

# SCHOOL NEWS

Attendance | Silence | Uniform

## National Silence

The staff felt strongly that as a school we should observe the national minute's silence today at 12 noon. It is part of our curriculum that children have an awareness of citizenship issues, develop a sense of modern British values and be aware of our wider world. Teachers have held age appropriate discussions with their classes and discussed the meaning and purpose of holding a 'silence'.

## 2pm finish on last day

Many of you have been enquiring about the finish time at the end of term. We do finish at 2pm on Friday 24th July. Please note this is the only time in the school year that we close early.

Want to see Neil Armstrong with our Yr 1 children this week? Check out our Twitter feed: @EtchellsPS!!

## Holidays

We have attached to this newsletter the holiday dates for 2015-2016. Please put these on your calendar and let anyone have them who may wish to book family holidays for you! Our EWO has been in school and unfortunately we are still below the national average for attendance. For this reason, we have now been advised to not allow any holidays during term time with immediate effect. The majority of holidays have been declined authorisation but it is getting more and more common for families to give family weddings as reason for absence, often tagging on a week or 2 to a school holiday. Extended holidays for family weddings will no longer be authorised and will incur a fine issued by the Local Authority. There are several schools in our local area who have also taken this recommendation. Some parents are still under the impression that 10 days holiday during term time is ok - it hasn't been allowed for a long time now and will incur a fine.

Regular late arrivals and one off days occurring on a regular basis are monitored carefully by the EWO and can also result in a fine. We are now under extremely strict guidelines from the Local Authority as the importance of children attending school cannot be underestimated. Many of our families are extremely supportive of this and we recognise your efforts to keep your holidays in the school holidays.



## School Uniform

School Uniform will be on sale during our Open Evening on Wednesday 15th July between 5 and 7pm. The school office will also be open on Tuesday 1st September to sell uniform (please note, the children are NOT in school on this day) The office will not be selling uniform on the 2nd September due to it being so busy with having the children back in on their first day. It can really make the task of selling uniform more manageable if it can be purchased at these times during this 'peak' period of buying sweatshirts etc. We can take cash and cheque payments, but sorry not cards.

## Photographs!!

Please remember that Monday is the LAST day to bring your photograph orders into school. There are no exceptions to this as the orders get picked up by the company that afternoon. Online orders can be made by yourselves after Monday however.

## Open Evening

Our Open Evening will be taking place on Wednesday 15th July. This is an opportunity for parents to come to school with children to share the work they have done and look at the walls in their classrooms. You will be able to chat to the class teacher too and discuss any issues which may have been highlighted in your child's end of year report (coming home next Friday). If you need to speak confidentially to your child's teacher please make a separate appointment for a different time.

You will find out in your child's report who their teacher will be for next year. You are welcome to take the opportunity during Open Evening to go and visit the new teacher and introduce yourselves. Please note that Key Stage 2 classes may not be in the same location in September!

As well as selling uniform, we will also be selling off our old exercise books which we no longer use in school. We have moved to having an English and a Maths book, and just one other 'foundation' book which contains all the other subjects. This helps you and teachers see your child's progress more easily and keeps everything together as one learning journey. We therefore have a large number of empty books left over. We will be selling these at 10p each for the children and yourselves to buy should you wish to. Governors will also be around during Open Evening and would like it if you can spare a moment to stop and chat to them with any feedback you have about school and questions you may have.

I hope to see you all there!

Kind regards,

*Cathy Beddows and the Etchells staff*

