



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

## Together we love; together we learn

### Newsletter

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January

Over the past two weeks we have been reflecting on our school value of respect in collective worship. We have considered the importance of honesty and also discussed the idea of what integrity is as well. We read the story 'Arthur and the Truth' which explores how we sometimes feel when we have done something wrong.

We also reflected on whether it is ever ok to tell a lie! A very interesting discussion to have with some thoughtful ideas from children. For example, we discussed how we might not be honest if doing so would cause someone to be or feel hurt.

Children have continued to enjoy their learning themes within their year groups and we are very proud of their excellent attitude towards their learning.

We are excited for our FABs movie night this evening which promises to be a really enjoyable evening. My thanks as always to our dedicated FABs team for organising this event for the children.

Best wishes,

Mrs M.A. Baker  
Head Teacher

### Family Services

All are always welcome at the family services at St. Peter's church which take place at 11am. The dates for the next services are now available on the dates list at the bottom of the newsletter. On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May we would like to invite choir to perform at the service, so please make a note of the date!



### Uniform Reminders

Please could I remind you that hairbands should be red, white or black please. Children should also not wear nail varnish.

We have also had some issues with children coming to school with hundreds of keyrings attached to their bookbags! Please could we ask that you keep book bag key rings to a minimum (we think one is plenty!). Children have been getting upset when they break or get lost.

Thank you for your co-operation with this.

### Mrs Hurlock Update

I am pleased to report that Mrs Hurlock's knee operation has gone well, and she is recovering slowly but surely at home. She is challenging herself to do a little more each day and I am sure you will join with me in wishing her a speedy recovery!

### Science Week



In school we have been busy planning ahead for our science week, which we are holding from 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> February (a little earlier than national science week!)

A letter with more details will be coming home next week. In the meantime, we are looking for parents who may work in science, mathematics or engineering to volunteer to come and talk to the children about their job. If this is something you or someone you know might be able to do, please email the office at [admin3587@welearn365.com](mailto:admin3587@welearn365.com) thank you!

## What we've been learning

## Year 1

### Reception

In Reception, we were so excited to have some amazing animals come and visit us this week. We enjoyed interacting with a corn snake, an African land snail, a Madagascan hissing cockroach, a white belly tree frog, a giant millipede and not forgetting the rat! We learned lots of new information about each one and what they need to survive. We also thought about how they were adapted to their habitat and learned lots of tricky new vocabulary.

We have been reading the story 'Monkey Puzzle' and have written dialogue between the monkey and butterfly, thinking carefully about what the animals might say.

The children have impressed us with their learning of nocturnal and diurnal animals. We have been thinking about how they are suited to living there and identifying adult animals and their young. The children wowed us with their art and created some amazing pastel pictures of monkeys. They chose the colours carefully, blended beautifully and added extra detail.

In maths we have been furthering our knowledge using the Part-whole model. We have been writing out the corresponding addition calculations too.

In Gymnastics, we have been thinking about balance and coordination. We attempted a variety of different balances and rolls.



In maths we have been busy because we have been adding together numbers to make bigger numbers. In English we have been writing a postcard about the boy and the penguin from our story 'Lost and Found. In science we have been thinking about different materials and investigating what different objects are made from, as well as their properties. In geography we have been naming the continents of the world and we used an atlas to help us. In PSHE we have been thinking about things that help us get to sleep at night!

### Year 2

In maths we have been learning all about arrays and how we can organise objects into equal groups. We have learning how to solve multiplication problems and using the multiplication sign. We have been using cubes to help us with this. In English we have been learning about 'Finn McCool' and the legend of the Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland.

In P.E we have been developing our skills in balancing and stretching. In art we have continued to look at the work of LS Lowry. We used his paintings as an inspiration to sketch the landscape of Barford. In our geography lessons, we have been learning about the human and physical features of England.

### Year 3

This week we have been learning all about Chinese New Year and have been planning a non-chronological report in our English lessons. We have talked a lot about China and how the new year is celebrated and have learnt lots about it!



In science we have carried out an investigation about light- it was lots of fun! We have been learning how to say the names of different instruments in Spanish. In maths we have been looking at related calculations, for example if we know that  $2 \times 6 = 12$ , we can calculate  $20 \times 6 = 120$ .

We have learnt a lot about Coventry Cathedral in our R.E. Lessons and PSHE has had us thinking about what our strengths are and how they can help us.

## Year 4

In English we have been writing lots of poetry! The first poem we studied was called 'A poem To Explain Why I Absolutely, Definitely and Unquestionably Am Responsible Enough to Have a Pet'. It was a very funny poem and we were so proud of what we wrote in the lessons. We got to pick our own animal. The second poem we wrote was about darkness. We had to describe it in lots of different ways to create moody poems. We are also really enjoying continuing with our topic on The Industrial Revolution and have been doing lots of research to find out more about it.

## Year 5

In music, we have been identifying character and action songs. In history, we created timelines from the period of the Anglo-Saxons. It turns out they were around quite a long time ago! We've been really hands on in science where we investigated what material would keep warm water the warmest for the longest amount of time.

In R.E. and world views we have been identifying how salvation is important to Christian Worldviews. We had some really good discussions about this in class. In geography we have been learning about what fair trade is, why it is important, and how we can support it.

In Spanish we have been drawing family trees and labelling them. We have been writing their ages and facts about them too!

## Year 6

This week in year 6 in English we have been reading the classic text 'Goodnight Mr Tom'. Following on from reading the first few pages, we have written dialogues based on the characters in the story.

In maths we have continued to work hard refining all our calculation and place value knowledge. We have been rounding decimals to integers, tenths, hundredths and thousandths.

In history we have been learning more about what life was like for children who were evacuated from London during the war. We have been discussing what it would have been like for children our age or even younger to leave their families. We are really enjoying our topic on World War II and can't wait to learn more!

## This Week's Prayer



Heavenly Father,  
Thank you for your love that greets us each new day. Help us to trust you always and guide us in making choices that reflect your goodness. May we learn to seek you in prayer and follow your path with joyful hearts.

**Amen**

"Tell me in the morning about your love. I trust you. Show me what I should do because my prayers go up to you."

**Psalms 143:8**

## Spring Term Dates 2025

Date & Time	Event
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	FABs Movie Night
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 8.45am	Year 5 Poetry & Music Assembly
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	FABs Valentines Disco
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Half Term
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Science Week
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Young Voices
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5 Poetry & Music Assembly
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Online Parents' Meetings (am)
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Online Parents' Meetings (pm)
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3 Cake Sale
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Family Service @ St. Peter's Church 11am
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Ricky Dance Day – KS1
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3 Poetry & Music Assembly
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Ricky Dance Day – KS2
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Year 2 Class Assembly
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Break the Rules Day
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2.30pm	Easter Service
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	INSET Day
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Family Service @ St. Peter's Church 11am with performance from the school choir.
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Family Service @ St. Peter's Church 11am

## 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.**