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Welcome to the latest edition of our school newsletter

This week we have really enjoyed World Book Day – what a treat to come into school in our pyjamas and spend time reading for pleasure! Inside you will find more information about what we got up to and some pictures of the highlights! Please also look at the upcoming events including parents consultation evening and changes that are being made in our Early Years Provision.

Many Thanks for your ongoing support.

Kate Cleaver

Principal

PARENTS EVENING

4pm - 7pm 22 Mar

4pm - 6pm 23 Mar

PLEASE BOOK YOUR PARENTS EVENING APPOINTMENT ON PARENTMAIL

TERM DATES

LAST DAY: 31 Mar

FIRST DAY: 19 Apr

Pupil of the Week

Each week the class teachers will nominate a:

- Super Squirrel
- Happy Hedgehog
- Brilliant Badger
- Outstanding Owl

The children are chosen for consistently demonstrating the Ecton values of Resilience, Kindness, Co-operation and Engagement. They are recognised for their excellent attitude in all areas of school life. As a reward, they have lunch with Mrs Cleaver. We have our own special table and receive waitress service.

We will let you know which children have been truly amazing in our fortnightly news.



"I look forward to my lunches very much each week - it is a lovely opportunity to chat to the children more informally and hear what they have to say." *Kate Cleaver*



World Book Day

World Book Day is a celebration - it's a celebration of authors, illustrators, books and (most importantly) it's a celebration of reading. In fact, it's the biggest celebration of its kind, designated by UNESCO as a worldwide celebration of books and reading, and marked in over 100 countries all over the world.

This is the 20th year there's been a World Book Day, and on 2nd March 2017 children of all ages came together to appreciate reading.

This year our theme was bedtime stories and our children came to school wearing snuggly pyjamas ready to read their favourite book.

Throughout the day children in all classes took part in activities designed to celebrate and promote a love of reading. Please see the website for more photos from the day.







Meet the Staff

Sarah Mackenzie

I sat down with another staff member recently to learn more about her role at Ecton. Sarah Mackenzie has been working as a Teaching Assistant (TA) at Ecton for 1.5 years. Previously, she was a TA at Kings Meadow. Mrs. Mackenzie has extensive qualifications in Autism and Autism Approaches as well as Behaviour Management Therapy.

What's a typical day at school?

Each day varies greatly. Today, I had 1-1 talks with some children about Protective Behaviours. This is helping those children who might feel vulnerable feel safe in school and at home. I am on the playground during lunch time; keeping an eye on the children and helping them play together well. I'm also a first aider, so will deal with the bumps and grazes that occur when children are having fun! This afternoon I have a meeting with our SENco where we will discuss the children we are working with and consider what impact we are having.

What other duties do you have?

I cover for teachers who might be away on training courses or during short absences. I teach KS2 PE and plan all sport competitions. I really enjoy the sports competitions – giving the children the chance to work in teams and compete against other local primary schools. Every time we go out I come back feeling proud of the achievements of our children! I also support The Owls by working with them in smaller groups.

What is Behaviour Management?

As well as teaching the children all things like reading and writing, its important that we also teach the children what appropriate behaviour is. This covers all sorts of things – from how to interact with peers and adults to how to motivate yourself and be resilient. Some children struggle to manage their emotions and I help them with his too. For those children who need extra support for this area of school I devise a plan to help them. This is usually done in conjunction with the class teacher and the family of the child. This means that we can all work together to ensure appropriate behaviour in all settings.

So you work with families as well as children?

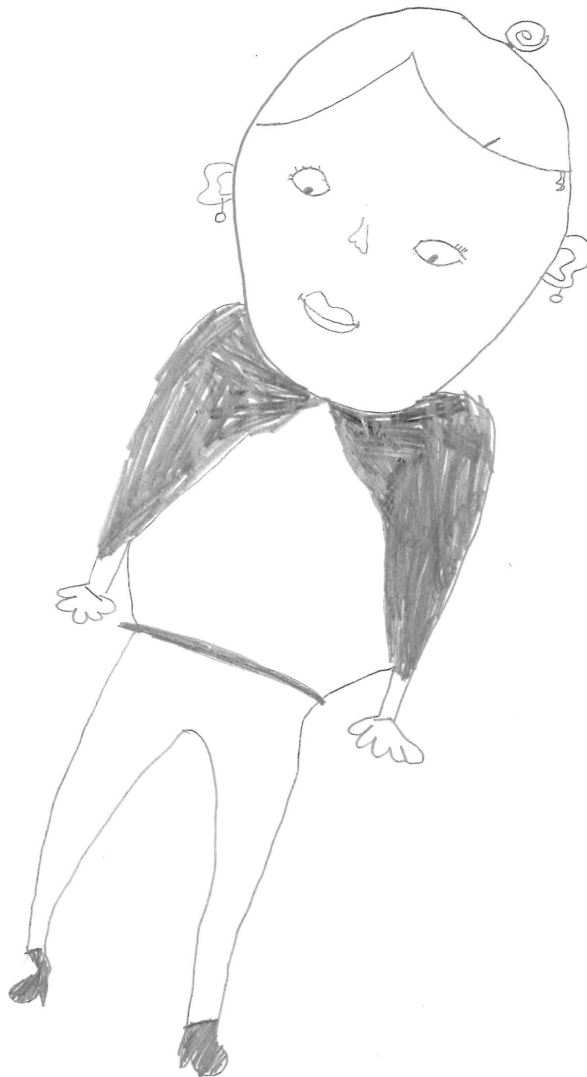
Yes. Sometimes because of behaviour and sometimes because of safeguarding. I am a Deputy Safeguarding Lead (DSL) in the school and work with Mrs Cleaver to ensure the safeguarding of all of our children. Its important that children and families have support when life gets difficult.

What do you enjoy most about your work?

I think the relationships we develop with children in school are really important. If they trust the adults around them they feel safe. When they feel safe they can flourish and learn. That is what we all want isn't it? There is nothing better than seeing a child want knowledge and having pride in their work. I think that all the staff at Ecton care about the children here and working together to empower the children to learn is great.

We will carry on with interviews in the upcoming newsletters. We hope you've enjoyed reading about Mrs. MacKenzie.

Mrs Mackenzie was interviewed by Cynthia Bouchaud - Parent



A picture of Mrs Mackenzie, drawn by Avalonne from the Badgers Class



Changes to Foundation Stage

As many of you are aware, we currently have a pre-school on site that runs from 9.15-12.15 each day and is located in our school hall. Following a period of consultation, the pre-school will now be part of Ecton Village Primary Academy.

Having explored different models and looked at best practice both locally and nationally, we have decided to merge our pre-school with our reception class. This means that children Foundation Stage 1 (pre-school) and Foundation Stage 2 (reception) will share their space, resources and staff. This has many benefits for our younger children. For those currently in pre-school, they will have access to a better environment suited to their needs and our older children will enjoy the opportunity of an additional adult allowing us to open all three spaces (the classroom, the garden and the indoor/outdoor) at one time.

Like all the other mixed age classes in our school, the planning for learning will look at the ability of the children and be differentiated to meet their needs. The Early Years curriculum is very child driven and Ute Graham and Debbie Bugg will work collaboratively to ensure that the needs of all the children are met.

We are all very excited about this new development in our school and feel that there are exciting times ahead for our youngest children.

If you have any questions about this, please do pop in and ask.



E-Safety Tips

Agree boundaries

Be clear what your child can and can't do online – where they can use the internet, how much time they can spend online, the sites they can visit and the type of information they can share. Agree with your child when they can have a mobile phone or tablet.

Explore together

The best way to find out what your child is doing online is to ask them to tell you about what they do and what sites they like to visit. If they're happy to, ask them to show you. Talk to them about being a good friend online.

Put yourself in control

Install parental controls on your home broadband and any internet-enabled devices. Set up a user account for your child on the main device they use and make sure other accounts in the household are password-protected so that younger children can't access them by accident.

Use airplane mode

Use airplane mode on your devices when your child is using them so they can't make any unapproved purchases or interact with anyone online without your knowledge.

Stay involved

Encourage them to use their tech devices in a communal area like the lounge or kitchen so you can keep an eye on how they're using the internet and also share in their enjoyment.

Talk to siblings

It's also a good idea to talk to any older children about what they're doing online and what they show to younger children. Encourage them to be responsible and help keep their younger siblings safe.

Search safely

Use safe search engines such as Swiggle or Kids-search. You can save time by adding these to your 'Favourites'. Safe search settings can also be activated on Google and other search engines, as well as YouTube.

Check if it's suitable

The age ratings that come with games, apps, films and social networks are a good guide to whether they're suitable for your child. For example, the minimum age limit is 13 for several social networking sites, including Facebook and Instagram. Although sites aimed at under-10s like Moshi Monsters and Club Penguin also have social networking elements.

Notices & Upcoming Events

Parents Evening

Our parent consultation evenings for this term will be held on the evenings of 22 and 23 March. We also hoping to have the Scholastic Book Company in, so you will have the opportunity to buy some books at a discounted rate.

Following on from the parent consultation, we will also be showcasing our new uniform!

Visiting Theatre Company

There will be a Theatre Company Visit on 28 March putting on their production of 'A Twist in Time'. This is a fantastic opportunity for the children to experience live theatre.

Awards Assembly

Our Friday Awards Assembly celebrates the achievements of our children in school each week. If your child receives awards outside of school, we would love them to share their success in our assembly. We know that we have a number of medal winning gymnasts, dancers and musicians as well as keen footballers and swimmers.

If you would like your child to share their achievements in our Friday assembly please can you speak with their class teacher or Mrs Cleaver about it.

Punctuality

Please ensure that your child is ready on the playground by 8:50 when the bell is rung. The children should be in class and ready to start learning by 9:00 every day.

CONTACT US

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