

Together Everyone Achieves More



**Exhall
Junior School**

Newsletter

JANUARY

*"New year — new verse, a
new chapter, or just the
same old story?
Ultimately we write it.
The choice is ours."*

WELCOME BACK!

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year everyone and welcome back. I hope that you all had an enjoyable, restful Christmas break and were able to spend some Covid free times with family and friends.

The children have returned to school excited to start their new texts and topics and we are all looking forward to the signs of spring appearing during this term. The children's attitude to learning has been excellent; calm, purposeful classrooms are seen throughout the school.

I feel I must point out how well Year 3 have progressed since September. Everyone has noted how consistently they display being Safe, Ready and Respectful, and this is having such an impact on their work as well.

Miss Shepherd has been so proud of their effort, resilience and eagerness to learn throughout all of their lessons.

Year 6 have been super busy since their return to school after the winter break. For English, they started their new core text, 'Skellig'; they have completely immersed themselves in the story by getting to know the character.

Year 4/5 are just as busy in their classrooms. They have shown that they can excel in their singing during our weekly music assemblies – future stars here!

Our hope is that visits into school from carers/parents will start up soon as well as games and competitions with other local schools.

Online Safety

Online Safety is an important part of keeping children safe. We have security measures in place in school, which are constantly monitored, to help safeguard pupils from any potential dangers. Online Safety is taught to all pupils explaining and demonstrating how to stay safe and behave appropriately online and staff have recently had training in order to highlight the importance of this and support your child.

Children have access to a greater amount of online content than we ever did in our childhood. Remember that services like Facebook and YouTube have a minimum age limit of 13, and video games like Fortnite are aimed for 12 years and above. They do this for a reason.

If you choose to allow your children to have these accounts then you will want to discuss with them the boundaries you expect. We have spoken to them in school about this, but understand that it is your decision regarding the level of access out of school.

What can parents/carers do?

Ground Rules

- Discuss as a family how the internet will be used in your house. Consider what should be kept private online (personal information, photos etc.) and decide rules for making and meeting online friends. Make sure you know what your child is doing online much like you would offline.

Online Safety

- Install antivirus software, secure your internet connection and use Parental Control functions to block unsuitable content or contact.

- Remember that parental control tools are not always 100% effective, unsuitable content can get past them, so don't rely on them alone to protect your child.

- Think about locating your computer, or where mobiles and tablets are being used, in a supervised family area. Always supervise the use of webcams in an application, which allows voice or video chat.

- Talk to your child and ask them to show or even teach you how they use the internet, learn which websites or tools they like to use and why. Learning together can often open opportunities to discuss safe behaviour with your child.

- Always ensure your child knows how to block or report people online who send nasty or inappropriate messages or content. Encourage your child not to retaliate or reply. Make sure your child knows to tell an adult.

- It's essential to be realistic - banning the internet or technology will not work and it often makes a child less likely to report a problem. Education around safe use is essential.

The internet is a valuable learning resource, and we all want children to engage positively with it, so working together with us now will help your child in the future.

St Giles Church

Even though our school name is no longer St Giles we are proud to continue with our close links to St Giles Church. In December our 'Helping Hands' nurture group created a masterpiece which was included in a Christmas Tree display in the church grounds.

In addition to this our Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl attended the Christmas Service at St Giles Church on Sunday 19 December 2021. Not only did they represent Exhall Junior School, they each delivered a reading. Public speaking is something many adults find challenging and feedback was that they did a great job. Well done!



Governors News

Our Chair of Governors, Julia Gaughan and Phil Felgate, our Finance and H&S governor ended their terms of office on our Governing Body from the end of last year. They have both supported the school so well, and their valuable skills will be

missed. I am sure that you would want me to pass on your best wishes to them.



As we now have vacancies, we hope that either you, or someone you know, would consider being part of the school team so that we can support the community and its learners. To find out more about being a governor, come and speak with us and write a short covering email telling us what you will bring to the role and send to admin2571@welearn365.com

Times tables

Please can you ensure that your children regularly practice their times tables as this will help them in all aspects of Maths.

In school we ensure that pupils practice their times tables and apply this knowledge to complete a range of Maths learning activities. Some of our Year 4/5 pupils are not able to recall their times tables and this is hindering their Maths progress. In year 4 our pupils will take part in a national on line multiplication times tables programme which checks their times tables up to 12 x 12. The pupils have 25 times table random questions to answer and only have 6 seconds to answer each question.

Please give your child opportunities to practice their times tables at home. There

are a number of games and websites that support learning times tables including: Times Table Rock Stars and the

BBC have lots of games, songs and videos to support you and your child. [BBC Website](#)



Junior Leadership Team

At the school we have a very active Junior Leadership Team that meets fortnightly with Mr Mann.

The aim of the JLT is to:

- Develop confidence and responsibility and make the most of their abilities.
- Prepare them to play an active role as citizens.
- Develop healthy, safer lifestyles.

Currently, they are trying to increase the number of children who choose healthy options for their snack at breaktime, as we are still having too many chocolate bars/sweets etc. This also links with the work they did in the autumn on COP26, as it should reduce the number of wrappers being brought into school.

They have a plan for a poster campaign, assemblies and a reward scheme that should encourage children to choose a healthier option. They mentioned that fruit was often

available when they were at our infants, and they enjoyed it. For some unknown reason, the DfE funding for this stops at Year 2, it's the same for free school dinners, though the need is clearly still there.

If your child does come home and ask if they could have fruit etc we would be very grateful for your support, as the JLTs target is to have most children eating a healthy breaktime tuck by the Summer Term. They will update you with how it's going in February's newsletter.

Attendance

Obviously, attendance levels, especially at this time of year, can be affected by illness. We monitor pupil's attendance every half term as regular attendance at school promotes pupils' well-being, maximises progress in learning and helps pupils reach their potential.

It is our duty to promote 100% attendance for all children. For our children to take full advantage of the educational opportunities offered it is vital that our pupils are at school, on time, every day the school is open unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable.

We send out letters to notify parents/carers of our initial cause for concern when a pupil's attendance has dropped below 96%.



Year 3 Singing Sessions

We have been very fortunate to have been selected by Warwickshire Music to have an trained external singing teacher to regularly work with Year 3. The children have responded well and already know several songs and the actions to go with them!

Valentine's Disco

VALENTINE DISCO



The Friends of Exhall Junior School are planning yet another event for our school community. A valentine disco is due to take place on Monday 14 February 2022:

3.15 – 4.15 pm – Year 3 & 4

4.30 – 5.30 pm – Year 5 & 6

More details will follow later this week!

Book Fair



Don't forget the Travelling Book Fair is only in school until Wednesday morning. There are lots of great books still available to purchase.

	Before School	After School
Mon 31 Jan	08:15 - 08:40 am	3:15 - 3:45 pm & 4:30 - 4:45 pm
Tues 1 Feb	08:15 - 08:40 am	3:15 - 3:45 pm & 4:30 - 4:45 pm
Wed 2 Feb	08:15 - 08:40 am	N/A

Calendar

The school has an INSET Day on Friday 18 February 2022. Term dates and events for this academic year can be found here

- <https://exhalljunior.org.uk/calendar>