

Ettington Church of England Primary School

Newsletter 1 Spring Term 2024

26th January 2024

Learning for the Fullness of Life (John 10:10)

Our Christian Value for this half term is **RESPECT**.

The Golden Rule 'Do unto others as you wish them to do unto you'.
(Luke 6:31 and Matthew 7:12)



Dear parents, carers and the wider community,

Happy New Year!

Welcome back! I hope you were able to find some family time during the Christmas break and also some time to rest too. We have a quite 'short' but busy term ahead of us this Spring. We have Fire Safety events, Children's Mental Health Week, Internet Safety days, exciting visits and trips and of course the teaching staff will be working hard to ensure children are learning well.

Stars of the Week

| Week ending 19.1.2024 | Week ending 26.1.2024 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Reception: Izzie C | Reception: Hugo G |
| Year 1: Ophelia A | Year 1: Sibylla B F |
| Year 2: Maeve G | Year 2: Elsie G |
| Year 3: Toby E | Year 3: Elodie Rose S |
| Year 4: Emily C | Year 4: Mason L |
| Year 5: Ethan T | Year 5: Eliza A |
| Year 6: Owen B | Year 6: Theo C |
| Star writer: Jasper H | Star writer: Georgina B |

Congratulations to our stars!

Congratulations!

A huge but belated congratulations to Mr and Mrs Higgitt on the birth of Frankie Edward Higgitt – weighing in at 9lb 15.5oz.

Welcome!

I would like to formally welcome Mrs Edgson to the team, teaching 3 days a week in Reception to cover Mrs Hudspith whilst she takes extended maternity leave. With a huge wealth of extensive Early Years knowledge, we are very lucky to have her join us. Many of you may have seen her around the school late in the Autumn term as she got to know the children, but she officially joined us at the beginning of this term.



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Reception Inspire Reading Workshop

Thank you to the parents and grandparents who joined us for our final Inspire Workshop. Please know that the continued support that you give your children, working in partnership with the school, will make a huge difference to your child's learning journey. The slides for all of the workshops offered this academic year are available on the school website.

Young Voices 2024

On Monday 22nd January, I had the enormous pleasure of joining Mrs Kemp, Miss Hunter, Mr Higgitt and Mrs Swift who took Years 5 and 6 to Resorts World Arena near Solihull to perform at the 2024 Young Voices concert. The children were an absolute credit both to you as parents and the school - the singing was sensational. Most definitely a night to remember! A huge thank you to Mrs Kemp for organising. This is a huge undertaking to prepare the children, book the tickets and coach, sort and check all the t-shirts as well as all the usual risk assessments, trip planning and making sure ratios are correct. Thank you too to all the parents for your help and support as well as the staff who all gave up their time to assist the children in attending. It was a very long day and late night!

Attendance

Attendance data for the Autumn term:

National Average for Primary Schools: 94.7%

School Average: 96%

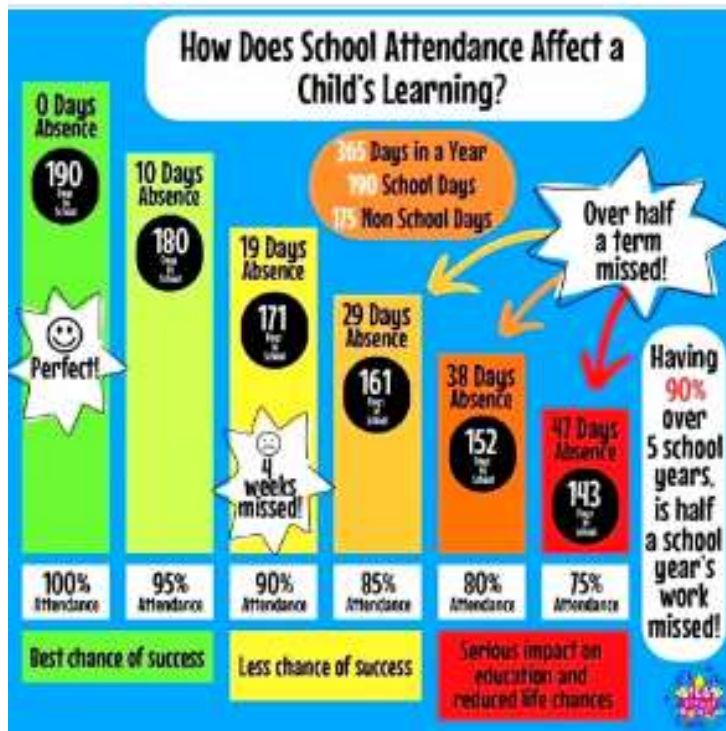
Our attendance is improving and is above the current national average for primary schools in England. Thank you so much for your continued support.

Every day counts. Missing a week of school for a family holiday taken in term time will mean that your child has missed 25 hours of learning new things.

Having broken attendance (a day off a week or a fortnight, or on random days) means that children will miss 5 hours of learning each time but will struggle to understand the work they do the following day/week because lessons are taught in sequences which rely on prior knowledge. Missing a day, a week, is a bit like missing a chapter when reading a book - you miss out important information and things can become confusing.



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Illness

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they're unwell. There are government guidelines for schools about managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK. These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't.

The Chief Medical Officer and other health leaders have written to schools at the start of term regarding illnesses and attendance. You can read the letter here. [Letter to school leaders](#)

Schools must regularly inform the Local Authority of any pupils who are regularly absent from school, have irregular attendance, or have missed 10 school days or more without the school's permission.



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SEND Upcoming events in 2024

Here's a round-up of some of the events happening in 2024 for children, young people and parents and carers in Warwickshire.

Warwickshire Family and Relationships Support

[Sleep workshops and understanding children's behaviour](#)

Support for parent carers of autistic children

[Contact - For families with disabled children](#) are offering FREE online workshops in January to help parent carers of autistic children with a range of challenges — from getting extra support in school through to accessing suitable childcare, benefits and other entitlements. [Find out more here](#)

Parent toolbox sessions - autism and meltdowns - [Community Autism Support Service](#)

Parent carer wellbeing sessions, talking about autism with your child and understanding and supporting autistic children - [Community Autism Support Service](#)

Warwickshire Libraries - Sensory Sessions

Atherstone Library, multi-sensory Bag Books story, starting Wed 24 Jan 2024 - [book here](#)

Bedworth Library, sensory stories, starting Wed 17 Jan 2024 - [book here](#)

Nuneaton Library, story time for all, starting Sat 3 Feb 2024 - [book here](#)

Rugby Library, sensory stories, starting Tue 2 Jan 2024 - [book here](#)

Stratford-upon-Avon Library, sensory hour, starting Mon 15 Jan 2024 - [book here](#)

Warwick Library, SEN story time, starting Sat 13 Jan 2024 - [book here](#)

For more local events, training and workshops for families of children and young people with SEND in Warwickshire follow the [Local Offer Facebook page](#).



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Leave of Absence During Term Time

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 may be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council.



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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. The school receives NONE of the money resulting from fines.

Unauthorised Absences

Unauthorised absences are those which the school does not consider reasonable and for which no 'leave' has been granted. This type of absence can lead to the school referring to the Local Authority for penalty notices and/or legal proceedings.

Unauthorised absence includes; however, this list is not exhaustive:

Parents/carers keeping children off school unnecessarily e.g. because they had a late night or for non-infectious illness or injury that would not affect their ability to learn.

Absences which have never been properly explained.

Children who arrive at school after the close of registration are marked using a 'U'. This indicates that they are in school for safeguarding purposes, however is counted as an absence for the session.

Shopping trips.

Looking after other children or children accompanying siblings or parents to medical appointments.

Their own or family birthdays.

Availability of cheaper holidays and/or desired accommodation.

Overlap with the beginning or end of term.

Booked the wrong holiday dates by mistake.

Holiday booked by another family member.

Attending a wedding that is not for an immediate family member or not part of the ceremony.

Unable to take a holiday in school holidays due to work commitments.

Adult appointments affecting bringing a child to school or collecting on time.



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Different term dates for children at schools in another local authority.

Holidays taken during term time without leave, not deemed 'for exceptional purposes' by the headteacher - may result in the school applying to the local authority to issue a penalty notice or if you have previously been issued a penalty notice, the school may request a direct prosecution by the local authority.

Older siblings at another school have a day off so you kept all of the children at home.

Day trips.

During KS1 and KS2 SATS assessments.

Other leave of absence in term time which has not been agreed

[Top tips for managing screen time](#)

Use the link to access the poster!



Anti-Bullying

The Anti-Bullying Alliance defines bullying as the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face-to-face or online.

Bullying is a deliberate, repeated act by one child (or children) towards another to physically or emotionally hurt them Several Times On Purpose. We use STOP to remind children about what bullying is and how to address it. Thankfully, behaviour at our school is excellent and episodes of bullying are very rare.

However, children will, on occasion, fall out with each other, may occasionally be unkind to each other, or play becomes too rough. These are beyond the boundaries of acceptable behaviours in school, can cause upset to children and parents and will be dealt with seriously by staff, but one-off, isolated incidents are not bullying. Through our curriculum and assemblies we educate children about what bullying is and what it



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is not, to spot it and speak up about it in a variety of ways to empower everybody in our school community to value and respect themselves.

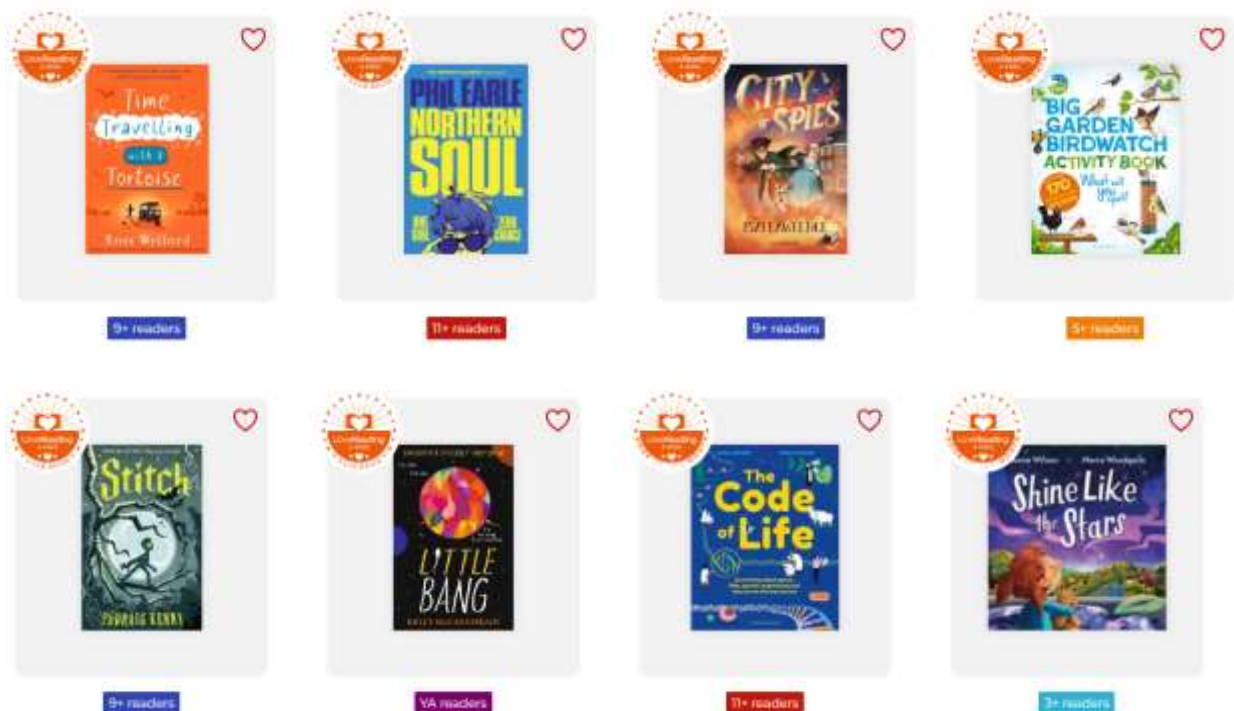
We have a zero-tolerance attitude towards bullying. When we discover bullying in school we will always deal with it in the most serious manner. Our aim is to help all of our children to become the best person they can be and to care for everyone.

We also challenge children to be kind to each other using STOP: do or say something positive for someone else Several Times On Purpose and then Start Telling Other People about the kindness shown.

Reading for Pleasure

[GREAT BOOK TRUST IDEAS!](#)

Book picks for January



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Parking

Please park courteously and legally around the school site, ensuring you do not block driveways of local residents or our designated Disabled parking space. Unfortunately, we have been made aware of dangerous and indeed illegal parking at drop off and collection times. One resident has offered car details and footage of most recent dangerous parking on the corner of Hillman Way. I am making contact with our local PCSO to see whether they can offer further support, however, I am sure you will agree that some careful consideration primarily for the safety of our children, coupled with courtesy for the local community should be easy to achieve.

You are actively encouraged to walk your children to school and there is always parking available at the Community Centre. Please let's work together to ensure our children are safe.

Vacancies

We are currently looking to recruit Mid-Day Supervisors to help support over lunch times. Please contact our admin team if you are interested in joining the team!

Very best wishes,

Mrs Michelle Crowe

Head Teacher



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Dates for your calendar and diary

| Spring 1 | Spring 2 |
|---|--|
| <p>Monday 29th January 5.30pm Full Governing Board Meeting</p> <p>Tuesday 30th January 9.15-10.15am FIS (Family Information Service) workshop Coffee morning for parents and carers See flyer</p> <p>Friday 2nd February 9am Governors Performance and Standards Committee Meeting</p> <p>Monday 5th February Children's Mental Health Week</p> <p>Wednesday 7th February 9am Governors Resources Committee Meeting</p> <p>Thursday 8th February 9.15-10.15am Anxiety in Children with MHIS team Coffee morning for parents and carers See flyer</p> <p>Friday 9th February Last day before half term</p> | <p>Monday 19th February Children return to school</p> <p>Monday 26th February 4.00-6.30pm Parent Consultations</p> <p>Monday 4th March (all week) Bike-Ability Years 5 and 6</p> <p>Thursday 7th March 4.00-7.00pm Parent Consultations Mental Health In School Team present</p> <p>Thursday 7th March World Book Day</p> <p>Friday 22nd March End of Term</p> <p>Monday 8th April Children return to school</p> |



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