

## **NEWSLETTER 1 – 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

Dear Parents, Pupils & Governors,

**Welcome** to the new school year – everyone arrived looking smart in their uniforms and it is lovely to have all the pupils back in school along with our new Reception children. We are pleased to welcome back Mrs Flavell who will be teaching the Year 1 and 1/2 pupils and we welcome Mrs Hasler to our TA team and Miss Sheehan and Miss Hawkins as student teachers.

**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.

**Illness** - This is the time of year when many children get coughs and colds. It is important to be aware of Covid symptoms and to distinguish them from normal seasonal illness. If your child becomes unwell with a new and persistent cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell they must stay at home and follow '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)'. This guidance sets out that they should self-isolate for at least 10 days and should [arrange to have a test](#) to see if they have coronavirus. If your child just has a bit of a cold and is well enough to come to school then they should do so.

**Contact Details & Consent (GDPR)** – This week 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.
- **Photo Consent Forms** – Please indicate where you give consent for the use of images of your child.
- **Internet Use Agreement Forms** (Year 1 – 6) – Please read carefully and return the signed agreement.

All signed forms should be returned by **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> Sep.** Our Privacy Notice detailing how we use information about children is on our school website.

**Sims Pay** – We would like parents to only use our online payment method, Sims Pay, to make payments to school (dinner money, trips etc). Please contact the office for an activation letter and code if you do not already have an account. Your support in using this method will help the school enormously, thank you.

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

Mrs Bond Year 1 – Friday    Mrs Hudson Year 1/2 - Thursday

Mrs Walsh Year 2 – Thursday    Mr Thackway Year 3 – Friday

Miss Powell Year 3/4 – Thursday    Miss Drissell Year 4 – Monday

Miss Butler Year 5 – Tuesday    Miss Eyles Year 5/6 – Monday    Mrs Mills Year 6 – Wednesday

PE kit is royal blue shorts, white T shirt, plain black joggers, plain black trainers and school sweatshirt or royal blue school hoody.

**Forest School** - Children in Reception and Year 1 will take part in Forest School sessions each week and should come to school wearing their Forest School clothes on the following days:

Mrs Ellwood Rec - Monday    Mrs Roberts Rec – Thursday    Mrs Bond Year 1 Tuesday

Mrs Hudson Year 1 only – Wednesday

**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.

**Cont.....**

**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 and staff in school have severe nut allergies. Please help us ensure their safety by not including any nut products in packed lunches.

**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 and can be purchased from the school office. 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.

**Book of the Week** – Children in Reception have been reading ‘Harry & the Dinosaurs Start School’ by Ian Whybrow. Harry's dinosaur friends don't join him in the classroom on his first day at school and so he is not so sure he's going to like it; but the dinosaurs come to the rescue and Harry and his new friend learn just how much fun school can really be!

**Mr A Simms**

# Warwickshire Attendance Service

## Attendance Policy Extract:

### ***Leave of Absence***

The Government issued new regulations in September 2013 regarding Leave of Absence; The Education (Pupil Regulations) (England) Regulations 2006 as amended by Education (Pupil Regulations) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013

- Head teachers **shall not** grant **any** Leave of Absence during term time **unless they consider** there are **exceptional** circumstances relating to the application.
- Parents do not have any entitlement to take their children on holiday during term time. Any application for leave must establish that there are **exceptional circumstances** and the Head Teacher must be satisfied that the circumstances warrant the granting of leave.
- Head Teachers will determine how many school days a child may be absent from school if the leave is granted.
- The school can only consider applications for Leave of Absence which are made by the resident parent. i.e the parent with whom the child normally resides.
- Applications for Leave of Absence must be made in advance and failure to do so will result in the absence being recorded as “unauthorised”. This may result in legal action against the parent, by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.
- Applications for Leave of Absence which are made in advance and refused will result in the absence being recorded as “unauthorised”. This may result in legal action against the parent, by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice, if the child is absent from school during that period.
- All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Attendance, Compliance and Enforcement Service of Warwickshire County Council.
- The Attendance, Compliance and Enforcement Service have the authority to consider issuing Fixed Penalty Notices for Leave of Absence in line with the Warwickshire County Council’s Non-School Attendance and Penalty Notices Code of Conduct. (A copy of which can be found at <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/pupilnonattendance>).
- If a Fixed Penalty Notice is issued and is not paid within the timeframe set out in that Notice, the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council’s Legal Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of Education Act 1996.

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