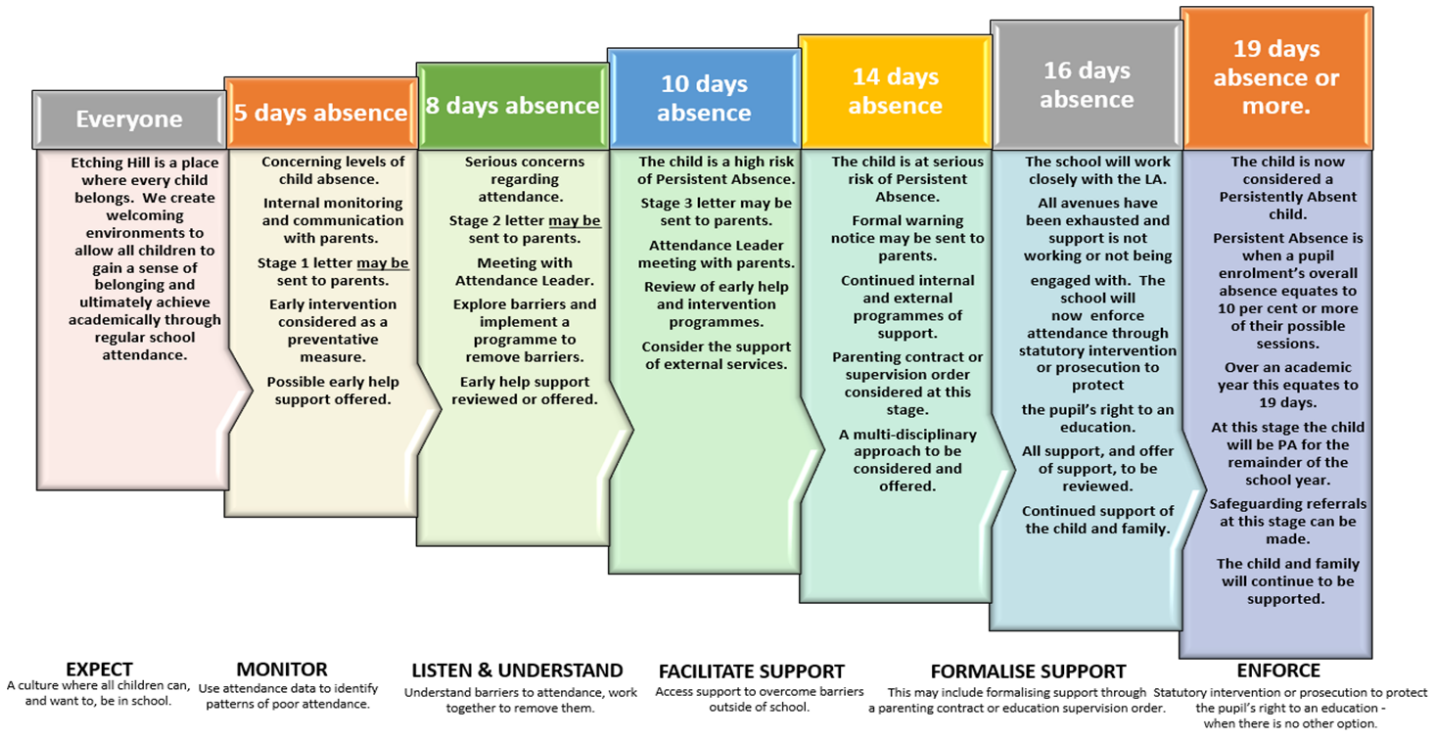
YOU SAID	WE DID
<b>Communication</b> A small number of people were concerned that there is too much communication from school, including the last minute reminders, however some raised that there is not enough.	We had a new app ready to go out in October to support this, which included a fortnightly planner. However, for technical problems beyond our control this has been delayed. So, we created the fortnightly planner which we are sharing via email, our website and our Parent facebook group. So far, this seems to be very well received. Please do let us know if you think that there is anything else we can do to improve this area.
<b>School Lunches:</b> Portion sizes for the older children was something that was asked to be considered	In addition to looking at this ourselves we asked our catering management company to also come in to school and have a look at this, as we take their lead on such matters. They have assured us that the portion sizes had not been reduced due to the cost of ingredients but there had been a reduction on certain menu choice days, as a response to the amount of food waste, which is monitored. The kitchen team have now increased these days for the older pupils and we will continue to monitor and consult with children.
<b>Trust (Future Generation Trust)</b> A number of people indicated that they did not have a full understanding of what it means for the school to be part of a Multi-Academy Trust or MAT	In a way this is actually a good thing for us, because we particularly chose this MAT because of its ethos of supporting each school to retain their individuality. Therefore, for children and parents there shouldn't be any noticeable major changes. However, there are many advantages of belonging to a Trust including collaboration, support and challenge which all goes towards ensuring our school continue to improve. Trust leaders have taken on board the feedback and are looking at ways of promoting their role more fully with yourselves.

The survey is anonymous to ensure that all parents feel comfortable in using this platform to raise any issues, however this does not allow us to respond individually, as always if you did want to follow up on anything further please do contact us.

Finally, we would like to thank you for your responses to the recent Ofsted survey, our partnership with parents was seen as a key strength of the school and something which we are very grateful for and proud of.

# Attendance and Punctuality

At Etching Hill, we encourage excellent attendance and arrival into school ON TIME. This is so important for children to be getting the most out of the school day, and maximises their learning in the classroom. As a school, we have a duty to monitor attendance of pupils, to highlight to parents where this falls below our expected levels and to work with parents and families to improve this. You can see from the diagram below what the expected levels of attendance for children are:-



Arriving into school on time is vital for children to settle well into their day. Our amazing teaching and support teams begin working with children straight away; there are intervention groups, one to one and small group sessions, phonics lessons, all of these begin promptly and your child is missing out on this hugely valuable learning if they are not here on time. Emotionally, it can be very distressing for children to arrive into their classroom when learning has already started, and it is disruptive for others who then have to wait and listen to repeated instructions. Help your child to have the best learning time by ensuring they are in school on time, thank you.



Be In SCHOOL  
Be On TIME

## Equipment and Uniform

Could we please take this opportunity to remind you that our jewellery policy is watch and stud earrings only. We also ask that children DO NOT come into school wearing make up or fake nails, we will ask for these to be removed . Thanks you for your support in this matter.

Finally, PLEASE, PLEASE can all uniform be labelled!

At the start of the year, we asked for all children to bring a named pencil case to school containing the following equipment:

- Pencil(s)
- Black biro pen (KS2 only)
- Eraser
- Sharpener
- Glue stick (named)
- Coloured pencils



Understandably, these items are now in need of replenishing so please could you ensure your child has all of the correct equipment ready for the new term in January. If you are not able to provide this, please do not worry. We will ensure that all children do have access to whatever they need. However, at a time when school budgets are tightly stretched, these things will be a huge help and greatly appreciated. Thank you.

## Cold weather

We are having an increasing number of children coming to school without coats. Please ensure your child brings a coat to school every day. If they would also like to bring hats, gloves etc then please ensure they are named.



## Snacks

Children are allowed to bring in one healthy snack for morning break, e.g. fruit, cereal bar.

We promote healthy choices and would therefore ask you to refrain from sending sweets, chocolates and share bags of crisps in for snack.

Lollipops are not permitted due to safety.

Thank you.

Toast 25p	Hash brown 25p	Milkshake 50p
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## **Nut-Free Zone**



Please do not bring any products containing nuts (peanuts or tree nuts) into area.

Thank you for helping to keep our children safe.

# Recommended reads

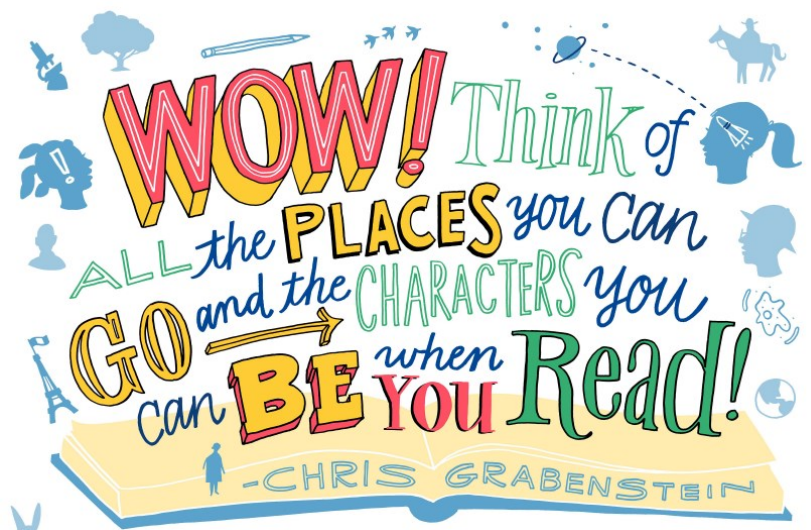
**These children have read ALL of the recommended reads for their year group!**

*What a fantastic achievement!*

Finley Elwell, Edward Lea, Scarlet Hayward, George Philips, George Galimore, Charlotte Gambrell, Liberty Johnson, Isabella Butler, Sienna Gardner, Freddie Kirk, Luca Piwowarczyk, Aquilis Rankie, Tommy Campbell-Innes, Levi Plows

**These children have read half of the recommended reads for their year group. Congratulations children, keep reading!**

Maddison Holyoake, Charlie Wilkins, Charlie Johnson, Logan Franklin, Mason Johnson, Reilly Franklin, William Hale, Theo Gooding, Declyn Jancic, Gulia Di Bartolomeo, Sophia Butler, Harry Wilkins, Ellie-Mae Dunn, Isla-Rose Daniel, Dexter Prince, Ferne Wallbank, Freya Young, Alanya Yates, Evelyn O'Donnell, Megan Hobbs, Payton Hodgkinson, Blossom Conway, Maria Sopron, Alarna Tapper, Isabella Adesina, Dougie Kitchener, Blake Harvey, Jayc Hollis, Rose Smyth, Esme Craddock, Georgie Niven, Oakley Gofton, Isla Hejdner, Hallie-May Conroy, Lillie-May Brown, Ashley Millerchip, Chloe Bytheway, Archie Holloway, Sophie Payne, Sienna Aspley, Felicity Swann, Isla Castles, Rosie Feeley, Levi Plows, Finley Wilby, Lacey McCay, Oscar Dimambro, Oliver Allport, Hayden Boote, Phoebe Maxfield, Freya Vukmirovic, Victoria Sopron, Dominion Aigbogun



# Star pupil



*These children have demonstrated exceptional learning behaviour during the whole half term.*

Reception	Manny Culvin George Leech
Year 1	Scarlet Hayward Phoebe Hiscox
Year 2	William Hale Jude Winton-King
Year 3	Samuel Robinson Alanya Yates
Year 4	Lily Spires Alarna Tapper
Year 5	Rose Smyth Freya Davis
Year 6	Eddie Rowlands Georgia Bott

***Keep Shining Brightly!***

# Shining in Sport!

<b>Reception</b>	<b>Alex Butler</b> for going swimming every week! <b>Darcie Barclay-Spragg</b> for her dancing skills!
<b>Year one</b>	<b>Martha Sykes</b> for trying hard with her ballet outside of school and WOWing us all with her balancing skills in PE. <b>Lydia Pierzak</b> for her amazing gymnastics and football outside of school.
<b>Year two</b>	<b>Leo Gough</b> for his fantastic teamwork and listening skills in our PE lessons. <b>Cole Gilbert</b> for achieving his black belt in kickboxing. <b>Mason Aspley</b> for always trying his best in PE lessons!
<b>Year three</b>	<b>Lailah Harley</b> for her dedication to jiu-jitsu outside of school. <b>Evelyn O'Donnell</b> for her dedication to football outside of school.
<b>Year four</b>	<b>Chloe Illidge</b> for taking on feedback during our basketball topic which lead to her improving. <b>Charlie Hill</b> for applying his invasion game knowledge to our basketball topic.
<b>Year five</b>	<b>Blake Southwell</b> for his commitment to playing and training in tennis. <b>Toby Bandurak</b> for always going over and above in PE lessons.
<b>Year six</b>	<b>Dominion Aigbogun</b> for his dedication and success as one of our sports leaders. <b>Oscar Dimambro</b> for being a role model and demonstrating his excellent basketball skills.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>Friday 22nd December</b>	<b>INSET DAY 4—school closed to children</b>
<b>23rd Dec—7th January 2024</b>	Christmas Holidays
<b>Monday 8th January</b>	<b>Return to school for Spring term</b>
<b>Thursday 11th January</b>	<b>Reception and Y6 height and weight check</b>
<b>Thursday 11th January</b>	Year 5 Firestation visit
<b>Thursday 18th January</b>	4 Jamaica class assembly
<b>W.b. 5th February</b>	Children’s mental health week and safer internet day
<b>Thursday 8th February</b>	4 India class assembly
<b>Thursday 8th February</b>	Y5 visit to the Space Centre
<b>Thursday 8th February</b>	5.30pm: Y6 parents Paris meeting
<b>12th-16th February</b>	<b>Spring half term holiday</b>
<b>Monday 19th February</b>	Return to school
<b>Tuesday 27th February</b>	Matt Goodfellow (poet and author) visit
<b>Tuesday 27th February Thursday 29th February</b>	Parents evening
<b>Thursday 29th February</b>	3 Japan Assembly
<b>Tuesday 5th March</b>	Gotta Dance Show at Prince of Wales theatre
<b>Thursday 7th March</b>	World Book Day
<b>11th March</b>	Y6 Paris Week
<b>W.b. 11th March</b>	Mother’s day lunches
<b>W.b. 11th March</b>	STEM fayre - information to follow
<b>Friday 15th March</b>	Red Nose Day
<b>Monday 18th March</b>	Y6 leavers photographs
<b>W.b. 18th March</b>	Easter celebrations in school
<b>25th March to 5th April</b>	<b>Easter Holidays</b>

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Camps**

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# CHASE VIEW PRIMARY, RUGELEY

2nd - 5th January  
9.30am - 4.30pm



For Ages  
**5-13**  
Years

If your child is eligible for a free place on our Winter Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, you'll receive a letter from school. This letter will contain a unique registration 'HAF' code which you will need to enter exactly as shown to register your child and view the activities. **Any questions, contact Progressive Sports on: 01889 343120**



 Staffordshire  
County Council

**HOLIDAY  
ACTIVITIES  
AND FOOD**

The co-operative membership  
Central England Co-operative

 Department  
for Education

 Ofsted

**BOOK HERE:** <https://eequ.org/experience/5919>