

SCHOOL NEWS

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Reading Books

As part of our drive to improve standards in reading, we are overhauling the way the reading books are organised as well as taking out old books, replacing with new.

It is common practice in many schools to organise reading books in colour bands.

Instead of using reading ages to categorise the books we will be grouping them into colours which directly correlate with National Curriculum sub-levels. This way, we can match books more accurately against your child's ability and ensure the level of challenge is correct. We will send more detailed information out about this in September.

To enable us to audit and re-organise the books, we will be taking them all in this Friday. Please ensure any books you have at home are returned and bear with us whilst your child has no reading book for the last 2 weeks of term. We would strongly encourage the use of public libraries and any books you may have at home in order to maintain a good reading habit. Thanks for your understanding on this matter.

School Meals

Our new approach to ordering school meals in advance has got off to a good start. As with any new initiative, we have made some early evaluations and are putting some changes in place to make the system run more smoothly. From next week, children will select their own meal during registration and will NOT be required to send in an advance order form.

If your child is currently taking a school meal, you will receive a separate letter today outlining the changes in more detail. Please can we ask for ALL the forms to be returned to school - even if your child will be having a packed lunch in September. Remember that the Free School Meal initiative is applicable to reception and KS1 children only.

Attendance

You may remember earlier this year I informed you that our attendance for last year was at 94.2%. This put us in the lowest 20% of all schools in the country in terms of attendance. We have worked hard to ensure the children are in school in term time and that holidays are taken during the designated school holidays times. We checked the figures this week and I'm pleased to inform you we are currently standing at 95.7% (the national average is 95.2%). It will be a real achievement if we can maintain this percentage and I thank all parents who have respected the no holiday in term time rule and understood the impact absence during term time can have on their children's learning and progress. The last 2 weeks of term really matter too - please ensure full attendance during this period.



End of Year Reports



Sporting Superstars

- * Our P.E. leader, Miss Pennill, has asked for parents to send in any photos of their children who take part in other sports outside of school. We are aware that there is a wide range of activities our pupils take part in - horse-riding and weightlifting to name just a couple! We would like to create a display of photographs of our 'Sporting Superstars' in order to celebrate sport outside of school. Please send any sporting photos in an envelope addressed to Miss Pennill. Many thanks.

Appointment

- * We have recently appointed an experienced teacher to work for 2 days alongside Mrs Cleary in Year 1 from September. Mrs Aldred has already been into school to start planning the curriculum with the Year 1 team. Mrs Cleary will be teaching for 3 days. Job shares have always been a success at Etchells as handovers and joint working are planned carefully. I am extremely confident this new partnership will be a huge success.

End of Year Reports will be sent out next Tuesday. I have personally read each one of them and am delighted with how personal and accurate each report is. This year, we have added information about the amount of progress your child has made, as well as the level of attainment and effort. We hope you find this useful and encourage you to make a comment on the slip provided in the envelope.

You will have the opportunity to discuss the report and share your child's work at the Celebration Open Evening taking place next Thursday, between 5 and 7pm.

Children in Y2 and Y6 will have the results of their end of Key Stage assessments. I am very pleased with the results, notably how highly the Year 6 children have achieved, with an impressive percentage of level 5's and some very pleasing level 6's.

The Year 1 children did a tremendous job with their Phonics Screening test. I am very pleased to report that 85% of the children achieved the pass mark; this compares to 72% last year and a National Average of 69%. Well done Year 1!!

Website 'Urgent Messages'

Many of you will have seen how the website was used this week to communicate the urgent message regarding the strike and school closure. There have been some reports from parents that they haven't been able to access the site beyond the 'Urgent Message' window. Once you have read the message, if you 'refresh' the page, you will find the site becomes active again.

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows

and the Etchells staff

