



Be our best selves

COUGHTON

C of E Primary School

Issue 07

Key dates



Dear Families,

As we conclude the first term I would like to thank you for all of your support.

At Coughton we try to make Christmas as magical as possible for the children. I appreciate that with silly hair days, changes in uniform and making jarbolos that this makes things busier this time of year however it means that we can make some special memories for the children. I would like to thank the PTA for all of their support in making a number of these things possible.

In staffing news, today Mrs Moss leaves to begin her maternity leave and we wish her and family well during this time. We would also like to welcome Mr Hawtree who will be covering Mrs Moss during this time. Mr Hawtree is an experienced teacher and we look forward to welcoming him to the team in January.

In the new year we will be hosting some parent information sessions. Details of these are on the next page. I hope you can join us for these as they will explore key information for year groups for the remainder of the year.

On behalf of the staff and governors I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 6th January 2026.

Head of School
Mr Alex Kolb

Termly team points totals:

Alne: 289

Avon: 328

Arrow: 404

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



Coughton CE Primary School

Monday 5 th January	INSET Day school closed for pupils
Tuesday 6 th January	School reopens to pupils
Monday 19 th January at 2.30pm	Parent Information Evening – Oak Class
Tuesday 20 th January at 2.30pm	Parent Information Evening – Willow Class
Wednesday 21 st January at 2.30pm	Parent Information Evening – Cedar Class
Thursday 22 nd January at 2.30pm	Parent Information Evening – Acer Class
Friday 23 rd January at 2.30pm	Parent Information Evening – Birch Class
Monday 26 th January at 2.30	Parent Information Evening – Ash Class
Wednesday 28 th January 5.00pm-7.00pm	Parents Evening (in person)
Thursday 29 th January 4.00pm-6.00pm	Parents Evening (in person)
Monday 16 th February to Friday 20 th February	Half term
Friday 27 th March	School closes for Easter Holiday
Monday 13 th April	School reopens for the summer term
Monday 25 th May – Friday 29 th June	School closed for half term
Monday 1 st June	INSET Day school closed to pupils

Parent information meetings

We are holding parents information meetings in the new year. The aim of these meetings is to keep you informed about what your children are learning, expectations of homework, classroom routines and assessments that your children will be taking and how they will be administered. Maple class have had a welcome and phonics information meeting in the autumn term so will not on this occasion have a session.

Monday 19th January = Oak 2.30pm in school hall

Tuesday 20th January = Willow 2.30pm in school hall

Wednesday 21st January = Cedar 2.30pm in school hall

Thursday 22nd January = Acer 2.30pm in school hall

Friday 23rd January = Birch 2.30pm in school hall

Monday 26th January = Ash 2.30pm in school hall

Parents evening

These will take place on Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th January. They will be held in person in the school hall. Booking information will be shared in the new year.



KS2 enjoyed a wonderful service at St Peter's Church.



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 September 2025

Friday 24th October 2025

Monday 5th January 2026

Monday 1st June 2026

Monday 20th July 2026

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).

JOY

Christingle Service

St Peter's Church Coughton

Good News of Great Joy
Come and Celebrate with Us This Christmas

Wednesday 24th December
5pm



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



Applications open for Primary School places

Applying for a primary school place



The applications process opens on 1 November 2025 and the deadline for applying for a Reception or Junior place is **15 January 2026**. If you apply by this date, you will receive your child's school offer on National Offer Day (16 April 2026).

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

Many thanks to everyone who responded to the ~~mentimeter~~ survey, 'What does an inclusive school mean to you?'
 Here are the wonderful responses from our parents and carers, highlighting the importance of acceptance, understanding and belonging. Watch this space for responses from the staff and children in the Spring term.

Mrs Blackwell ~~SENDCo~~.



Timetable of what to wear and bring each day- Spring Term 2025 will start on Tuesday 6th January 2025

Attached is a timetable of what days your child is doing certain activities and what they should wear and when

Class	Outdoor PE	Forest school
Maple (Reception)	Friday	Friday
Birch (Year 1)	Monday	Thursday
Ash (Year 2)	Friday (Villa)	Wednesday
Acer (Year 3)	Friday (Villa) Tuesday	
Cedar (Year 4)	Friday (Villa)	Tuesday
Willow (Year 5)	Friday (Villa) Tuesday	
Oak (Year 6)	Friday (Villa) Monday	



Freedom Programme

The aim of [Home-Start South Warwickshire](#)'s Freedom Programme course is to empower women to make informed choices about healthy relationships and to identify 'red flag' behaviours. The course highlights eight common character traits of an abuser and contrasts these with the traits of a respectful partner. It allows space to discuss personal experiences in a confidential group with other women who have had similar lived experiences. They also discuss life after abuse and signpost to various support organisations.

<https://www.homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk/>



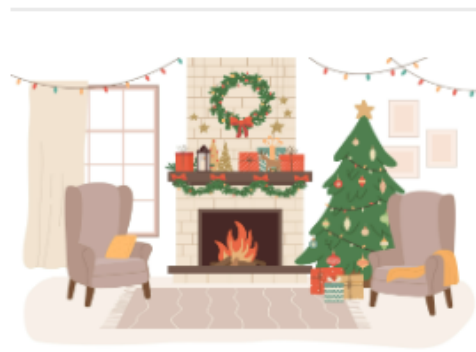
Best Start in Life

Juggling work, family life, and childcare can feel daunting at times. But when you know your child is happy, nurtured, and thriving in the care of dedicated professionals, everything feels a little easier.

If you're an eligible working parent, you can get 30 hours childcare for your child from the term after they turn 9 months old up to school age.

The deadline to apply for your childcare code is 31 December to start using your childcare hours from 1 January.

<https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/eligibility-checker/>



Keeping the magic in Christmas for disabled children

[Contact](#) has asked parents in their community to share what really helps them keep things magical while reducing stress. Their top tips range from pacing presents, to keeping routines steady, to choosing low-pressure ways to celebrate that suit your child's needs.

<https://www.facebook.com/contactfamilies/posts/pfbid02qgeg2bUa8DqpybBvJq7QLXnvcUpSGLVaukGTPbHXGHfuBFuRzTFpPc3FqfXsoyul>



Autism support for the festive season

The holiday season can be tricky for autistic people and their families, with changes to routines, social demands and sensory overloads.

In the latest edition of the [Community Autism Support Service](#) (CASS) newsletter, you'll find practical tips and advice to help navigate Christmas and New Year with a bit more ease.

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Community Autism Support Service (CASS)

https://createsend.com/t/y-F65B5085AC52D5762540EF23F30FEDED?fbclid=IwY2xjawOs2WRleHRuA2FlbQIxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjlwMzkxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEe6DkVIMiXgSD87LjFuZXohVL4OulE2Q1KrkplgDkWjEJO2LmbGLmDPhcJmc_aem_F-iafWh2NXn4xfeXakdayw



<https://www.facebook.com/WarwickshireFIS/posts/pfbid02fRUtiJyLMutQ7AFnP77M3eccABsG3Vrz5JuQYb21ugseNvFK573NuFzMqpyHZjMil>



Mental Health in Schools Team (MHST) workshops

<https://www.facebook.com/WarwickshireFIS/posts/pfbid0GTzZ2c9F7M4JTUK1Uv5pSaUhjwtxWdsqv1rpgH9bvW17D7nNfE2orsM1TwBf8CvI>

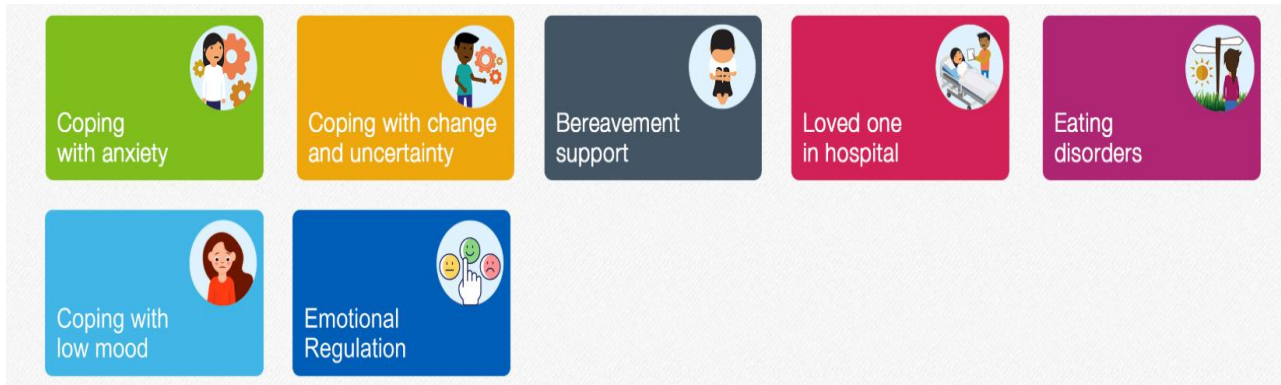


Find out about festive fun and support for families

It is beginning to look a lot like Christmas and Warwickshire County Council is inviting you to experience the magic of the holidays with a wide range of fun activities for children and their families across the county.

Whether it's outdoor exploration, creative workshops, exciting holiday clubs or family support, there's something for every child and young person to enjoy this Christmas.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7288/find-out-about-festive-fun-and-support-for-families>



<https://cwrise.com/for-parents>

Festive support pack to support children with SEND

The [Witherslack Group](#) has produced information to support children with special educational needs (SEN) during the festive period. Topics include speech, language, communication, social skills, sensory overload and regulation.

Learn more about maintaining regulation over the festive season

Learn more about managing sensory overload during festivities

Learn more about speech, language, communication & social skills at Christmas

<https://www.witherslackgroup.co.uk/advice-and-support/resources/maintaining-regulation-over-the-festivities/>

<https://www.witherslackgroup.co.uk/advice-and-support/resources/managing-sensory-overload-during-festivities/>

<https://www.witherslackgroup.co.uk/advice-and-support/resources/supporting-speech-language-communication-social-skills-over-christmas/>



<https://searchout.warwickshire.gov.uk/holiday-s-activities-food-haf>

Winter HAF (holiday activities and food) programme listings are live

HAF activities for the winter provision are now live here: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/haf

Activities begin from 20 December – book now as places fill up fast!

You can find each provider's preferred method of booking under their details. Remember to have your HAF code at the ready.

The HAF programme supports families who are in receipt of benefits-related free school meals. If you are receiving these, but haven't yet got a HAF code, it's not too late – you can apply for a code today on the website.

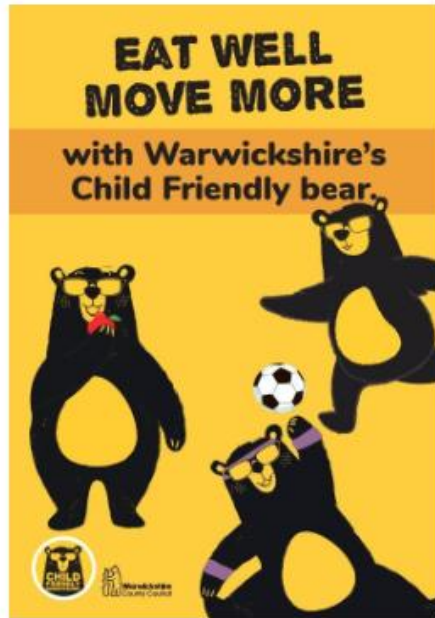


Support for men to prioritise their mental health and wellbeing

To mark International Men's Day and Men's Mental Health Awareness Month, Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care System (ICS) is encouraging men to reflect on their mental health and wellbeing.

Mental health and wellbeing is a subject that many men avoid talking about. Whether that's due to stigma, societal expectations or a lack of understanding of what support is available, the result is far too many men suffering in silence.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7211/coventry-and-warwickshire-ics-encourage-men-to-prioritise-their-mental-health-and-wellbeing>



Eat Well, Move More with our Warwickshire Child Friendly Bear

To start the conversation with your children in a fun and engaging way, we've created a new activity book under the Eat Well, Move More campaign. The booklet is packed with fun activities such as colouring pages, find the differences, help the bear eat healthy, and more to make it easier to talk about healthy eating choices and being active. We hope these activities will encourage healthier food choices and more physical activity.

Workbook link:

<https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-1980322935-3142>

Move more

A healthy lifestyle also involves plenty of physical activity. Children should ideally be active for at least 60 minutes a day, with 30 minutes taking place outside of school. This can be broken into short 10-minute bursts—they could try scootering to school, skipping to the shops, or dancing to a song!

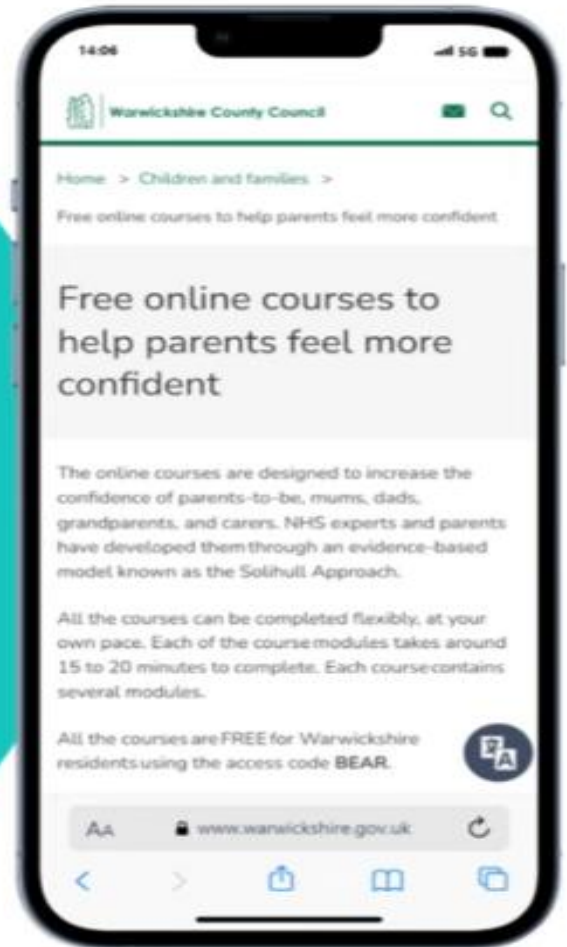
There are lots of ways to encourage children to be more active. Make exercise fun by turning activities into games like tag, hide-and-seek, or dancing. Walk or bike to school if possible or visit a local park for a family walk. Warwickshire also offers a range of after-school sports clubs where young people can stay fit while developing socially.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/homepage/462/get-active>



An online course to help you Understanding your child with additional needs

visit
[warwickshire.gov.uk/parentguides](https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/parentguides)
to get started for free



Free

**'Understanding your child with additional needs'
course is for parents and carers of children who
may be neurodiverse, or have a physical or
learning disability**

Whatever their developmental age, these ideas and techniques may help you better understand your child and how to help process or manage their emotions.

Use the code **BEAR** to get free access.

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

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.

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.

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.**

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

Warwickshire Attendance Service