



Arden Forest Infant School

www.ardenforest.warwickshire.sch.uk

October 25 Newsletter : No 2

Head's News

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a long, busy half term full of learning about the school responsibilities, routines and expectations for learning.

The pupils in KS1 have continued to learn about how to keep themselves safe through our work on 'Protective Behaviours'. The pupils in Reception will be learning about this after half term.

In Year One the pupils have been reading the stories of 'Percy the Park Keeper' and written messages, lists and character descriptions. They have demonstrated the skills of perseverance and been 'stick-a-sauruses', working hard to form their letters correctly and of the correct size. Keep practising!

After half term they will begin their learning about Bulkington, past and present. Old photos of the village would be welcome into school.

October has been Black History Month, the children have been understanding, sharing and celebrating the achievements of British soldiers, who have contributed to society and been recognised for their service to the country.

In Year Two, the children have been keen to share their learning about Johnson Beharry who was awarded the Victoria Cross in 2005 when he put his own life at risk to save the lives of his comrades.

And Reception pupils have also been learning about Walter Tull, who was a professional footballer for Tottenham Hotspur and a soldier. In 1917, he became the first black officer to lead British soldiers to battle.

Have a restful half term.

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	

Water Bottles

We are seeing an increasing number of children bringing juice in their water bottles, including blackcurrant squash. Like the vast majority of schools across the UK and in line with NHS England, this should be **water only**.

In special/medical circumstances and with the agreement of the Headteacher this may be different. Please talk with class teacher in the first instance if you are concerned.

Moving forward, we will swap bottles of squash for cups of water, if situation persists.

Cycle to School Week

A huge well done to all of the families who took part in this year's Cycle to School week! We have received some lovely photo's, which you will now be able to see showcased on our School website!

We appreciate the support with taking part, as this will go towards our Safe & Active School Award this year.

Keep your eyes peeled for more fun activities throughout the Year.

School Council 25-26

Congratulations to our newly elected School Council for this academic year. They were voted for by their class peers, and have already held their very first important meeting, as well as receiving their honorary badges.

Mrs Wagstaff is looking forward to the Year ahead working with an incredible Team!



School Councillors

RA Thea & Rowan

1A Nicholas & Harper

2A Alfie & Amelia

RB Oakley & Elsie

1B Mollie & George

2B Ella-Rose & Albie

SPOOKTACULAR

Congratulation to our Pumpkin Carver winners...

2nd



1st



3rd



Thank you, helped us raise

£1159.00

SPOOKTACULASPOOKTACULA

A few of our Pumpkin entries



Useful Diary Dates



Monday 3rd November—Children return to School

9th –16th November - Inter Faith Week

Monday 10th November—Prospective Reception Parents Meeting

Wednesday 12th November—Heights & Weights—Connect for Health

Friday 14th November—Children In Need

Tuesday 2nd December—Year1 Learning Showcase 2.15pm

Wednesday 10th December—Flu Vaccinations

Monday 15th December—Carols around the Tree 5pm—In school

Wednesday 17th December— Reception Christmas Concert—2pm

Wednesday 17th December—Year 1 Disco

Friday 19th December—Christmas Lunch—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 – Ms Whitelaw	RAclass@welearn365.com
RB – Mrs Winfield	RBclass@welearn365.com
1A – Mrs Robinson	1Aclass@welearn365.com
1A – Mrs Basra	1Aclass@welearn365.com
1B – Mrs Amos	1Bclass@welearn365.com
2A – Miss Wallace	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!