

Together Everyone Achieves More



**Exhall  
Junior School**

Newsletter

OCTOBER

*“October is crisp days and cool nights, a time to curl up around the dancing flames and sink into a good book.”*

WELCOME BACK!

Dear Families,

I want to start by thanking you all for your support this half term. You have taken a leap of faith, under challenging times, and trusted us to keep your children safe and help them recover from all the stresses and difficulties that Covid has presented us all with. Special thanks needs to go to our Year 3 carers/parents, many are new to the school and didn't even know us.

Although we have continued to have a few cases of Covid, we have been able to keep this under control and your help with this has been so valuable. You have supported our admin team when we have asked you to take your child for a PCR test and this has helped to keep cases low, so thank you.

It is wonderful that we have been able to return to some normality this half term and we have welcomed back assemblies, full dinner service in the hall and less complicated break/lunchtimes. As cases rise in the County, and around the country, we might be asked to reintroduce some measures again, we will of course ensure that you are informed as early as possible.

We are really keen to look at ways we can involve you with your child's education and school life again. Electronic survey forms have been sent out for you to give your opinions – please complete them as it helps us tailor what we do to support you and your child even more.

Mr. Mann

## DODGEBALL COMPETITION



The first competitive sports event of the year was the Year 5/6 dodgeball tournament which took place on 18 October 2021.

Our fantastic team thought tactically and strategically throughout the event, winning their first three matches and finishing second in the league stage. Despite their valiant efforts, in the semi-finals the team were unsuccessful in qualifying for the final.

The togetherness shown by the team were an excellent example for the school and set a high standard for the Year 3/4 team to follow in their tournament after half term.



## SCHOOL UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS

A reminder of our expectations with regard to school uniform; all of your children are expected to wear approved school uniform every day, unless its their PE day. This includes black school shoes; trainers are not permitted unless in exceptional

circumstances following a discussion with the office. Any hair accessories should be discreet, not brightly coloured, and jewelry should not be worn with the exception of small studded earrings which should be removed for PE lessons. Thank you for your help and support in reinforcing these rules with your children.

## EVENTS

Please keep a close eye on future events, the office and Friends have worked hard on getting dates out to you until summer 2022! Here is the link to the calendar page, though it is on our app. [link](#) We do have lots of whole school events coming up – Black History, COP26, Diwali and Anti-Bullying Week to name a few. Also, please remember, the photographer will be in school on Wednesday 10 November 2021 to take individual/sibling photographs.

## ANOTHER JOINT EXHALL SCHOOL EVENT



There was such a positive feeling from our Exhall picnic in September, it was decided that we need to more things together. Following a suggestion from Mrs Dorman at Exhall Cedars, we are now having a joint Children in Need fundraising event where we are hoping to have our assemblies together via a live link. We are asking children to come

into school wearing wigs and/or wellies and give a donation to this worthwhile charity. More details will be sent out by both schools.

### LUNCHTIME CHANGES

As one of the many changes here at Exhall Juniors, lunchtimes have had an overhaul.

Zoned activity areas, including team games such as ultimate frisbee and lacrosse; construction and strategy games; quiet areas with reading and board games and the active zone with balls, quoits and hoops, and of course, the parachute, have all meant that children have a wider variety of activities to engage with.

The Midday Supervisors have been leading activities and Year 6 are even being trained to become young play ambassadors.

Everyone has really enjoyed the new structure with lunchtimes now having become so much more purposeful and fun!



### APPLY FOR YOUR CHILD'S SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACE

The application process opened on 6 September 2021 and the deadline to apply for a secondary school place is

**31 OCTOBER 2021.** If you apply by this date, you will receive your child's school offer on National Offer Day (1 March 2022). As part of our responsibility to keep your children safe, we have contacted those parents who still need to apply – it's our duty of care to know that our students have a secondary school place for September 2022.



### CLOCKS GO BACK

On the last Sunday of October in the UK, the clocks go back by one hour, that will be the 31 October this year. It may feel like a long time since the blue skies of summer, but the moment when the clocks go back marks the end of British Summer Time (BST).

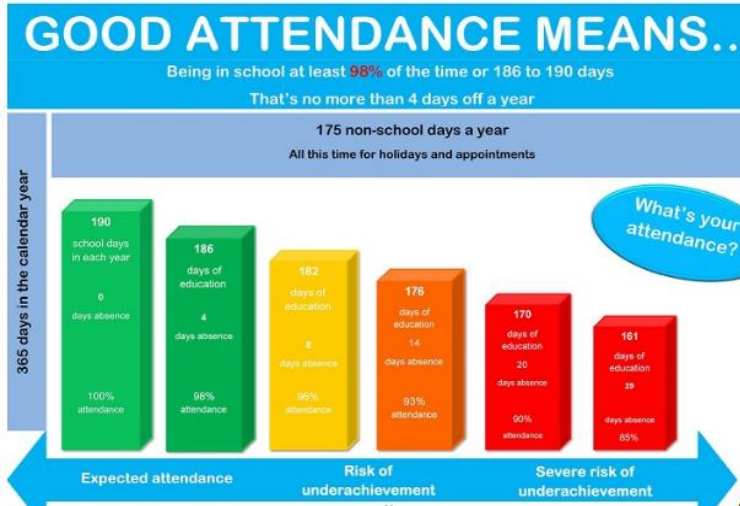
Good news - it also means an extra hour in bed. An easy way to remember which way the clocks change is to think of the seasons: in spring the clocks 'spring forward', while in autumn they 'fall back'.

Please be aware that the mornings will be lighter for a short time, but in the evenings, it will get darker earlier, make sure you support your child and prepare them for this change. Journeys back home will feel different; crossing roads and walking/cycling will all need to be reviewed, and playing out

when they get home will all need to be relooked at as the nights drawn in.

As the children will be spending more time indoors, there will be more time for doing things together. Everyone loves to play board games/jigsaws/crafting. All these can be picked up very cheaply in charity shops or supermarkets. Doing these will help also with developing a child's number and strategy skills as well as their creativity.

## ATTENDANCE



ATTENDANCE was raised as an area to be improved by OFSTED, and we all understand the importance being in school has on academic and personal success.

The expected attendance for the school this year is 96% or higher, and we say a big thank you to all those students who are on track to achieve this target by the end of the year.

Our weekly competition to see which class has the class mascot in their classroom has been hard fought, with points awarded to the top three classes with the best attendance each week. We also have

Punctuality Pete, who is given to the class who have most on time students.

We understand that Covid has an impact but to support your child's education we will be inviting carers/parents for a meeting to discuss attendance where we feel it is a concern.



## HATS ON!

We didn't forget to wear our hats on Friday 8 October 2021, and we did manage to raise funds to support the mental health of children and young people across Coventry and Warwickshire. £98.00 was our final total – thank you for your support.

## HALF TERM FUN

Here are a few links to some half term activities – here's hoping for some dry weather.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/directory/46/october-half-term-holiday-activities/category/341>

<https://www.happyfamilyhub.co.uk/>

## BENEFITS OF HOMEWORK

To support your child's learning we encourage all students to complete their homework each week, and we reward those that do their work with some free time. We



feel that it gives each student an opportunity to demonstrate mastery of skills taught in class. Homework also enables us to inform and involve you in your child's education and to prepare your child for the demands of secondary school. Please discuss what homework your child is doing, and support them with their reading – it makes such a difference.

## EXTREME READING CHALLENGE!!!

Where is the most extreme place you have ever read a book? Whether it is up a tree, on top of a mountain or whilst playing football we want your photos!



## HARVEST COLLECTION



Thank you so much for your kind harvest donations, there was so much this year.

Our Head Boy & Girl and deputies met with Alan from the Bedworth Foodbank to handover the donations.

It goes to show what a supportive school community we have as prices of food have risen dramatically, money is tight for everyone, but you still support those who are in need the most.

Over half term your challenge is to take a photo of yourself reading somewhere extreme and email it to [admin2571@welearn365.com](mailto:admin2571@welearn365.com) by Monday 1 November 2021.

Obviously we encourage you to **BE SAFE** but we are looking forward to seeing who in school has such a passion for reading that they have to do it anywhere and everywhere. (Miss Glynn and Mrs Bhave have had a go already!)

## HALF TERM

Have a fun, safe October half term. We look forward to school reopening on Monday 1 November 2021.