



Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

After last's week's excitement (and slight chaos) of snow the children have settled well into the new academic year. Read on to find out what we have been learning about:

EYFS – Seasons

Our EYFS children have been captivated by the winter weather, exploring snow, ice, and frost to deepen their understanding of the seasons. They've enjoyed hands-on investigations, noticing how the world changes in colder months, and have also been sharing the story *The Magic Paintbrush* to spark imagination and creativity.

Year 1 & 2 – Poetry and Continents

Year 1 and 2 have loved diving into the rhythmic world of *The Owl and the Pussycat*, using the poem to inspire language play, performance, and creativity. Alongside this, they're learning about the seven continents and discovering the amazing diversity of our planet.

Year 3 & 4 – The Romans

Year 3 and 4 are gearing up to begin their exciting Romans topic next week! They'll be exploring everything from Roman inventions to life in Britain during the empire, discovering how Roman ideas still influence us today.

Year 5 & 6 – World War II

Our oldest pupils are developing a thoughtful understanding of World War II, exploring key events and learning about life during the war. They are currently reading *Anne Frank's Diary*, which is helping them build empathy and reflect on the importance of resilience and hope.

Although January proves to be a quieter month in school, we have many events planned later on this term. Please ensure you have added them to your diary so you are aware of what your child will be taking part in.



Reading



In our recent pupil survey, the results revealed that only 45% of children say they read at home. Reading regularly at home plays a vital role in strengthening children's confidence and skills as learners. Just a few minutes each day helps build vocabulary, improves comprehension, and nurtures a lifelong love of stories and learning. It also gives families a wonderful opportunity to share time together and talk about new ideas. Consistent reading practice truly supports children in becoming enthusiastic, independent readers.

[We expect all of our children to read once a day and this forms part of our home learning policy.](#) Our recent assessment data shows that those children who are making the best progress in reading, are those who read regularly at home.

Mrs Field will be holding a parent reading cafe soon which will hope many of you will attend.

Road Safety



Our road safety team have been working on a mini mission to explain all of the amazing work we have been doing. This will help us gain our Platinum Award. We have 20 points out of 32 needed.

[Please can we use this opportunity to remind parents of the importance of driving safely, especially when their children are passengers in the car.](#)

Eco-Council

Our eco-council continue to work with Mrs Jones on ensuring our school is as eco-friendly as possible. They recent planted bulbs in our buddy-bench. [If you have any wild flowers seeds which you could donate to our school, please hand them into the office.](#)

Wild flowers play an important role in supporting our eco-friendly school environment. They attract bees, butterflies, and other pollinators that help keep our gardens healthy and thriving. Wild flowers also provide food and shelter for small creatures, increase biodiversity, and require very little maintenance, making them a sustainable choice for our grounds. By planting and protecting wild flowers, we help create a vibrant, natural space where both wildlife and our school community can flourish.



Spring Term Dates

Tuesday 10th February – EYFS trip to SANS Chinese restaurant
Friday 13th February – Young Enterprise Event (details to follow)
Friday 27th February – Year 5 Netball event (pm)
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
Thursday 19th March – Y5/6 Heart of England
Monday 23rd March – Easter Service at St John's
Tuesday 24th/Wednesday 25th March – Parents Evening
Friday 27th March – End of Term

House Points



Attendance - Target 94%

Year 1	92.3
Year 2	93.8
Year 3	98.1
Year 4	96.6
Year 5	91.8
Year 6	93.7
Year R	95.5

Year 1 and 2 love the new floor desks as part of their enhanced provision environment.



Respect Code



Parent Governor Vacancy

We have a parent-governor vacancy for a 4-year term of office. Becoming a parent governor offers you the opportunity to make a real contribution to the life and work of the school. School governors play a key role in the leadership of the school and work together with staff to make sure that our school provides a challenging and supportive environment for its pupils.

Being a governor can be very rewarding and will provide you with the opportunity to meet new people and gain new skills. Don't worry if you have no experience in education matters as training and support are available from the MAT, The Key, the NGA and your colleagues on the governing body.

How much time does it take?

You should be prepared to attend regular meetings, and spend time at school. The amount of time will depend on what committees and 'link governor' responsibilities you take-up. The usual term of office is four years from the date of appointment. If you choose to, you can complete your term of office even if your child has since left the school.

How are Parent Governors nominated and elected?

If you would like to put your name forward, please use the attached nomination form. The closing date for the receipt of nominations is Tuesday 27th January 2026 at 5pm. If more than one nomination is received, ballot papers will be sent out and an election held.

**WE ARE
HIRING**

YOUNG ENTERPRISE

Come and see our amazing young entrepreneurs! Children have made their own products to sell, with all money going to our chosen Charities. Each child will run their own stall — creative, fun, and full of fantastic ideas!



The sales event Will Be Held On:



Fri 13th Feb 26



14:30



School hall

I HAVE BEEN SO IMPRESSED BY THE CREATIVE IDEAS CHILDREN HAVE HAD FOR THEIR YOUNG ENTERPRISE STALL LATER IN FEBRUARY. I WILL BE SENDING A LETTER HOME EARLY NEXT WEEK TO ALL OF THE CHILDREN CHOSEN TO RUN A STALL WITH FURTHER DETAILS OF HOW THEY NEED TO PREPARE.

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.