

Ettington Church of England Primary School

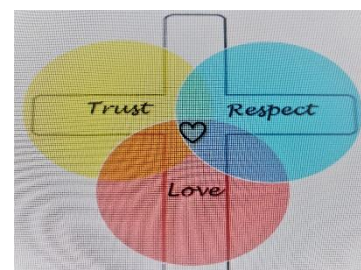
Newsletter 4 Spring Term 2024

22nd March 2024

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

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

"Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive others." Colossians 3.13



Dear parents, carers and the wider community,

I cannot quite believe that we are at the end of the Spring Term. It really has flown by.

Stars of the Week

Week ending 8.3.2024	Week ending 15.3.2024	Week ending 22.3.2024 End of Term Subject Stars
Reception: Maisie Year 1: Sara Year 2: Florrie Year 3: Isla Year 4: Jensen Year 5: Robert Year 6: Clemmie Star writer:	Reception: Jaxon Year 1: Tabitha Year 2: Rosie Year 3: James Year 4: -Austin Year 5: Seb Year 6: Jack Star writer: Louis	Literacy: Bobby Numeracy: Spencer Science: Oscar Creative Arts: Layla Creative Curriculum: George Sport: Elliott Computing: Sienna Learning Habits: Robyn Role Model: Eliza Christian Values: Beau

Congratulations to our stars!

Easter Service

Thank you so much for joining us for the Easter Service in church last week. A wonderfully uplifting hour of storytelling, art, poetry, prayer and music led by the children in our school. Time spent in church with the children, parents, grandparents and friends never fails to bring home to me the importance of us all coming together as a community. A special thank you to those of you who helped with the walk to and from church.



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Headteacher Mrs Michelle Crowe

Sport

Very well done to all of our children who have participated in sporting events over the last few weeks. Please see the 'sporting news' section of our website for the children's reviews. Thank you to Mr Higgitt for organising these opportunities for the children.

Congratulations to Years 5 and 6 for successfully completing their Bikeability Training – happy and safe biking, please! The instructors were incredibly impressed not only with your enthusiasm but your overall behaviour and impeccable manners. Thank you – living out our Christian Values of Trust, Love and Respect.

Finally, huge congratulations to Aimee Y5, Jess Y5 and Lola Y3 who travelled to Stoke on Trent with their dance squad and competed in ICE Extravaganza, their first competition of the season, performing hip hop and lyrical. These dances are the result of 4 hours training every week. We're so proud of them for the effort they put in and especially for seeing them being awarded the 1st place trophy for their lyrical dance. Very well done!

Trips

On Monday 11th March, Year 6 were lucky enough to enter a new world - an exciting world where maths met horse racing. The trip was thoroughly enjoyed by all, with one child describing it as '*My favourite ever trip as we learnt lots and it was so much fun.*' During their experience, they put into practise lots of maths based on measures, money, fractions and mental calculations – all thrown at the children throughout the day to keep them all on their toes. Finally, the children had the opportunity to watch several races and try to pick the winners!

As part of Shakespeare Week, the children in Year 4 visited Stratford for the day where they took part in a whole host of activities to learn about Shakespeare and Tudor times. The children started off their day with a Tudor quiz and masterclass art workshop led by Martin Brown, author and the renowned illustrator of the Horrible Histories stories – thank you Martin for our signed copy of your latest book! The children also visited the Guild Hall Chapel for a harp lesson, Nash's House to explore sculpture and finished off their day with a workshop at the The Clore Centre, working with RSC staff to dramatise 'A Mid-Summer Nights Dream'. Jam packed, but an incredible opportunity.

World Changers

On Tuesday 5th March, our World Changers council organised a recycling workshop led by Warwickshire County Council where the school learnt about the importance of recycling. Their next step will be to complete a waste audit and start a school composting scheme.

They would like to remind you to return to school any used printer ink cartridges for recycling, please! The council have also completed the RSPB school bird watch and

submitted their results and have led the school during 'Switch Off Fortnight', to monitor energy usage and look for ways to reduce our electricity bill!



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Congratulations to Year 2 for being the best at remembering to switch off computers and lights when they are not in use.

Music

As a singing school, we celebrated our love of music at school yesterday with a musical ensemble. What talented children we have! Joined by Lucy Hollins and Suzy (on keyboard), the children, led in part by Mrs Kemp and the school choir, wowed us all with a selection of songs from around the world. A huge thanks to Lucy for giving up her time and supporting Mrs Kemp with the choir every Wednesday.

Volunteers

If any parents and other family members have any spare time and would like to come and hear children read in class we would love to have you come and help. All volunteers would need to complete a new enhanced DBS check before they can come into school, which school will pay for providing you are committed to coming in to read and support our children regularly. Every bit of help we can give our children makes a big difference. If you think that you or a grandparent or other family member would be able to help, please contact Mrs Gray in the school office to arrange for an enhanced DBS check to be completed.

Pupil Premium Funding

Pupil Premium is funding schools receive from the Government to support all children to be able to engage in school life as successfully as possible. The funding is set criteria based on how many children in a school are eligible for a free school meal, are cared for by the state or whether their parents are serving in the armed forces.

We do not use pupil premium funding on an individual basis, we follow the best practice and guidance on how to use the funding. The conditions of the funding states that it must be used to support the maximum number of children and that it does not need to only be spent on those children eligible for pupil premium funding.

We do not allocate funding individually to those children who qualify for funding. The money is pooled to ensure that we gain the best value for money on how we spend it.

The vast majority of our Pupil Premium funding is spent on additional support for children in every class, e.g. high-quality teachers, teaching assistants and resources, plus additional interventions which take place throughout the school.

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are eligible for a Universal Free School Meal so can have a free hot meal at school every day, if you so wish. From Year 3 onwards, children will only receive a free school meal if parents are registered as being eligible for it. If you

think that you may be eligible for free school meals you can check and apply here:

[Free School Meals Application](#)



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Children who receive funding for a free school meal (not a Universal Free School Meal) are also eligible for funding towards holiday child care clubs run by Warwickshire. You may also be eligible for food vouchers through the Household Support Fund.

If you think you are eligible and would like help to complete your application, we would be happy to help in school.

Summer Term National Tests and Checks

Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

This year's national Multiplication Tables Check for children in Year 4 starts in the week beginning 3rd June up to Friday 14th June. Learning times tables is a vital piece of knowledge for all children to acquire. Knowing these facts with quick recall, along with quick recall of other number facts, frees up our working memory to focus on problem solving, moving our understanding up and aids developing mathematical confidence.



Engaging in Times Tables Rockstars each week is an important part of helping our children to develop these key pieces of knowledge. As a school, we pay for Times Tables Rockstars for children from Year 2 upwards to support the learning of time tables in a fun and motivating way- this is a great resource that your child should be accessing at least weekly. The National Curriculum expectation is that all children know all times tables up to 12x12 by the end of Year 4.

What is the multiplication tables check?

It is an on-screen check consisting of 25 times table questions. Children will have the opportunity to answer 3 practice questions before taking the actual check. They will then have 6 seconds to answer each question. On average, the check should take no longer than 5 minutes to complete. You can practise with your child at home using the Mathsframe website, which exactly mirrors the official check – [Maths Frame](#)

Mrs Kemp and Mrs Pearson will ensure that all of the children are prepared before they take the check in June.

The Standards and Testing Agency has produced a leaflet for Year 4 parents about the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check in June. [STA Multiplication Check for Parents](#)



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KS2 (Year 6) SATs

In preparation for the end of year KS2 SAT's testing, we will be holding an information session for parents on Thursday 11th April at 3.30pm in Year 6. The information will be made available on Google Classroom also. The Standards and Testing Agency has produced a leaflet for Year 6 parents about the Key Stage 2 SATs in May. [STA Year 6 SATs Guide for Parents](#)

Year 1 Phonics Check

The Year 1 Phonics Screening Check takes place during the second week in June. The Phonics Screening Check contains 40 words divided into two sections of 20 words. Both sections contain a mixture of read words and pseudo-words (words that are phonically decodable but are not actual words with an associated meaning). The pass rate for all previous checks has been 32/40. Parents and carers can practise the Phonics Screening Check at home with practise papers on the Year 1 Google Classroom along with further information. Please see Mrs Smith if you would like to know more.

Attendance

Fines for parents for taking children out of school: What you need to know – The following is taken from the DfE Education Blog:

Every moment in school counts and days missed add up quickly. Evidence shows that pupils who have good attendance enjoy better wellbeing and school performance than those who don't.

There are only a few circumstances where a child is allowed to miss school, such as illness or where the school has given permission because of an exceptional circumstance.

However, if your child misses' school without a good reason, local councils and schools can intervene and you may be issued a fine.

We're also introducing a new national framework which will mean all councils have the same rules in place for when they need to consider a fine. We explain more on this below.

It's important to acknowledge that children with long-term medical or more serious mental health conditions, and those with special educational needs and disabilities may face additional barriers.

For children who face complex barriers to attendance, schools should have sensitive conversations with children and families and work with them to put support in place for their individual needs.



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How much could I be fined if my child misses' school?

In the majority of cases, schools and local authorities will try and provide support to help you improve your child's attendance first, but if this isn't effective or the absence is for unauthorised term time holiday, parents may face paying a fine.

Currently, it's the responsibility of the local authority to decide whether or not to issue fines to parents, meaning the process varies from council to council. However, under the new national framework, all schools will be required to consider a fine when a child has missed 10 or more sessions (5 days) for unauthorised reasons.

From August 2024, the fine for school absences across the country will be £80 if paid within 21 days, or £160 if paid within 28 days.

This rate is in line with inflation and is the first increase since 2012.

Fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action like a parenting order or prosecution will be considered. If you're prosecuted and attend court because your child hasn't been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500.

Money raised via fines is only used by the local authority to cover the costs of administering the system, and to fund attendance support. Any extra money is returned to the government.

How can you be sure parent fines are fair?

Fines are a last resort, and parents will be offered support to help improve their child's attendance first. The vast majority of fines for unauthorised absence (89%) are issued for term time holidays.

If your child is facing barriers to school attendance due to special educational needs or disabilities (SEND), schools, local authorities and wider services are required to work together to provide the right support in the first place.

What if my child needs to miss school?

Your child must attend every day that the school is open, unless:

Your child is too ill to attend that day.

You have asked in advance and been given permission by the school for your child to be absent on that day due to exceptional circumstances.

Your child cannot attend school on that day because it is a day you are taking part in religious observance.



Your local authority is responsible for arranging your child's transport to school and it is not available on that day or has not been provided yet.

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You are a gypsy/traveller family with no fixed abode, and you are required to travel for work that day meaning your child cannot attend their usual school.

What happens if my child misses' school without a good reason?

If your child is absent and you haven't received advance permission from the headteacher to take your child out of school, the school and local council may take action.

Before that, your child's school and your local council are expected to support you to improve the child's attendance before any measures are put in place.

These measures can include:

Issue a fixed penalty notice, otherwise known as a 'fine' – your local council

can give each parent a fine. If you do not pay the fine after 28 days you may be prosecuted for your child's absence from school.

Seek an Education Supervision Order from the family court – if the council

thinks you need support getting your child to go to school but you're not co-operating, they can apply to a court for an Education Supervision Order. A supervisor will be appointed to help you get your child into education. The local council can do this instead of, or as well as, prosecuting you.

Prosecute you – this means you have to go to court. You could get a fine, a community order or a jail sentence up to 3 months. The court could also give you a Parenting Order.

Why is attendance important?

For most pupils, the best place to be during term-time is in school, surrounded by the support of their friends and teachers.

This is important not just for your child's learning, but also for their overall wellbeing, wider development and their mental health.

Thank you for your continued support in raising attendance levels in school. As of today, attendance is 96.1%.

Finally, make I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support this term and wish you all a very safe and happy Easter break and look forward to welcoming you back in school on Monday 8th April.

Very best wishes,

Mrs Michelle Crowe

Head Teacher



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Dates for your calendar and diary

Summer Term 1

Monday 25th March to Friday 5th April
Easter Holidays

Monday 8th April
Children return to school

Thursday 11th April 3.30pm
Year 6 SAT's Information for parents
(Year 6 classroom)

Monday 15th April 5.30pm
Full Governing Body Meeting

Tuesday 16th April
Year 2 trip to Ryton Pools

Monday 29th April
ISingPop Event

Monday 6th May
Bank Holiday Monday

Monday 13th May to Thursday 16th May
Y6 SATs week

Friday 24th May
Last day before half term

Summer Term 2

Monday 27th to Friday 31st May
May Half Term

Monday 3rd June
Teacher Training Day
School closed to children

Monday 3rd June to Friday 14th June
Year 4 Tables Check Window

Thursday 6th June 2.30pm
Year 6 KOOTH workshop

Monday 10th to Friday 14th June
Year 1 Phonics Screen Week

Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th June
CORAM Mental Health Workshops

Friday 28th June 2pm
Curriculum open afternoon for parents

Tuesday 2nd July
Year 6 Leavers Retreat

Tuesday 9th July 9.30am
Year 6 Leavers Service
Whole school Church Service
All welcome

Friday 19th July
Last day of term



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