


SCHOOL NEWS

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WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS WEEK
27 March - 2 April 2015

Next week in school we will be recognising World Autism Awareness Week. This is something which is close to our hearts and developing awareness in this way underpins our all-inclusive ethos in providing education for all. The children will be taking part in activities and discussions next week to raise their awareness and understanding and also to have the opportunity to ask questions. We view this as being an important part of citizenship and PSHE, developing understanding of how every child in our school has their own qualities to offer our community.

School Meals

Please remember as we approach the summer months, that

one week's

notice is required to change either to or from school dinners.

Staffing Changes

It is with mixed feelings that I am announcing that one of our teachers is moving on to pastures new. Mrs Fumagalli, one of our Y6 teachers, Upper Key Stage 2 leader and English leader, has secured a new job in Bangkok, Thailand. We are delighted for her as this is such an exciting opportunity, but will of course miss her expertise and fantastic teaching here at Etchells. She will be with us until the end of the summer term, but I would like to take this opportunity to offer my congratulations and wish her every success.

We have decided, as we are still increasing in numbers and due to the fact there is an increasing focus on middle and senior leadership in schools, that the time has come to appoint an Assistant Headteacher. This role sits below the Deputy Headteacher, but senior to the Phase Leaders we have currently in school. This role would involve the leading of Upper Key Stage 2 (Y5 and Y6), Leading Assessment throughout school, as well as working with Miss Maxwell on the leadership of English.

I am delighted to inform you that this week we appointed Mr James Malone to this position. On Tuesday I observed him teach our Y6 pupils and our Teaching and Learning Council came up with their own questions to ask each of the candidates! We carried out a demanding interview process and Mr Malone really showed his capabilities as an excellent classroom teacher, passionate English Leader and a motivating leader. We look forward to welcoming him to Etchells in September. He will be teaching one of our Y6 classes, alongside Miss Le Couteur.



Name Labels

As the weather gets warmer, the children start to take off their jumpers and leave in the playground and around school. For this reason, clothing must be named!!! Last year I brought your attention to a company which provides excellent name tapes which are produced as stickers and can be stuck onto clothing, plastic, shoes - anything really. They are in a fun format which the children can design themselves and have a 10 year guarantee!! I use these myself and can personally recommend them. They are usually sent out within a week of ordering. If you are interested, please follow this link to our website for details about how to order. If you can use the school code via this link, the company will also donate 20% of the cost to our PTA!

<https://www.mynametags.com/affiliate?id=26274>

* EYFS, Years 1 and 2: watch out for information coming home next week about an exciting Wildlife Watch project!!

* Year 6: save the date!!!! The prom for our Y6 leavers will be taking place on Thursday 16th July. It will have a new format this year and will be held in school. More info to follow...

Classroom replacement Scheme

For many months we have been working on a scheme to replace the mobile classrooms currently used by Y5 and 6F. We have been concerned about their condition as well as the fact that Y6 are split across 2 buildings and that the Breakfast and After School club have to operate in the main corridor. We have finalised a scheme that will involve the current mobile classrooms being replaced with 2 new blocks, each containing 2 classrooms. Years 5 and 6 will be based here. This will allow the room currently used by 6MC in the main corridor to be used by the Breakfast and After School Club, as well as other multi purpose uses. The scheme is still going through planning permission at the moment and the schedule is extremely tight. We are aiming for a September completion but we are prepared for the project taking some weeks longer. I have been in discussion with the staff however and we have a contingency plan to house the classes in the meantime. Everyone is determined to make it work in order to secure suitable accommodation for our children. We wanted you to know we have been addressing the accommodation issues in our school and will keep you posted on progress.

Change of Date!!!

The PTA have acknowledged concerns that the planned date for our Family Performance Evening clashes with Ramadan. We therefore propose to change the date to: Friday 12th June 5 - 7.30pm

We break up for the Easter holiday next Thursday and so therefore this will be the final School News of this term. Have a wonderful holiday and we will look forward to seeing everyone back safe and sound at 8.50am on Monday 20th April.

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows and the Etchells staff

