



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

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

23rd January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week began with a visit from Sarah Smith who is the Diocesan Director of Education at the Church of England Birmingham. Sadly, it will be one of Sarah's last visits as she is retiring in the Summer. Sarah has been a regular visitor to Tanworth and it is always lovely to show her around Tanworth, as she has very much been part of our journey and has always been a great deal of support to me.

Next week we will be having a visit from Keith Farquar who is the Church School Distinctiveness Advisor, from Church of England Birmingham, who will be in school on Wednesday with a focus on exploring our Christian distinctiveness and offering support for our collective worship, RE and spirituality. Keith will also be chatting with Mr Fidler as RE Leader about the implementation of the new resource 'Christianity as a Global World Faith'. We look forward to welcoming Keith next week.

This week also saw the return of OPAL after a couple of weeks break. The wet weather and snow had really taken its toll on our grass, and to say the field was a mix between a bog and a mud bath is no understatement. Even this week Miss Chambers had to section off parts due to the collection of water, although some of the Year 6 boys did have fun in their wellies wading through the water, under supervision, of course!

The children have been really good at changing into their wellies and putting on waterproofs. We do have waterproof trousers in school, however if your child has their own please send them in, especially if they have the dungaree type waterproofs as these seem to protect the children more. As always please ensure you label everything with your child's name.

Well done to the Year 6 Family Time leaders who on Thursday delivered Family Time with the focus being about a new award that has been created called the Jane Goodall Earth Medal. This award has been created to celebrate people who work to help others and care for the world. In Family Time the children discussed whether awards can encourage people to help others and care for the world. As always the Year 6 children did an amazing job taking on the role of the teachers and teachers across the school fed back how confident and articulate the children all were.

Has your child mentioned 'My Happy Mind'? This is a new resource that we are using in school as part of our ongoing commitment to supporting children's wellbeing and mental health. My Happy Mind is a whole-school programme designed to help children understand their emotions, build resilience and develop positive habits for learning and life. It is based on science and neuroscience, helping children to understand how their brains work and how this can support their happiness, behaviour and learning. The programme is taught through short, age-appropriate sessions and is woven into school life. Children learn: How their brain works and how emotions can affect behaviour; Strategies to help manage worries, big feelings and challenges; How to build confidence, resilience and positive relationships; The importance of gratitude, kindness and a positive mindset. The language and strategies used are consistent across the school, helping children to develop a shared understanding and giving them tools they can use both in and out of the classroom.

Finally thank you to the staff (teachers and support staff) who took part in Open the Book, this morning in Church, retelling the Bible story of 'The Man Who Came Back'. For many of the children, Open the Book performed by the staff is their favourite Church service.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

Mrs Bamford

Headteacher

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CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

On Tuesday 20th January we had our first Celebration Assembly of 2026. The following children received a certificate either for outstanding behaviour and manners or for excellent effort and attainment.

Year 1:

Henry: Henry has been working hard in Year 1 and is beginning to show growing confidence in his learning. He approaches tasks with a positive attitude and tries his best, even when he finds things challenging. In his writing, Henry is starting to form simple sentences independently, using his phonics knowledge to spell words and share his ideas. Henry has amazing ideas, and we are so proud to see him begin to show his amazing creativity in his writing. Henry, you have made us all so proud. I hope you are super proud of yourself. Keep up the hard work!

Eloise: Eloise is a wonderful role model in the Year 1 classroom and consistently demonstrates the school values of being ready and respectful. She comes to school with a giant smile, and this positive attitude radiates to the whole class. Eloise is always polite and considerate towards both adults and her classmates. She uses good manners, speaks kindly to others, and she sets an excellent example for others to follow. Well done Eloise, you are a superstar and thank you for being you.

Year 2:

Chloe: I have chosen Chloe for our behaviour and manners certificate because she is a shining example of our school values of being ready and respectful. Chloe shows excellent listening skills with both adults and her peers and consistently tries to do the right thing. She is developing a growing maturity in her learning, recognising when she needs help and asking for support appropriately. Chloe is also always keen to help around the classroom and regularly asks to take on jobs with a beaming smile on her face. Well done, Chloe!

Harley: I have chosen Harley for her excellent effort and achievement in Maths. She has shown a growing independence in her learning, particularly within our topic of subtracting. Harley has demonstrated great perseverance and resilience when faced with challenges, never giving up and always trying her best. She is taking more ownership of her learning by checking her work and using feedback to improve and this is now clearly reflected in the progress she is making. I am so proud of you, Harley and I can't wait to see your confidence continue to grow.

Year 3:

Lydia: Lydia has been chosen for Effort and Attainment this week. I have noticed a real difference in how she is approaching Maths, which isn't always a subject she feels confident in. Since returning after the Christmas holidays, she has shown a big improvement in her number fact fluency and how she applies these facts to her work. It has been a joy to see — keep it up!

Imogen: Imogen has been chosen for Behaviour and Manners this week because of the kindness and empathy she has shown towards others. She fully understood a new concept in Maths and was observed helping another child at her table, leaning in and re-teaching it in such a supportive and encouraging way. It was truly heart-warming to see.

Year 4:

Oscar: Oscar has been chosen this week for the effort and achievement award for his fantastic attitude and progress in writing and guided reading. He consistently makes thoughtful contributions to lessons, using ambitious vocabulary and sharing insightful ideas during discussions. Oscar takes real pride in the presentation of his work, always trying his best to produce work he can be proud of. Since the Christmas holidays, the improvement in his confidence and quality of work has been amazing, and his hard work is truly paying off. Well done, Oscar!

Ethan: Ethan has been chosen this week for the behaviour and manners award for his positive attitude and growing maturity in the classroom. He is always keen to help, politely asking if there is anything he can do and patiently waiting quietly to show that he is ready to learn. Ethan consistently uses kind and respectful language and is quick to support others when they need it. Since the break, he has shown a wonderful improvement in his attitude and self-control, making him a fantastic role model for his peers. Thank you, Ethan!

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CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

Year 5:

Olivia: Last week, Olivia displayed fantastic learning behaviours and excellent manners. I have been especially impressed by how hard she has been working in maths. It was wonderful to see her persevere and confidently turn down help because she was determined to solve the problem independently. Olivia has also been working hard to become quicker and more confident with her times table knowledge, which is proving extremely useful in her fraction work. Well done, Olivia! Keep up the brilliant attitude!

Isaac: Isaac has been recognised for his fantastic effort and attainment both in English and in sport. He truly blew me away with his interceptions in basketball last week. He was here, there and everywhere on the court, making some tricky interceptions and leading his team to a well-deserved win. Isaac demonstrates real skill and talent in basketball and would excel on a local team. In English, he has also been working extremely hard on his formal letter, showing a good grasp of formal style and completing his final piece independently. It is wonderful to see the progress he is making in English. Well done Isaac, keep it up!

Year 6:

Fraser: Fraser has been chosen for his positive learning behaviours in class because he has begun the Spring term with such a mature and focused attitude to learning. He contributes thoughtfully to discussions, listens carefully and is clearly eager to do his best. Fraser has been working hard to improve his handwriting and presentation, taking pride in how his work is set out. What's especially wonderful to see is that he's taking ownership of his learning and asking for extra support in areas he finds challenging and then acting on advice. His attitude sets a wonderful example and we're very proud of his progress!

Darcy: Darcy has been working with real focus and determination in writing lessons, taking great care over every part of her work. She is making a conscious effort to improve her spelling by looking up unfamiliar words or asking for help and she has been meticulous about copying them up accurately. Darcy is also thinking carefully about how her writing flows, planning and structuring her ideas thoughtfully so that her work is the very best it can be. The quality of the writing she has produced has been fantastic and it's been wonderful to see her perseverance and determination when faced with something challenging. Well done, Darcy, keep it up!

ROAD SAFETY AND ETIQUETTE

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the importance of being polite, courteous and considerate to our local residents and neighbours when arriving at and leaving school.

Please can we ask that parents:

- Do not park in a way that blocks pavements, driveways or access routes, particularly for residents, pushchairs and wheelchair users
- Drive slowly and carefully, especially when you see people walking nearby
- Take extra care in wet weather by slowing down to avoid splashing pedestrians, particularly when people are walking along the verge

We are very proud of our school community and the way we model respectful behaviour to our children. By being considerate road users, we help keep everyone safe and maintain positive relationships with those who live near the school.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

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NURSERY NEWS

This week in nursery we have begun thinking about winter and in general 'cold'. Our story of the week has been 'Jonty Gentoo' by Julia Donaldson, the children have loved following Jonty on his adventure through the story and have been wonderful at identifying the different animals featured throughout the book. This week we have enjoyed lots of ice exploration opportunities, creating snowy scenes and snowballs from play dough and drawing and painting some fantastic pictures of our main character Jonty.



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

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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 27th January Wow Active PE assessment	Monday 4th May School and Nursery closed for Bank Holiday
Wednesday 28th January Online Safety session for parents 9.30-10.15	Monday 11th May-Friday 15th May KS2 SATS week
Tuesday 10th February Safer Internet Day	Friday 22nd May break up half-term
Tuesday 10th February Parents Evening in school	Monday 1st June Teacher Training Day
Thursday 12th February Parents Evening in school	Tuesday 2nd June School and Nursery open
Friday 13th February break up for half-term	Monday 29th June Friday 3rd July Year 6 Residential
Monday 16th-Friday 20th February half-term	Friday 3rd July Shine Day Reception to Year 5 (details to follow)
Monday 23rd February Spring 2 begins	Wednesday 8th July Move up day/Secondary induction
Friday 27th March Easter Bonnet parade and Easter service 1.15pm	Friday 17th July Children break up for Summer Holidays
Monday 30th March-Friday 10th April Easter Holidays	Monday 20th July Teacher Training Day

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Warwickshire School Term and Holiday Dates - 2025/26

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
Aug-25						
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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Half Term	Days
1	40
2	35
3	30
4	25
5	29
6	36
Total	195

	Total days
Autumn Term	75
Spring Term	55
Summer Term	65

School Holiday
 Public Holiday
 Teacher Training Day (+3 to be set by school)
 Secondary School Induction Day



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

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Aug-26						
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Dec-26						
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Mar-27						
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Apr-27						
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May-27						
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Aug-27						
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Half Term	Days
1	39
2	35
3	30
4	24
5	34
6	33
Total	195

	Total days
Autumn Term	74
Spring Term	54
Summer Term	67

School Holiday
 Public Holiday
 Teacher Training Day (+3 to be set by school)
 Secondary School Induction Day



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

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