



Barford St. Peter's C.E. (V.A.) Primary School

Together we love; together we learn

Newsletter

Friday 9th May 2025

Welcome back to the Summer Term, I hope you had an enjoyable Easter break together as a family. We have certainly had a very busy first two weeks back at school.

Year 3 performed an incredible class assembly this week, during which they shared their learning around the Ancient Greeks and demonstrated some excellent acting skills. Well done Year 3!

Last week Year 5 took part in their residential visit to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. We were incredibly proud of their excellent behaviour and many members of the public commented on how polite they were. We visited the Mary Rose museum, went for a trip around the harbour on a boat, and explored HMS Victory and HMS Warrior. Well done year 5!



The highlight of this week has of course been the VE celebrations on Thursday. I am sure you will agree the children's singing was superb. Thank you so much for joining us and for all the wonderful donations of cake as well.



Our special thanks to Mrs Ann Mitchell who worked tirelessly to create such a spectacle with the balloons and all the historic artefacts for the children to explore, not to mention organising a fly past and even baking a VE themed cake! Thank you Mrs Mitchell!

Next week our Year 6 pupils will take their statutory assessment tests (SATs). **Please could we ask for your co-operation in ensuring all children (in all year groups!) are in school on time by 8.45am at the latest.**

All staff will be required to administer the tests and therefore it will be very difficult and disruptive for the year 6 students if any children arrive after 8.45am, and we may not be able to let them in immediately. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend,

Mrs M.A. Baker
Head Teacher

Mobile Phone Ban & Smartphone Free Childhood

Just a reminder if you have not already done so, to provide some feedback on our consultation to ban mobile phones from the school site from September 2025, as well as signing the agreement for a smartphone free childhood. Please do come along next Wednesday 14th May at 5pm to share your thoughts and discuss the proposals.

Mobile Phone Consultation



What we've been learning

Reception

Over the last two weeks we have begun our 'Ticket to Ride' theme looking at space travel, which has been really exciting and given the children lots of opportunity to share their knowledge of planets and what it's like in space.

Last week our book theme was 'Whatever Next', by Jill Murphy, about a teddy who travels to the moon. We had fun acting out the story using our story-box and writing packing lists for our own space adventures. We also created some beautiful artwork of the planets in our solar system, using oil pastels and water-based paints. It was exciting to see the paint separating from the pastels to create bright planets and a dark background.

This week we have been reading 'Aliens Love Underpants' by Claire Freedman. We had our own alien invasion in Reception and when some were left behind, we wrote descriptions of them to help their spaceship find them. Our role-play has been inspired by watching videos of life on the International Space Station (ISS). In maths we have been extending our understanding of subitising by looking for instant recall of small groups within a larger group of objects. We focussed on ways to decompose six into different parts.

In RE we are thinking about how we treat others. We have been talking about what 'values' are and we talked about our school values and what they mean. We have been learning about how our own values affect our wider groups in society and we went on a detective hunt around school to see our school values in action.



Year 1

In year 1 in English, we have been reading the story of 'Handa's Surprise' and have been retelling the story and even writing our own versions! In Maths, we've been learning all about sharing and making equal groups. We've used dice to help us make number sentences too.

We've also started our exciting new topic, *Amazing Africa!* We've been looking for Africa on the map and finding places like Kenya.

Year 2

In year 2 in English, we have been writing our own versions of *Emma Jane's Aeroplane*. She travels the world and picks up animals on her way. In art, we've been learning about the artist Paul Klee and his unique style as well as exploring different tones.

In maths, we've been working on fractions. We have been recognising and finding $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$. In our learning theme we've been finding out all about the Wright Brothers and their flying invention. In phonics, we've been focusing on the "s" sound and practising spelling words with it.

In science, we've been learning how to keep a healthy diet. We have also started our swimming lessons! We've been practising different backstroke techniques, gaining confidence in the water and putting our heads under.

Year 3

In Year 3 this week we have been learning about bees. In English, we've been researching about bees and using these facts to create our own non-chronological reports.

In maths, we've been sharpening our mental maths skills as well as investigating word problems and thinking about what the words mean and which calculation we need to do. We have also been practising column subtraction and using this method to solve a range of challenges.

In Spanish, we've been learning about the famous artist Picasso and creating our own artwork inspired by him. In PE, we've been choreographing our own dance routines.

In PSHE we have been thinking about the rights of the child and in science we have been sharing our knowledge about forces and finding out about the parts of a flower.

We also performed our class assembly this week which was amazing! We loved singing our song which Mr Sterland wrote for us.

Year 4

In maths we have been working really hard to speed up our times tables knowledge ready for our test in June! We are getting really good at them now! In maths we have also been learning about fractions — including mixed numbers and improper fractions. We've even put them on number lines and done some shading to help us understand.

In English, we've been exploring nouns, verbs, and adjectives. We used poems to help us spot and highlight them. In science, we've been classifying animals and learning whether they're mammals, reptiles, or something else. We've done work on the board, created spider diagrams in our books, and shared lots of fascinating facts with each other. In guided reading, we've been enjoying a story called *Journey of the River*, which takes us on a rollercoaster of a journey!

Year 5

Following on from our amazing visit to Portsmouth last week, we have focussed on our learning back in class this week. In music, we've been practising notes and learning about a style of music called 'The Blues'.

In maths, we've been revising arithmetic questions for all 4 operations to keep our mental maths skills sharp. In English, we have been identifying the features of a recount. In science, we are learning to compare the life cycles of amphibians and insects. In geography, we've been discovering how the Anglo-Saxons have influenced modern life.

In R.E., we're exploring what ancient stories say about how the Earth came to be. In history, we've been asking big questions about the purpose of historical structures and what really happened to them. In PSHE, we've been learning about the physical changes that happen during puberty.

Year 6

In Year 6 in English we have been reviewing restaurants of our choice and we even used our imaginations to make up some restaurants we would like to eat at!

In maths we have been playing a game called 'Guardians Mathematica' where there are a series of questions that become more difficult as the game progresses.

In design technology we have been making Anderson Shelters out of wood, metal and plastic to protect people from the blitz if they were to be scaled up to life sized models. In P.E., we have been working on developing our athletic skills such as relay races as well as long distance.

Well done Henry!

A huge well done to Henry Clarke who walked an inspiring 26 miles to raise money for Oscar's Brain Tumour charity. This would be an incredible achievement even for an adult but to complete this aged 7 is phenomenal. Well done Henry you are a star!



Sporting Success!

On Wednesday our Year 5 & 6 girls and boys football teams had the opportunity to play Aylesford primary school. Both teams played incredibly well and won their matches. Well done everyone!



This Week's Prayer



Dear God,

As we celebrate 80 years since Victory in Europe day, we pray for peace around the world. We pray for all those who are suffering or displaced as a result of conflict today. Help us to always be thankful for the sacrifices made by others to bring us peace.

Amen

“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.”

Colossians 3:15

Summer Term Dates 2025

Date & Time	Event
Sunday 18 th May	Family Service @ St. Peter's Church 11am with performance from the school choir.
Wednesday 21 st May 8.45am	Year 5 class assembly
Friday 6 th June	Non uniform day (donations of bottles, cakes or filled jam jars please!)
Friday 6th June 3.30pm	FABs Summer Fair
Monday 9 th June (all week)	Year 1 Phonics screening test Year 4 Multiplication Check
Wednesday 11 th June 8.45am	Year 1 Class Assembly
Friday 13 th June	Year 1 Cake Sale
Sunday 15 th June	Family Service @ St. Peter's Church 11am
Wednesday 18 th June 8.45am	Reception Class Assembly
Friday 27 th June	Sports Day & Family Picnic
Wednesday 2 nd July	Warwickshire Transition Day
Friday 4 th July	Reports to Parents
Friday 11 th July	Reception Cake Sale
Monday 14 th July	Children of the World Day
Tuesday 15 th July	Year 6 show
Tuesday 16 th July	Year 6 show
Thursday 17 th July 2pm	Year 6 Leavers' service @ St. Peter's Church
Friday 18 th July 9am	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly

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 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 the parents' 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 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.

Leave of Absence taken in the academic year 2024-25

The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 19 August 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absence taken from September 2024 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.

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