



Be our best selves

COUGHTON

C of E Primary School

Issue 10

Coughton CE Primary School

Key dates



Dear Families,

This week we have enjoyed an amazing service at St Peter's Church which was led by Key Stage Two. This helped us all to get into the Christmas spirit and it was lovely seeing our community coming together.

Later in the week we saw some fantastic Christmas nativity performances from Key Stage One and Maple. It was great to see the children getting involved and re-telling the Christmas Story.

It has been an incredibly busy term. I would like to thank you all for your support. It has been a pleasure being in lessons and witnessing all of the children's progress this term.

I attach a list of events for the final week so that you are aware of what is taking place on each day.

On behalf of the staff and governors I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Head of School
Mr Alex Kolb

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



Coughton CE Primary School

Wednesday 20 th December	School Christmas Lunch
Thursday 21 st December	All pupils may wear party clothes KS1 Party in School day KS2 Disco 6.15-7.45pm
Friday 22 nd December	Well being Day – whole school
Friday 22 nd December	School closes for Christmas Holiday
Monday 8 th January	INSET Day
Tuesday 9 th January	School re-opens to pupils
Monday 12 – Friday 16 th February	Half –term. School closed to pupils
Friday 22 nd March	School closes for the Easter Holidays
Monday 8 th April	School reopens to pupils
Monday 6 th May	May Day. School Closed.
Monday 27 th - Friday 31 st May	Half Term . School Closed to pupils
Monday 3 rd June	INSET Day – school closed to pupils
Friday 19 th July	School closes for summer holidays

Monday 18 th Dec	PE/forest school as normal Choir Christmas performance to families of choir (pm) <i>Children in choir who also have sport on this day should bring school clothes to change into for the performance.</i>
Tuesday 19 th Dec	PE/Forest school as normal
Wednesday 20 th Dec	PE/Forest school as normal (No Aston Villa clubs) Whole school carols and songs 12pm -Christmas Lunch for children
Thursday 21 st Dec	Party Day- ALL Children can wear party clothes for the day. (No PE/forest school, No <u>Artbase</u> after school club, after school wraparound in Ash class) KS1 disco during school time KS2 disco after school 6.15pm-7.45pm
Friday 22 nd Dec	Final Day of term! Wellbeing Day- Non Uniform (Football kits, Christmas jumpers permitted) Golden ticket worship and birthdays for children over Christmas celebrated Musical advent calendar answers revealed

KS2 Christmas Disco (for Years 3 - 6)

We are really excited to announce the return of the **KS2 evening Christmas disco!** This will be at school on **Thursday 21st December from 6.15pm – 7.45pm.** The disco will include an external DJ with party games, treats and prizes. There will be drinks and snacks available. Parents can drop their child at the school door and are requested to collect promptly from the school door afterwards where a member of staff will sign them out.

- **KS2 Christmas Disco** – this will be a **ticketed event** charged at **£3.00 per child** (This will include an external party DJ, games, prizes, treats and refreshments)

How to Pay

Payments can be made via our online store:

<https://coughton-school-pta.sumupstore.com>

OR

Pay via BACS to:

Coughton CE Primary PTA

Account no: 01012070

Sort code: 30-98-26

Please use your child's name or your surname if combining more than one child as reference against your payment.

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 second hand uniform stall in the PTA shelter is 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 2023/24 can be found here:

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

Coats

Please remember to bring a coat and a drink. The weather is cold and we will continue to go outside for playtimes.

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).

Key Dates- In advance

Monday 13 May to Thursday 16 May 2024 Year 6 SATS week

Friday 17th May 2024- Grandparent Gardening Day

Thursday 20th June 2024- Sports Day

Thursday 11th July 2024 - Farmers Market

Car Parking

A reminder to park sensibly around the school site so that residents have access to their driveways.

Pens

We have seen some amazing writing so far this term and some children have been awarded pens. Pens will be replaced when they have run out of ink but there will be a charge to replace any lost pens.

SPEND

Support for **P**arents of children with **E**ducational needs, **N**eurodiversity and **D**ifficulties.

SPEND is a monthly parent/carer support group for people caring for children with additional needs who feel isolated or overwhelmed in Alcester, Bidford, Studley and surrounding villages.



Come and spend time with people who understand.

FIRST MEETING: FRIDAY 12TH JANUARY 2024 - 9.45-11.15AM

The Depot, Eric Payne Community Centre
off St Faith's Road, Alcester, B496AG

Parent Information



Warwickshire's Young Poet Laureate is announced for 2023/24

Warwickshire County Council is delighted to announce the position of Young Poet Laureate 2023/24 has been awarded to May Vaughan, a pupil from Stratford Girls' Grammar School.

The Laureateship is open to anyone aged between 13 and 17 who lives and is educated in Warwickshire and is a unique opportunity for the successful candidate to develop their writing skills and take part in events and activities across the county under the mentorship of a professional poet. Past Warwickshire Young Poet Laureates have performed on the radio, on film, at festivals and led their own poetry workshops.

This year's winner was determined following a selection day at Rugby Library on Saturday 4 November. Five shortlisted candidates took part in a 90-minute workshop with Coventry Poet Laureate 2021/23, Emilie Lauren Jones, who shared creative tips and advice about how to successfully deliver poetry performances.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4758/warwickshire-s-young-poet-laureate-is-announced-for-2023-24>



New Coventry and Warwickshire resource provides unique insight into neurodivergent language

A new resource has launched to encourage people to think about the words they use when talking about neurodiversity.

Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care System is pleased to share the release of an [informative video](#), presented by a local Expert by Experience and with professional input, aimed at empowering people to feel more confident when talking about neurodiversity.

Adapted from an interactive live webinar delivered in June 2023 which attracted over 150 people, the video offers practical tips and unique insight to anyone wondering how to approach the topic of neurodiversity.

Warwickshire families magazine – Things to do this November and December.

<https://issuu.com/familiesonline/docs/familieswarwickshirenovdec23print?fr=sOWFjZTY3MjY5NjY>



[here](#)

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 Wight* 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 regulations regarding Leave of Absence (The Education (Pupil Regulations) (England) Regulations 2006 as amended by Education (Pupil Regulations) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013.) advise:

- Head teachers shall not grant any Leave of Absence during term time unless they consider 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. When making an application for Leave of Absence in advance 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. It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is their 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 ~~is~~ the parent with whom the child normally resides.

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.

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 and could result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case-by-case basis and on its own merits.

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'. This may result in legal action against the parent, by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice. 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 School pupils recorded 96,366 half day sessions of absence due to holiday in the Academic year 2021/22.

Student Corner

Key Stage Two had a wonderful Christmas Carol Service. Thank you to the 145 family members who joined us for the service and to Rev. Daniel and Rev. Katie for hosting us.



Student Corner

Cedar have enjoyed their forest school sessions this half term.



Student Corner



Well done to Oak class who have been busy sorting the Christmas cards in our internal posting system. All have found their rightful owners and unfortunately no chocolate coins were left over.

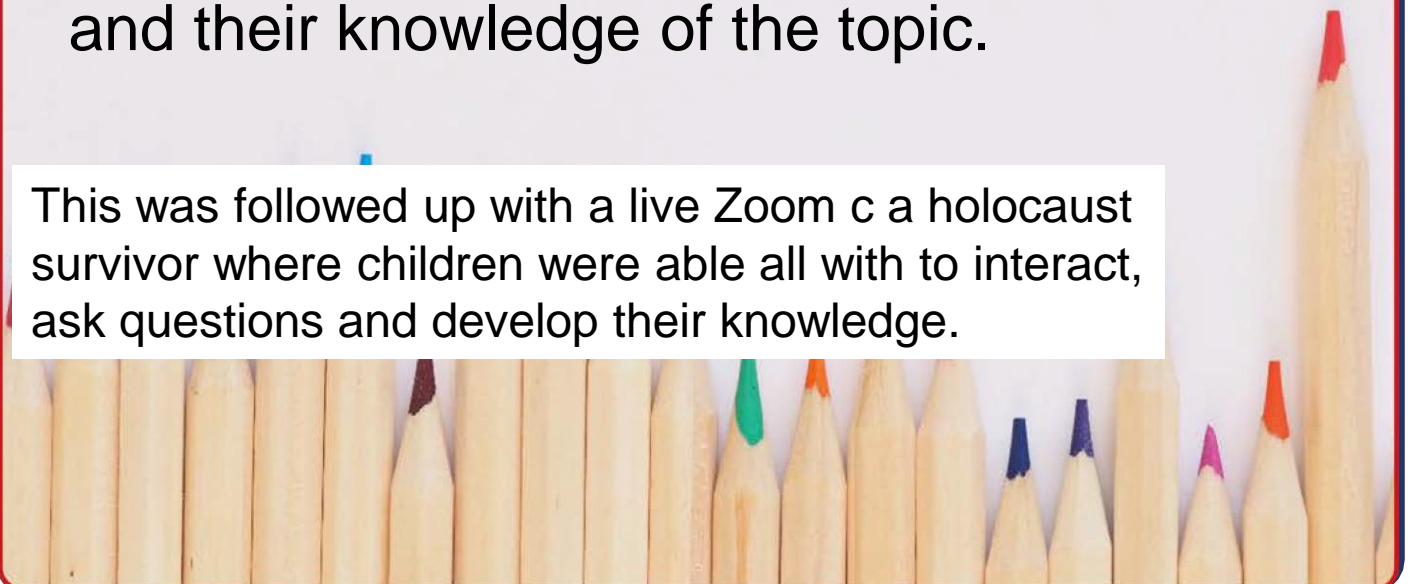


Student Corner



Year Six enjoyed a trip to Coventry Transport Museum and Herbert Art Gallery. The museums commented on how well behaved the children were and their knowledge of the topic.

This was followed up with a live Zoom c a holocaust survivor where children were able all with to interact, ask questions and develop their knowledge.





Family Information Service

The Family Information Service (FIS) supports families across Warwickshire with information and signposting. You can get in touch with the team by emailing fis@warwickshire.gov.uk, calling [0800 408 1558](tel:08004081558) or finding support on www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies. Head over to our [Facebook](#) to see where you can find the FIS team across the county this week.



Parenting workshops and programmes

Parent Coaches are linking up with schools to provide workshops and programmes around parenting and relationships.

Please complete the questionnaire so the team know what support you feel is needed and what you'd like to access in your school/area.

[here](#)



Crafting Christmas memories at Warwickshire's Country Parks

Discover the magic of the festive season at Warwickshire Country Parks' enchanting Christmas events! Join the rangers for festive workshops like Christmas wreath making at Ryton Pools and rustic reindeer crafting at Kingsbury Water Park. Immerse yourself in the holiday spirit with a National Tree Week guided walk at Kingsbury Water Park or a Sunday stroll at Hartshill Hayes. Plus, don't miss the Christmas Market at Kingsbury Water Park, where there will be a delightful array of crafts and treats.

There are limited spaces available on the events, so get more information and reserve your spot via the Warwickshire Country Parks Eventbrite page to avoid disappointment. Let's make this holiday season unforgettable!

[here](#)

Protective Behaviours

– what's that?



Protective Behaviours (PBs) is an internal process where each person applies the ideas to their own unique experience. This paper looks at what Protective Behaviours is and some of its uses. It is intended as an information paper with the hope the reader will see its relevance to their specific interests and will then attend training.

The PBs process is presented here as separate sections. In practice, all interact and support each other - to take one section out leaves the others incomplete.

Unwritten rules of society

We see how certain rules of society have a powerful influence on our choices of behaviour. Whilst these rules can be positive and help guide our interactions, many of them tell us we should, ought, or must behave in a particular way. For instance, children should do as adults tell them; professionals should always have the answer; men should not show their feelings and women should behave in a ladylike manner. These rules are not written down, are often contradictory and may not fit with our own experience. During training we look at their function, how they develop, their effects and why we may choose to follow them or not.

Feelings, Thoughts and Behaviours

During this session we look at the interaction between our feelings, thoughts and behaviour. We see that feelings are feelings, neither right nor wrong, good nor bad, positive nor negative. Some people seem to mask one feeling with another or use behaviour as a way of avoiding or covering feelings. We look at how behaviour is a choice with an effect. These effects may involve others as well as ourselves. Sometimes we do not know what our choices are or they may be limited by factors we cannot change. Once we are in touch with our feelings it helps free us to use our thinking. Our thinking can influence both our feelings and behaviour.

Theme 1 'We all have the right to feel safe all the time'

We explore this theme in detail, carefully looking at the connection between rights and responsibilities. We also take the concepts of blame and punishment out of commonly held ideas associated with responsibilities. Instead we focus on the 'ability to respond' contained within the meaning of the word. The difference between having a responsibility for ourselves and to others is also examined. Next we discover for ourselves the difference between feeling safe, fun to feel scared (adventurous), risking on purpose (which may not feel like fun but we want the goal at the end) and feeling unsafe. These differences are recognised by what we call our 'Early Warning Signs' (EWS), the specific bodily responses which tell us when we do not feel safe. These universal body signs mean Protective Behaviours is accessible to all people, irrespective of age, gender, sexuality, nationality, ability or belief system.

Theme 2 'We can talk with someone about anything, even if feels awful or small'

This theme is also explored in detail. In particular we focus on the ideas and effects of 'talking', and what might happen if we do not believe this theme. We encourage everyone to develop their personal networks of support; those people they could turn to if in need. Desired qualities of network people are identified and we examine how we would know if someone has these qualities. Types of networks and ways of letting people know we need to talk with them are also explored.



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

Mental health support for young people

As children and young people start a new school or new school year, it is normal for them to feel nervous, anxious, or unsure. Learning how to manage and cope with these feelings is important.

It's important to look after your body to improve mental health by having a good diet, regular exercise, plenty of sleep and limiting screen time. For those who may need more specialist support, the Warwickshire County Council website has a range of information and links to services dedicated to helping young people.



Support with childcare costs

Thousands of families could be saving money on their childcare costs, but some simply don't know what support they might be eligible for. The Childcare Choices website brings together all the existing childcare offers in one place, so parents can get the help that fits their family. This could be through Tax-Free Childcare, 30 Hours Childcare, or Universal Credit Childcare. Some families might be eligible to use more than one childcare schemes together and get the most out of it.

From next year even more help is on the way:

- From April 2024, eligible working parents in England with children aged 2 will have access to 15 hours childcare.
- From September 2024, the 15 hours childcare offer will be expanded to eligible working parents in England with children between 9 and 23 months old.
- From September 2025, eligible working parents in England with children between 9 months up to school age will have access to 30 hours childcare.

Support is also expanding for primary-school aged children – from September 2024, parents are expected to see an expansion in the availability of childcare in their local area before and after school, between 8am and 6pm, also known as 'wraparound care'. Don't miss out on getting the support you are entitled to.

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>



Help to meet household utility costs

From 20 November to 8 December the council's Local Welfare Scheme is distributing government funding from the Department for Work and Pensions' Household Support Fund to people living in the county who are finding it difficult to meet these costs.

The Household Support Fund can provide short-term financial assistance in the form of a one-off voucher payment to meet immediate needs and help those who are finding it hard to afford energy and water payments. This will supplement ongoing emergency support from the Local Welfare Scheme for residents in financial crisis.

Anyone entitled to benefits eligible free school meals has automatically been offered this support so will not be eligible though applications are welcome from others in financial difficulty at this time.

[here](#)



<https://us5.campaign-archive.com/?u=a24b439ef7022ae0d86f9ca6e&id=e21f76dc64>

Latest SEND newsletter

The latest SEND Warwickshire newsletter is now out!

This month includes information on supported internships, the HAF SEND family experience, independent travel training, short breaks and respite care, Christmas activities and more.

https://mailchi.mp/warwickshire/send-november23-1219476?e=%5bUNIQID%5d&fbclid=IwAR0kI3pSdK2CG_8Ck5KVm1jIXpMGmv5aO70RZzJKMT78AvD4SA6idW5U



Connect for Health's December health and well-being update

In the December edition of Connect for Health's update, they have information about Christmas activities that the whole family can get involved in and Christmas Jumper Day on 7th December.



Tree planting in Warwickshire

Benefits of trees are well known – they bring better air quality, more shade and shelter from heat, more habitats for wildlife, increased biodiversity and they even help to prevent flooding. Trees also make our towns more pleasant areas to spend time in, increasing footfall and even how much we spend in the shops!

So, to celebrate the start of tree planting season, the latest Sustainable Warwickshire podcast features two of WCC's very own tree experts. Clint Parker is the Arboricultural Team Leader who has been instrumental in setting up Warwickshire's own tree nursery, and he is joined by Catherine Laidlaw, a Landscape Officer who offers advice and guidance to community groups, other local councils and partners on site selection and planting plans.

You can listen to the tree planting episode on Spotify or Apple by searching for "Sustainable Warwickshire".

chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.compass-uk.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/December-Newsletter.pdf

Spotlight on parenting support

Nurture Programme

The 10-week Nurture Programme gives parents and carers practical tools and information to support them to raise happy, confident and emotionally resilient children. This programme is suitable for parents and carers of children up to 12-years-old.

The programme will cover many of the common parenting issues and offer advice that will help parents and carers gain confidence and develop insight by understanding why children behave as they do, recognising the feelings behind behaviour, exploring different positive parenting strategies to help guide behaviours, finding different ways to develop co-operation and emotional regulation in children and learning the importance of looking after yourselves as parents and carers.

The program is highly effective in improving the mental health outcomes for children and their parents.

On average 8/10 parents attending groups report a significant improvement in their child's behaviour and family life.

Read what parents have to say about the workshop...

"I've got more insight into my children's needs and have learnt to be more patient and listen more. My expectations of them are more realistic now than before."

"I learned how to change the way I communicate with my son to better support his understanding, and this has improved my relationship with him."

"I think about how I talk to my son now more, I take a breath before reacting, I'm not flying off the handle and shouting as much, I have learnt that his behaviour is communicating something to me and I need to look beyond what he's doing and more to why is he doing it."

To check availability and book a workshop or programme in your area please go to [Eventbrite](#). [here](#)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the team by emailing ehparenttrainers@warwickshire.gov.uk.

Sleep Better programme

If you have a child with additional needs and sleep issues, bedtime can be tricky. Whether they struggle to communicate how they're feeling, have increased anxiety, sensory issues, or social cueing problems, sleeping well may be difficult.

The Sleep Better programme is suitable for parents and carers of children who are one year old and over who are struggling with bedtime routines, their child's sleeping patterns or bedtime as a whole.

The Sleep Better programme can support you to:

- Establish why your child isn't sleeping
- Learn about gentle methods to encourage better sleep habits
- Consider an improved bedtime routine
- Meet other parents/carers in the same situation
- Explore useful resources to aid sleep

The Sleep Better programme is delivered over 5 weeks and covers:

- Understanding sleep cycles
- Common sleep issues and strategies to manage these
- Establishing appropriate routines
- Keeping sleep diaries and interpreting the data
- Environments

To check availability and book a workshop or programme in your area please go to [Eventbrite](#).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the team by emailing ehparenttrainers@warwickshire.gov.uk.

For information on the sleep better course and other courses see the link below.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/warwickshire-children-and-families-17595309993>

Community News



Coventry and Warwickshire Community Support for Neurodivergent People and their Families

Information and advice for neurodivergent people and their families.

<https://dimensions.covwarkpt.nhs.uk/News.aspx?NID=26>

Information and Advice for Neurodivergent People and their Families



Version one: July 2022

