

# SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome Back | Building Update | Attendance

## Welcome Back!!

I would like to extend a huge welcome to our new Nursery and Reception children, as well as the new children who have started throughout the school. We hope you have had a good couple of days and are beginning to feel at home at Etchells. I would also like to welcome six new staff to our team. They have all made an excellent start and have certainly hit the ground running! I would like to take the opportunity to introduce them here and I'm sure you will see them out and about on the playground.

Mr Malone: Year 6 teacher/Assistant Headteacher/Upper Key Stage 2 phase leader

Miss Williams: Year 5 teacher

Mrs Townend: PPA cover and pupil support in Years 2, 3 and 4

Miss Laurie: PPA cover and pupil support in Nursery, Reception and Y1 (currently teaching in Year 1)

Mrs Hayward: Teaching assistant for class 1CF

Mrs Phillips: RSIA (Resource School Integration Assistant)

The children have all made an excellent start to the new term being very smartly dressed in their uniform and displaying outstanding behaviour around school. Can I remind everyone that black school shoes are required and not trainers.

## Very important!!!

This will be the ONLY newsletter that will be sent out on paper. From next week there will be NO paper copies sent home. Therefore it is vital that we have your most recent email address so the letter can be sent to you every Friday electronically. The newsletter will also be available to read on our website - there is a link from the home page, and an enlarged copy is placed in the hall window which can be viewed from the pathway into the playground.



## Building update

As you will have seen, the new building which will house four new classrooms for Years 5 and 6 is well underway. The expected completion date is 24th October and so we expect to take up occupancy after the October half term. Parents of Year 5 and 6 should have received a letter on Wednesday with more details regarding current arrangements for their child's class. Please look in bags if you haven't seen this. Many thanks for your patience and understanding during this period of time. We look forward to getting back to normal, as well as having a classroom space available again in the main school for our breakfast and after school club, packed lunches and groups throughout the day.

## Clubs

Because of the building work, space outside and in the hall (due to temporary re-housing of furniture) is extremely limited and certainly not safe to operate after school clubs. We expect to resume normal service with our indoor clubs after half term and will keep you notified about outdoor clubs. We hope to include some new opportunities for our after school provision this year so watch this space!!

## Dates

Dates for the year are just in the process of being finalised and we are aiming to have them up on the website calendar by the end of next week.

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows and the Etchells staff

## Attendance

As you are all aware, attendance for our school is a significant cause for concern. We remain below the National Average for our overall percentage for attendance. Absence has been shown to have a significant effect on the progress and achievement of pupils and so it is vital we keep days off school to an absolute minimum. We have had a disappointing start to the year with many families returning late from holidays. This year we will be taking a much stricter stance on authorising leave which is in line with some of our neighbouring schools. Trips abroad to attend weddings will no longer be authorised and we will continue to unauthorise any holidays during term time. Fines will be issued to families who take unauthorised absence. In addition to this, children who are off for a number of single days in a term will also be subject to fines, as will children who are persistently late.

Our EWO (Education Welfare Officer) comes into school on a monthly basis to monitor attendance and where necessary, will refer to the LA for fines.

Let's work together to improve this very important issue!



If you are new to us, please follow us on Twitter: [@EtchellsPS](https://twitter.com/EtchellsPS) to keep up to date with news, photos and celebrations.

