



Arden Forest Infant School

www.ardenforest.warwickshire.sch.uk

January 25 Newsletter No 5



Head's News

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back, to all our children and families. It is great to see every back and feeling well after the round of bugs and viruses before Christmas.

The term has got off to a great start as the children have remembered all of their phonics knowledge and skills for blending. We will keep practising and working on securing the skills for reading and ask that parents support this in practising reading at home, either through practising the flashcards sent home or practising the reading books. For those who might feel unsure or worried about helping their child to read, there is a workshop for Parents/Carers on Wednesday 15th January at 5.30pm. When school and home work together, children's learning is accelerated. Please join us.

To improve our pupil's Personal Characteristics and Relationships this term, the theme is 'Resilience'. We know that children and adults alike can find change difficult. Therefore in our assemblies we will be teaching about how to improve our wellness so that we can help ourselves to be ready for any changes ahead of us.

Warm 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
End of day	3.05pm

NUTS IN SCHOOL

Be aware we are a nut free school as we have a number of children with significant allergies.

Please **do not** send your child in with Nutella Sandwiches or chocolate bars containing NUTS.



SCHOOL MILK

If you have not yet placed this term's school milk order there is still time to do so by visiting www.coolmilk.com, logging into your online account and selecting 'make a payment'. If you have not yet registered your child but wish to do so, please visit www.coolmilk.com/register. For any questions related to our milk scheme, please contact Cool Milk directly at www.coolmilk.com/contact

S.E.N. COFFEE MORNING

Please join us for an informal gathering on **Tuesday 21st January**, doors open at 8.45am for coffee and cake, with the meeting starting at 9.00am. It will be great to see you and find out how we can continue to work together for the benefit of the children.

This meeting is open to all parents, you do not need to have a child who has special educational needs to attend.

If you would like to attend please go to Edulink forms (SEN Coffee Morning) and return your Form

LITTLE WANDLE – PARENTS WORKSHOP

Our school has been using the **Little Wandle Programme** for teaching reading and phonics since September last year. We are really proud of the progress that children are making using these programme, both in their reading and writing.

We would like to invite you to a **Parent Workshop** to give you more information about how to support with blending at home. This will include:

- What is blending?
- Oral blending
- Supporting blending in reading
- Games you can play at home to support blending

All year groups are welcome as the information we are going to share will be relevant for all.

The workshop will be held on **Wednesday 15th January** at **5.30pm**.

Please indicate on the form on Edulink whether you would be able to attend this meeting.

FEBRUARY — HALF TERM CLUB

Mrs Wagstaff will be working alongside Sharon, from The Creation Station, to offer a Holiday Club at School this February Half Term. Children will need a packed lunch which contains **NO NUTS**.

Monday 17– Wednesday 19th

February

Full & Half Days available

09:00-3:00pm—£35 per child

09:00-12:00pm—£20 per child

Please book online on the link below

[BOOK HERE](#)



DONATIONS—JANUARY CLEAR OUT

We are looking for the following— Clean underwear /socks /tights –boys and girls, Outgrown Uniform, Complete Board games, card games, jigsaws—for our Breakfast Club. Please bring your donation into the school office.

School Council

Mrs Wagstaff is proud to announce that we now have 4 Reception children who have been specially chosen to join Our School Council. They will now work alongside Mrs Wagstaff and the KS1 Councillors to gather student voice and further improve the School. Well Done!



WELL BEING & MENTAL HEALTH

January can be a difficult time of year for many. If you are struggling with your Mental Health or wellbeing, please do look at the following link for some helpful tips and advice. Alternatively, you can contact Mrs Wagstaff on 02476 315913 if you would like some support, guidance or just a friendly chat! <https://cwrise.com/resources>

USEFUL DIARY DATES

Wednesday 15th January—Little Wandle Parents Workshop –5.30pm

Tuesday 21st January—SEN Coffee Morning—Door open for Tea & Coffee 8.45am

Wednesday 5th February—Parents Interviews 4.00-7.00pm— **All Classes**

Thursday 6th February—Parents Interviews 3.20-5.40pm— **All Classes**

Tuesday 11th February—Safer Internet Day –Parents Workshop –2.15pm

Friday 14th February—Last Day of Term



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

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

Office - admin2630@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!