

EARLHAM NEWS



4th May 2018
Newsletter No 30

**Monday 7th May Bank Holiday
School Closed
Children return to school Tuesday 8th
May**

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Dear Earlham Community



We have reached the end of the year 'testing' period. This is a time when children are tested to see how secure they are in their learning and to plan next steps going forward especially with the transition to the next academic year in September.

There are many opinions about how best to assess children's learning and you might have seen debates, protests and even strikes over the years in response to the way 'testing' is conducted in UK Primary schools. It is clear that children's learning has to be monitored and it is not enough to simply teach without checking how much the children are actually learning (and see that they have secured that learning and can apply it in other contexts). It is also clear that having a goal/end-point such as testing, helps focus pupils and helps us all learn better and secure our learning. We also need evidence to support the Teacher's viewpoint so that it is not simply an intuitive call made by the teacher.

It is also clear that some children find traditional tests difficult and therefore might not do well on a written test but would prove verbally that they do understand their learning. Some children suffer from anxiety and simply go 'blank' during the stress of exams and tests. It is indeed clear that testing is very stressful and especially for young children.

For all these reasons, it is important to not rely solely on testing and to ensure that tests are part of an accurate picture of how well the child is actually doing in their learning so that the teacher can plan purposefully and help the pupil make the most progress. It is also crucial to try to make the testing environment calm and as stressless as possible whilst helping children to understand their responsibility to make good, positive choices to build their futures.



At Earlham we acknowledge that children will need to face testing and examinations as they develop in their lives and we strive to support them through the tests to develop and be their very best. There are 3 National tests conducted in May and June and those are the Key Stage 1 SATs conducted throughout May in Year 2 and the Key Stage 2 SATs conducted in May in Year 6 and the Phonics screening check conducted in June in Year 1.



We strive to help the children prepare as best as possible, we ask them to do their best and we strive to inspire and encourage them to do their best and use every experience as a learning experience to build their futures.

I am very proud of our children who are really working hard and it is pleasing to see the calm and purposeful learning environment within Earlham even at this time.

We have already started the plans for hand-over to Teachers for next academic year and in July, the children will get a chance to visit their new classrooms and staff so that they can settle and be ready for September.



All teachers will be involved in final assessments in June and will hand these over to the next teacher (and we will of course report in writing to Parents).

We all need to make sure that our children are at school every day, well-rested and ready to give their best so that they build their bright futures

Yours sincerely
Mr Kerbel



Class Attendance for week ending 20/04/18

Lapis Lazuli	Rose Quartz	Ruby	Moonstone	Jade	Emerald	Pearl	Opal	Amethyst	Sapphire	Amber	Coral
91.3%	 94.8%	94.5%	89.1%	96.4%	93.1%	97%	91.8%	95%	97%	97%	 98.7%



Attendance

It is an established fact that children who attend school regularly, have better opportunities to make academic progress, good friendships and feel safe at school. Attendance is crucial for your child's well-being. Please make every effort to get your child to school on time every day. Please note that if your child is absent from school due to sickness, medical evidence must be provided. **Every effort should be made to make appointments out of school time unless that is really not possible.**



Very Important Message Holidays/Special Leave

Please remember we are unable to authorise any requests for holidays or special leave during term time. If you take your child out of school during term time there is a possibility that you will be fined and that you may lose your child's school place at Earlham.

Equipment

Please ensure that your child has everything they need for their day at school. Forgotten items such as packed lunch, PE kit, and musical instruments causes disruption to lessons and the school office.

Earlham Primary Term Dates

Summer 1	Monday 16 April 2018	Friday 25 May 2018
<i>Holiday</i>	<i>Monday 28 May 2018</i>	<i>Friday 1 June 2018</i>
Summer 2	Monday 4 June 2018	Friday 20 July 2018
Training and Development Days (when children are not in school) Please note new date for TAD Day Monday 4th June 2018 Friday 20th July 2018		
Bank Holiday Monday 7th May - School Closed		

Important Message

Please note the change of Training and Development Days.

**Monday 4th June 2018 is now a TAD day
(children are not in school on this day)**

**Thursday 19th July is no longer a TAD day
and children should be in school.**

**School will finish at 2.00pm on
Thursday 19th July.**