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

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

23rd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a wonderful start to the academic year and this final week in particular has been exceptionally busy, providing many opportunities to celebrate what makes Tanworth such a special place to learn and grow.

This week we welcomed prospective families to two Open Days. It is always a pleasure to show visitors around our school and give them a glimpse of everyday life at Tanworth. There is something special about being able to see and feel what our school is all about: engaging learning, safe and happy children, dedicated staff and a community where everyone is encouraged to flourish. We are always proud to share how we live out our vision of 'In God's family, learning, loving, growing to be our very best.'

On Tuesday, we were delighted to welcome Keith Farquhar, Church Schools Distinctiveness Advisor for Birmingham Diocese. Keith spent the morning with us learning more about how we live out our Christian vision and values. He joined us for collective worship before visiting classrooms where Religious Education lessons were taking place. He also met with our Prayer and Worship Group, asking thoughtful questions about what it means to be part of a Church school and how our Christian ethos influences daily life at Tanworth. The children spoke confidently and enthusiastically about their experiences and represented the school wonderfully.

Wednesday saw Year 6 attending the Bell Boating Regatta in Stratford, where they competed against nine other schools. Bell boating is a relatively new sport for Tanworth, so we were absolutely delighted when the team returned with a trophy after achieving an impressive third place. Whilst this sporting success is a fantastic achievement, what makes me even prouder is the feedback we have received about the children's exemplary conduct throughout the day. Several people have contacted school to comment on the exceptional behaviour, manners and attitude shown by our Year 6 pupils. A parent who attended to support the event has also spoken to me about how positively the children represented the school. Their behaviour was not because they felt they had to behave well; it is simply a reflection of who they are every day. Well done, Year 6. You were outstanding ambassadors for Tanworth. My sincere thanks also go to Miss Cutler, Miss Davis and Mr Iqbal for supporting the visit on what was a particularly cold and wet day.

This week has also been our annual Science Week, with exciting activities taking place across the school. Please see the reverse of this newsletter for a full report from Mrs Hoskins, our Science Leader. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Hoskins for the enthusiasm, organisation and hard work she has put into ensuring the children enjoyed a stimulating and memorable week of scientific learning.

I would also like to give a special mention to Year 5. On Monday, Miss Wilding was attending a meeting in her role as County Moderator for Key Stage 2 writing and the class was taught by a supply teacher for the day. At the end of the afternoon, she came to find me specifically to tell me what a wonderful day she had experienced. She commented on how positive they were in lessons and how welcoming and friendly everyone had been. She also spoke warmly about the atmosphere across the school and what a lovely place Tanworth is. Well done to Year 5, and thank you to all the staff who helped make our visitor feel so welcome.

PTO

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Thank you to all parents and carers who attended Parents' Evenings this week. I hope you found the meetings valuable and that they provided a helpful opportunity to celebrate how well your child has settled into the year, recognise their strengths and understand their next steps for learning.

We wish all of our families a restful and enjoyable half-term break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for what is always a busy and exciting second half of the autumn term as we begin the countdown to Christmas.

Mrs Shelley Bamford
Headteacher

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

Children in Need 2026

We are already looking ahead to Children in Need Day on Friday 13th November and our School Council will be organising a fun fundraising challenge for all children to take part in.

This year, we will be holding a "Challenge Yourself Coin Trail" competition. We are asking children to collect and bring in 1p, 2p and 5p coins to add to their class coin trail. On Friday 13th November, each class will build its trail and the class with the longest coin trail will win a special class prize.

All money raised will be donated to Children in Need.

Children are also invited to come to school wearing something spotty and/or bright on the day to help us celebrate and support this fantastic cause.

Please make sure that all coins are sent into school by Friday 13th November so they can be added to your child's class trail. If you would like to make an additional donation, this can also be done via ParentPay.

We are looking forward to seeing which class can create the longest trail whilst raising money for such an important charity.

Thank you in advance for your support and generosity.

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SCIENCE WEEK

This week, we have celebrated Science Week across the school, with this year's theme being "Curiosity: What's Your Question?". Every class has been busy carrying out exciting scientific experiments and investigations, and there has been a real buzz of enthusiasm and discovery around the school. It has been wonderful to see our children asking thoughtful questions, exploring ideas and developing their scientific thinking.

To celebrate their enthusiasm and curiosity, one child from each class was chosen as a Curiosity Champion and presented with a special certificate during our Science Assembly today.

Congratulations to:

Reception- Rui has really enjoyed how conkers roll and whether bigger conkers roll further than smaller conkers. When building his own tower to roll from, he persevered when facing challenges like how to keep the rolling tube in place and how to keep the height the same. He used apparatus from around our outdoor area to build a tower to support the rolling tube. He also made predictions about where he thought each conker would roll. When some conkers bounced into the different pans, he questioned whether all conkers could bounce!

Year 1 - Olivia asked thoughtful and meaningful questions during our experiments and when learning about our scientist. She was curious about how the filter paper cleaned the water and also wanted to know how Roma Agrawal used different shapes to build The Shard.

Year 2 - Theo has shown fantastic curiosity and enthusiasm throughout Science Week! On Tuesday, he came back from lunch, spotted our investigation into how water travels through different materials and immediately started asking, "What are we doing? What are we doing?" His excitement has been lovely to see, and he's always eager to discover something new. Well done, Theo!

Year 3 - Thomas has shown fantastic curiosity during our Science investigation, What makes the best paper aeroplane? He thought carefully about how gravity pulled the aeroplane towards the ground and how adding a paperclip increased its weight and made it less streamlined. He showed great enthusiasm when testing his ideas and with his table group, thought about how to improve the design. Well done for being such a thoughtful and curious young scientist!

Year 4 - Imogen comes alive in Science, especially when we are experimenting and testing theories. Her enthusiasm shines through as she is determined to find out if her predictions are correct. Over the last 2 experiments she has thought deeply about what its happening and asked interesting questions about the content of chocolate and the effect of this on melting points and the time it takes for a balloon to travel based upon the amount of air it holds. A great scientific and curious role model. Well done Imogen!

Year 5 - Hendo has demonstrated excellent enthusiasm and scientific curiosity throughout our Science Week investigations. When designing his parachute, he carefully considered how its shape and surface area could affect air resistance, making thoughtful decisions about how to maximise its ability to catch the air. His engagement and eagerness to investigate the science behind creating the 'perfect parachute' have been fantastic to see

Year 6 - Harrison for being really enthusiastic and engaged during our science investigation, asking questions and always wondering what if...? He has an inquisitive mind but tries to find answers by applying what he knows already and uses great scientific vocab to explain his thinking.

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Tanworth-in-Arden PTA News

Thank you so much for supporting the Doughnut Sale this week, we raised £126.25!

Our next event is Friday 6th November which is 'Non School Uniform' in exchange for a tombola donation! We are asking for the following donations:

Reception, Y1,Y2,Y3 and Y4: A children's toy/gift for the children's Tombola
Y5 & 6: A bottle for the Adults Tombola

Thank you for your support as always!



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Charity Night in Aid of Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity

Join a fantastic charity evening hosted by Sonia and Dave Whitehouse this February in support of Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity.

This special event forms part of the fundraising efforts of Sonia and Dave as they prepare to take on the London Marathon. Every penny raised will help support seriously ill children and their families through the incredible work of the charity.



Secondary School Applications Last Reminder

A reminder for all Year 6 parents that applications for secondary school places are now open.

The deadline to apply for a secondary school place is 31st October 2026. If you submit your application by this date, you will receive your child's school allocation on National Offer Day, 1st March 2027.

Applications received after 31st October 2026 will be classified as late applications and will not be processed until after National Offer Day. By this point, many schools may already be full, significantly reducing the likelihood of being offered a place at one of your preferred schools.

We strongly encourage all families to submit their applications as early as possible and before the deadline to ensure the best chance of securing a preferred school place.

Reception 2027 Open Evening

Do you have a younger child who will be starting school in September 2027, or do you know a family currently looking for a Reception place?

We are delighted to invite prospective families to visit Tanworth-in-Arden C of E Primary School & Nursery and experience first-hand what makes our school such a special place to learn, love and grow. Our final admissions event is an opportunity to tour the school, meet staff, explore our learning environment and find out more about our nurturing, inclusive and values-led approach to education.

Open Evening
Tuesday 3 November at 6.00pm

To book a place, please contact the school office on 01564 742284.

If you have friends, neighbours or family members with children due to start school in September 2027, we would be grateful if you could share this information with them. We look forward to welcoming new families and showcasing all that Tanworth has to offer.

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NURSERY NEWS

We have had a wonderful few weeks in nursery focusing on Autumn. The children have been exploring our local surroundings to discover seasonal changes. We have been using lots of natural autumnal materials within our activities and continuous provision. The children have loved having pumpkins around the nursery, comparing shapes, sizes and colours. They enjoyed an observational painting activity with the pumpkins and it was wonderful to see how unique and different each painting turned out.

We would like to say a huge well done to some of our children who have completed their very first half term in nursery. Wishing everyone a very happy and healthy half term. The Nursery Team.







Share Your Good News!

We love celebrating success in our school community. If your child or a family member has an achievement, award, sporting success or other special news to share, please let the school office know so we can include it in a future newsletter.

DATES FOR DIARIES

Autumn 1	Autumn 2
Thursday 22nd October Parents Meetings 3.30pm -7.00pm	Monday 2nd November School & Nursery open
Thursday 22nd October Children break up for half-term	Monday 2nd November Remembrance week in school
Friday 23rd October School & Nursery closed Teacher Training	Tuesday 3rd November Open Evening Reception 27
Tuesday27th-Thursday 29th October Onside Holiday Club	Friday 6th November PTA Non-school uniform day
	Friday 13th November Children in Need
	Monday 16th November Year 2 visit to Warwick
	Friday 27th November PTA Christmas Market
	Wednesday 2nd December Reception Nativity am
	Thursday 3rd December Reception Nativity pm
	Friday 4th December Year 4 visit to FSC Bishops Wood
	Wednesday 9th December Year 1 & 2 Christmas Play am
	Thursday 10th December Year 1 & 2 Christmas Play pm
	Tuesday 15th December Pantomime R-Y6
	Tuesday 15th December Nursery Xmas Craft pm
	Wednesday 16th December Christmas Lunch and Party Day
	Wednesday 16th December KS2 Carol Service in Church (evening)
	Friday 18th December School & Nursery break up or Christmas
	Monday 4th January School and Nursery closed for teacher training
	Tuesday 5th January School and Nursery open for children

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Warwickshire School Term and Holiday Dates - 2026/27

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Aug-26						
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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

Warwickshire County Council

School and Nursery will also be closed on: Friday 23rd October 2026 and Monday 7th June 2027 for Teacher Training

Warwickshire School Term and Holiday Dates - 2027/28

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Half Term	Days
1	38
2	35
3	28
4	35
5	24
6	35
Total	195

	Total days
Autumn Term	73
Spring Term	63
Summer Term	59

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

Secondary School Induction Day

Warwickshire County Council

Teacher training days will also be on: Friday 22nd October 2027 and Monday 5th June 2028. There is one other day still to be set.

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Platinum Award 2026 - 2028

LYFTA LEARNING LEADERS

ARDEN forest C of E Multi Academy Trust

We pledge that every girl has equal access to football in school

PRIMARY SCIENCE QUALITY MARK SILVER AWARD

Leave of absence

Generally, the DfE does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be an exceptional circumstance.

The Supreme Court clarified 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 their 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 i.e. 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 is due to change with effect from 1 September 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absences taken after this date 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.