



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

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

16th January 2026

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had lovely Christmas breaks and have started the New Year positively. It was lovely to spend time with my family and also relaxing, but I will say I was pleased to return to work and to have routine and some normality, well this week anyway!

I'm sure like me you are pleased that the snow came and went very quickly. I had quite a shock when Steve rang me early on Friday morning informing me of the conditions at Tanworth, which was a surprise, because in Alcester we had nothing. Thank you for your understanding when I had to make the decision to close the school. As I have said before, it is a difficult decision to make, and it is never taken lightly or without careful consideration, as I know the impact closing the school has on everybody. But that aside I hope everyone enjoyed the snow.

This week has thankfully been a very 'normal' week in school with everyone getting back into the daily routines. However, we have had a number of children off poorly with colds, coughs and other bugs. Can I please remind you that if your child is not well enough for school then you do need to contact us? You can do this by either ringing the school and leaving a message with the office or by logging onto Studybugs to report the reason why your child is not in school. You do need to inform us before 8.55am on every day of their absence. Details of Studybugs can be found on the school website.

With the cold and now very wet weather, I am sure, like me, you are starting to look at planning a holiday. The school holiday dates are included in this newsletter for 25-26 and 26-27 to help with planning the dates of your holiday. I have also included the legal guidance and the possible implications for absence during school time for holidays. If you have any queries or questions about this then please contact the office.

This week we had our first class make use of our new Art/DT room, Year 5. This is a great space where children can be creative, whilst keeping their classroom tidy. It also means art lesson last longer as time is not wasted setting up and putting away equipment. Well done Year 5, I hope you enjoyed using this new space.

This week we welcomed Mrs Hotchkiss to Year 4. Mrs Hotchkiss has joined us from BCU and is in her final year of her 3 year teaching degree. Mrs Hotchkiss will be completing her final teaching placement with us at Tanworth and will be with us for most of the Spring term. I am sure you will join with me in welcoming her to Tanworth. We also welcomed back Mr Marshall to Year 3. Mr Marshall is also training to be a teacher but on the PGCE course. Mr Marshall is completing his next block placement with us in Year 3 up until Easter. I know the children were very pleased to see Mr Marshall back with us this week.

I have a few special mentions to end with this week. Over the last two weeks it has been lovely when teachers and support staff in school have brought children to my office to share the children's fantastic learning, it is always the hi-light of any day. A special mention to Alfie in Year 1, who was brought by Miss Chambers for his fantastic phonics, writing and positive attitude to all of his learning. Also a special mention to Olivia in Reception, who was brought by Miss Evens to share her writing about whales. Olivia had written 3 sentences about the whale linked to her literacy work and was able to read them to me. Well done to both of you for your fantastic learning and positive attitudes. Then today Harley came with Mrs Coffey to show me her amazing subtraction learning in Mathematics!

Finally, a special mention must also go to Year 5. On Wednesday, I had the pleasure of teaching the class for the afternoon, and it truly was a pleasure. Their attitude to learning and learning behaviours were exceptional. Well done, Year 5!

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

Mrs Bamford, Headteacher

a: The Green, Tanworth in Arden, B94 5AJ

t: 01564 742284

e: tanworthschool@welearn365.com

w: www.tanworthschool.co.uk



NURSERY NEWS

We thought we would share our wonderful snowy pictures from last week. The children had a marvellous time investigating and playing in the snow. It was such a wonderful learning opportunity as the children worked in teams to roll and build their own snowmen, enjoyed numerous mark making opportunities and investigated which areas of snow were better for making the best snow balls!



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. PTO

a: The Green, Tanworth in Arden, B94 5AJ

t: 01564 742284

e: tanworthschool@welearn365.com

w: www.tanworthschool.co.uk



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.

CALENDAR DATES

SPRING TERM	SUMMER TERM
Monday 26th January Young Voices in Birmingham	Monday 13th April School and Nursery open
Tuesday 10th February Safer Internet Day	Monday 4th May School and Nursery closed for Bank Holiday
Tuesday 10th February Parents Evening	Monday 11th May-Friday 15th May KS2 SATS week
Thursday 12th February Parents Evening	Friday 22nd May break up half-term
Friday 13th February break up for half-term	Monday 1st June Teacher Training Day
Monday 16th-Friday 20th February half-term	Tuesday 2nd June School and Nursery open
Monday 23rd February Spring 2 begins	Monday 29th June to Friday 3rd July Year 6 Residential
Friday 27th March Easter Bonnet parade and Easter service	Friday 3rd July Shine Day Reception to Year 5 (details to follow)
Monday 30th March-Friday 10th April Easter Holidays	Wednesday 8th July Move up day/Secondary induction
	Friday 17th July Children beak up for Summer Holidays
	Monday 20th July Teacher Training Day

a: The Green, Tanworth in Arden, B94 5AJ

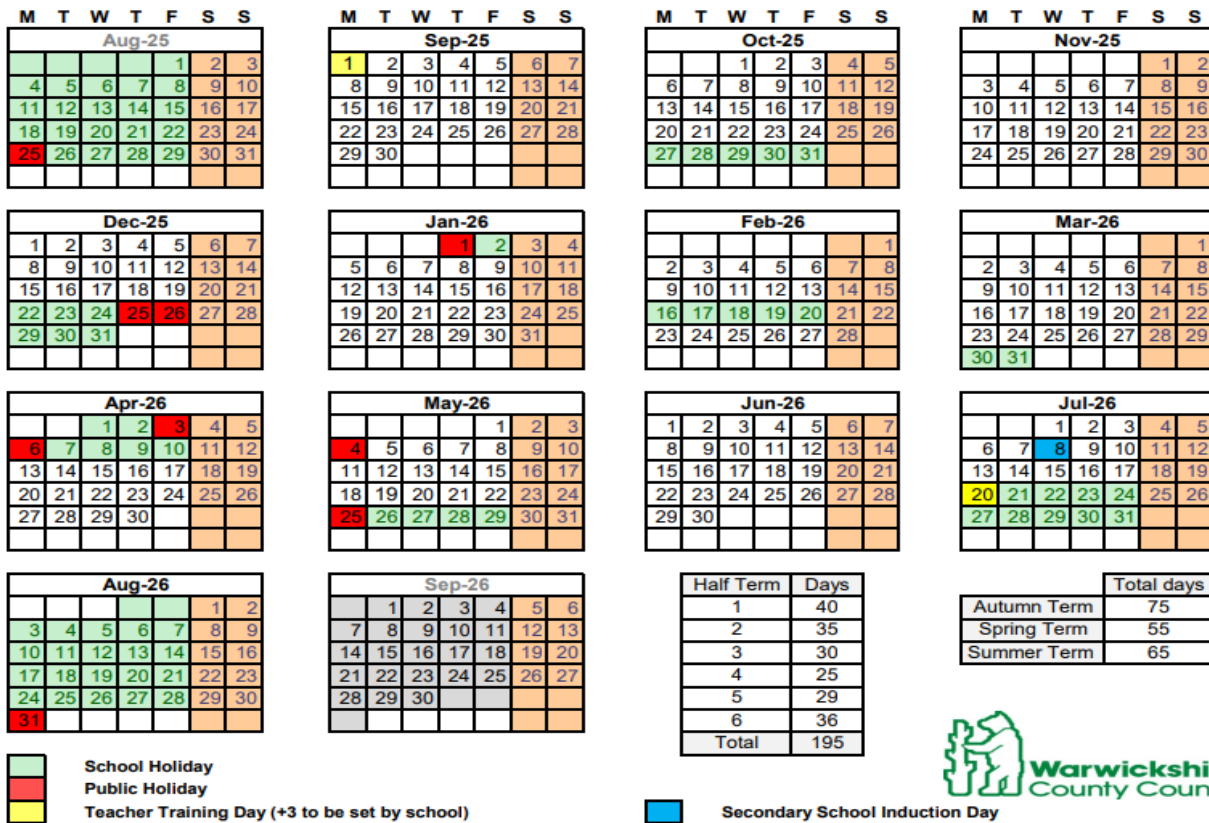
t: 01564 742284

e: tanworthschool@welearn365.com

w: www.tanworthschool.co.uk

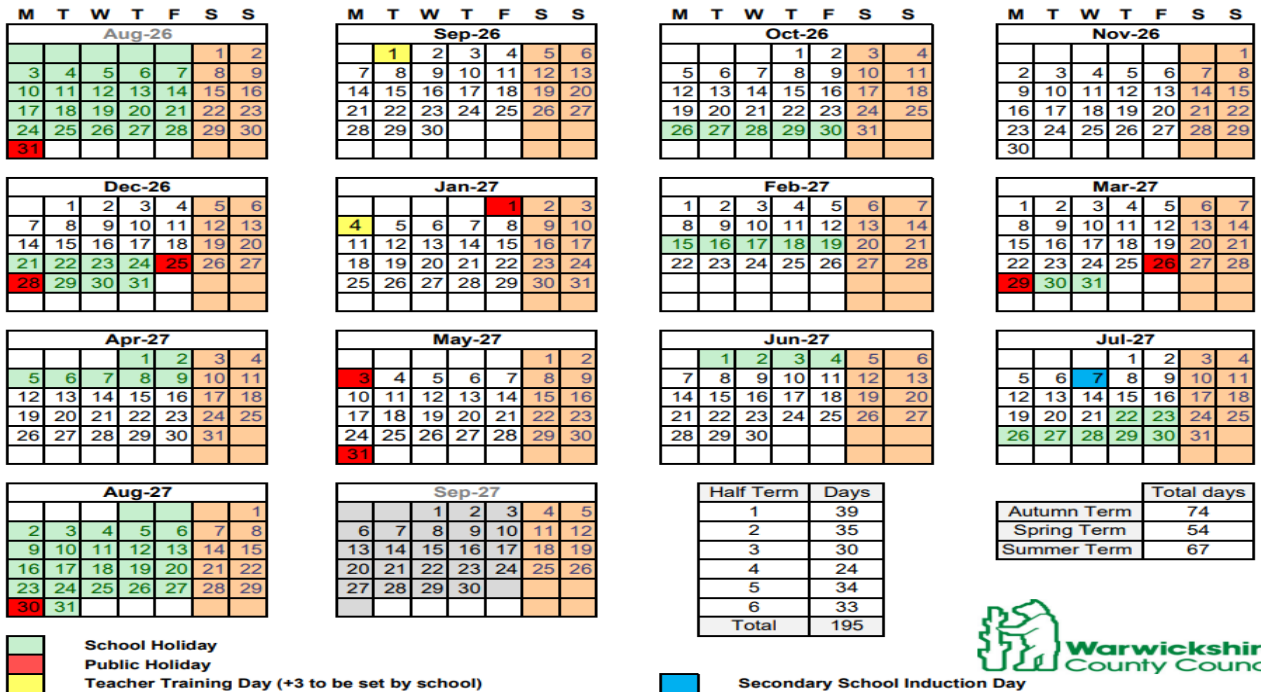


Warwickshire School Term and Holiday Dates - 2025/26



School and Nursery will be closed on: Friday 24th October 2025, Monday 5th January 2026 and Monday 1st June 2026 for Teacher Training

Warwickshire School Term and Holiday Dates - 2026/27



School and Nursery will also be closed on: Wednesday 2nd September, Friday 23rd October and Monday 7th June 2027 for Teacher Training

a: The Green, Tanworth in Arden, B94 5AJ

t: 01564 742284

e: tanworthschool@welearn365.com

w: www.tanworthschool.co.uk

