

Ettington Church of England Primary School

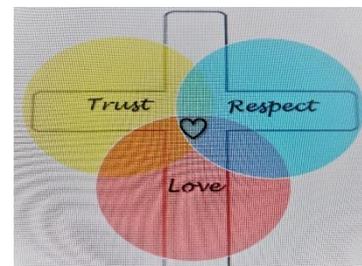
Newsletter 1

Autumn Term 2025

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

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

'Two people are better than one... If one person falls, the other can reach out to help.' Ecclesiastes 4.9-10



Dear parents, carers and the wider community,

Welcome back to a brand-new academic year—I hope you have all had a wonderful summer and are getting back to normality and routine following our return to school! The children have returned rested, enthusiastic and excited to begin the new school year, with children moving to different classrooms, meeting their new teachers and working with different friends. We have had lots of new families join us this term and we welcome them warmly to the school community. It's lovely to see the school growing and evolving.

Last Monday, staff and Governors completed a day of Safeguarding training. It was a busy day of essential learning, but we are confident that the school's safeguarding processes remain rigorous. We were very excited to welcome the children back and have enjoyed finding out about their summer holidays and exciting stories!

A very warm welcome goes to our new Reception children and their families. They have faced their first week at school with tremendous courage and enthusiasm. It has been such a joy to see them arriving with big smiles each morning, eager to start their day. They have already embraced school life, making new friends, learning their way around the classroom, and most importantly, having lots of fun confidently supported by their new Year 6 buddies. We have been very impressed by their resilience and are really enjoying getting to know each one of them.



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Tel: 01789 740236 Email: admin3024@welearn365.com

Headteacher Mrs Michelle Crowe

Congratulations

Huge congratulations to the following children who have been democratically voted into council by their peers.

School Council –

Year 1: Ella J, Louis R

Year 2: Izzy S, Kimi O

Year 3: Esme B, Fred V

Year 4: Amber L, Sam R

Year 5: Isla Mc, Leo P

Year 6: Albert D, Jake P

‘World Changers’ - Eco Council –

Year 1: Elouise, Bertie

Year 2: Pola, Toby

Year 3: Tabitha, Ako

Year 4: Lottie, Josh

Year 5: Harper, Harry

Year 6: Josh, Jensen

Sports Leaders – Ben, Austin, Emily, Ellie

Prefects – Heidi, Martha, Eva, Teddy, Arlo

House Team Captains and Vice Captains

Red team captain - Jude and vice-captain - Oscar

Blue team captain - Ned and vice-captain - Beau

Green team captain - Will and vice-captain - Luca

Yellow team captain - Mason and vice-captain - Isla

I very much look forward to working with all of the children over the next 12 months to ensure ‘Pupil Voice’ in shaping the future success of the school.

School news

It was lovely to welcome so many of you into school this week to ‘Meet the Teacher’, the perfect opportunity for you to find out about life in your child’s new class and to hear the expectations from the teacher’s. Thank you for your support. The presentations will be made available on Google Classroom for you to refer to at leisure. Additionally, the school website offers a wealth of knowledge for you to access further information. The ‘Remote Learning’ tab will provide you with further details on how to access Tapestry (Reception) and Google Classroom (Years 1-6), should you encounter a problem. Failing that, please do speak to your child’s teacher who will be more than happy to help.



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Reminders

As we step into the start of the Autumn Term packed full of learning, fun and special memories, here are a few important reminders and updates to help things run smoothly:

Uniform Reminder

Please ensure your child comes to school in **full school uniform** each day. This

Includes:

- A white polo shirt
- Grey trousers, skirt, (skort or gingham summer dress)
- White, grey or black socks
- A royal blue cardigan or jumper
- School shoes only (no trainers, boots or open-toed shoes)
- Hair tied back (**Please remember that hair below shoulder length should be tied back. Hair bobbles are now available for children in school should they forget.**)

Please do not feel obliged to buy 'Ettington badged' jumpers, t-shirts etc. Similar items can also be purchased from your local supermarket.

Reasonable Adjustments: We understand that reasonable adjustments may need to be made for school uniform, especially if your child has sensory needs linked to SEND. If this is the case, please feel free to contact us to discuss requirements.

Morning Routine

The school gate opens at **8:40am** and closes at **8:45am**. Please ensure your child arrives on time to settle into their morning learning. Arriving late can make the start of the day more challenging for them.

PE Days

Please ensure your child wears their school **PE kit on their PE days**, with:

- Plain clothing (no logos or football kits)



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Free School Meals

Just a reminder that all pupils from Reception to Year 2 are entitled to Universal Free Meals. Year 3-6 may be entitled to a free school lunch – you can check on Warwickshire County Council's website.

Meals are booked through ParentPay, but if you require any assistance or would like to discuss your child's dietary needs further, please contact the school office.

[APPLY FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS](#)



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

School meals are free for lots of families, check if you are eligible to apply!

So much more than lunch...

A free school meal:

- creates healthy eating habits
- improves learning and behaviour
- saves money and time
- helps schools get extra funding

Did you know that claiming free school meals means that your child will get access to free school holiday activities and food?

To find out more and for help to apply for free school meals, please contact: freemeals@warwickshire.gov.uk or call 01926 359189



Can I apply?

Your child could be eligible for free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support or Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support from National Asylum Support Service (NASS)
- Guarantee Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

You should still apply if your child is aged 4-7 and receives a universal free school meal

Find out more and apply at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fsm



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Reception Baseline Assessment

Reception parents, as you should now be aware, we are required to complete a baseline assessment within the first 6 weeks of your child starting primary school. Parents and carers of our new Reception cohort can access information on the Statutory Government baseline assessment following the link below.

[Reception Baseline Assessment Information for Parents](#)



Parking

Thank you to all the parents and carers who continue to park safely around our school. You are super role models for your children. Can I please remind you, not to drive down and park in Churchill Close wherever possible? Can I also ask that you park with courtesy on the Banbury Road, it is imperative that driveways are not blocked or that visibility from driveways are not obscured? This is unsafe for both drivers and for people walking on the footpath. We have already been made aware of questionable parking near Chestnut Close. **Please use the Community Centre for drop off and pickup.**



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Online Safety

All The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and e-safety change. Formally endorsed by National College Safety, these guides help address other topics and themes. For further guides, tips and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GENERATIVE AI SAFETY

Generative AI tools — such as ChatGPT — are now commonly used by children. In fact, 3 in 4 pupils in the 2024 Annual Literacy Survey reported using generative AI, up from just 2 in 5 the previous year. While these tools can boost learning and creativity, they also raise concerns around misinformation, privacy and security. This guide explores the key risks and how to support safe use.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MISINFORMATION AND ACCURACY

Generative AI can sometimes produce false or misleading content, known as 'hallucinations' — and even create harmful or inappropriate content. Without supervision, children could encounter disturbing or harmful material. Active monitoring and clear usage boundaries can help reduce this risk.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Because generative AI is trained on vast datasets from across the internet, there is a chance it may occasionally generate harmful or inappropriate content. Without supervision, children could encounter disturbing or harmful material. Active monitoring and clear usage boundaries can help reduce this risk.

PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY

Some AI tools ask for personal details or store user information. If privacy settings are not correctly configured, children's personal data could be exposed or misused. Teaching good digital hygiene and setting strong privacy settings is essential for protecting children online.

REDUCED CRITICAL THINKING

Relying too heavily on AI-generated responses may reduce children's willingness to think independently. If not managed, heavy use of generative AI could impact their ability to research, analyse and form their own ideas. Encouraging thoughtful reflection is key.

DIGITAL DEPENDENCY

Over-reliance on generative AI can contribute to increased screen time and less real-world interaction. It may also impact sleep, physical activity levels, and social development. Encouraging a healthy balance between online and offline activities is important for wellbeing.

UNCLEAR ETHICAL BOUNDARIES

Children may not fully understand the ethical implications of using AI to complete homework or creative tasks. This may lead to inappropriate plagiarism or dishonest academic practices. Conversations around responsible use and academic honesty are crucial.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ESTABLISH CLEAR GUIDELINES

Set clear, age-appropriate rules for when and how generative AI can be used. Review these regularly to help children build up healthy, respectful and informed relationships with the technology.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL EVALUATION

Help children to question the accuracy of AI-generated information and read real-world sources. This helps essential digital literacy skills and supports better decision-making.

PROMOTE ACTIVE SUPERVISION

Keep an eye on how the children use their own use of AI tools. Consider regularly to ensure they're using them appropriately, while being ready to step in if something doesn't feel right.

ENHANCE PRIVACY AWARENESS

Talk to children about the importance of keeping personal information private. Make sure privacy settings are in place and explain how data stored with AI tools could be used.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keefe, Deputy Headteacher and Director of Digital Strategy at Eaten House School, has extensive expertise in digital safety, safeguarding, and generative AI in education. He is an author and speaker on digital literacy and online safety for institutions such as The National College, providing guides parents and educators in creating safe digital learning environments.

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[@wake_up_weds](https://twitter.com/wake_up_weds)
www.thenationalcollege.com
[@wake.up.wednesday](https://www.instagram.com/wake.up.wednesday)
[@wake.up.weds](https://www.tiktok.com/@wake.up.weds)

Version of this guide is 1.0 as of the date of publication, the WakeUpWednesday team. Content as of the date of release: 02.05.2024



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Safeguarding

Please remember...



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**

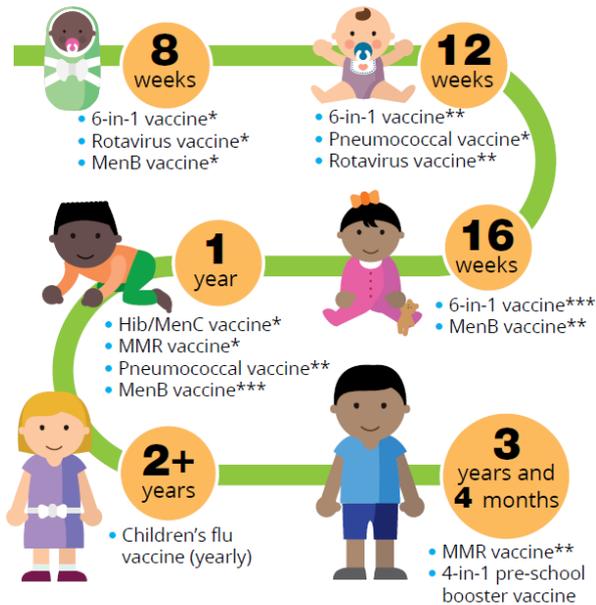
If you think that a child is at immediate risk, contact the Police immediately by calling **999**



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Your child's vaccine schedule



* first dose, **second dose, *** third dose

6-in-1 protects against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio, Hib and hepatitis B

4-in-1 protects against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and polio

Follow your child's vaccine schedule to protect them against illnesses

Stick this timeline up as a useful reminder



- Childhood illnesses like measles and whooping cough are rising
- These illnesses can make children very sick, leading to hospital stays or lifelong problems
- If your child is not vaccinated, they are not protected
- It's important that vaccines are given on time for the best protection. Some need booster doses later too
- Check your child's red book or speak to your GP practice to see if they have missed any
- You can still catch up on most missed vaccines
- All the childhood vaccinations are free. As children grow up, they will be offered more vaccine appointments, right up until they are teenagers. Some vaccines are offered at school
- Vaccinations offered by the NHS are thoroughly tested to assess how safe and effective they are. All medicines can cause side effects, but vaccines are among the very safest.
- Research from around the world shows that immunisation is the safest way to protect our children's health

Are your child's vaccines up to date?

Book now at their GP practice



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As Silver Award winners, we are now aspiring to achieve our Gold Award. Our school has signed up to the Safe and Active Schools Programme 2025-2026. As part of the programme all children will be receiving age-appropriate road safety sessions, and we will also be participating in and promoting active travel.

We recognise how important messaging is for our children. Your children copy your actions, and your behaviour serves as a powerful role model. We would like to ask all our families to model the safest behaviours near the road for children to copy and make good choices around travelling actively on the school run.

We will be sharing messages and ideas from the Safe and Active Schools team and further information about the children's road safety learning in school throughout the year. For further information about road safety and active travel you can follow or contact the road safety education team.

X (previously Twitter) - **@WCCSafe_Active**

Facebook - **@WCCSafeActiveTravel**

Email - **roadsafetyeducation@warwickshire.gov.uk**

Next Tuesday, we will be surveying your children to see how they arrive at school each day.

Attendance

Many thanks for your support in ensuring that your children arrive at school at 8.40am, this helps to ensure that the children are in line and ready for school when the bell rings to mark the start of the school day at 8.45am.

I am required to remind you of the statutory guidance on attendance.

Wishing you all a happy and safe weekend.

Best wishes,

Michelle Crowe
Head Teacher



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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.



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Leave of Absence taken in the academic year 2025-26

The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 19 August 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absence taken from September 2025 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 for 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 notice will 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.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/school-attendance/school-attendance-guidance-parentscarers>



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Mental Health and wellbeing

As part of continued work with RISE and the active promotion of positive mental health and wellbeing, please find below a list of online workshops that you can access for support.



Mental Health in Schools Team
Tips For Wellness



Going back to school

Going back to school can be stressful, so check in with your young person and keep the conversation open about how they're feeling. Help them find and keep a good routine (regular wake-up, meal and bedtime schedules) and try to keep these on the weekend to help them adjust quickly to the school day rhythm. Remember to celebrate small wins, offer praise and try to stay patient if your child struggles with the new routine.

Activities to Support Your Young Person's First Weeks of School

The transition back to school is a great time to use activities that boost your young person's confidence, reduce anxiety, and build strong routines. Here are some ideas to try during those first few weeks:

1. Morning Check-In Ritual:

Start each school day with a simple ritual—like a hug, a positive affirmation, or a quick chat about what they're looking forward to. This helps set a calm, positive tone.

2. After-School Decompression Time:

Plan 20–30 minutes of quiet time after school for your young person to unwind. Reading, drawing, or light play can help them process the day and relax before homework or chores.

3. Homework Kickoff Activity:

Create a fun "homework kickoff" routine like a special snack, background music, or a 5-minute movement break before starting homework. It helps shift their mindset into focus mode.

4. Organisational Games:

Turn organising school supplies or packing the backpack into a quick game or challenge—who can find and pack items the fastest? Making organisation fun encourages responsibility.

5. Weekend Family Planning Session:

Spend time on the weekend planning the upcoming week together. Discuss after-school activities, school projects, and family events. This builds anticipation and helps your young people feel involved.

6. Gratitude or Highlight Jar:

Keep a jar where your child can drop notes about something good that happened at school each day. Review them together weekly to focus on positives and build resilience.

Tips for
going
back to
school



Webinar about the
transition to
secondary school



In Coventry and Warwickshire, for any urgent mental health concerns, contact the RISE Crisis Helpline available 24/7, by calling NHS 111. Alternatively, call 999 or visit A&E in an emergency, for example if medical attention is required.



MHST are available to support you and your school throughout the school year including term time and school holidays.

Please contact your school's Mental Health Lead for

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Weekly top tips to promote positive mental health and wellbeing will be emailed home weekly and are always available on the school website.

Dates for your calendar and diary (see school website for regular updates)

Autumn Term 1 2025	Autumn Term 2 2025
Monday 1 September (Teacher Training Day)	Monday 3 November (School reopens to pupils)
Tuesday 2 September (School reopens to pupils)	Thursday 6 November School Photos
Tuesday 9 September 3.30pm – 3.50pm and repeated 4.00pm - 4.20pm Meet the Teacher	w.c. Monday 10 November Anti Bullying Week
Thursday 11 September Years 5 and 6 Loudmouth Theatre Group Helping Hands	w.c. Monday 17 November Road Safety Awareness Week
Monday 22 September Years 1 and 5 Fire Safety Talk	Thursday 27 November 2.00pm-3.00pm Reception Intake 2026 Open Afternoon – please book via the school office
Monday 22 September 5.30pm Full Governing Board Meeting	Monday 8 December 6.00pm Community Musical Ensemble Community Centre ALL WELCOM
Thursday 25 September Year 2 Trip to Selly Manor	Thursday 11 December 2.00pm – 3.00pm Curriculum Open Afternoon
Thursday 25 September 9.30am – 10.30am Reception Intake 2026 Open Morning – please book via the school office	Tuesday 16 December 9.30am-10.30am Christmas 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
Monday 29 September Reception Stratford Herald Photograph	Last day of term: Friday 19 December
Wednesday 1 October 6.00pm-7.30pm Reception and Year 1 Phonics and Early Reading Information Evening	Christmas holiday: Monday 22 December 2025 to Friday 2 January 2026
	Monday 5 January 2026 (Teacher Training Day)



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<p>Friday 10 October World Mental Health Day</p> <p>Tuesday 14 October 9.30am – 10.30am Reception Intake 2026 Open Morning – please book via the school office</p> <p>Tuesday 14 October 3.45pm-6.45pm Parent Consultations</p> <p>Tuesday 21 October 9.30am-10.30am Harvest Festival 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</p> <p>Thursday 23 October 3.45pm-6.45pm Parent Consultations</p> <p>Thursday 23 October Last Day of Half Term</p> <p>Friday 24 October Teacher Training Day School closed to children</p> <p>Half term: Monday 27 October 2025 to Friday 31 October 2025</p>	<p>Tuesday 6 January 2026 (School reopens to pupils)</p>
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