

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have reached the end of the half term and are half way through the academic year.

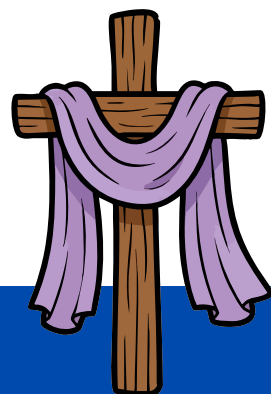
This week, our EYFS children had a wonderful time on their recent visit to SANS Chinese restaurant in Henley as part of their topic on Chinese New Year. This was their first off-site educational visit, and they represented our school beautifully. Their behaviour was impeccable, and many of the children showed great bravery and curiosity in trying new foods – a lovely way to bring their learning to life.

This week focussed on Children's Mental Health Week, helping pupils understand the importance of looking after their wellbeing and supporting one another. The official theme for Children's Mental Health Week 2026 is 'This is My Place'. On Wednesday we joined thousands of schools from around the country in a live assembly hosted by Place2Be.

On Friday afternoon, we held our Young Enterprise event, and we could not be prouder of the effort shown by all our students – with a little help from their parents! It was fantastic to see so many members of our school community join us to purchase an impressive range of homemade items including cakes, cookies, sweets, T-shirts, dog treats and much more. We will be counting the total raised after the half-term break, and all funds will be donated to the charities chosen by the children.

As we head into the half term, we wish all our families a restful and happy break. As a church school, we also take this moment to acknowledge the beginning of Lent, marked by Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. This year is particularly special as Lent, Eid and Chinese New Year are all being celebrated around the same time – a rare overlap that highlights the rich cultural and religious diversity within our British community. We hope all who are marking these festivals find them meaningful and full of joy.

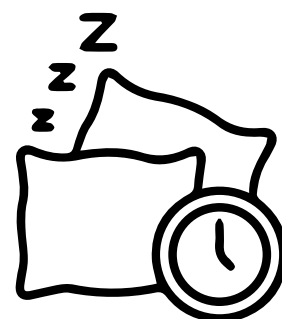
Have a lovely weekend
Kate Adcock



FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2026

Spring Term Dates

Friday 27th February – Year 5 Netball event
Thursday 5th March – World Book Day
Thursday 12th March – Year 1/2 Heart of England
Tuesday 17th March – Year 3/4 Roman Museum Trip
Wednesday 18th March – PTA football event
Wednesday 18th March - Y5/6 BCFC football event
Thursday 19th March – Y5/6 Heart of England
Friday 20th March - Athelete visit
Monday 23rd March – 9:30 Easter Service at St John’s
Tuesday 24th/Wednesday 25th March – Parents Evening
Friday 27th March – End of Term



Thursday 5th March 2026

Bedtime Stories

This year, we are going to be using the theme ‘Bedtime Stories’. Children are invited to wear pyjamas for the day and bring their favourite bedtime story or book which they are currently reading at bedtime. Please ensure children wear sensible footwear suitable for outdoors.

Attendance - Target 94%

Year 1	92.5
Year 2	94.2
Year 3	98.3
Year 4	96.8
Year 5	91.0
Year 6	92.9
Year R	95.4

House Points



Respect Code

Responsible: for your behaviour and learning

Everyone is: kind, helpful and thoughtful

Show God's forgiveness

Persevere with your learning, always

Empathy: consider others and their feelings

Courage: to make the right choices

Tell the truth



New Menu Launch

On Monday 9th March we have a special menu in preparation for the launch of the Spring/Summer menu which will be shared in full soon

SPRING THEME LUNCH

SAUSAGE ROLL
RAINBOW PIZZA
HOMEMADE POTATO WEDGES
SPRING SALAD
CARROT AND CUCUMBER STICKS

BANANA MOUSSE
STRAWBERRY JELLY
CHOCOLATE AND BEETROOT
BROWNIE



LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court clarified 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 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 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 2025-26

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).
 - o 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.
 - o 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.