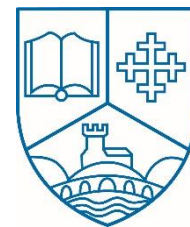


Bidford on Avon Church of England Primary School



NEWSLETTER 16 – 12th January 20240

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

Dates for the diary

- **Tuesday 23rd & Wednesday 24th January** - Reception Phonic workshops
- **Tuesday 30th January** – Educational Mental Health Practitioner coffee morning
- **Thursday 1st February** - Parent consultation meetings
- **Friday 9th February** – Break up for half term

(More information to follow on next week's newsletter about the workshops, coffee morning and parent consultations)

Spring term theme

Each term we focus on a theme linked to our vision statement. This term we are looking at *social awareness and relationship skills*. The theme is presented and explored in collective worship and during lessons. To support children's understanding we use the objectives below to teach children what the themes looks like in everyday life.

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Social awareness</p> <p>Compassion</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I understand how other people feel and why they behave the way they do.</i> • <i>I understand (how I am expected to behave in public) how to behave in public and the rules we follow in society.</i> • <i>I respect others and appreciate the differences between people and cultures.</i> • <i>I know how my family, school and local community can help me.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding emotions • Empathy/sympathy • Appreciating diversity • Respect for others • Trusting in goodness |
| <p>Relationship skills</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I am able to make and keep friendships.</i> • <i>I mix happily with other people and groups of people.</i> • <i>I can communicate clearly, listen well, share ideas and cooperate with others.</i> • <i>I resist inappropriate social pressure and sort out arguments.</i> • <i>I seek and offer help when needed.</i> • <i>I feel that I am related to something bigger than myself.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication • Social engagement • Relationship building • Teamwork • Meaning, identity, purpose |

Spring Term Topics – This term's topics are:

Year 1 & 2 Africa - They will be looking at how cultures differ, the wildlife that roam the plains and comparing life in Bidford to Africa.

Year 3 & 4 Ancient Egypt - They will be looking at how the pyramids were built, the discovery of the tomb of Tutankamun and gods and goddesses.

Year 5 & 6– Year 5 & 6 will be developing and deepening the earlier work they did on the Tudors in Y3 &4.

Young Voices – Mrs Roberts, Mrs Moore, Miss Hickman and Mrs Connolly travelled to the Resorts World Arena with a group of KS2 children for the annual Young Voices concert. The children have been preparing for the event since September and have had to learn a variety of songs and dance moves for the performance with a 6000 strong choir. They did amazingly and it was a truly magical night. The club has now finished but are already looking forward to doing it again next year.

Lock Down – As part of our Health and Safety policies and procedures the school has a Lock Down Policy. On very rare occasions it may be necessary to seal off the school so that it cannot be entered from the outside. This will ensure that pupils, staff and visitors are safe in situations where there is a hazard in the school grounds or outside the school in the near vicinity. A lock down is implemented when there are serious security risks to staff, pupils and the premises due to, for example, near-by chemical spillage, proximity of dangerous dogs, serious weather conditions, intruders or attempted access by unauthorised persons threatening or intent in causing harm/damage. This week we have been talking to the pupils about our lock down procedures and did a practise run with them today. They all did very well and the whole school was securely locked down in under four minutes.

Collective worship - Mr Stevens, a lay preacher from St Laurence’s church, is supporting us with collective worship and will be coming into school on a regular basis. This week, along with his puppet helper Douglas, he looked at how resilience can help us to develop our character and that through prayer we can have a relationship with God.

Reminders:

Earrings – Please ensure children are wearing stud earrings and not hooped as outlined in our uniform policy.

Attendance - The school day starts at 8.55am when the gates/doors close. Please ensure your child arrives on time and that you see them into the school premises before you leave the site. When a child enters the classroom after registration it not only interrupts the teacher but also all of the other children who have come into school on time. Letters will be sent to parents whose children are persistently late and continuing instances will be referred to the Local Authority.

Please see the statement below from the Warwickshire Attendance Service regarding Leave of Absence in Term Time.

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 £29 was due by 13th January.

Reception 2024 –The school applications window opened on 1st November for children starting in Reception in September 2024. Please apply via [Warwickshire reception 2024](#) by 15th January 2024.

Book of the Week – Miss Drissell’s Class are reading “There’s a Pharaoh in our Bath” by Jeremy Strong. Tony Lightspeed is always bringing home sick and injured animals, so when he turns up with an unconscious man dressed from head to toe in rather stinky bandages, his family aren't too surprised. But then they discover that the man is an ancient Egyptian pharaoh named Sennapod, who has been dead for over 4,000 years. Brought back to life by two dastardly grave robbers, Sennapod is on the run. Can he persuade the Lightspeeds to help him?

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.