

Bidford on Avon

Church of England Primary School



NEWSLETTER 1 – 10th September 2021

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 Miss Sheehan and Mrs Butterworth to our staff. Thank you for supporting us as we have made adjustments to the organisation of school access this week to help us all stay safe.

Covid Arrangements

- If your child is unwell they should remain at home until they are better. A PCR test should be taken if they are displaying Covid symptoms.
- If your child receives a positive Covid-19 test result outside of school hours, please leave a message on the school answerphone and send a text to 07591 541444 immediately. We will contact you to confirm the next steps. Please do not use this number for any other messages. If your child receives a negative Covid-19 test result please contact the office on 01789 773201 before sending your child back to school.
- Parents are no longer required to wear masks but please continue if you feel more comfortable doing so. Due to the confined space, only one family should come into the office foyer at a time.

Contact Details & Consent (GDPR) – This week your child has brought home an envelope containing their Data collection sheet. 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. All signed forms should be returned by **Monday 13th Sep.** Our Privacy Notice detailing how we use information about children is on our school website.

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.

Year 4 Swimming – Sessions begin on Weds 15th Sept, pupils in Year 4 should come to school in their PE kit with their swimming kit in a names bag.

Mrs Mills' class – Children in Mrs Mills' class will have PE on Thursday 16th September instead of Friday 17th September.

Year 6 PGL – The PGL parent meeting will be held in school on Thurs 16th Sept at 6.30pm. Only one parent from each family should attend and children are unable to attend.

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 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.

School meals are ordered at registration each morning so please ensure your child is familiar with the menu choice.

Cont.....

Message from the School Health & Wellbeing Team

Warwickshire School Health and Wellbeing service are now called Connect for Health. They will continue to support families and schools as before and will provide the same services. They are also still part of the UK charity Compass. Please see their September newsletter for more information <https://www.compass-uk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Newsletter-September-2021.pdf>. The opportunity to discuss any health issues relating to your child is always available. Parents/carers are able to contact the service for advice and support through a confidential text messaging service available Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm on **07520 619376** or by using the email address provided in the newsletter.

Currently, the link to the school entry health questionnaire, for parents of Reception pupils, remains open and we would like to encourage as many parents/carers as possible to complete the questionnaire. For more information please see use this link, [compass-uk.org/remind-let-ter-to-se-parents-sept2021](https://www.compass-uk.org/remind-let-ter-to-se-parents-sept2021)) The link will be closing before the end of September to allow us to undertake some analysis on the data it has provided.

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. 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 book bags 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 from last year.

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) to find lots of useful information about school including term dates, diary dates, dinner menus, newsletters, activities and policies.

Message from The Bidford School Association - We hope everyone has enjoyed their first week in school and it was lovely to meet some reception parents this morning for a coffee. Watch this space for a Halloween event - more details will follow. As ever, we need more of you to volunteer with the BSA to help put on and organise events. As little or as much as you want to do is always appreciated! If you would like to join the BSA or are willing to help at events please do give your details to the office so we can have a chat!

Book of the Week – Children in Mrs Bond's and Mrs Flavell's class have been reading 'The Troll' by Julia Donaldson. The Troll longs for a goat - but has to make do with fish for supper instead. Meanwhile, Hank Chief and his pirate crew are digging for treasure - but it seems they've sailed to the wrong island...Again!



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.