

# ECHO

27th November 2009



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**Kill  
Your  
Speed!**

**Keeping in touch  
with parents**

The Newsletter of Etonbury Middle School

[www.etonbury.com](http://www.etonbury.com)



## Environment Day

### Monday 7th December

Following on from our very successful **Healthy Lifestyles** day in October, we are holding our next Cross-Curricular Day on **Monday 7th December**.

All pupils will be involved in activities related to **The Environment** throughout the day. Whilst normal lessons are suspended for the event, staff and visitors to the school will be conducting activities around the theme of the environment. We are looking forward to a very enjoyable and successful day raising everybody's awareness of: climate, waste, flood, lifestyles, resources, pollution, wildlife, energy, global warming, etc.

**Bedford Borough Vote for Two Tier Monday 16th November could become a decisive day in the future of education throughout Bedfordshire. Our neighbours, Bedford Borough, voted 19 - 17 to close middle schools and move to a two tier primary/secondary system. It was made clear in the debate that this transition could only happen if monies from the Government were forthcoming (£327 million). The latest prediction for any change in Bedford Borough is 2013 with our own Local Authority - Central Bedfordshire yet to make any decision on our educational system!**



### Children In Need 2009

Last Friday 20th November was a day to remember with bears accompanying their owners to lessons, silly hats and pupils dressed as famous characters; all thoroughly enjoying the experience. The school council was instrumental in organising the day's activities including: name that baby; cake sales; nail painting, bracelet making; pogo stick competitions; etc.

**£650+ was raised - well done to everyone!**

## Governors' Committees

Governors met on Monday and amongst the items on the agendas for their Strategy and Standards committee meetings were:

- School Attainment 2008/2009 Academic Year
- School Development,
- Parental Survey and
- Refurbishment.

**A number of reports were received and governors commended the school on recent progress and improvements.**

Governors were particularly pleased with the academic progress at KS2 in mathematics (43% L5); English (87% L4+); and science (94% L4+, 46% L5). Pupils' performance in year 8 (KS3) was also commended with our students out-performing **Yr9** pupils nationally being tested using the KS3 2009 SAT papers!

With the 2009 parents' survey showing marked improvements in parental perceptions over the last two years and refurbishment work now permeating the whole school for all to see; governors felt justifiably proud to commend the work of staff, pupils and parents and looked forward to a new Development Plan moving the school from strength to strength!



## ETONBURY



### CHRISTMAS MARKET

FRIDAY, 11TH DECEMBER

(1.45 - 3.15 PM)

**Any of the following contributions would be gratefully received:**

<i>Bric-a-brac</i>	<i>Toys</i>	<i>Games</i>
<i>Gifts</i>	<i>Bottles</i>	<i>Books</i>
<i>Raffle prizes</i>	<i>DVDs</i>	<i>CDs</i>
<i>Jewellery etc.</i>		

**& Items suitable for prizes**

**ON THE DAY PLEASE:**

*Cakes Plants*

**We look forward to seeing you all on Friday December 11th.**

Name .....

Form .....



# Sports News

## Indoor Athletics



Athletes from all year groups recently took part in the Annual Indoor Athletics Meet at Robert Bloomfield. Teams took part from all over the County and our pupils performed extremely well with both girls and boys teams competing at a high level against some tough opposition. Well done, in particular to our Yrs 5 & 6 boys team who finished in overall 2nd place. All pupils were a credit to the school!



**The former mixed doubles Olympic Silver Medalist and world badminton champion Gail Emms will be visiting us again on Thursday 17th December.**

Gail will be working with a number of our pupils as a sports mentor, part of the Youth Sport Trust initiative supported by Sky TV. Gail joined us last term and we are once again very much looking forward to her return visit.

### Calling all ex-Etonbury 2008 Ski-Trippers!

*Our ski presentation evening takes place on Dec 3rd at 7.00pm. If there are any ex-pupils reading who took part in the 2008 trip to Austria and would like to sell (or donate) any ski gear which they have outgrown, please contact Mrs Rainbow in the school office.*



### 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.**

### Dates for Your Diary

Nov 30th	Lower/Middle Singing Event
<b>Dec 3rd</b>	<b>Ski presentation evening</b>
Dec 7th	Environment Day
Dec 11th	Christmas Market
Dec 17th	Gail Emms in school
<b>Dec 18th</b>	<b>End of Term</b>
<b>Jan 5th</b>	<b>Spring Term Begins</b>
Jan 21st	SATs Evening
<b>Feb 2nd</b>	<b>Year 5 Parents' Evening</b>
Feb 15th	Half Term Week
Feb 22nd	Year 5 Residential Aylmerton)

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



**SCHOOL SHOP OPEN FOR BUSINESS  
Tuesday & Thursday Breaktimes**

# News from our Music Department



## **Ms Manser is back!**

After teaching year 7 last year, she's back - this time to teach year 6. 6RM are thoroughly enjoying their singing lessons and will be putting on a concert for their parents, thanks to the input from Ms Manser who is currently assisting Miss Barnett. Commenting about their recent experiences, 6RM said "we don't normally like singing but we love singing with Ms Manser, she is really good at singing and we all look forward to seeing more of Ms Manser throughout the year".

### **Letters parents should have received since our last ECHO**

Nov 4th	Basketball Moderation (pupils involved) Ski Trip Update (pupils involved)
Nov 5th	Singup Performance (30th Nov)
Nov 6th	Sky Sports Mentoring Prog. (pupils involved) Parent Governor Nominations Yr5 Aylmerton update (pupils involved) New Intake Evening Art Club information Indoor Athletics (pupils involved) Children in Need Day
Nov 13th	Etonbury Christmas Market Headteacher Information Letter Visiting author 'Jack Trelawny' Proposed Sports Tour to Holland Etonbury Association Christmas Draw
Nov 18th	Chase House Performance (pupils involved)
Nov 20th	Environmental Day
Nov 23rd	Christmas Market reminder

*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!**

### Situations Vacant

#### **Eden Foods**

*Our catering contractors currently have a vacancy for*

**General Kitchen Assistant**  
(maternity leave cover until July 2010)

*Further details please contact Mrs Turgoose (Office Manager) in the school office.*

### REMINDER

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

### Merit Marks (so far) Autumn Term 2009

<b>Carters</b>	<b>359</b>
Foresters	347
Saddlers	286
Thatchers	312



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