



Tanworth-in-Arden C of E Primary School & Nursery

In God's family, learning, loving, growing to be our very best

1st May 2026

Dear Parents,

It has been another busy and productive couple of weeks in school, with lots to celebrate and share with you.

We were delighted to welcome a visit from OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) to review the progress we are making in developing our play provision. The feedback was extremely positive, recognising the wide range of play opportunities now available to our children. One particular highlight was the quality of cross-age play, with our Year 6 pupils showing great care and responsibility as they played alongside younger children. They were praised as excellent role models, demonstrating kindness, inclusion and leadership through play.

Our next step on the OPAL journey is accreditation, which will take place in June. Ahead of this, we would love to invite parents into school to see OPAL in action. This will take place on Thursday 8th May from 2:15pm. This is a wonderful opportunity not only to observe the impact of OPAL, but also to join in and play alongside your children.

On Wednesday 22nd April, Mrs Hoskins, our Sustainability Lead, welcomed representatives from Let's Go Zero to review the progress we are making with our School Climate Action Plan. We were also joined by two of our governors, Laura and Catherine, who were able to see first-hand the positive steps being taken. A full report from Mrs Hoskins can be found on the reverse of this newsletter.

We have also had several important governor visits in school recently. On Friday 24th April, Helena Mikula, our Health and Safety Governor, carried out a thorough review of our provision, including our Fire Risk Assessment and progress against our latest Health and Safety audit. Then on Wednesday 29th April, our Chair of Governors, Sam Joseph, spent the morning in school focusing on safeguarding and attendance.

These visits are a vital part of the school's continued improvement. They ensure that governors have a clear and accurate understanding of the school through first-hand evidence, support the triangulation of information, and provide robust challenge to me as Headteacher. While these visits are thorough and rigorous, they are always carried out in a supportive and respectful manner, rooted in our Christian values and with consideration for staff wellbeing.

On Thursday this week we welcomed Mr Farquhar the Church School Distinctiveness Advisor for the Birmingham Diocese, who met with Mr Fidler and myself to explore our Church school distinctiveness, Religious Education and Collective Worship as we prepare for our SIAMS inspection next academic year. The visit was very positive, with Mr Farquhar recognising that our Christian vision, "In God's family, learning, loving, growing to be our very best," is deeply embedded in all aspects of school life and clearly lived out through our ethos, relationships and curriculum. These discussions also provide valuable opportunities to reflect on current strengths and to consider next steps. Thank you to Mr Fidler in all that he does in leading this important area of school.

Finally a special mention to Isla in Year 1 who came to read to me on Thursday. It was a delight to hear her read sounding out and blending to read unknown words and with super understanding of the story. Keep up the good reading Isla.

Don't forget that this weekend is a bank holiday, so school will be closed on Monday. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Mrs Bamford

Head teacher

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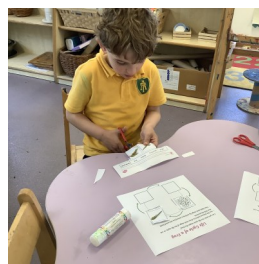
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NURSERY NEWS

This week in Nursery we have spent another week celebrating changes in nature. We have been learning all about the life cycle of the frog with a little help from the book 'Tadpole's Promise' by Jeanne Willis. We have enjoyed lots of related activities including bubble painting, painting our own frog portraits, cutting and sorting the life cycle, in addition to lots of lovely messy play and free choice opportunities. The Nursery Team.



SUSTAINABILITY

We were thrilled to welcome Sarah Mills from Let's Go Zero into school to support our growing sustainability work. Sarah spent time with staff celebrating the fantastic progress already being made and helping us further shape our School Climate Action Plan. It was a valuable opportunity to reflect on how far we've come, from measuring our carbon footprint and embedding sustainability across school life, to developing strong pupil leadership through our Eco Warriors.

Our Eco Warriors also enjoyed the chance to meet and chat with Sarah, who shared how tools such as thermal imaging cameras and light meters are used to help schools identify energy loss and become more climate friendly. The same day also saw a very successful Rags2Riches collection, with an impressive 264.3 kg of donated clothing left for collection, raising £66.07 for the school. We would like to say a huge thank you to our parents for their generosity in donating clothes, as well as for the continued donations supporting the Sensory Garden that the Eco Warriors are creating as part of our OPAL offering. A special thank you goes to Mrs Whitehouse, Mrs Dingley and Mrs Lehnen, who have been incredibly generous with their time, digging, building and supporting the garden project come rain, hail or shine. These events reflect the practical impact of our pupils, staff and families working together to support sustainability across the school.

Mrs Hoskins



ONLINE SAFETY SESSION

The next Knowsley Online Safety Session for parents and carers is on Wednesday 6th May 2026 – 4pm – 4.45pm

The focus of this session is a "Guide to social media and livestreaming". This will include latest trends and emerging threats and will focus on developing your understanding of social media and livestreaming, the associated risks and steps we can take to support our children.

The link to access this session will be sent to on Tuesday next week but please see the poster attached to this newsletter.

As a reminder, this session (and all virtual sessions) will be recorded and will be subsequently shared.

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Smartphone Free Childhood



We have moved up one space and are now in 7th place for Primary schools in Warwickshire who have signed up to the Smartphone Free Childhood Pact, with an amazing 55 families signing up. These are the year groups and the number of parents that have currently signed the pact. Well done to Year 3 who are still leading the way with almost 1/2 of the class signing the pact. Which is amazing!

Year / Age	Pacts
Pre-school (2 - 3)	3
Pre-school (3 - 4)	3
Reception (4 - 5)	5
Year 1 (5 - 6)	5
Year 2 (6 - 7)	12
Year 3 (7 - 8)	15
Year 4 (8 - 9)	4
Year 5 (9 - 10)	8

DATES FOR DIARIES

SUMMER 1	SUMMER 2
Monday 4th May School and Nursery closed for Bank Holiday	Monday 1st June Teacher Training Day
Friday 8th May OPAL Parent play and stay 2.15pm	Tuesday 2nd June School and Nursery open
Monday 11th May-Friday 15th May KS2 SATS week	Friday 5th June Non-school uniform donations for Father's Day shop
Friday 15th May Lent Project 'Break the Rule Day' (email sent)	Monday 8th June Year 3 Roman Day
Tuesday 19th May School & Nursery Video Day (email sent)	Friday 12th June Sports Day (details to follow)
Friday 22nd May Class Photos	Friday 19th June Father's Day Shop £2.50
Friday 22nd May break up half-term	Monday 22nd June Home Learning Gallery 3.15pm
	Tuesday 23rd June Home Learning Gallery 8.30-9.00
	Friday 26th June Year 6 Big Sell pm
	Monday 29th June - Friday 3rd July Year 6 Residential
	Friday 3rd July Shine Day Reception to Year 5 (details to follow)
	Wednesday 8th July Move up day/Secondary induction
	Thursday 9th July School discos and Year 6 Leavers Disco
	Friday 10th July Music Concert pm (TBC)
	Friday 10th July End of year reports
	Monday 13th July Year 6 production pm
	Tuesday 14th July Year 6 production evening
	Friday 17th July Year 6 Leavers Service am
	Friday 17th July Children break up for Summer Holidays
	Monday 20th July Teacher Training Day

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CELEBRATION NAMES

Children who were presented with certificates on Tuesday 21st April

Year 1:

Chester is making wonderful progress in his reading and is showing increased fluency each day. He is confidently sounding out both Phase 3 and Phase 4 sounds, which is helping him tackle a wide range of words with growing independence. Chester is also becoming more secure in recognising tricky words, allowing him to read more smoothly and with greater understanding. He is putting in a lot of effort, always trying his best, and it really shows in the progress he is making. We are so proud of his determination and positive attitude towards learning.

Jude has made a fantastic start to Year 1 and has consistently worked hard in everything he does. He truly embodies our school values of being ready, respectful and safe, setting a wonderful example for others to follow. Jude is an excellent role model in the classroom and around school, and he is always a kind and supportive friend to his peers. He is ever so polite to all members of the school community, showing great manners and respect at all times. We are incredibly proud of Jude and all that he has achieved.

Year 2:

I have chosen **Ruaridh** for this certificate due to the positive learning behaviours he has shown since returning from Easter. In Year 2, we have been focusing on what it means to be an active listener, and Ruaridh has been making a great effort to demonstrate this by looking carefully and staying organised with his learning. He has been contributing more during lessons and showing increased engagement, particularly during partner and group work. He will regularly check in with familiar adults, asking if we are okay, showing genuine care, which always brings a smile to our faces. Keep it up, Ruaridh!

I truly could choose this certificate every week for **Eve**, but I have particularly chosen her for her thoughtful contributions to our new topic, 'Nurturing Nurses'. Eve shares her ideas in a lovely, respectful way, showing maturity. She is consistently inquisitive and asks thoughtful, appropriate questions that help to extend her learning even further. Eve is also a very independent learner and will often take the initiative to research ideas in more depth, showing a genuine enthusiasm for her learning. Thank you for bringing so much joy to our learning experiences Eve. You make our classroom a brighter place to be!

Year 3:

Leo has been awarded this week's Effort and Achievement certificate for the fantastic attitude he has been showing towards his learning. He has been trying really hard in every lesson and is making a real effort to stay focused and engaged in class. Because of his determination and positive mindset, Leo is making strong progress across the curriculum and growing in confidence each day. He should be very proud of the effort he is putting into his work. Well done, Leo – keep it up!

Phoebe B has been awarded this week's Behaviour and manners certificate for the consistently positive attitude she brings to school each day. She is always helpful and often notices the little jobs around the classroom that need doing, taking the initiative to help without needing to be asked. Phoebe is also incredibly polite and always remembers her manners, setting a lovely example to others. Alongside this, she puts great effort into her learning and tries hard in everything she does. Her hardworking and caring attitude makes her a valued member of our class. Well done, Phoebe B!

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CELEBRATION NAMES

Year 4:

Ollie has been chosen this week for the Behaviour and Manners Award for being a fantastic role model in the classroom. He consistently demonstrates excellent manners and approaches each day with a positive and respectful attitude towards his learning which then ripples around the classroom. Ollie is also incredibly supportive of his peers, always offering encouragement and help to his classmates. His kindness and positivity help to create a calm and welcoming learning environment for everyone. Ollie's thoughtful behaviour does not go unnoticed and he is a pleasure to teach. Well done, Ollie!

Mhairi has been chosen this week for the Effort and Attainment Award for her excellent work in guided reading and the fantastic effort she consistently puts into her own reading for pleasure. She approaches reading sessions with enthusiasm and focus, and her understanding of texts continues to develop beautifully. Mhairi has an impressive vocabulary and confidently uses this across the curriculum, helping her to express her ideas clearly and thoughtfully in all areas of learning. Her hard work and positive attitude towards reading are a pleasure to see and are having a real impact on her progress. Well done, Mhairi!

Year 5:

This certificate is awarded to **Izzie** for her outstanding behaviour and impeccable manners. Izzie is consistently polite, always taking the time to ask how others are and wishing staff a happy lunchtime, before kindly thanking them at the end of the day. She shows genuine appreciation and respect, which makes a real difference. Alongside this, Izzie demonstrates exemplary learning behaviours- she listens carefully, always makes the right choices, and sets a wonderful example for others. To add to this, her books are beautifully presented, reflecting the pride she takes in all her work. Izzie is truly a delight to teach. Keep being fabulous Izzie, well done!

Seb has shown fantastic effort and achievement in his writing recently. He is thinking carefully about the impact he wants his work to have on the reader, whether to make them laugh or feel a certain way and is making thoughtful vocabulary choices to achieve this. His writing is becoming increasingly controlled and purposeful, which is wonderful to see. His recent hotel review piece was particularly impressive, striking a brilliant balance between formality and humour. Seb is also showing great promise in his creative writing during our most recent lessons, which are building up to our Jungle setting descriptions. Keep up this fantastic effort Seb, you are doing really well!

Year 6:

Jess has such a positive attitude and brings a calmness and maturity to everything she does. She is always ready to learn, shows great focus in lessons, listens carefully and contributes thoughtfully to discussions. Jess consistently tries her best and is keen to act on feedback so she can keep improving. Alongside this, she is always respectful to both her peers and adults, showing kindness and a willingness to help others wherever she can. Jess is especially lovely with the younger children at lunchtimes and during buddy time, setting a fantastic example through her patience and care. Jess' steady, thoughtful presence makes a real difference in our classroom, which we really appreciate. Thank you, Jess!

Isobel regularly impresses me with the quality of her work in English and it's been lovely to see her writing in particular, go from strength to strength. She is developing a distinctive author's voice, meaning her work is becoming clearly recognisable as her own. Isobel has a beautiful turn of phrase and a great eye for detail. Alongside her creativity, she takes real care with accuracy, making sure her punctuation and spelling are correct and she works hard to organise her ideas so her writing flows smoothly. It's wonderful to see her effort paying off and we are very proud of her progress. Well done, Isobel!

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CELEBRATION NAMES

Children who were presented with certificates on Tuesday 28th April.

Year 1:

This week, **Finley** has earned his certificate for the fantastic progress he is making in phonics. Finley is a hardworking and kind member of our class and always shows brilliant manners. He is trying really hard to remember all of his sounds and is confidently using them in his reading, which is wonderful to see. We are so proud of how well Finley is doing and the effort he puts into his learning. Miss Chambers and I would also like to say a big thank you to Finley for his patience and enthusiasm when teaching us all about dinosaurs – we learned so much! Well done, Finley, keep up the amazing work!

Jack is a child who could truly earn a certificate every week. He is such a kind friend and a diligent worker who always puts 110 per cent into everything he does. Jack is incredibly polite, not only to adults but also to his peers, and he always uses his manners. This week, we were showing gratitude to our classmates in PSHE, and Jack put his hand up for everyone, showing truly how kind he is. He consistently follows the school rules and is an excellent role model to everyone around him. If there were more Jacks in the world, it would be such a lovely place. Well done, Jack – we are very proud of you.

Year 2:

Holly is an absolute delight to teach and a truly valued member of our class. She consistently demonstrates beautiful behaviour and outstanding manners in everything she does. Holly is always polite, respectful and considerate towards both adults and her friends. She also treats everyone with genuine kindness. She approaches her learning with a mature, thoughtful attitude and always tries her very best, showing pride in her work. Holly's calm and gentle nature creates a positive atmosphere in the classroom and she often sets a wonderful example for others to follow. She is a pleasure to have in class and her kindness and positivity never go unnoticed. Thank you for being you, Holly!

Thomas approaches every lesson with a positive attitude and a strong work ethic, often setting a fantastic example to others. Thomas could genuinely receive this certificate every week due to the consistent hard work and care he puts into all of his learning. More recently, Thomas has shown real growth as a reflective learner. He carefully revisits his writing to make thoughtful edits and improvements, showing increasing pride in the quality of his work. In maths, he has also begun to extend his reasoning more confidently when tackling challenging problems, explaining his thinking in greater detail and showing deeper understanding. Keep up the amazing work, Thomas!

Year 3:

Nancy is consistently polite, respectful, and considerate towards everyone around her, and she genuinely could receive this certificate every single week. Her manners are always excellent, and she sets such a positive example through the way she speaks to others and carries herself throughout the day. Nancy always tries her very best in everything she does. She focuses on the right things, gets on sensibly with her learning, and shows a real sense of responsibility and maturity. She is also always willing to help those around her whenever she is asked, showing kindness and thoughtfulness at all times. Nancy is a truly amazing role model for the rest of the class, and we are incredibly proud of her. Very well done, Nancy — you thoroughly deserve this award.

Levi's writing consistently shows rich vocabulary and beautiful, well chosen turns of phrase. He always makes a real effort to include the correct grammatical features and the key features of the writing type, showing how carefully he thinks about improving his work.

This was clearly demonstrated in his recent homework, where he wrote a thoughtful and impressive poem about saving orangutans from deforestation. Levi should be very proud of the effort he puts into his writing and the high quality of work he produces. Well done, Levi!

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CELEBRATION NAMES

Year 4:

Clark has been chosen in recognition of his excellent sportsmanship and inclusive attitude in PE. He consistently shows positive learning behaviours during lessons and makes a real effort to ensure everyone feels included and supported. Clark is a fantastic team player who works well with all of his peers, offering encouragement, cooperation, and kindness throughout activities. He leads by example, showing respect and fairness at all times. Clark particularly impressed me with his distance running this week, demonstrating great stamina and perseverance while maintaining a positive and encouraging attitude towards others. His inclusive approach and outstanding sportsmanship help to create a positive and supportive PE environment. Well done, Clark!

Florence has grown into a thoughtful and supportive member of her table and consistently shows kindness and consideration towards others. She has been noticed quietly moving around the classroom to check whether her peers need help, showing excellent manners and respect for others' learning. In particular, during a maths lesson, she kindly took the time to support a classmate by modelling the work for them, even though the breaktime bell had already gone. This demonstrated outstanding behaviour, patience, and care for others. Florence's positive attitude and growing maturity make her a pleasure to teach. Well done, Florence!

Year 5:

Freya has been awarded this certificate for her wonderful behaviour and excellent manners. She has a kind and considerate character and always asks how she can help others. Freya takes her crucial role of completing the morning register very seriously, never needing a reminder and kindly encouraging the children to sign in, even though it is number one on our morning-busy list! She completes this job with patience and care. To top it all off, Freya works extremely hard, listens intently and always does her very best. I am incredibly proud of her and she is a fantastic role model for everyone.

This certificate is proudly awarded to **Kaia** for her fantastic effort and achievement! Kaia has been working incredibly hard and shows a brilliant determination to keep improving. She is always asking for help so she can do her best, and she practises her spellings independently whenever she has a spare moment. This hard work is really paying off and it's shining through in her writing. She is even surprising herself with the spellings she can now confidently use! Kaia takes on feedback with maturity and enthusiasm, showing a wonderfully positive attitude towards her learning. She has made amazing progress and truly deserves this recognition. Well done Kaia!

Year 6:

Heidi always makes the right choices quietly and without any fuss, never looking for praise but simply doing the right thing because it comes naturally to her. She is a calm and steady presence in the classroom and when she works with others, her thoughtful attitude helps her peers to stay focused and behave in a more mature way. Heidi listens carefully and takes on advice and feedback, showing this clearly through the choices she makes and the care she puts into her work. Heidi is a kind, courteous member of our class and deserves to be recognised for her hard work. Well done, Heidi!

Tilly's certificate is for her effort in Spanish, where her enthusiasm and confidence just shine! She regularly volunteers to model speaking skills, embraces challenges and shows a real eagerness to learn new vocabulary and language structures. Her enthusiasm for the subject is infectious and helps to encourage others to join in and participate. Alongside her strong speaking skills, Tilly also demonstrates a natural aptitude for reading, writing and listening in Spanish and is making fantastic progress as a result! Keep it up, Tilly!

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LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

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.

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.

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