



Dream big, shine bright

St NICHOLAS
C of E Primary School, Alcester

Weekly What's On

w/c 19th January 2026

Whole school Reminders

Parking

Safety and wellbeing of our pupils, staff and the wider community is our top priority. We kindly ask for your support in helping us maintain a safe environment for everyone, especially during busy drop-off and pick-up times.

We kindly ask all parents and carers to:

- Avoid parking on or blocking driveways, blocking people already parked in the layby opposite the KS1 playground, school entrances or residents' garages
- Refrain from stopping or parking on yellow zig-zag lines and double yellow lines outside the school
- Use designated parking spaces along St Faiths Road or nearby public car parks, where possible
- Keep clear of pedestrian crossings and corners to maintain clear sight lines for all road users
- Do not leave engines idling while waiting, to reduce air pollution and noise

To support our school community, we encourage you to:

- Allow extra time in the mornings and afternoons for safe parking. Be prepared to park further away, if needs be.
- Consider walking, cycling, or scootering to school if you live nearby
- Share lifts with other families where possible to reduce the number of cars



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Menu Change

Italian Theme
Day

22nd January
2026





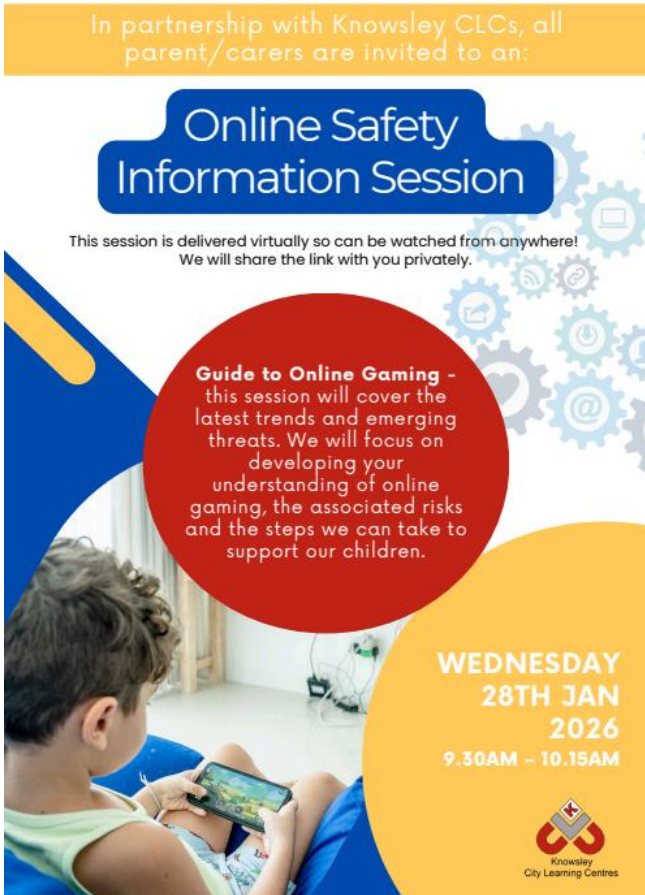
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Head lice	 Head lice and nits are very common in young children. Please ensure you check your child's hair regularly. The NHS website is full of advice, should you need it. https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/
New Uniform Supplier – Earth Uniform	We are delighted to announce that our school has a new uniform supplier, Earth Uniform. This change has been made to ensure our uniform is more sustainable, using ethically sourced cotton, with some items even made from recycled plastic bottles! We are proud to be working with a company whose values align with our commitment to caring for the planet. The link is: https://www.earthuniform.com/collections/st-nicholas-c-of-e-primary-school
FREE Swimming	Thanks to a collaboration between Warwickshire's Family Information Service and Everyone Active they have an incredible new year offer. They are offering complimentary swimming this January at one of their 8 centres. Click on the link below for more information. https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/everyoneactive
Label belongings	We would like to remind all families to label ALL of your child's belongings, including: • School uniform (jumpers, cardigans, polo shirts, trousers, skirts, dresses) • Coats and jackets • PE kit and trainers • Shoes/ trainers • Lunch boxes and water bottles • Book bags and rucksacks • Hats, scarves and gloves Labelling your child's belongings helps us reunite lost items with the correct child quickly and efficiently. Without clear labels, items often end up in our lost property and it becomes very difficult to return them to their rightful owners.



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Phase Newsletter	Your child's Spring Newsletter is now on your child's class page. https://www.alcesterstnicholas.co.uk/class-pages/ This useful document is packed full of important information and covers the topics your child will be learning his term.
Online Safety Information Session – Wednesday 28th January 2026	
Get Ready to Glow Year 2 – 5 Only	Dear Families, Get Ready to Glow! We are excited to announce a Glow Dodgeball Enrichment Day taking place at school on Monday February 2nd! This action-packed day promises lots of fun, teamwork, and glowing excitement as children take part in dodgeball games under UV lights. To help everyone glow as brightly as possible, all children should come to school wearing their PPA kit on this day. Their plain white T-shirt is essential (and of course, glowing white teeth)! Glow-in-the-dark face paint will also be provided to make the day even more special. If you do not give permission for face paint to be used on your child, please inform a member of staff in advance.



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	We can't wait to see the children light up the sports hall and enjoy this unique enrichment experience! There will be other exciting sporting opportunities for other year groups in case anyone is disheartened x
PPA Arrangement – Spring One	Make sure you check out your child's class page for PPA arrangements for Spring One. https://www.alcesterstnicholas.co.uk/class-pages/
Doodle Learning	 Some families have experienced an issue with Doodle - once updated, the App would not allow log in - this has been reported to Doodle. They have released a new update that fixes this issue. It was reported across the world (even in Oman!) so they've tried to fix it ASAP.
Caterlink	Caterlink coffee morning to take place on Tuesday 27th of January 2026 between 9-10am?
MyClothing	



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Admission Arrangements 2027-28	CONSULTATION ON ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2027 As required by the Admissions Code, we are seeking your views on the proposed admissions policy for 2027-28 as part of the requirement to consult every seven years. A period of consultation will run from 12th December 2025 until 23rd January 2026. A copy of the proposed admissions policy is available on the school's website: https://www.alcesterstnicholas.co.uk/ for your information. Alternatively, if you require a hard copy please contact the school office. Comments should be received no later than 4pm on 23rd January 2026.
January Online Safety	Our Online Safety Newsletter for January 2026 is live on our website. https://www.alcesterstnicholas.co.uk/stream/newsletters/full/1/-//
Big Garden Birdwatch	Mrs McGarr has been focussing on birds at Forest School and she thought some children might like to take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch at home. If you decide to take part in this event, it would be lovely if families could share photos of their children with the school, to create a display. Please send your photo's to admin3595@welearn365.com titled "Big Garden Birdwatch" The link to the RSPB's website is as follows: https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch?mac=bwmith0230&utm_source=google&utm_medium=ppc&utm_campaign=bgbw-2026&utm_content=ppc&gclid=EA1a1QobChMI_5uK792PkgMVeJpQBh1OiCg8EAAAYASAAEgLL5PD_BwE



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Coming up next week

Reception	
Year 1	
Year 2	
Year 3	
Year 4	Edgmond Hall Payment The final payment for Edgmond should now have been made, if you have an outstanding balance we would be grateful this could be paid on ParentPay as soon as possible please. Any problems please let us know on admin3595@welearn365.com . Thank you.
Year 5	Bikeability Cycle Training If your child is taking part in Bikeability training please complete and return the form to school (sent 12.01.26) by Friday 23rd January please.
Year 6	Boreatton Park Payment If you have yet to pay the January instalment on ParentPay please do so as soon as possible, thank you. Any problems please let us know on admin3595@welearn365.com . Thank you.



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St Benedict's
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Parent /Carer,

The Hub at St Benedict's Catholic High School Launch

I would like to invite you to the launch evening of the Year 7 Hub at St Benedicts Catholic High School on **5th February 2026 from 6.00pm.**

We are excited with our innovative developments that aim to support effective transition during this crucial stage of learning. We believe **The Hub@ SBE** offers the perfect place to move with confidence into secondary education, allowing pupils to **Build, Grow and Flourish.**

Environment
We have reflected on how nationally many pupils find this a challenging time as they adapt to a larger environment with lots of different teachers and many movements in their day. At St Benedict's we are supporting this by dedicating a refurbished building for the use of our Year 7 pupils. In The Hub they have dedicated home classrooms, a learning resource centre and state of the art science laboratories. Beyond the classroom we will support socialisation by ensuring they mingle in their own canteen or social spaces and engage in enrichment activities delivered in our cinema, fitness studio, chapel, roof garden or outside on the sports field.

Curriculum
The Year 7 curriculum has been carefully designed to ensure that students enjoy learning, make clear progress and achieve their full potential. Our subject leads have worked in collaboration with their peers in KS2 to ensure their topics and skills build effectively on prior knowledge and avoid unnecessary repetition. They have taken time to ensure every lesson focuses on building subject specific vocabulary, modelling skills and then allowing pupils the freedom to apply knowledge with growing confidence. Although we are only at the start of their secondary journey thoughtful planning means the skills that students gather leaves them fully prepared when they take formal assessments.

We hope that you will join us on the evening to experience the warm space and expert staff body that ensures your child flourishes when then arrive at St Benedict's Catholic High School. Please confirm if you will or will not be attending by scanning the QR code below:

Yours sincerely,

Ms C Paddock
Principal

Principal - Ms C Paddock
Kinwanton Road, Alcester, B49 6PX
T: 01789 762888 E: sbe-office@sbe.magnificat.org.uk
www.sbe.magnificat.org.uk

Proudly part of Our Lady of the Magnificat Multi-Academy Company



Your compass for life

Other news

Useful Links

Our Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/AlcesterStNics/?locale=en_GB
Our calendar <https://www.alcesterstnicholas.co.uk/diary/grid/2024/11/>
News <https://www.alcesterstnicholas.co.uk/topic/news-and-events>



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Vacancies



Inspiring Educational Excellence for Everyone

ARDENforest
C of E Multi Academy Trust

Postal address:
St Nicholas C of E Primary School,
St Faith's Road, Alcester, Warwickshire B49 6AG
Telephone 01789 713233
Email: info@ardenforestmat.org

CEO: Mr Adam Walsh
CFO: Mrs Sophie Carthy
COO: Dr Amanda Dale

12th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Arden Forest Church of England Multi Academy Trust is currently looking to appoint new Directors to join its Trust Board, and we would like to share this opportunity with parents and carers across our schools.

Many people are unfamiliar with what a Director of a multi-academy trust does. Directors are volunteers who help guide the Trust at a strategic level. Working together as a board, they set the Trust's long-term direction, ensure schools are well supported and well governed, and hold senior leaders to account for educational quality, safeguarding, and financial sustainability. Directors are not involved in the day-to-day running of schools, but instead focus on ensuring that the Trust continues to provide high-quality, inclusive education for all children.

Arden Forest C of E Multi Academy Trust is a strong and well-established Church of England trust, serving over 2,000 pupils. As the Trust looks ahead to the future, it is important that its Board reflects a wide range of skills, experiences and perspectives. Parents can bring valuable insight, professional expertise and a strong commitment to children and communities.

We are keen to hear from parents with experience in areas such as people or HR leadership, operations, estates or facilities management, sustainability, education, inclusion or SEND. You do not need prior experience of school or academy trust governance; however, we are interested in individuals who are used to working at a strategic or senior level, for example through board, trustee, non-executive or executive leadership roles. You do not need to be a practising Christian, but you should be supportive of the Trust's Christian foundation and values.

The time commitment is typically around six days per year, including board and committee meetings and preparation time. To support the recruitment process, the Trust is working with Nurole, a specialist board-level recruitment organisation. Nurole can arrange informal conversations for anyone who would like to find out more before deciding whether to apply.

You can find out more and apply [here](#). To arrange an informal conversation or if you have any other queries, please contact caroline.olsen@nurole.com.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this opportunity and for your continued support.
Kind regards

Mr Adam Walsh

CEO



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Diary Dates

We thought it would be helpful to share the diary dates for the whole year. Please note: they are subject to change

Spring

Date	Time	info
20.01.2026	All day	Year 2 trip to Coventry cathedral
02.02.2026		Get Ready to Glow
03.02.2026	AM	Reception church visit – mock wedding
13.02.2026		Break up for half term
Half term 16.02.2026 to 20.02.2026		
22.01.2026	5 pm	Year 6 SAT's Meeting – To be confirmed
23.02.2026		Children return to school
02.03.2026	All day	Height and weight (Rec pm/year 6 am)
05.03.2026	All day	World Book Day
10.03.2026	TBC	Year 5 experience Easter at church
18.03.2026	4-7pm	Parents consultations
19.03.2026	4-7pm	Parents consultations
19.03.2026	Am	Easter service at church (year 5) with year 5 families
25.03.2026	All day	Year 4 Edgmond hall
26.03.2026	All day	Year 4 Edgmond hall
27.03.2026	All day	Year 4 Edgmond hall
27.03.2026		Children break up from school
Easter break – 30.03.2026 -10.04.2026		

Summer

Date	Time	info
13.04.2026	All day	Return to school
04.05.2026		Bank holiday – May Day
05.05.2026	Am	Year 1 church visit – Creation
06.05.2026	All day	Reception School Trip
11.05.2026	All week	SATs week
22.05.2026		Children break up
Half term break – 25.05.2026 to 29.05.2026		
01.06.2026	All day	Teacher Training day
08.06.2026	All week	Year 4 MTC all week
	All week	Phonics screening year 1 and year 2 retakes
09.06.2026	Am	Year 2 Church visit – world views



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24.06.2026	All day	Year 6 PGL
25.06.2026	All day	Year 6 PGL
02.07.2026	Pm	Big Camp – year 2
03.07.2026	All day	Big Camp – year 2
07.07.2026	Am	Year 6 Church visit – worldviews/truth
10.07.2026	All day	Reports out to families Leavers festival (provisional date)
15.07.2026	4pm	Optional parents' consultations (families call office to book)
17.07.2026	Pm	Leavers performance/awards (TBC)
17.07.2026		Last Day of term
Break up for summer		
20.07.2026	All day	INSET day



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WINTER WELLNESS

This series of workshops aims to give you the tools to keep you and your family well this winter, Sign up today, to support your family's health.



Winter Illnesses and Prevention

Monday, 2 February 2026 at 9.15am

- how to take a temperature and how to manage a fever
- taking a look at winter illnesses
- immunisations
- supporting an unwell child, with confidence



Getting Your Home Ready For Winter

Monday, 9 February 2026 at 9.15am

- black mould and how to prevent this in your home
- how to help prevent accidents, injuries or harm in the home
- how to help a person, should they fall, trip or get injured
- what can cause risk, or be a threat, to a child at home



Empowering Dads and Male Carers

Monday, 23 February 2026 at 9.15am

- join other male parents and carers to discuss techniques to deal with stress and anxiety
- get the tools you need to protect your own mental health and that of your children.



Stratford Children and Family Centre
Drayton Avenue
Stratford-upon-Avon
CV37 9PB



To book your place at your centre
Tel: 01789 266624

OR

for other dates online

SIGN UP USING OUR QR CODE OR GO TO:

<http://www.barnardos.org.uk/virtual-family-space-coventry-warwickshire>

NHS
Coventry and
Warwickshire
Integrated Care Board

 **Coventry and Warwickshire**
Integrated Care System

 **CHILDREN
& FAMILY
CENTRE**

BARNARDOS
VIRTUAL FAMILY SPACE

Barnardo's Registered Charity Nos. 216250 and SC037605 25713mw25



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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.

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.



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- 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.