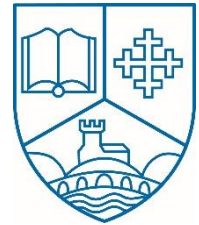


Bidford on Avon

Church of England Primary School



NEWSLETTER 1 – 8th September 2023

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.

Term Time Holiday Information from Attendance Compliance Enforcement Service – Please read the page below outlining the Warwickshire County Council policy on term time leave of absence. This information is also shown on our school website.

Book Stall – On Wednesday 13th September, there will be a book stall outside the school hall at the end of the day. Please help yourself to any books, there will be no charge but a donation box will be there if you wish to make a contribution.

Classroom Visits – Parents are invited to visit their child's classroom and meet their teacher after school on Thursday 14th September. We will dismiss all children as normal at home time, once all children have left the classrooms you will be welcomed back inside with your children for them to show you their work space. Please be mindful this is not a parents evening but teachers will be available to answer any quick questions you may have.

Contact Details & Consent (GDPR) – If you did not return your Data Collection sheet last term, another one will be out shortly. Please check the details carefully and amend as required. It is important that we have up to date contact information and 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 18th Sept.** Our Privacy Notice detailing how we use information about children is on our school website.

Celebration Collective Worship - We will be starting Celebration Collective Worship for children in Years 1 to 6 again on Fri 15th Sept at 2.45pm. If your child has earned an award outside of school for their attainment in a specific activity (e.g. swimming, music, gymnastics) they are able to bring it in and have it presented in front of the other children. We do not accept certificates for attendance at theme parks, holiday or sports clubs. Please bring in certificates/trophies before the end of Thursday.

School Meals – The price of a school meal is **£2.50** 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 £1385** 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 before coming into school. Menus can be found on the school website.

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.

Parking – There is no parent parking on the school site during drop off and pick up times. Please use the car park in Wards Lane, behind the Fire Station.

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.

Clubs – Emails have been sent this week with details of after school clubs starting next week and a link to register online:

Monday - Year 3 & 4 Boys Football

Tuesday - Year 4, 5 & 6 Multisports

Wednesday - Year 5 & 6 Boys Football

Thursday – Year 3 to 6 Girls Football

Friday - Y2 Multisports

Bellboating – The Year 5 and 6 children will be going bellboating w/c 18th September and should come to school wearing plenty of layers – t-shirt/sweatshirt/fleece/joggers/tracksuit (not jeans) with a rain jacket (and waterproof trousers if they have some). Children will need to bring a packed lunch and should also bring spare clothes in a carrier bag. Mrs Satchwell's class – Monday 18th, Miss Waters Class Tuesday 19th & Mrs Mills' class Thurs 21st.

Year 4 Swimming – Sessions begin on Wednesday 13th Sept - pupils in Year 4 should come to school in their PE kit with their swimming kit in a named bag. They do not need to bring in their book bag on a Wednesday. Pupils need to arrive promptly at 8.45am and come to the school hall as normal. Please ensure your child has been to the toilet before arriving at school. The coach will be leaving at 8.55am and unfortunately any later arrivals will not be able to go swimming.

Year 6 PGL – The PGL parent meeting will be held in school on Thurs 14th Sept at 6.30pm. Parents are invited to attend. Children will have a meeting in school time so should not come in the evening.

Forest School – On Forest School days, children should come to school wearing their Forest School clothes and bring their wellies and waterproofs in a bag. Please note this is a change from the previous instruction.

Book Bags – Children in KS1 should use book bags for transporting books to and from school - please do not use a rucksack. Book bags can be purchased from the school office.

Reading Books – Please check at home for school reading books that you may still have from last year. Home reading books will begin to be issued over the next few weeks in line with our homework policy.

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.

Volunteers – We are always grateful for volunteers to come and help support us with activities e.g. reading, sewing, school trips. If you would be able to help us please call into the school office. A Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check would be required.

School Admissions – If you have a child moving to Secondary school from September 2024 applications need to be made by 31st Oct 2023, you may find the following information from School Admissions helpful:

- Parent guide - providing guidance to parents to help decide and apply for a school place
<https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-1980322935-2186>
- Video animation for parents <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V7yVvgN9tAs>

St Benedicts open evening clashes with our PGL trip. They have given us another date of Tuesday 3rd October at 4pm which is for Y6 Bidford Parents only.

Online Payments - We are introducing School Gateway to Bidford-on-Avon Primary School – a parent engagement app that will allow you to make payments and for us to communicate with you.

Please download the app by searching [School Gateway](#) in your App store or download using the links below.

Apple iPhone users, download the app here: schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload

Android phone users, download the app here: schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload

Your login details will be automatically generated using the contact information that we already have for you, so please make sure the details we hold for you are up to date. You can check and change these details on the data collection sheet that was sent home recently.

If you have any questions or would like some more information, please see the School Gateway site here: <https://schoolgateway.co.uk/> or contact the school office.

You can also login to the online version of School Gateway via this site if you do not have a smart phone, although we do recommend using the app.

Payments will appear as Parent Pay on your bank statements.

Book of the Week – Children in Reception have been reading ‘Little Owl’s First Day’ by Debi Glilori. It’s a big day for Little Owl. It is his first day at school but he would rather stay at home and have fun with Mummy and Baby Owl. But at school he gets to build a rocket, learn to fly and even make a tiny new friend - maybe big days spent with friends can be lots of fun after all!

Mr A Simms

WCC Attendance Compliance Enforcement Service

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 Warwickshire Attendance Service of Warwickshire County Council.
- The Warwickshire Attendance 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.