

Bidford on Avon Church of England Primary School



NEWSLETTER 1 – 6th September 2024

Welcome

Welcome back to an exciting New Academic Year, I hope that you all had an enjoyable and restful summer break. Thank you for all the kind wishes that have been passed to me in my new role and for making me feel so welcome in your school. I really do consider it a privilege to be Headteacher of such a friendly and welcoming school.

As I have begun to meet the children they have greeted me with enthusiasm and keenness as they have talked about their learning, friends and school. I have already seen some fantastic teaching and some very enthusiastic singing in my assemblies this week.

My vision for education is very much about the importance of a broad and balanced curriculum, which is underpinned with rich experiences and activities that motivate and inspire children. I feel strongly that Bidford on Avon CofE Primary School already offers this and I only want to continue to develop and enhance this good work.

I hope to continue working with the whole school community to build on your successes and retain the special feel the school already has. I look forward to meeting you all as the term develops.

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.

Please remember the school day has been extended by 5 minutes, meaning that we will now finish at 3:25pm. The gates will continue to be unlocked at 8:45am with the school day starting at 8:55am.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 10th September - Open classroom and meet your child's new teachers 3:30pm

Wednesday 11th September - First swimming session for Year 4 children

Wednesday 11th September - Greek Day for UKS2 (Year 5, Year 5/6 and Year 6)

Wednesday September 11th - Year 6 PGL meeting 6:00pm

Friday 13th September – Year 6 House Captain Elections (pupils only)

Monday 16th September - Year 5/6 Bell Boating

Tuesday 17th September - Year 5 Bell Boating

Thursday 19th September - Year 6 Bell Boating

Wednesday 25th, Thursday 26th and Friday 27th September - Year 6 attending PGL

Monday 30th September & Tuesday 1st October - Reception Reading session 2:45 – More information to follow

Friday 4th October - Individual and sibling photographs

Monday 7th October - Open evening for Reception 2025 intake (5:30-6:30)

Wednesday 9th October- Harvest Festival

Thursday 10th October - Open evening for Reception 2025 intake (5:30-6:30)

Wednesday 6th November - Open evening for Reception 2025 intake (5:30-6:30)

Friday 11th October – Non-uniform day

Week beginning 14th October - Bikeability for Year 6

Thursday 17th October - Parents evening 4:00-7:00 (all classes except Year 3/4)

Friday 18th October – BSA Bingo Night

Friday 21st October - Flu Immunisation

Tuesday 22nd October - Parents evening 4:00-7:00

Tuesday 22nd October - Class trip to Bishopswood Year 3/4 and Year 4

Wednesday 23rd October - Parents evening 4:00-7:00 (Just Year 3/4)

Wednesday 23rd October - Class trip to Bishopswood Year 3

Friday 25th October INSET day – School closed to children

28th October-1st November Half Term

Monday 4th November - Return to school

Monday 11th November - Remembrance Assembly (children only)

Friday 15th November - Children in Need

Friday 29th November - School Disco organised by BSA

Friday 6th December – BSA Christmas Fayre

Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th December - Year 1 and 2 Nativity Performance to parents

Tuesday 17th December - Reception Christmas songs 9.45am to parents

PE change of date - Y6 PE will be Monday 9th September and Y3 PE will be on Wednesday 11th September.

TWIN project: - Over the summer holidays, five children were set an exciting photography challenge. Throughout this year, Nick Priest (a local photographer) be working with the children in Year 5 as we begin to develop a pen-pal relationship with the school children in our twinning village in Ebsdorfergrund, Germany. Nick asked a few children to document their summer holidays using a disposable camera, to show their perspective of living in our village and community. These photographs will be shared with the school children in Ebsdorfergrund and we are excited to see what the children over there have been up to too!



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Reception - We have enjoyed welcoming our new children into class this week and we feel we are going to have an amazing year of excitement and discovery. At the start of each year we always complete some informal assessments (as required by the government) of the children, to ensure we can best build on their prior knowledge. If you want to know more you can click on the link and read this information [Information for parents: reception baseline assessment \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Classroom Visits – Parents are invited to visit their child’s classroom and meet their teacher after school on Tuesday 10th September. We will dismiss all children as normal at home time and 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 questions you may have.

Contact Details & Consent (GDPR) –Data Collection sheets have been sent out this week. 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 **two** emergency contacts. Please remember to sign the form

on the back page. All signed forms should be returned by Monday 16th September. Our Privacy Notice detailing how we use information about children is on our school website.

Celebration Collective Worship - Celebration Collective Worship for children in Years 1 to 6 will restart on Friday 13th Sept at 2.45pm. If your child has achieved 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 whole school. 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 £2.75 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. *Deli bags* are available for children in Reception and KS1. 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 (link now closed)

Wednesday - Year 5 & 6 Boys Football (link closes Monday)

Thursday – Year 3 to 6 Girls Football (link closes Tuesday)

Bellboating – The Year 5 and 6 children will be going bellboating w/c 16th 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 16th, Miss Waters' Class Tuesday 19th & Miss Drissell's class Thursday 19th.

Year 4 Swimming – Sessions begin on Wednesday 11th September. 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. Payment can be made online.

Year 6 PGL – The PGL parent meeting will be held in school on Tuesday 11th September at 6.00pm. Parents and Year 6 children are invited to attend.

Uniform – It has been wonderful to see all of the children return to school looking so smart in their school uniform. Unfortunately, we have already had a couple of missing items - please ensure all items are labelled so we can easily reunite items with the correct child. All children also need to bring in a raincoat every day for playtimes, as we all know how unpredictable British weather can be! On PE days, please send your child in to

school wearing their PE kits (except Reception pupils) and also on forest school days, pupils need to come in to school wearing their forest school clothes, with their wellies and waterproofs in a named carrier bag.

Book Bags – Children in EYFS & 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 – Home reading books will begin to be issued over the next few weeks in line with our homework policy. Reading with your child can have astonishing benefits from comfort and reassurance, confidence and security, relaxation, happiness and fun. It can also build self-esteem, develops their vocabulary, feeds their imagination and can even improve their sleeping patterns. Please also check at home for any school reading books that you may still have from last year.

School Admissions – If you have a child moving to Secondary school from September 2024 applications need to be made by 31st October 2024, 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>

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: <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/school-gateway/id596039615>
- Android phone users, download the app here: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.schoolcomms.sga&hl=en_GB

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.

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.

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 Morris

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.