



Arden Forest Infant School

www.ardenforest.warwickshire.sch.uk

14th October 2024 Newsletter No 2



Head's News

Dear Parents and Carers,

In the last few weeks we have had a number of events for parents. These have included the Macmillian Coffee Morning, a Community Breakfast, Parent sessions on childhood anxiety with our MHSP Fallon. There have been KS1 Information meetings and SEN review meetings where parents could discuss their child's specific needs with the class teachers.

This week we have parents evening where parents/carers can find out more about their child's learning, personal targets and how they can help at home.

If you would like to be more involved in the life the school we have some school Parent Governor Vacancies (information to follow re nominations and election process).

Our work with parents and carers is both valued and appreciated as together we can ensure the children have greater success.

Working with our families and community, means that aspects of 'Personal Development' for our school is strong and enables us to grow our links with the village further.

Our forthcoming Spooktacular event on Thursday 24th October from 5.30—6.30pm is one of our highlight events. Please come in fancy dress or not, old and young alike. There will be games to play, competitions and food to eat. We welcome past pupils as well as present pupils, grandparents, neighbours etc and hope you enjoy it as much as we do!

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

EDULINK

It has come to our attention that some of our Parents/Carers are missing important communications.

All of our letters, information etc are communicated through Edulink. Please turn your notification's on to help inform you when the school has sent out a letter, form or text.



Thank you, to our parents and carers who donated tins and packet food to support the local Food Bank. We held a lovely celebration in school to give thanks to those who have grown the food as well as those who have put it on the table.



Parents Evening

Don't forget to book your Parents evening appointment.

Please go to [Edulink—Parents Evening](#).

Booking closes **2 days** before the appointments are due to take place.

Reception Monday 14th Oct -12.30-3.30pm

All Classes Wednesday 16th Oct—4.00-7.00pm & Thursday 17th Oct 3.20-5.40pm

Macmillan Coffee Morning



Huge thank you to everyone who came along to the coffee morning, purchased cakes after school and the children for bringing in their 50p.

Overall we raised

£300.82

for Macmillan.

MANY THANKS to you all!

Fire Alarm

Many thanks go to all the parents and carers who supported the school through their co-operation on the day the fire alarm went off. It eventually transpired that there was a fault in the fire alarm system which was replaced later that day. The fire alarm is now working correctly and there have been no further issues.

School Council

Congratulations to this years elected School Council members. These children were specifically chosen, by the pupils, to represent Arden Forest and further help improve the School by being the voice for the pupil's.

After Christmas we will be looking to elect 4 children from Reception to join us!

Mrs Wagstaff looks forward to working with the children this year.



Our extremely popular '**ARDEN FOREST SPOOKTACULAR**' event returns on the **24th October 2024.**

As part of this event, we have 2 Competitions!

Our winners last year won a Smyths Toy Superstore voucher each- Prizes this year are still to be confirmed.

Our 1st competition is **Pumpkin carving**.

We ask for a £1 entry fee, you then carve a pumpkin at home and bring it into School on Wednesday 23rd October- ready for the event on Thursday 24th.

Our 2nd Competition is **Scarecrow making**!

We ask for a £5 entry fee, you then create a Scarecrow at home (The bigger the better!) and bring this into School on *Thursday 24th*- straight after School between 3pm-4pm.

The theme this year is SPORTS (2024 being the year of Olympics)

Your child may wish to carve a ballerina, football team emblem or sporting scene into a Pumpkin. Or perhaps create a football playing Scarecrow, a speed wall climbing Scarecrow - the choice is yours!

To pay for your entry/entries please see the email on Edulink with the payment links to pay online. We will accept cash on as this is a fund raising event.

When paying online- please remember to add your Child's name and Class into the 'Note to Merchant' section- so we know who has entered and can give your child an entry number nearer the time.

During our **Arden Forest Spooktacular** visitors will vote for their favourite Scarecrow and Pumpkin- the winners will be revealed on Monday 28th October and will both win a prize!

This was extremely popular last year, and made an amazing display for all to come and see.

We are very excited to see the creativity again this year!

Any questions, please call Mrs Wagstaff on 02476 315913





TRICK
OR
TREAT



ARDEN FOREST SPOOKTACULAR

CASH ONLY

OCTOBER
24TH

17:30 – 18.30

HALLOWEEN
TRAIL

SCARECROW &

PUMPKIN COMPETITION

FUN GAMES

TABLE TOP SALES

HOT FOOD & DRINKS

HALLOWEEN FANCY DRESS IS ENCOURAGED



Useful Diary Dates



Friday 11th October — Harvest Assembly – For the children

Monday 14th October— Parent Interviews—Reception only– 12.30-3.30pm

Wednesday 16th October –Parent Interviews—All classes-4.00-7.00pm

Thursday 17th October- Parent Interviews—All classes-3.20-5.40pm.

Thursday 24th October—Spooktacular—Information to follow.

Friday 25th October—Last Day of Term.

Monday 4th November—Children return to school.

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
RRB – 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!