



Be our best selves

COUGHTON

C of E Primary School

Issue 17

Key dates



Dear Families,

What an incredibly busy few weeks. It was lovely seeing so many of you at sports day and our summer fair. Many thanks to the PTA for all of the work they have put in to make sure these events have run smoothly.

Transition day went very well, children enjoyed meeting their new teachers and we look forward to the year ahead. Y6 students also enjoyed spending time at their secondary schools for the day.

Congratulations to Alne for winning this years sports day. Thank you to Mrs Walsh for organising. It was brilliant welcoming back some of our ex pupils to support with running events.

I hope that you enjoy reading the children's reports this weekend. They will arrive via email and give an opportunity to provide any feedback via a Microsoft Form. Y6 parents will not receive pupils SATS results alongside the reports as they have not yet been released to schools.

As we head into the final week of term I would like to thank you all for your support during this academic year.

Summer term Christian value: Truthfulness

Team Points:

Alne: 449
Avon: 378
Arrow: 290

Headteacher
Mr Alex Kolb

**Coughton CE Primary
School**
Coughton Lane
Coughton
B49 5HN
01789 762444



Coughton CE Primary School

	Thursday 16 th July at 9.30am	Leavers Service for Year 6 (only) at St Peter's Church
	Friday 17 th July at 2.15pm	Leavers Assembly (Year 6 parents only)
	Friday 17 th July	School closes for summer holiday
	Tuesday 1 st September and Wednesday 2nd September	INSET DAYS School closed to pupils
	Thursday 3 rd September	School Reopens to Pupils
	Tuesday 22 nd September	Individual School Photographs
	Friday 23 rd October	INSET Day – school closed to pupils
	Monday 26 th October – Friday 30 th October	Half term
	Friday 18 th December	School closes for Christmas holiday
	Monday 4 th January	INSET Day – school closed to pupils
	Tuesday 5 th January	School re-opens to pupils

Important updates for Parents and Carers

Uniform

A reminder to name all clothing brought to school so that it can be easily returned to its owner. We are reminding children and allowing time at the end of the day for them to collect all of their things.

The PTA are selling items for £1 each or online via <https://coughton-school-pta.sumupstore.com/>

Holiday / Leave of Absence Requests

All holiday requests will be unauthorised unless the circumstances are deemed exceptional by the Head of School. Should you wish to request leave of absence for your child(ren) please collect a form from the office.

Term dates can be found here:

<https://www.coughtonschool.org/term-dates/>

INSET DAYS

25/26- School,Closed For Children

INSET DAYS 25/26

Monday 1st June 2026

Monday 20th July 2026

INSET DAYS 26/27

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Wednesday 2nd September 2026

Friday 23rd October 2027

Monday 4th January 2027

Monday 7th June 2027

Wraparound

We have a digital wraparound booking system. For details and to book a place please follow the link:

<https://coughton.childcare-online-booking.co.uk/>

Breakfast club from 7.30am, after school club until 6pm (Fridays until 5.30pm).



Inspiring Educational Excellence for Everyone

ARDENforest
C of E Multi Academy Trust

Postal address:
St Nicholas C of E Primary School,
St Faith's Road, Alcester, Warwickshire B49 6AG
Telephone 01789 713233
Email: info@ardenforestmat.org

CEO: Mr Adam Walsh
CFO: Mrs Sophie Carthy
COO: Dr Amanda Dale

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Arden Forest C of E Multi Academy Trust Parent Experience Survey earlier this year. We were delighted that 609 parents and carers across our 10 schools contributed their views, helping us to better understand what is working well and where we can further strengthen our partnership with you.

Your responses highlighted positive relationships built on mutual trust and respect and strong confidence in our staff's ability to support and safeguard pupils. However, you also told us that there are areas where we can do more—particularly in improving how the MAT supports families and how we respond to concerns or questions relating to wellbeing.

One theme that emerged strongly across the survey was the need for timely, accessible and high-quality support for parents and carers, especially when children are experiencing emotional or wellbeing challenges. In response to this feedback, and as part of our ongoing commitment to support every child and every family, we are pleased to announce the launch of a new Parent and Caregiver Helpline through Howdens Insurance and Health Assured.

From today, all parents and carers across the MAT will have free, confidential access to a dedicated 24/7 helpline, designed to offer guidance, reassurance and expert advice whenever you need it. This service is available 365 days a year, including evenings, weekends and school holidays.

Trained counsellors are on hand to provide you with immediate advice on a wide range of concerns affecting children or young people, including:

- Anxiety and worries about school or friendships
- Social phobias or low confidence
- Depression or persistent sadness
- Eating disorders
- Risk-taking behaviours, including substance use
- Suicidal thoughts or self-harm
- ADHD or behavioural concerns

They support you as the caregiver, recognising the emotional challenges that can come with supporting a child. Counsellors can also advise on:

- How to speak to your child about difficult topics
- How to identify triggers or stressors affecting your child
- Sourcing counselling or medical support
- When to involve your GP
- Signposting to support available in school and beyond

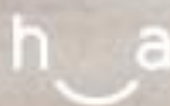
Parents also have access to the free Wisdom, health and mental wellbeing app. The app is designed to help you track your wellness and support your mental health and resilience. All of the information you need is included in the attached flyer.

We wish all of our parents and carers across the MAT a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mr Adam Walsh
CEO

Pupil Assistance Programme

Parent guide



Dedicated caregiver helpline

Dedicated 24/7, 365 support and guidance for caregivers who may be worried about the emotional wellbeing of a child or young person.

Caregivers can include:

- ♥ Parents
- ♥ Legal guardians
- ♥ Teachers
- ♥ Academic support staff

The helpline provides immediate support for the wellbeing of the caregiver themselves too, as supporting a young person can bring about many different challenges. Trained counsellors will be able to provide advice on many areas for caregivers who are supporting a child or young person through:

- ♥ Generalised anxiety - Excessive worry about everyday matters
- ♥ Social phobias - Severe feelings of self-consciousness and insecurity in social settings
- ♥ Depression - Persistent feelings of sadness, anxiety, and/or emptiness
- ♥ Eating disorders
- ♥ Risk-taking behaviours, including substance use
- ♥ Suicidal ideation
- ♥ Self harm
- ♥ Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

0800 012 1571

Call anytime of day

How do we support?

Our counsellors will listen to the caregiver's concerns and understand what steps have already been taken, before providing tailored support on what action, if any, is needed next.

- ✔ Advice on seeking GP intervention and support
- ✔ How to source suitable counselling support
- ✔ Signposting within schools
- ✔ How to have difficult conversations with a child or young person
- ✔ How to identify stressors or triggers for the child or young person, and recommend ways to remedy these

HA | Wisdom Wellbeing will work closely with the school upon implementation of the Caregiver helpline, to ensure all relevant signposting information is collated in the event this is required when providing support to a caller. If a caregiver discloses concerns around risk or safeguarding matters, appropriate advice will be given, and HA | Wisdom Wellbeing will document this accordingly.

0800 012 1571

Call anytime of day





Hello and welcome to Wisdom

Your guide to health and mental wellbeing

As a member of the Wisdom Wellbeing community, you have exclusive access to our revitalised app - helping you track your wellness, improve your mental health, and stay resilient during tough times.

Your health hub



Interactive mood tracker

You will receive regular prompts to track your mood. By tracking mood trends, Wisdom can help you identify patterns and areas for improvement in your wellbeing.



Four-week health plans

Wisdom will support you in your health goals, whether that be eating healthier, quitting smoking, sleeping better, or coping with pressure. Get started on your health plan and track your daily progress.



Mini health checks

How are you feeling today? Take a minute to check in with yourself by using the health checks to assess and support your health and mental wellbeing.



Breathing techniques

Our guided breathing exercises help you feel a sense of calm and relaxation to carry into the rest of your day.

Wellbeing connected



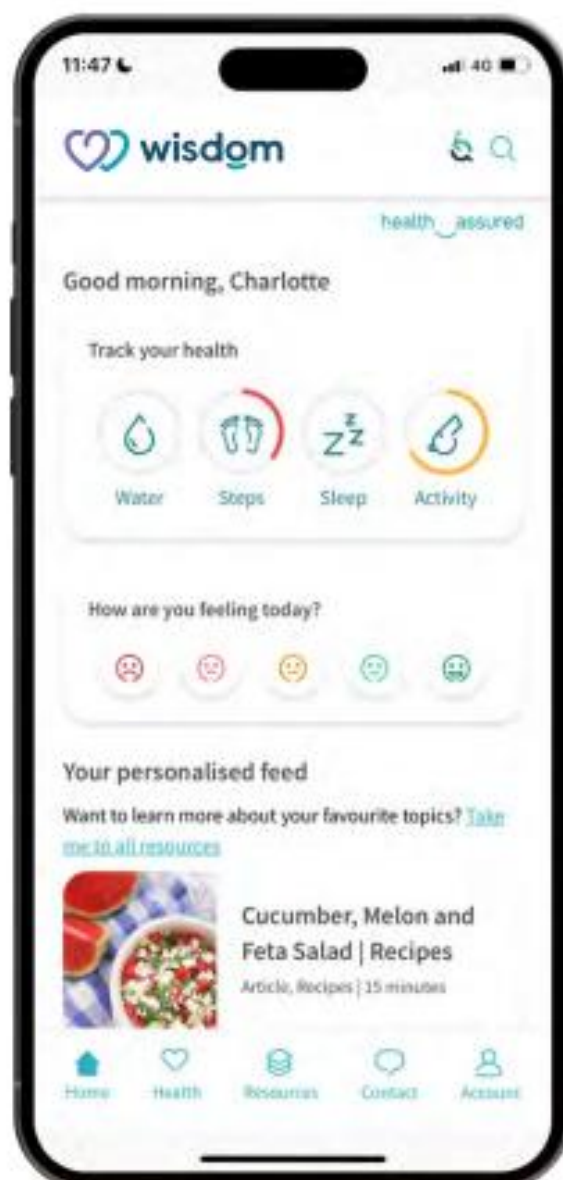
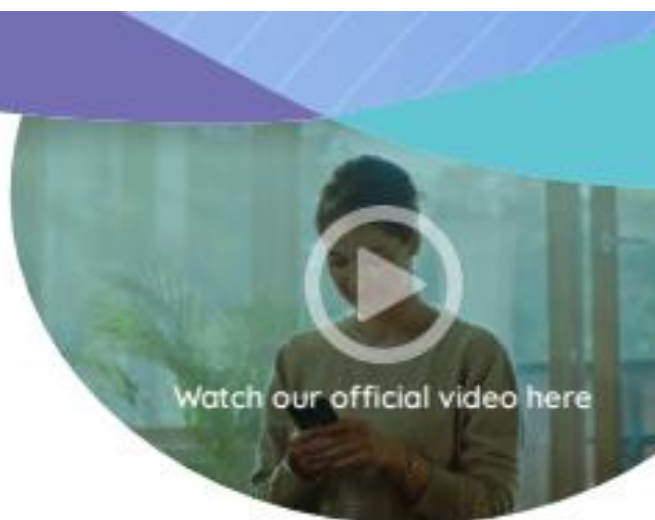
Personalisation

Wisdom allows you to personalise your homepage so you can access tailored resources and learning materials based on your interests.



Live chat

The Live Chat feature allows you to contact a dedicated wellbeing counsellor using live messaging and video calls. For further support, you can call our helpline - available 24/7, 365 days a year.



Download and register today



Unique code: MHA326571





To conclude sports week, the children enjoyed a visit from athlete Caitlin Witham. She spoke to the whole school during worship and then led circuits for each class. Thank you for all those who have sponsored this event.



New support for separated families website

The Supporting Separated Families Alliance website brings together trusted information, advice and signposting for parents who are going through separation.

The site includes guidance on co-parenting, communication, legal options, and where to find local and national support services. It's designed to help families navigate changes positively, with a focus on the wellbeing of children.

<https://ssfawestmidlands.org.uk/>



Read the latest updates on SEND in Warwickshire

The latest Warwickshire SEND Newsletter is here! Packed with updates, opportunities to have your say, and events you won't want to miss.

Here's what's inside the latest edition:

- Local Area SEND Ofsted Inspection - thank you
- New ADHD and Autism policy for Coventry and Warwickshire
- Support available for families awaiting ADHD assessments
- New videos to support inclusive learning across schools
- Social groups for Autistic children and young people
- Launch of 24/7 mental health crisis text support
- Registrations open for 11+
- Helping children get sorted for school
- Family fun for May half term in Warwickshire
- Evergreen Community Book Cafe celebrates award
- Celebrate with Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice
- Free, impartial advice from SENDIAS

<https://mailchi.mp/warwickshire/send-may26-8833079?e=7a95476d4b>



Warwickshire parenting support workshops

None of us were taught how to be parents and sometimes we may find what we're doing isn't working or we just want some different strategies in our toolbox.

In Warwickshire, parents to be, parents, carers and grandparents have access to a variety of parenting resources and advice.

Support can be accessed online, face-to-face through informal advice, one-to-one consultations, group programmes and workshops.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/warwickshire-parenting-support-71623337213>

Free online learning to help parents feel more confident

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/parentlearning>

<https://www.coramfamilylives.org.uk/how-we-can-help/online-parenting-courses/parenting-neurodivergent-children/>



Parenting Neurodivergent Children online course



Parent Carer Group

Thursday 2nd July

Thursday 6th August

Thursday 3rd September

10-11.30am

**Come and meet
other local SEND
parents**



Hatters Space
Upper Abbey Street, Nuneaton
CV11 5DN



What's changing in September 2026?

Changes to eligibility

There will now be two categories of free school meals depending on your financial circumstances:

- **Targeted free school meals** for those getting Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less, or another qualifying benefit
- **Expanded free school meals** for anyone getting Universal credit whose annual earnings are above £7,400.

Households in **both categories** will benefit from the financial savings of getting free school meals.

Households who fall into the **targeted category** will get access to the [holiday activities and food \(HAF\) programme](#), providing a range of fun and free activities and healthy meals for children over the school holidays. Your child's school could also receive extra funding to support them.

Changes to protected status and the new yearly checking process

You may have also previously heard of something called **'Protected Status' or 'Transitional Protections'**. This has been in place since 1 April 2018 and meant that children becoming eligible for free meals under the benefits-based criteria kept their eligibility status, even if their household circumstances changed after they first became eligible. These will now be **ending at the end of the 2025/26 school year**, ready for the new criteria to start in September 2026, so you may have children that have been eligible for several years, who won't be eligible anymore.

For the start of the new 2026/27 school year, once a child becomes eligible for free school meals, they will then **remain eligible for that whole school year**, regardless of any change of circumstances. Warwickshire County Council will then store your data and will **re-check your child's eligibility in the summer holidays every year**, to check if they remain eligible, and notify you of the outcome. Please contact us if you no longer wish for us to carry out this process.

Next steps for families

If your child is currently eligible for free school meals, you do not need to do anything. We will re-check the eligibility of all currently eligible children and will contact you over the summer holidays to let you know if your child will still be eligible for free school meals for the 2026/27 school year (and which category they fall into), or whether we need more information from you to check this. Alternatively, your child's school may contact you about this if they are completing this process on their own.

If your child has never received free school meals before, and they are attending a school that works with us on free school meals (the list of schools this includes will be published on our website nearer to the time) then [you can apply via our website](#) at the beginning of August 2026. If your child is attending a school that is not on our list, then they process their own free school meals applications and you must contact them directly to apply.



Family Lives parenting neurodivergent children course

Raising a neurodiverse child can be joyful, but also complex and overwhelming.

[Family Lives](#) designed this course to support you with compassionate, practical strategies that meet your and your child's unique needs.

In this online course, you will explore responsive and low demand parenting strategies, managing change and transitions, communication, distressed behaviours, sensory issues, carer burnout, looking after yourself and more.

This course is aimed at parents and carers of neurodivergent children, teens and young adults whether there is a diagnosis or not.

https://www.familylives.org.uk/how-we-can-help/online-parenting-courses/parenting-neurodivergent-children?fbclid=IwY2xjawQeXYtleHRuA2FlbQlzMABzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjlwMzIxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEeRRmYfyHPs1DgFA18NtGzTOfdjLK45qkXtWTqY2ZsqbcgHZQoCVliAlPil80_aem_ynLnU43a2nKNpl2aDpWvYQ



WARWICKSHIRE
PARENT CARER VOICE

SEND reforms – We need your voice!

Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice want to hear your thoughts on the proposed SEND reforms:

- What do you think about the proposals?
- Do you have any questions or concerns?
- Is there anything you feel should be included in the consultation response?

Your feedback is really important and will help shape their response.

Join one of our online sessions:

- [Wednesday 29 April - 1pm](#)
- [Thursday 7 May - 7.30pm](#)

Understanding your relationships

<https://togetherness.co.uk/pathway-library/understanding-your-relationships/>

Managing parent anxiety

Physical and emotional health

<https://togetherness.co.uk/managing-parent-anxiety/>



Webinars for parents - Witherslack Group

The [Witherslack Group](#) is offering webinars for parents of children with SEND.

The webinars cover topics such as:

- [Afterschool Burnout & Shutdown: Strategies To Support Your Child](#)
- [ADHD & Autism Sleep Challenges: Practical Help For Tired Parents](#)
- [Understanding & Supporting SEN In The Early Years.](#)

ADHD & Autism Sleep Challenges: Practical Help For Tired Parents

Join us for our free webinar.

<https://www.witherslackgroup.co.uk/advice-and-support/events/webinar-adhd-autism-sleep-challenges-practical-help-for-tired-parents/>

Understanding & Supporting SEN In The Early Years

Join us for our free webinar.

<https://www.witherslackgroup.co.uk/advice-and-support/events/webinar-understanding-supporting-sen-in-the-early-years/>



Growing up in the online world: a national consultation

Parents, guardians, and young people across the UK are being urged to shape the country's next steps on children's digital wellbeing, as the UK government opens the world's most ambitious consultation on social media.

The consultation will gather insights from the public on how to keep children safe online across social media, AI chatbots and gaming platforms.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/land-mark-consultation-seeks-views-on-major-measures-to-protect-children-on-social-media-gaming-platforms-and-ai-chatbots>

CZSPORTS ★★★★★

SUMMER SPORTS HOLIDAY CLUB!

MULTI-SPORTS HOLIDAY AND TENNIS CLUB

ACTION-PACKED DAYS OF SPORT, GAMES AND FUN!

MULTI-SPORTS AND TENNIS CLUB

EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNT ENDS FRIDAY 3RD JULY! BOOK NOW & SAVE!

VENUE:
Henley Primary School
(Childcare & HAF vouchers accepted)

DATES:
Monday 20th July – Friday 28th August
(6 weeks of fun!)

TENNIS COACHING SESSIONS AT HENLEY-IN-ARDEN TENNIS CLUB

2-hour coaching sessions on the following dates:

✓ Mon 20th July	✓ Wed 5th Aug
✓ Wed 22nd July	✓ Mon 10th Aug
✓ Mon 27th July	✓ Wed 19th Aug
✓ Wed 29th July	✓ Mon 24th Aug
✓ Mon 3rd Aug	✓ Wed 26th Aug

Ages 4–10yrs: 10am – 12pm
Ages 10–16yrs: 1pm – 3pm

LOOKING FOR AN ACTIVE, FUN-FILLED SUMMER? WE'VE GOT IT COVERED!

FOOTBALL TENNIS DODGEBALL PARACHUTE GAMES NERF WARS (LATE CLUB ONLY)

PM OPT-IN SESSIONS AVAILABLE
Children can choose sport-specific sessions at no extra cost!
✓ Football ✓ Cheerleading ✓ Dance

EXTENDED HOURS AT HENLEY
Available until 5:30pm

GREAT SAVINGS!
✓ Sibling discounts
✓ Extra discount when you book 10 sessions or more!

SPACES FILL FAST – SECURE YOUR CHILD'S PLACE TODAY!

BOOK NOW:
www.czsports.co.uk | 07912 664426 | neil@czsports.co.uk

CZSPORTS ★★★★★

SUMMER TENNIS CLUB!

TENNIS COACHING SESSIONS AT HENLEY-IN-ARDEN TENNIS CLUB

EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNT ENDS FRIDAY 3RD JULY! BOOK NOW & SAVE!

2-HOUR COACHING SESSIONS

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✓ Mon 20th July	• Wed 22nd July
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✓ Mon 3rd Aug	• Wed 5th Aug
✓ Mon 10th Aug	
✓ Wed 19th Aug	
✓ Mon 24th Aug	• Wed 26th Aug

EXPERT COACHING
FUN, SKILLS & MATCH PLAY

IMPROVE YOUR GAME
WHILST MAKING NEW FRIENDS!

ALL ABILITIES WELCOME!

GREAT SAVINGS!
✓ Sibling discounts
✓ Extra discount when you book 10 sessions or more!

SPACES FILL FAST – BOOK YOUR PLACE TODAY!

BOOK NOW:
www.czsports.co.uk | 07912 664426 | neil@czsports.co.uk



<https://www.onsidecoaching.co.uk/redditch/content/about-us>

Being safe while gaming online video

<https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Online-Gaming.mp4>

https://player.vimeo.com/video/1184041329?badge=0&autoplay=0&player_id=0&app_id=58479

In partnership with Knowsley CLCs, all parent/carers are invited to an:

Online Safety Information Session

This session is delivered virtually so can be watched from anywhere!
We will share the link with you privately.

Guide to Social Media & Livestreaming - this will include latest trends and emerging threats and will focus on developing your understanding of social media and livestreaming, the associated risks and steps we can take to support our children.

**WEDNESDAY
6TH MAY
2026
4PM – 4.45PM**



2025/2026 Leave of absence

Leave of Absence taken in the academic year 2024-25

The law relating to Penalty Notices is due to change with effect from 1 September 2024. Therefore Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absences taken after this date will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.

- 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 – 4 in total).
 - First Leave of Absence offence: The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 each child if paid within 21 days.
 - Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): The amount of £160 paid within 28 days. No reduced amount,
- Payment plans will not be offered and/or payments received outside of the 28 day period will not be accepted. Where a penalty notice expires unpaid the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider criminal prosecution.
- Third Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice) A penalty notices will be not be issued and the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of Education Act 1996.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority.

Warwickshire Attendance Service

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time (Platt v Isle of Wright 2017). 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.

The law states a leave of absence may only be granted by a school if an application is made in advance and if it considers there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.

Schools must judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request.

A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance.

Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school.

When making an application for Leave of Absence parents are advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the

Head teacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify parents of their decision. The school may also request further information on the application and supporting documentation where appropriate.

It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is the parents' responsibility to ascertain if the leave is authorised prior to the start of the leave.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent ie the parent with whom the child normally resides.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child is expected 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. Where a leave of absence is requested, but additional days taken either prior to or after the request may be considered as part of the leave of absence.

Leave of Absences which are not made in advance cannot be authorised in line with legislation. This will result in the absence being recorded as 'unauthorised'.

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council. Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices and in the first instance, as an alternative to prosecution proceedings.

Leave of Absence taken in the academic year 2024-25

The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 19 August 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absence taken from September 2024 will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.

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 – 4 in total).

- First Leave of Absence offence: The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 each child if paid within 21 days.
- Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): The amount of £160 paid within 28 days. No reduced amount.

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 - **Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority.**