

Ettington Church of England Primary School

Newsletter 6 Spring Term 2025

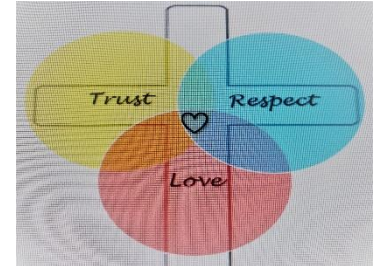
14th February 2025

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

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

'Do to others as you would have them do to you.'

Matthew 7.12



Dear parents, carers and the wider community,

Stars of the Week

Week ending 24.1.25	Week ending 31.1.25	Week ending 7.2.25	Week ending 14.2.25
Rec: Isla F Year 1: Franek J Year 2: Nina S Year 3: Darcy – Mae R Year 4: Max C Year 5: Jude F Year 6: Elyssa G Star Writer: Florence D	Rec: Tommy D Year 1: Abel T R Year 2: Esme B Year 3: Joshua C Year 4: Sophia S Year 5: Albert D Year 6: Sophie C Star Writer: Hattie G	Rec: Max V Year 1: Antoni G Year 2: Alessia P Year 3: Florrie S Year 4: Lola H Year 5: Year 6: Aimee G Star Writer: Eliza F	Rec: Freddie R Year 1: Layla H Year 2: Sara S Year 3: Roisin T Year 4: Zaria J Year 5: Teddy M Austin C Year 6: Florence F Star Writer: Pola

A huge congratulations to all of our stars!

School news



Last week marked Children's Mental Health Week.

An area that is particularly close to my heart, we actively talk about mental health at school and look at ways to promote positive mental health but also talk openly about how we feel.

Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week 2025 joined forces with Here4You to explore the theme Know Yourself, Grow Yourself in partnership with [Here4You](#), supported by [The Walt Disney Company](#) and the *Inside Out 2* characters.



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Headteacher Mrs Michelle Crowe

Through the characters of Pixar's *Inside Out* and *Inside Out 2*, the resources encouraged children to discover how getting to know who they are can help them build resilience, grow and develop. *Learning for the fullness of Life*.

To raise awareness of this in school, we involved ourselves in a range of activities. We started the week by wearing pyjamas (who doesn't feel better in pyjamas!) and watching 'Inside Out 2' which not only looks at the different emotions we all have but shows how these change and develop with us through different stages of our lives.

We used bingo games to get to know our friends better, by asking them questions. We illustrated our own 'islands'; just like Riley in *Inside Out 2*, we all have different hobbies and interests that make us who we are - our islands. We discussed what we are good at and how we would like to improve our skills - setting ourselves achievable challenges, but ensuring we know who could help us reach them.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/>

Please also remember that we have a mental health area on our website with information that is updated regularly. Mrs Smith is our trained Senior Mental Health Lead. If you would like to speak to her in confidence, please get in touch.

In the classrooms...

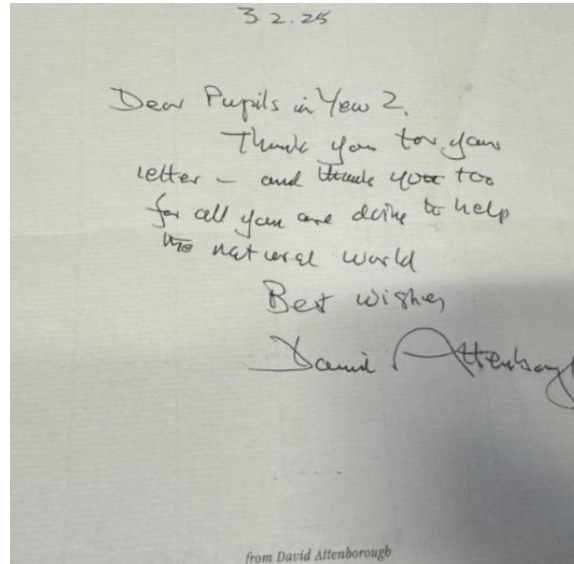
Year 1 had a huge surprise last Monday when they arrived at school to find that a spaceship had crashed landed right outside the classroom! They soon discovered that a 3-eyed yellow alien with long floppy ears called Beegu was now living in the shed!! They have written letters to her to give her advice and have made posters to tell others what to do should they meet her. It would appear that she tiptoed over the newly laid concrete for our new PE sheds, as little footprints appeared overnight too!



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Inspired by their learning from their class text 'A journey Home', Year 2 have written to David Attenborough to raise the awareness of the Giant Panda becoming an endangered animal. They organised a cake sale to raise money for charity and raised a whopping £178.00! What a huge achievement. Well done, Year 2!

They even had a reply from David Attenborough!



Last Thursday, three members of Stratford upon Avon Astronomical Society, Adrian, Andrew and Dave, visited the school to give a presentation and to offer the opportunity to do some solar and lunar observation. In the hall, Adrian did his inimitable presentation of the solar system, with toilet rolls, fruit and other items, whilst Andrew and Dave ran an observation session in the playground, using a small telescope looking at the moon, a pair of binoculars, a solar telescope, Andrew's own solar projection set up and solar eclipse glasses. The children were given some instructions before observing began, especially with regard to never looking directly at the sun unless they have proper filters or equipment, and even then, care needs to be taken and should be with adult supervision.

The solar projection using just a bird spotting scope projected onto a hand-held sheet of white card, gave a good large image, with sunspots easily seen. The solar scope image is difficult to see for most people, but the children found it.

The Stratford upon Avon Astronomical Society meets every first and third Tuesday at 8pm (doors open at 7.30pm) at Alderminster Village Hall. Everyone is welcome, especially beginners and those wanting to learn more. The speaker on the third Tuesday 18th February 2025 will be Chris Woodhouse, an Associate of the Royal Photographic Society with a talk on astrophotography. Please note that the speakers usually start quite promptly at 8pm. The next club night will be on Tuesday 4th March 2025 starting at 8pm.



Club nights offer more information on what to look out for each month. If it is clear observing is usually done just outside the Village Hall. There is no charge initially,

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but if you do want to become a member then the fee is just £15 a year and it's free if you are in full time education. For more details go to the website <http://www.astro.org.uk> or contact the Chair John Waller john.waller@astro.org.uk or on 07703 192188.

Each month one of the members, Adrian Wakeham, writes an article on aspects of astronomical observation.

'This month sees a partial solar eclipse and a lunar eclipse, visible from this area.

First of all, in the early hours of Friday 14th March, the full moon just as it is setting will appear noticeably redder than usual. This is due to the Moon moving into the shadow of the earth (otherwise known as a lunar eclipse). Although this will remain for an hour or so, it will be difficult to spot unless you have a low horizon, but then the moon will be lost from sight as it sets below the western horizon.

Second, on Saturday 29th March at about 10.30am, we will get a partial solar eclipse, as we lose 33% of the sun behind the new moon. It won't go into total darkness (or totality), but it will be noticeably duller. You should never look directly at the sun, without proper solar eclipse glasses, or the appropriate solar filters. Our society has eclipse glasses available.

So, to see it, either please ensure you do have eclipse glasses, or the correct solar filters, otherwise projecting it through a colander onto a white base, can be a fun way to see the crescent shaped shadows cast. Another fun way is to use a home-made cereal box solar projector, which will produce the same effect.

Eclipses do not occur every full or new moon. The Earth/ Moon plane must line up with the sun, but lunar and solar eclipses often appear in pairs, as these do.

The next total solar eclipse is not due until August 2026 and will only be visible in Greenland, Iceland, Spain, Russia, and a small area of Portugal, although a partial eclipse will be seen elsewhere and a number of intrepid/fanatics, travel the globe to observe the awe-inspiring sight of totality. The last total solar eclipse visible in Britain occurred in 1999 and the next one does not happen until 2090, (so, unfortunately, I won't be around to advise you about it).

Another moon-based sight will be on Tuesday 1st April, when the moon moves in in front of (or occults) the Pleiades star cluster. A very interesting sight.'

'They told us interesting facts and we got to wear glasses that allowed us to see the Sun and we looked through telescopes. I liked it because they didn't just tell us cool facts, they also did the practical side of things. It was a great way to learn about Space. I enjoyed every second of it!' Arjun Year 5.



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We are hoping, that now inspired, we can arrange a further visit to involve the community too!

Sport

Another half term and more success in the sporting arena for Ettington, and this time for the Year 6 mixed Curling Team. The team, consisting of Lottie, Abi, Barnaby and Ethan competed in a curling competition for the first ever time and came out victorious with the last stone of the whole competition proving vital. Well done for your team work and great skill in this event. It was great to see you all take part with such a smile and having great fun. In the coming weeks, Year 5 have a netball tournament, Year 6 will compete in a Boccia competition and the whole school will carry out their next fitness assessments. Then as the nights become lighter, we will have some more sporting events to enjoy. Mr Higgitt.

FoES

A huge thank you to Rob Owen and Si Medicott who have given up their time, along with Hattie's grandad, to lay the new foundations for our new PE sheds. The sheds will be installed within the next few weeks.

We're really pleased to let you know that Friends of Ettington School are now registered with easyfundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online. Over 8,000 retailers will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! These donations mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could please take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and is quick and easy to do. You can find our easyfundraising page by clicking below. Thank you so much!

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friends-of-ettington-school/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR1PVmyOacN3bQiQFOFkAvDVnSaE77PIXt6P5SqwTriklqgs3a1UzFdd4k_aem_RkU1Ioe90UDM_2wOhbVawA



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Healthy Eating

Please may I take this opportunity to remind you that we are a healthy school. This means that children should only be eating fruit, vegetables, healthy snack bars or toast or crumpet from school kitchen at break times. Chocolate, biscuits and crisps are not appropriate for morning break times.



Head Lice

[NHS Information for Head Lice](#)

We have received notification of a couple of cases of Head Lice in school. Head lice and nits are very common in young children and their families but are unpleasant. Although there's nothing you can do to prevent head lice, you can help stop them spreading by wet combing regularly, using a detection comb, to catch them early.

The link above will provide you with information on how to treat and hopefully reduce the risk.

Children with at least shoulder length hair should always have their hair tied back in school.

Mobile Library

From this month, Warwickshire Libraries are delighted to introduce two new electric mobile libraries to deliver its important mobile library service, replacing the previous diesel-run vehicles.

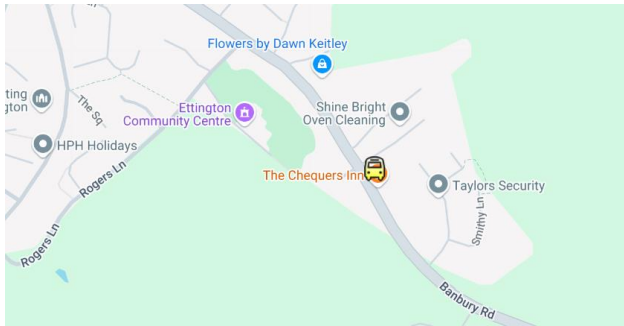


The two new colourful and modern vehicles are similar in size to the previous vehicles and offer the same reliable service. They will also provide the same number of books including plenty of new titles suitable for all ages.

To find out more, visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/mobilelibraries. You can contact the mobile library service team by email at mobilelibraryservice@warwickshire.gov.uk or by phone on 01926 851031.



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The Mobile library will be in Ettington from 11:05 to 11:25

This route will operate on:

- 5 March 2025, 2 April 2025, 30 April 2025, 28 May 2025, 25 June 2025, 23 July 2025
20 August 2025, 17 September 2025, 15 October 2025, 12 November 2025 and
10 December 2025



Encouraging love for reading

Keep reading together, no matter your child's age. Even once children can read on their own, sharing a book together is a great way to bond. Whether it's snuggling under a blanket with hot chocolate or listening to an audiobook on a car journey, reading together makes it special.

Offer a mix of reading materials. Books are brilliant, but so are magazines, comics, graphic novels, eBooks, and audiobooks. It all counts!

Find stories that match your child's interests. If a child loves football, fantasy, or superheroes, there are books about those topics! Linking reading to their hobbies makes it more engaging.

Make reading accessible. For children with dyslexia, autism, ADHD, or visual impairments, look for books designed for different reading levels. Publishers like

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Barrington Stoke and Ransom create brilliant, accessible stories, and organisations like RNIB Bookshare provide free resources.

Let children choose. Giving them the freedom to pick their own books (even if they want the same one over and over!) helps build confidence and independence.

- Be a reading role model. Let children see you enjoying books and talking about stories – enthusiasm is contagious!

Internet Safety

This Tuesday, 11th February, marked Safer Internet Day.

Across the school, internet safety day was celebrated where children were reminded about the dangers of NOT using the internet in a safe and respectful manner. During the day, children took part in a range of activities which were based around scamming and being aware of things that are 'Too good to be true,' as well as being reminded of the important rules about using technology. Lots of different activities took place such as: creating poems based on online safety, producing word art posters, creating scamming posters and some classes also joined in for a live lesson on scamming. Some of the poems will be entered into a Warwickshire County Council competition with the winning entry across the county being turned into an animated clip. All children signed the pupil acceptable use policy after completing the lessons to remind them of how to act responsibly online.



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However, schools can only be successful in keeping children safe online if they work together with parents and carers. It's important that adults take an active interest in their children's online lives and show a willingness to engage in the digital world with them.

With that in mind, some **GOLDEN** rules to share with parents and carers are:

Ground advice: Discuss and agree as a family how the internet will be used in your home. Let your children tell you what they think is and isn't acceptable for them to do online, such as not being nasty to people, keeping personal information private and speaking to an adult when they are worried. Then add your own rules such as how long they can spend online and when and where webcams can be used.

Online safety: Make sure you apply parental controls to all internet enabled devices in your household, including tablets, phones and games consoles. They can restrict access to inappropriate content and can help you manage how much time your child spends online.

Listen: Take an active interest in your child's online life and talk openly with them about the things they do. Talk to you child about which websites and apps they like to use and why; engage in their online world with them.

Dialogue: Make sure your child knows they can come to you for help if something happens online that makes them feel scared, worried or uncomfortable. **Many children won't disclose online worries because they are scared adults will blame them or remove their access to the internet.**

For more information please visit:

The [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) also have a library of resources for 3 to 18 year olds which are free to download.

[REPORT ONLINE SAFETY CONCERNS](#)

Too Much Screen Time Harms Our Children's Development

Screen time is a term used for activities done in front of a screen, such as watching TV, working on a computer, or playing on a phone or tablet. Screen time is a sedentary activity, meaning you are being physically inactive while sitting down and very little energy is used during screen time.

Does your child own a smartphone? There is an increasing bank of research available showing the harm that screen time and social media has on our children's development.



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Pioneering research from New Zealand tracked more than 6,000 children from age two to eight to investigate the impact of breaching the limit for toddlers aged two to five of no more than one hour a day of screen time.

This is the maximum recommended by the World Health Organisation, but most British children aged just two spend more than two hours a day watching TV, playing on computers or using a phone/tablet. One in five already owns a smartphone by the age of two, according to the online regulator Ofcom, which is a horrifying statistic.

The research clearly showed that children who have more than 90 minutes screen time (any screens, including watching TV) were, by the ages of 4.5 years and eight, below average for vocabulary, communication, writing, numeracy, and letter fluency.

They also had poorer social skills and higher levels of “peer problems.” These were defined as being more likely to play alone, less liked by other children, less considerate and less likely to share their toys. The research showed that the longer children spent on a screen the worse they became at being able to manage emotions and to interact successfully with others. They said that reducing the time children spent watching TV or online could have significant effects on the quality of children’s education and health.

Did any of you recently watch *Swiped - The School that banned Smart Phones*? First broadcast on Channel 4 in December and now on 4OD, it is a two-part documentary featuring Emma and Matt Willis where they challenge Year 8 pupils to completely give up their smartphones for 21 days. The programme highlights a lot of the potential online dangers that children face when they use smartphones. Reviews of the programme call these dangers extremely shocking and frightening and recommend that parents watch the two episodes to help take an informed approach before they give their child a smartphone before they are 14. Guardian columnist, author and BBC broadcaster Simon Jenkins wrote “If you’ve got children, you need to watch Swiped – and see how sick their phones are making them.”

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/swiped-the-school-that-banned-smartphones>

What Can We Do?

An important starting point is to talk to your child about why it is not good for them to be engaged in screen time for too long each day. We also need to model not spending too long on our phones to our children. This is something that I know that I am very guilty of. Agree some family rules and all of you put your devices away for set periods of time. It will be hard at first because phones are addictive and social media apps are purposefully designed to keep us online. Set parental controls on your child's device to make it impossible for them to spend longer on screen than you wish.



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For Android devices you can find out how to set controls here:

<https://support.google.com/families/answer/7103340?hl=en>

To set up controls on Google Play to limit the time on Apps, games, films etc. visit here:

<https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1075738?hl=en-GB>

For Apple devices visit here: <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/105121>

Another thing that we can do is pledge to give our children a smartphone free childhood. The organisation [Smartphone Free Childhood](#) has a Parent Pact, an agreement to give children brick phones, rather than smartphones until at least the age of 14. You can find out more about Smartphone Free Childhood and sign up for the Pact if you'd like to by going to this link here:

<https://parentpact.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

It is much easier to break a bad habit if you are not trying to do it on your own.

How can we help?

The Family Information Service (FIS) supports families across Warwickshire with information and signposting. You can get in touch with the team by emailing fis@warwickshire.gov.uk, calling [0800 408 1558](tel:08004081558) or finding support at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies. If you would like to know more about FIS and where to find information and support on the FIS and SEND Local Offer webpages, book a place on an [online FIS discovery session](#).



You can read the latest newsletter and book onto free courses here:

<https://mailchi.mp/warwickshire/family-information-service-newsletter-1219204-96fqcdgpps-8827743?e=55a13ba130>



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Working Together to Improve School Attendance

A key part of feeling that we belong to a community is ensuring that we join in with that community as often as possible.

Regular attendance at school needs to be a habit. The earlier we establish this habit the easier it becomes to maintain. This is why we need children to develop the habit of coming to school every day.

Improving attendance is everyone's business. The barriers to accessing education are wide and complex, both within and beyond the school gates, and are often specific to individual pupils and families. Good attendance begins with school being somewhere pupils want to be and therefore the foundation of securing good attendance is that school is a calm, orderly, safe and supportive environment where all pupils are keen and ready to learn.

For some children, attending school every day will be harder than for others. Many factors can impact on school attendance including minor ailments, more serious medical conditions, SEND needs, undiagnosed needs, mental health, bullying, cost of living pressures, etc.

These factors can all add to additional challenges to attending school and require a supportive approach. This is why schools, and Warwickshire County Council are committed to working together with families to remove barriers and support your child's attendance.

The statutory DfE guidance [Working together to improve school attendance \(GOV.UK\)](#) sets out positive expectations for maintained schools, academies, independent schools, and local authorities to support you.

The national threshold set out in the statutory guidance states that a penalty notice must be considered for 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period. Where support has been provided and has not worked or been engaged with or would not have been appropriate in the circumstances of the offence a penalty notice will be considered. An example of where support would not be appropriate is in cases where the absence is clearly condoned by the parent with no mitigating factors, such as a holiday taken in term time. Only 2 penalty notices can be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within a 3-year rolling period and any second notice within that period will not include the option of paying at a discounted rate. The first penalty notice issued to a parent in respect of a particular pupil will be £160, if paid within 28 days; this will be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days. A second penalty notice issued to the same parent in respect of the same pupil is charged at a flat rate of £160 if paid within 28 days (no opportunity to pay a reduced rate). A third penalty notice cannot be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of issue of the first. In a case where the national threshold is met for a third time (or subsequent times) within those 3 years, alternative action will be considered including other legal interventions.

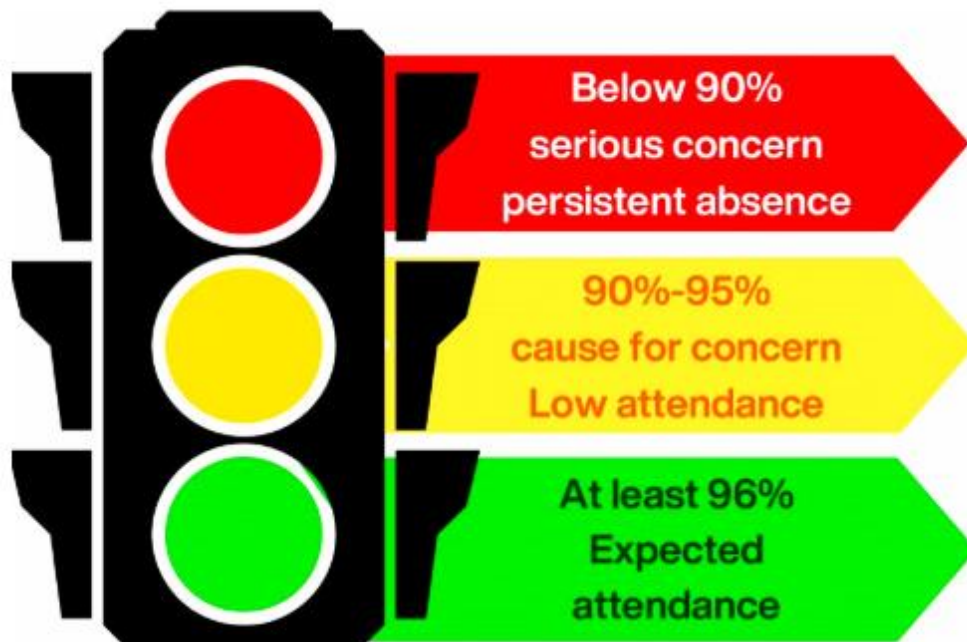


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Children who are deemed as persistent absence (90%) or close to persistent absence will be notified by the school and possibly the Local Authority about the need to improve attendance. Every lesson counts.

Dental and Medical Appointments

To avoid disruption to your child's attendance, with routine medical and dental appointments, you should try and book them outside of the school day whenever reasonably possible. When this is unavoidable (e.g. emergency hospital appointment), you should inform the school in advance and collect them as close to the time of the appointment as possible and return them to school for the rest of the school day afterwards.



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Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrc0.de/minfec>.

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Finally, it was lovely to see so many of you during the week at Parent Consultations. Your continued support means that we can continue to work together in partnership to ensure that your children are given the opportunities to reach their full potential.

Wishing you all a very happy and safe half term and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday 24th February.

Very best wishes,

Mrs Michelle Crowe

Head Teacher

Useful contacts



Connect4Health

A yellow banner with a white border containing contact information for Connect4Health. On the left is a logo with a smiley face and 'C4H'. The text on the right provides contact details for Text ChatHealth, Text ParentLine, a phone number, and an email address.

Text ChatHealth (11-19 years): 07507 331 525
Text ParentLine: 07520 619 376
Call us: 03300 245 204
Email us: connectforhealth@compass-uk.org

[Connect4Health Monthly Newsletter](#)



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If you would like to know more about FIS and where to find information and support on the FIS and SEND Local Offer webpages, book a place on an [online FIS discovery session](#).



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Safeguarding

Please remember...



Warwickshire
Safeguarding

CHILD ABUSE HAPPENS IN WARWICKSHIRE



NOTICE THINGS!

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

If you have concerns that a child is suffering any form of abuse, neglect or cruelty contact the Warwickshire Children and Families Front Door immediately by calling
01926 414144

**Lines are open Monday to Thursday 8.30am - 5.30pm,
Friday 8.30am - 5.00pm**

If you need to get in touch out of usual office hours, please contact the Emergency Duty Team immediately by calling
01926 886922

If you think that a child is at immediate risk, contact the Police immediately by calling 999



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Dates for your calendar and diary

Spring Term 1 2025	Spring Term 2 2025
Monday 6 January 2025 (Teacher Training Day)	Monday 24 February (School reopens to pupils)
Tuesday 7 January 2025 (School reopens to pupils)	Thursday 6 March World Book Day
Thursday 9 January 9.30am Final Reception 2025 Parent Open Morning	Monday 10 March CO2 workshops (Year 2 and Year 5)
Wednesday 15 January Full Governing Board Meeting	Saturday 15 March FoES DIY morning!
w.c. Monday 3 February Children's Mental Health Week	Tuesday 18 March World Recycling Day
Tuesday 11 February Safer Internet Day	Friday 21 March 1.30pm-3.00pm Years 1 and 2 Maths Workshop
Tuesday 11 February 3.45pm-6.15pm Parent Consultations Years 1 - Year 6	Monday 24 March Shakespeare Week
Wednesday 12 February 4.00pm-6.30pm Parent Consultations Reception only	Tuesday 25 March Rec / Year 6 Connect 4 Health needs assessments
Thursday 13 February 3.45pm-6.15pm Parent Consultations Years Reception -Year 6	Monday 31 March Autism Awareness Week
Monday 17 February Half Term	Monday 31 March iSing POP whole school musical workshops and assembly
	Thursday 3 April 9.30am-10.30am (Date change) Easter Service at Church ALL WELCOME TO JOIN US Please let your child's class teacher know if you can help us walk to and from Church



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	<p>Last day of term: Friday 11 April Easter Holidays</p>
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Monday 28 April
(School reopens to pupils)



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