

## **NEWSLETTER 1 – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

Dear Parents, Pupils & Governors,

**Welcome** to the new school year – everyone arrived looking smart in their uniforms. Thank you to all the parents who encouraged their children to complete work over the holidays and take part in the library Reading Challenge. We would like to welcome new staff - Mr Smith our new Site Manager, Mrs Mansbridge our new Teaching Assistant and Miss Woods working in Miss Drissell's class as a student teacher.

**Term Time Holiday Information from Attendance Compliance Enforcement Service** – Please read the attached page outlining the Warwickshire County Council policy on term time leave of absence.

**Reception Class** - Reception children have made a really good start, thanks to parents for preparing them for this big step and to the BSA for helping our new parents with a welcoming coffee morning.

**Contact Details & Consent (GDPR)** – Your child has brought home an envelope containing:

- **Data collection sheets** - Please check the details carefully and amend as required. Safeguarding regulations require us to have at least **2** emergency contacts. Please remember to sign the form on the back page.
- **Internet Use Agreement Forms** (Year 1 – 6) – Please read carefully and return the signed agreement.

All signed forms should be returned by **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Sep.** Our Privacy Notice detailing how we use information about children is on our school website.

**School Safety** – Please remember the drop off area is for dropping off only – **do not use it for parking.** There is ample space in the Wards Lane car park for parents to park and then walk children safely into school. Disabled bays are available for those drivers with a Blue Badge.

**Sims Pay** - Please contact the office for a new activation code if you need one.

**PE Days** – Children will take part in PE sessions on the following days and should come to school in their kit:

Mrs Bond/Mrs Flavell Year 1 – Wednesday & Thursday   Mrs Hudson Year 1/2 - Thursday  
Mrs Walsh Year 2 – Thursday   Mr Thackway Year 3 – Thursday (Swimming)  
Miss Powell Year 3/4 – Thursday (Year 3 Swimming)   Miss Drissell Year 4 – Friday  
Miss Butler Year 5 – Tuesday   Miss Eyles Year 5/6 – Wednesday   Mrs Mills Year 6 - Monday

### **Reminders:**

- **School Meals** – The price of a school meal is **£2.35** for children in KS2 and are free for children in Reception & KS1. Families of children entitled to income dependent free school meals should still register so that we can claim **Pupil Premium of up to £1390** to help support your child in school. Please go to [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals) to apply or contact us in confidence for further information. *Delibags* are available for children in Reception and KS1. These must be ordered at morning registration and orders cannot be changed at lunchtime.
- **Water Bottles** – All children should bring in a named water bottle each day. Do not send in juice or cans of water.
- **Nut Allergies** - Several children in school have severe nut allergies. Please help us ensure their safety by not including any nut products in packed lunches.

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- **Milk** – If you would like your child to receive milk during the school day, please apply online at [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com). Children who are **under 5** receive free milk, but parents still need to apply online. Children who qualify for welfare free school meals are also entitled to free milk – please ask at the office.
- **Book Bags** – Children in KS1 should use bookbags for transporting books to and from school. Please do not use a rucksack.
- **Reading Books** – Please check at home for school reading books that you may still have.
- **Clothing** - All children should have a coat for playtimes and come into school in their full PE kit on their PE days (not Reception). Please ensure everything is named – we have already had some mislaid items!
- **School website** – Please use our website ([www.bidfordonavon.warwickshire.sch.uk](http://www.bidfordonavon.warwickshire.sch.uk)) to find lots of useful information about school including term dates, diary dates, dinner menus, newsletters, activities and policies.

**Clubs** – During the year we provide a variety of after school activities. Some of these are privately run by external providers who take responsibility for the children and charge a fee.

- French Club (for all Years) starts Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Sept 3.20 – 4.20pm (fee payable)
- Girls Football (for Years 3-6) starts Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Sept 3.20–4.30pm
- Artbase (for Years 1–6) starts Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Sept 3.20 – 4.20pm (fee payable)
- Netball Club (for Years 5 & 6) starts Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Sept 3.20-4.30pm
- Tag Rugby Club (for Years 4-6) starts Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Sept 3.20-4.30pm
- Spanish Club (for all Years) starts Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Sept 3.20 – 4.20pm (fee payable)

Letters are available from the office and details of other clubs will follow over the next few weeks.

#### **Dates for your Diary** –

- Y5 (Mon 9<sup>th</sup>), Y5/6 (Tues 10<sup>th</sup>), Y6 (Wed 11<sup>th</sup>) will be going *Bellboating* next week, please send your child into school in appropriate clothing with a packed lunch.
- *Year 3 Swimming lessons* start on Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> Sept, please send your child to school in their PE kit, contribution per week is £3.16 which can be made online via Sims Pay or at the office.
- *KS2 music lessons* start next week, please send your child in with their instrument if they have signed up for a class.
- *Individual pupil photographs* will be taken (where consent has been given) on Fri 11<sup>th</sup> Oct.
- *School Open Mornings* for prospective parents will be on Tues 16<sup>th</sup> and Weds 17<sup>th</sup> October between 10 and 11.30am.
- *Teacher Training Day* (school closed to children) on Fri 25<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Book of the Week** – Children in Reception have been reading ‘Little Owl’s First Day’ by Debi Gliori. The first day at school is a big day for little owl but he would rather be having a small day at home with Mum and Dad. But at school he learns how to fly and makes a new friend – maybe big days can be fun after all!

**Mr A Simms**

***The latest from Bidford School Association...***

Welcome back to all our new and existing parents and carers! We hope you had a lovely summer.

To all – please find us on Facebook **‘Bidford School BSA’** to see our latest information and notifications of upcoming dates for your diary!

*Do you feel this year you would like to join the BSA in raising funds for our school? Could you help out at events? We are always keen for new faces and ideas so please make yourself known either through Facebook, the office or one of us and we can have a chat*

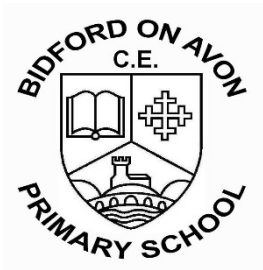
New term meeting coming soon – keep a look out for the date. A perfect opportunity for us to welcome new and old members!

*We are looking forward to another successful fundraising year!*

***Follow us on Facebook – Bidford School BSA***

***The core BSA Committee:  
Glenda, Milly, Katie and Sue***

Glenda Vassie - Vice-Chair  
Milly Deguara – Secretary  
Sue Woodward – Treasurer  
Katie Ballard - Communications



## **Bidford School Association - Information Letter**

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Parents of Reception children,

We hope your children are settling in well and enjoying the start of their school journey! At this point of the year, the BSA are just starting to get moving on the events for the year and we thought it would be good to write to each of you to give you an overview. This should help you to settle in, too!

The BSA is a parent run group of volunteers who hold various events throughout the school year to raise money for the school and equipment. Last year's fundraising contributed £9000 to the school with the new wooden play area for reception children, new Early Years equipment and KS1 books. This year we are working towards funding more new books for the school, resurfacing and updating the adventure play equipment and re-roofing the playground shelters.

Each week we update you with any news on the back of the blue newsletter. Our Facebook page is where all of our information is posted – like us '**BIDFORD SCHOOL BSA**'

Our upcoming events:

**Disco** – We hold two discos each year and the first is during this first term with the second in the summer term.

For their first year we hold a quieter, separate Reception-only disco which is held during the school day at no cost.

We provide fun games and a chill-out room so children can really enjoy themselves. There's a break with a biscuit and drink and we give them water when they ask. We hope your child will love their first disco!

**Christmas Fair** – This will be in the last few weeks of term in the evening (normally 6pm start). We have games, tasty food, a bar and crafts stalls for some lovely things to do and buy! We will be selling tickets to meet Santa a couple of weeks before the event – we usually set up a table for selling any tickets outside the school office. We also ask parents to donate to the tombola if they are able, and also to bake something for the cake stall to bring on the day if possible. All the details will be printed on the blue BSA newsletter so keep reading!

Our sole aim is to raise funds for the school while giving parents and children a chance to support the events and enjoy their school all the more!

We are always looking for more volunteers, so if you feel you want to join in the fun and help support your child's school we would love to speak to you!

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please contact the BSA through our Facebook page or through the office – one of us can find you to answer any queries!

Thank you

The BSA Team

Glenda Vassie, Sue Woodward, Milly Deguara and Katie Ballard

# LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

## UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court recently reached a decision in the case of Platt v Isle of Wight Council which has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time. The parents of children of compulsory school age are required to ensure that they attend school on a regular basis. The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

Head Teachers retain the ability to authorise leave in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. When considering such requests for a leave of absence, the school are obliged to act within the law. Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application. If the leave is granted, head teachers are able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for.

It is for the Head Teacher to decide what is 'exceptional' and it is at their discretion if the circumstances warrant the leave to be granted. The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent.

*Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case by case basis and on its own merits.*

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child will be required to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence, which may result in legal action being taken against the parent(s), by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Failure to make an application for leave in advance can also result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council.

**It is important to note**, Fixed Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices in the amount of £120 each, totalling £240 for both children, this is reduced to £60 per child if paid within 21 days).

Where a Fixed Penalty Notice is not paid within the required timeframe as set out on the notice, the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal proceedings under S444 Education Act 1996.

Fixed Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices.

**Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority**

**Warwickshire Primary School pupils recorded 36,101 half day sessions of absence due to holiday in the Autumn/Spring term during the academic year 2018/19. This is an increase of 6,398 on the previous year.**