

# Tickhill Estfeld Primary School



Headteacher: Miss D M Risley BSc(Hons)

Telephone : 01302 744275

e-mail address: [admin@estfeld.doncaster.sch.uk](mailto:admin@estfeld.doncaster.sch.uk)

Web site : [www.estfeld.doncaster.sch.uk](http://www.estfeld.doncaster.sch.uk)

Common Lane  
Tickhill  
DONCASTER  
South Yorkshire  
DN11 9JA

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Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the half term holiday we have been teaching the children about several aspects of safety associated with the earlier dark nights and safety at Halloween and Bonfire Night. We do hope that everybody has lots of fun and enjoys the celebrations and excitement that the darker nights make possible. Happy Holidays!

Thank you to the Tickhill Lions for once again holding their firework safety poster competition. We received many worthy entries, with important safety messages, which made it very difficult indeed to choose our winners, but choose we must. The following pupils received a book token prize to be exchanged for books of their choice to the value of £5 at the school Book Club.

Reception and KS1 – Winner: Amelie Thomas (Reception)      Runner-up: Emily Taylor (Year 1)

KS2 - Winner: Florence Cobb (Year 3)      Runner-up: Daisy Jones (Year 5)

## Safeguarding

For some time school has been reviewing site security, particularly the issues of safeguarding our pupils when they are arriving and leaving the school premises at the beginning and end of the school day. Our cloakrooms are very small in relation to the numbers of pupils using them and this can make it difficult to monitor pupils at the busiest times of the day. This task is made more difficult when adults are also in the cloakrooms, along with younger siblings and pushchairs.

We have therefore come to the decision that **pupils only** should enter school via the cloakrooms and that adults bringing pupils to school should leave children at the cloakroom entrance. This will be effective from our return to school on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

Our pupils are all able to negotiate the cloakrooms and enter their classrooms independently. There will be a member of school staff in each cloakroom who will ensure that pupils remain inside the building once they have arrived at school and who will be able to jot down a short message for class teachers' attention.

If parents or carers need to speak specifically to a class teacher, please enter school at the main reception and speak to the office staff in the first instance.



## School Fencing and Gate System

It is some time since I wrote to you regarding the upgrade to the fence in the Key Stage 2 playground and the gate system which allows visitors and deliveries to access the site during the school day. School was initially informed that this work would be completed during the 6 week Summer holiday; however school were then further advised that this work would not take place immediately and as an interim security measure DMBC installed the gate that is adjacent to the cycle park, which only partly solves school's security issues.

We were also advised that we needed to submit a bid to the council's Learning Provision Organisation Board to apply for funding to carry out this essential work, which we have done; however the deadline for submission of bids was not until 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017 and our bid will now be considered, alongside others submitted by Doncaster schools, for funding. I will inform you in due course whether or not our bid was successful, and possible time frame for the work to be completed. Our Chair of Governors, Zoe Whitaker and myself have made many approaches to the council and met with council personnel regarding this matter since last July. We have tried to impress on them the urgency with which this work needs to be done to no avail.

In the meantime the gate adjacent to the cycle park will be locked at 8.55am each morning when all external doors are secured; the pedestrian gate and car park gate will remain open for visitor access during the school day, but will be locked at play times and whenever the KS2 playground is being used for Games lessons.

We appreciate that whilst not ideal, this is the best available option of securing the site at the present time. Hopefully we shall hear that our bid to the Provision Board has been successful and that work can begin soon.

Yours sincerely

Miss Diane Risley