



Arden Forest Infant School

www.ardenforest.warwickshire.sch.uk

April 2025 Newsletter : No 8



Head's News

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have lots of events happening at school next week to celebrate Easter before we finish for the end of term on Friday 11th April at 3.05pm (4.15pm for Creative Club members).

We are excited to see the entries for the Easter Bonnet competition and decorate an egg competition. We are also eagerly awaiting the annual Great Easter Egg Race, where once again we are looking forward to see the creativity and inventive cars for racing. No real cars or wheels from cars, skateboards etc are allowed as the whole car must be constructed using own made materials.

Today we carried out a Lockdown practise. This was an 'In Situ' - stay still and quiet drill without any alarms. All of the children were amazing, they moved quickly and waited silently in safe spaces in their classrooms etc. We are very proud at how they responded and know if there was an emergency, they can remain quiet and hidden. For parents and carers the need to do this can be alarming, but it is good practise to have different types of emergency practises depending on the situation, eg Fire, intruder etc.

We sincerely hope that everyone has a lovely Easter break when the term ends and we look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday 28th April (no Teacher Training Day).

Kind regards,

Mrs R Gunn Headteacher

SCHOOL START AND FINISH TIMES.



Gates open	8.25am
Classroom doors	8.30am
School day starts	8.35am
Registration ends	8.45am
Break time Year 1	10.25 - 10.40am
Year 2	10.45 - 11.00am
Dinner time	12 - 12.45pm
Afternoon start	12.45pm

Thank you for helping the school raise

£137.00



NEW MENU APRIL 25 – OCTOBER 25

A new menu will be on the Edulink Noticeboard from 21st April. Take a look as we now have more 'Planet Friendly days' (meat free days) and your child will also be able to order a batch if they don't want a hot dinner. Please call into the office if you would like a paper copy.



E-SCOOTERS

Warwickshire Police have now started to stop and seize e-scooters and riders face a £300 fine and 6 points. For riders U16 these points will be deferred until they apply for their first licence, when they will immediately be disqualified from driving. This will prevent them from having driving lessons and will have an impact on their insurance premium for many years once they can start driving.

The consequences of riding an e-scooter are just not worth it. Parents can also face a fine of £300 and 6 points on their driving licences for permitting their children to ride the e-scooter. In 2025 Warwickshire Police plan to carry out spot checks across our area, at school gates morning & afternoons to see if this issue persists & carry out enforcement if necessary.

School does not condone the use of E-Scooters by pupils and they are not allowed on school site by pupils, parents/carers or visitors at any time.

YEAR 1 PERFORMANCE

The Chocolate Shop

Tuesday 8th April 2025

The event will take place on Tuesday 8th April 2025 at 2.00pm. Your child will be coming home with 2 tickets (per child), please look out for your tickets in your child's book bag.

We will also be having a raffle on the day. Tickets will £1 a strip and will be drawn at the end of the performance. Please bring cash.



CLASS PHOTOS



Your child will be having their class photos taken on Tuesday 8th April .

Please can all children come dressed in their school uniform. If your child has PE on this day (Year 1) please send your child in wearing their Green Jumper/Cardigan and a polo shirt and their PE trousers/leggings and trainers.

THE GREAT EGG RACE 2025

In the last week of term we will be holding our annual Great Egg Race. Any pupil can enter the competition, they just need to make a homemade vehicle for your egg to travel in. This will be a children's only event. Please go to Edulink emails for more information on the **GREAT EGG RACE**.



Useful Diary Dates

Tuesday 8th April—Class Photos

Tuesday 8th April—Year 1 Play

Tuesday 8th April—Reception Disco

Friday 11th April—The Great Egg Race – Last Day of Term

14th—25th April—Easter Holiday

Monday 28th April—Children return to school

Monday 5th May—Bank Holiday– School Closed

Tuesday 6th May—SEN Coffee Morning

Wednesday 14th May—Community Breakfast—doors open 8.00am

Tuesday 20th May— Year 1— Learning Showcase

Friday 23rd May—Last day of term—Year 1—Theatre Visit.



Class Emails

You can communicate with the class teacher via email. Please use the following emails if you wish to ask a question or notify the class teacher of something. Teachers will get back to you within three working days. Therefore if it is urgent, please contact the office via email or telephone.

Please include your child's full name in the email as sometimes it is difficult to identify the pupil if parents have different surnames to their child.

RA – Mrs Amos RAclass@welearn365.com

& Mrs Robinson RAclass@welearn365.com

RB – Mrs Winfield RBclass@welearn365.com

1A – Miss McGee 1Aclass@welearn365.com

1B – Miss Ashby 1Bclass@welearn365.com

2A – Miss Wallace 2Aclass@welearn365.com

& Miss Sargent 2Aclass@welearn365.com

2B – Miss Gailey 2Bclass@welearn365.com



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 regulations regarding Leave of Absence (The Education (Pupil Regulations) (England) Regulations 2006 as amended by Education (Pupil Regulations) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013.) advise:

Head teachers **shall not** grant **any** Leave of Absence during term time **unless they consider** there are **exceptional** circumstances relating to the application.

If the leave is granted, Head teachers are able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for.

It is for the Head teacher to decide what is 'exceptional' and it is at their discretion if the circumstances warrant the leave to be granted. When making an application for Leave of Absence in advance 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. 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 ie the parent with whom the child normally resides.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child will be required 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, which may result in legal action being taken against the parent(s), by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

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 and could result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case-by-case basis and on its own merits.

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'. This may result in legal action against the parent, by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice. All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council.

It is important to note, Fixed 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 in the amount of £120 each, totalling £240 for both children, this is reduced to £60 per child if paid within 21 days).

Where a Fixed Penalty Notice is not paid within the required timeframe as set out on the notice, the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal proceedings under S444 Education Act 1996.

Fixed Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority

Warwickshire School pupils recorded 96,366 half day sessions of absence due to holiday in the Academic year 2021/22.

Notice for parents

To comply with the Pupil Registration Regulations amended 2016 and Data Protection expectations, it is vitally important that **Arden Forest Infant School** keeps accurate and up to date information relating to every pupil on roll.

The information we are required to record includes:

Pupil's full legal name (and if appropriate, their preferred name).

The name, address and contact details of every person known to the school/academy who is a parent* to the pupil with whom the pupil normally resides (this is the address that has been used to register with their GP).

The name, address and contact details of any additional parent*.

Any other emergency contact details.

In order to gather this information, every year we send out data collection forms. Parents are asked to complete the form with as much information as possible and then return to the school, signed and dated. We would ask that even where there are no amendments to the data collection sheet, parents return the form, signed and dated.

Arden Forest Infant School requests that if you change your contact number, move home or there are any other circumstances which may impact your child, the school is notified as a priority.

N.B. *The Education Act 1996 defines a 'parent' as a). any natural parent, whether married or not, b). any parent who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility as defined in the Children Act (1989) for a child or young person c). any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person.

Attendance

Good attendance can positively impact on your child's progress and development and vice versa for poor attendance.

National statistics from the DfE show that across the academic year 2022/23, 22.3% of pupils missed 10% or more of their possible sessions and were therefore identified as 'persistently absent'. For a child to be identified as 'Persistently absent' means that they will have missed 10 days in a full academic year. Attendance is also a part of our **Safeguarding duty; therefore, any absence can result in a home visit.** Please also be mindful not to encourage your child to lie about the reason they have been absent, as this is known to cause great anxiety in children. The children will almost always be honest and tell us if they have been on holiday, as they are too excited to share their experiences with the staff!