

# SCHOOL NEWS

Attendance | Parents' Evening | World Book Day

## Class Attendance

Class	%
5L	98.2
4M	97.7
1H	97.6
1CA	97.5
2W	97.3
6MC	97.1
3A	96.9
6F	96.2
3R	96.2
2M	96.1
4FT	95.9
RR	94.5
5LC	93.9
RG	89.8

Current school average: **95.7%**

Under school target (97%)

Under National Average  
(96.1%)

## Attendance!!

As you are aware, attendance is a serious issue that we are working on to improve in our school. Last year the percentage of children attending school rose from 94.2% to 95.9%. This was a very pleasing rise and exceeded our target of 95.5%.

However, last year's national average attendance figures have just been announced as being 96.1%. This means that we are still below the National Average which will have a negative impact on the behaviour and safety aspect of our next Ofsted inspection. More importantly, it is indicating the large number of children who are missing school and therefore not making the progress they should be.

Our new ambitious target for attendance is set at 97%. If we are to provide the best opportunities for our children, they need to be in school! We need to have the highest expectations.

### New rewards for attendance:

We are no longer rewarding 100% of attendance. Whilst this may seem strange, I feel strongly that for many children, a 2 day absence due to sickness cannot be avoided. We have found that children do not want to be off school when they actually really need to be at home - they are disappointed to miss out on their 100% attendance badge. So instead, each term, we will be giving certificates for 'Outstanding Attendance' - those children who have 98% and above.

Each half term we will generate the attendance percentage for each class and reward the highest class with a non-uniform day. This began today with class 5L who had the top attendance figure for this half term of 98.2%. Well done!! I have included a table on the left of each class in school. Please take note if your class needs improving and do your bit! Every half term we will start again so it's not too late to make a difference.

At Parents Evening, you will receive an attendance report for your child. Attendance meeting our target of 97% will be highlighted green, those under target will be highlighted yellow and those causing extreme concern will be pink. Please look at this report carefully.

## Parents' Evenings

Our Spring Term Parents' Evenings will be taking place on Wednesday 4th (4-7pm) and Thursday 5th March (4-6pm). Please make every effort to attend as this is a key opportunity to find out about the progress your child is making. It is important for teachers and parents to concentrate on what is being said and so for this reason, children are not allowed to attend. This request was not adhered to last term which resulted in many children being left unsupervised in corridors. Please make alternative arrangements for their care. We thank you in advance for this.

This term we are trialling an online booking system for Parents Evening. You will find an accompanying letter with this School News giving you exact details of how to do this. The system will allow you to book all your children's appointments at once. You will receive an email confirming your times. We recommend you don't book appointments too close together as time needs to be allowed to get between classrooms and to look at your child's work. Please let us know if you have any difficulties with the system and we will be happy to help.

The booking system will be live from 7am Tuesday 24th February until 11pm Sunday 1st March.

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## New Lunch Menu

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Please note that the new lunch menu for Spring/Summer 2015 has now been uploaded to the website.



## World Book Day

World Book Day will be celebrated on Thursday 5th March. Each Year group has selected a theme for dressing up; this theme will also be continued through the day's activities. It won't be a normal day in school! The children will have the opportunity to absorb themselves in the books chosen and really have some fun with literature. The simplest of costumes are often the best and there is no expectation for the outfits to cause unnecessary expense. So, here are the themes:

Nursery: *Book characters*

Reception: *Book characters*

Year 1: *The Gruffalo*

Year 2: *Animal Stories*

Year 3: *Alice in Wonderland*

Year 4: *Harry Potter*

Year 5: *Roald Dahl*

Year 6: *David Walliams' characters*



Enjoy the half term holiday. We look forward to seeing everyone back, safe and sound, on Monday 23rd February.

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows and the Etchells staff

