

**Kill
Your
Speed!**

**Keeping in touch
with parents**

The Newsletter of Etonbury Middle School

www.etonbury.com



ICT and LEARNING



Many parents have purchased computers/laptops for pupils during the festive season and we are providing the information below from Software4Students to support parents (or grandparents) who may wish to purchase software at greatly reduced prices, directly from the company, at what we think are the cheapest prices we have seen! The following text is directly from Software4Students (www.software4students.co.uk).

Software4Students was launched, in 2005, as a pilot programme to provide software for students and parents in disadvantaged schools. Due to its phenomenal success in helping bridge the digital divide Software4Students has been expanded to students and parents of 33,000 schools in the United Kingdom and Ireland, covering nearly 18 million students. As a leading supplier of Microsoft software and solutions to the student and education community, Software4Students is the largest and original programme for supplying software to school and college students and their parents.

We supply home users with fully-functional **Professional** (not *Student and Teacher* or *Home Edition* versions) software. Because of our affiliations with Microsoft and with education institutions, we are able to supply these products at hugely discounted prices (typically discounted by 80% or more). Put simply this means you (the home user) get more software at a much lower price.



The main requirement in this programme is that the end user licensee is a student in one of our participating schools/colleges (*Etonbury is a participating school*). There are 18 million qualifying students in the UK. It is very easy to register all you need to do is give the student name and school/college they are in, provide your address details and you're done!



News from the Governing Body Parent Governor Election

The governing body currently has a vacancy for a parent governor.

Nominations are invited from any Etonbury parent, letters were sent home last Friday 15th January. This is a very important time for the governing body as we move into Trust and Foundation School Status. If you would like any further details, please contact the clerk via the school office, **nominations close Friday 29th January.**

Interactive Learning

Mymaths provides ready made lessons to support teachers, pupils and parents in school and at home for revision and learning up to and including A* GCSE work; its large text, animations, interactivities and random question generators help us bring maths alive.

There are four booster packs on the mymaths website aimed at Level 4 that are particularly useful for our year 6 pupils, and their maths teachers who are working through the material during this half term (shortcut on our school website).

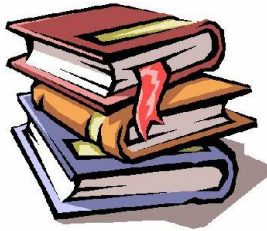
To access www.mymaths.co.uk pupils need their login details that have already been provided to them by their teachers.



Name Form

Book Fair

27th + January
Lunchtimes
School Hall



Mobile Phones

Whilst we are fully aware of parental concerns regarding pupil safety, may we remind you that mobile phones should **not** be brought in to school. If however there is an exceptional genuine reason for bringing in a phone, pupils must leave them in the school office (*although we will not accept responsibility for them*). **In an emergency, parents/pupils can of course be contacted through the school office in the usual way.**



Homework Club

Homework club is held in the library on Wednesday evenings when pupils have full access to computers and the internet (including on-line learning). **If pupils still require a permission slip please contact the school office.**

Aylmerton Field Study Centre

“Everyone knows that children would rather be out than in! Come with us to Aylmerton Field Study Centre from 22nd February and experience outdoor learning at its best!”

We still require the assistance of two parents to join us for this residential week - for more details please contact Mrs Rainbow in the school office.

Ready to Learn?

Please help us to ensure that our pupils are well prepared each day with the correct equipment and books for school. As well as writing equipment, pupils should bring Daybooks, General Notebook, and Exercise Books for the day's lessons. *Please check your child's timetable with them!*



School Meals

Eden Foods (County Caterers) are responsible for our school meals service and we work closely together to ensure that they meet the terms of their contract.

On the odd occasion that pupils forget their dinner money, our school office will arrange for them to have a meal. As we have to pay Eden Foods for the meal, parents are requested to reimburse the school the following day for the cost of the meal (£1. 85) otherwise our school fund rapidly depreciates.

Unfortunately, we will have to pass on the cost of recouping accumulated arrears that are starting to mount up!

Dates for Your Diary

Spring Term 2010

Jan 27th+Book Fair
Feb 2nd Year 5 Parents' Evening
Feb 3rd Aylmerton Parents' Information Meeting
Feb 10th/12th Year 6 & year 8 Reports sent home
Feb 12th **End of Half Term**

Ski Trip

Feb 22nd Year 5 Aylmerton Residential Visit

March 3rd Year 6 Parents' Evening

March 11th Year 8 Parents' Evening

March 30th Year 7 Parents, Evening

April 1st **End of Spring Term**

More dates and further details to follow in due course, watch this space!



Letters parents should have received since our last ECHO

5th Jan. Bedfordshire East Schools Trust Orchestra
Free School Meals Eligibility
Head Teacher New Year Letter and update
7th Jan. Head Teacher bad weather update
8th Jan. KS2 Science Show
Head Teacher further bad weather update
Year 6 SATs Evening invite (Parents - 21st Jan.)
11th Jan. Head Teacher further bad weather update
15th Jan. Year 5 Parents Evening invite (2nd Feb)
Parent Governor Nominations
Bedfordshire East Schools Trust Orchestra update
18th Jan. Proposed Trip to Music Mix Concert

If parents have not received these letters please check at the bottom of school bags, or contact the office for a further copy.

NB - most letters are now also available on our website!

SCHOOL SHOP OPEN FOR BUSINESS Tuesday & Thursday Breaktimes

Families United Network and Central Bedfordshire Parent Partnership

The service is holding a conference on **Saturday 27th February** at Kingsland Skills and Enterprise Centre, Houghton Regis for parents/carers of children with additional needs.

For a booking form (which must be received no later than Friday 12th February) please contact Mrs Anderson (Learning Support Co-ordinator) at school, or email familyvoice@live.co.uk tel. 01525 636680.

Road Safety



We are again being reminded by the police about parents parking on the main road to collect pupils. In the interests of pupil safety, please assist our Crossing Patrol by not obstructing her view and

please do not drive onto the school grounds to drop off or pick your children up - it is extremely dangerous.

Thank you for your co-operation!

Please help us maintain standards by ensuring your child is always in full school uniform.