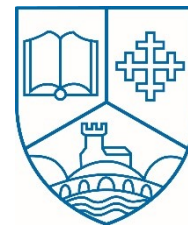


# Bidford on Avon Church of England Primary School



## **NEWSLETTER 15 – 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

Dear Parents, Pupils & Governors,

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

**Spring Term Topics** – This term, children in KS1 will be finding out about Africa: where Africa is in the world and looking at the types of animals that live there, particularly in Kenya. The topic for KS2 pupils is Tudors and pupils will be investigating what it was like to live in Tudor times and finding out about famous Tudors, including William Shakespeare.

### **Attendance**

- The school day starts at 8.55am when the gates close – please ensure your child arrives on time and that you see them into the school premises before you leave the site.
- Please see the statement below from the Warwickshire Attendance Service regarding Leave of Absence in Term Time.

**Reception Intake 2022** – If you have a child due to start in Reception in September 2022, the deadline for applications is **15<sup>th</sup> Jan** via the following link <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/admissions> .

**Educational Mental Health Practitioners** - As mentioned on previous newsletters, on Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> Jan we planned to host our first Educational Mental Health Practitioners (EMHP) coffee morning. Due to COVID restrictions, the practitioners are no longer able to host this event face to face, but we will now be holding two online sessions so you can join from the comfort of your own home. This will be an opportunity for you to talk with our practitioners, to learn more about their role within our school and to ask questions. The first session will be at 9:15am and the second session at 4pm. We are hoping that by providing these two time slots more people will be able to join us and benefit from the sessions. The sessions will cover the same content so you only need to attend one links to the meetings will be sent out prior to the sessions

### **Covid Arrangements**

- Increased ventilation in the classrooms during this cold weather may mean your child wishes to wear an additional clothing layer or bring a small blanket to have on their lap.
- We request that parents wear a face covering while on the school site and maintain social distancing wherever possible.
- **ALL** visitors that come into the school building **must wear a face covering**.
- 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.
- Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. If both these test results are negative, and your child does not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school from day 7.

Cont.....

- Although there has not been any update to the national definition of Covid-19 symptoms (cough, high temperature, loss/change in taste/smell), please also be mindful of the wider symptoms of Covid-19 – sore throat, headache, fatigue, muscle aches, blocked/runny nose, shortness of breath, diarrhoea and vomiting, and cold-like symptoms. Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms should isolate and book a PCR test.
- If your child displays symptoms of Covid in school, we will take their temperature and test their sense of smell before phoning you to come and collect them if we feel it is necessary.

**Clubs Update:-**

- Football Clubs for Year 3 & 4 boys, KS2 girls and Year 5 & 6 boys will restart w/c 10<sup>th</sup> Jan.
- Indoor Athletics (3.20-4.30pm) starts on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January for all of those who filled in the online form before Christmas. We will remind your child that they have a place on the club.
- Indoor Hockey for Year 3 starts Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January, an email has been sent with a link to the online form.
- French Club continues on 10<sup>th</sup> Jan. To book contact Nedra via [French Club](#).

**Payments to School** - Please make payment online for:

- Spring Term Music Tuition
- Spring Term Year 4 Swimming lessons
- Y5 PGL Payment – The January instalment of £26 is due by 13<sup>th</sup> January..

**School Kitchen Vacancy** – Educaterers currently have a vacancy for a permanent Catering Assistant for 12.5 hours a week at £9.43 per hour. Please email your CV with a covering letter/email to [hr@educaterers.co.uk](mailto:hr@educaterers.co.uk), phone number 01926 743434.

**Book of the Week** – Children in Year 5 and 6 have been reading “Egyptian Cinderella” by Shirley Climo. This Egyptian spin on the classic Cinderella tale was initially recorded in the first century by a Roman historian. Rhodopis is a slave and only the beautiful rose-red slippers her master gives her can make her smile. One of the slippers is snatched by a Falcon - it ends up in the lap of the Pharaoh who promises to find the slipper’s owner and make her queen of all Egypt.

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 Attendance Service**