

## **NEWSLETTER 16 – 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

Dear Parents, Pupils & Governors,

Happy New Year and welcome to the new term. I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas holiday.

**World War II** – All the children in KS2 have started their new topic on World War 2 this week. Look out for more updates on the topic and details of educational visits that are planned for later this term.

### **Reminders :**

- *Attendance* – The school day starts at 8.55am when the gates close – please ensure your child arrives on time.
- *Term Time Leave of Absence* – Please see attached information for the Warwickshire Attendance Service.
- *Bumped Heads* – If your child bumps their head during school time they will be sent home with a 'Bumped Head' letter giving details of the bump and adverse symptoms to look out for. The school office will also try to telephone parents in the afternoon to let them know.
- *Homework* – Please encourage your child to complete homework and return to school at the set time.

**Pupils Favourites Menu** – On *Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> Jan* we will be having a special favourites menu: Fish in Breadcrumbs or Vegetarian Bolognaise, Potato Wedges/Pasta, Sweetcorn, Beans, with Chocolate Brownie or Mousse for dessert. Meals are free for children in Reception & KS1 and are £2.35 for children in KS2.

**Reception Admissions for Sept 2020** - To secure a school place for children born between 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2015 and 31<sup>st</sup> Aug 2016 you must apply online at [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/admissions) by the deadline of **Weds 15<sup>th</sup> Jan**.

**Eye Tests** - Children may not always know that they have a vision problem so it is recommended that children have regular eye tests. These should be carried out at least once every two years, even if there are no problems with their eyesight. These tests can be done at a high street opticians and are free for all children under 16 years old (and those under 19 years old in full-time education). You can speak to your child's optician if you have any concerns about their vision. The opportunity to discuss any health issues relating to your child is always available from the School Health and Wellbeing Service. They can be contacted on 03300 245 204.

### **Clubs Update :**

- Spanish, Girls Indoor Athletics, Cooking Club (Group 3), Girls Football club and Multiskills have all started.
- French, ArtBase (collect a letter from the office) and Boys Football restart w/c 13<sup>th</sup> Jan. There are still spaces in both French and Spanish Club, please email Nédia on [pillon@lcfclubs.com](mailto:pillon@lcfclubs.com).
- Cooking Club (Group 3) is on Weds 15<sup>th</sup> Jan instead of Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> Jan.
- The next Girls Athletics club is on Mon 13<sup>th</sup> Jan and every Mon thereafter until 10<sup>th</sup> Feb.

**Book of the Week** – Children in Reception have been reading 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson. Walk further into the deep dark wood, and discover what happens when the quick-thinking mouse comes face to face with an owl, a snake and a hungry gruffalo .....

**Mr A Simms**

# 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 22,593 half day sessions of absence due to holiday in the Autumn/Spring term during the academic year 2018/19. This is an increase of 4,612 on the previous year.**

# Could your child be eligible for extra help?

Families who receive the following are eligible for Free School Meals:

- Income support
- Income-based job seeker's allowance (JSA)
- Income-related employment and support allowance (ESA)
- Guarantee element of state pension credit
- Universal credit (with an annual income of less than £7,400)
- Both income-cased and contribution-based JSA/ESA if you receive the same amount for both. You should also qualify if you receive both but the Income-based amount is greater, but not if the contribution-based amount is greater
- Families who are awarded Child Tax Credit and have an annual income, as assessed by HMRC, not in excess of £16,190 are also eligible to claim free school meals providing there is no entitlement to Working Tax Credit (unless in respect of a 4-week 'run-on').

The online checking system only confirms or denies your eligibility to claim free school meals: it does not give us any other information. If you are currently in receipt of either Universal Credit or the 4-week run on of Working Tax Credit the system will not automatically be able to determine your eligibility, therefore you will need to send proof that you are in receipt of these benefits to the Free School Meals office once you have completed and saved your application. When your eligibility has been confirmed and your application processed, you will be sent an email confirming eligibility. The school will also receive notification of your child's application.

## What is Pupil Premium?

The government pays extra money to schools for every child whose parents receive the support payments above and register for Free School Meals. This money can then be spent in school to support their achievement.

## How will it benefit my child?

As well as there being more money to help your child learn, they will also be eligible for a free school meal, which can save you up to £446 per year (for children in years 3 – 6).

## Does my child have to eat the school meal?

No, but even if they don't the school will still get the Pupil Premium to use to boost achievement.

## How do I apply?

The application process could not be simpler!

You can apply through the website:

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)

OR

Make a telephone call [Tel:- 01926 359189](tel:01926359189)

If you would like assistance in making your application the please do not hesitate to contact us. We would be happy to have you come in to school and be assisted in making the online application.

*The latest from Bidford School Association...*

*Welcome back!! We hope you had a lovely break!*

Thanks to all the support we received from you last year with our fundraising events and donations, today all the children enjoyed a performance of ***Aladdin*** in the school hall!!!

The BSA arranged for ‘West End in Schools’ - a professional performing arts company - to come and present their show to the children.

We hope they all enjoyed it, “Oh no they didn’t!! OH YES THEY DID!!!” they certainly seemed to have a brilliant time!!

Lots of dates for your diary coming up – keep a look out for our first meeting of the year to plan more fundraisers to keep these sorts of days happening for the school!!

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

***The core BSA Committee:  
Katie, Milly, Carrie-Anne,  
Tabitha and Vickie***

Katie Ballard – Chair  
Milly Deguara – Vice Chair  
Tabitha Gibson – Secretary  
Carrie-Anne Walker – Treasurer  
Vickie Owen - Communications