

Ettington Church of England Primary School

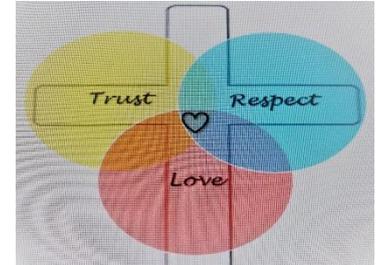
Newsletter 4 Autumn Term 2025

19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

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

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

**A community flourishes when people plant trees under which they will never sit.**



Dear parents, carers and the wider community,

Well, what a whirlwind of a half term it has been, and I cannot be prouder of all of our achievements!

**Stars of the Week**

<b>Week ending 28.11.25</b>	<b>Week ending 5.12.2025</b>	<b>Week ending 12.12.2025</b>	<b>Week ending 19.12.2025</b>
Rec: Missy O Year 1: Ella J Year 2: Sufyan R Year 3: Sibylla B F Year 4: Jack R Year 5: Isla H Year 6: Teddy Mc Star Writer: Ned W (Y6)	Rec: Henry Year 1: Bertie H Year 2: Jaxon G Year 3: Fred V Year 4: Alfie R Year 5: deferred Year 6: Lucy S Star Writer: deferred	Rec: Pixie B Year 1: Freddie R Year 2: Louie T Year 3: Nina S Year 4: Annie L Year 5: Hannah E Year 6: Emily C Star Writer: Isla Mc (Y5)	Rec: Jack M Year 1: Angelica B Year 2: Poppy R Year 3: Phoebe J Year 4: Georgio A Year 5: Zaria J Year 6: Isla D

**A huge congratulations to all of our stars!**

**School news**

Many thanks to all of you who attended the various school nativity plays and Christmas Carol Services this month, your children, as always, shone like the stars that they are. Your support, both behind the scenes making costumes and helping to learn lines and your support on the day do not go unnoticed and are very much appreciated. It has been fantastic to welcome the whole community. The children were wonderful – happy, confident and flourishing - capturing the true meaning of Christmas, reminding me what *‘Learning for the Fullness of Life’* means for us at Ettington. Just, WOW!

It was also a pleasure to welcome so many of you to our Curriculum Open Afternoon last Friday – the children love to see you in school and to share their learning experiences with you. Thank you for joining us if you were able.



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Headteacher Mrs Michelle Crowe

## FoES at Christmas

Very many thanks to FoES for organising our Christmas events this year and thank you to you all for coming along and supporting one of the biggest fundraisers of our calendar year, especially at this expensive time of the year. A special thanks to Year 6 and a small group from Year 5 who designed, planned and ran several of this year's stalls.

## Food Pantry

A huge thank you to Ettington Rock Church who have supported school to open a food pantry. A lovely selection of non-perishable food was delivered last week ready for the pantry's grand opening on Thursday. If you would like a slot to visit the pantry, please contact Mrs Brown.

Many thanks also, to members of FOES who have donned their red cloaks and have made a difference to ensure all Ettington families have presents to share this Christmas time. Your thoughtfulness and generosity have made Christmas extra special.

## School Uniform Reminder

At Ettington, we believe that the wearing of uniform encourages children to have a sense of belonging and of being part of a community. It is an outward expression of the school's identity and promotes a feeling of pride, equality and aspiration.

Please see below a reminder of our school uniform requirements and see the school website for full details:

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

Either	Or
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grey long trousers</li><li>• Knee length grey shorts in the summer</li><li>• 'Dark royal blue round neck sweatshirt / royal blue jumper*</li><li>• 'Dark royal blue' V-neck sweatshirt / royal blue knitted jumper*</li><li>• White polo shirt*</li><li>• Plain white cotton shirt</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grey long trousers</li><li>• Knee length grey shorts in the summer</li><li>• Grey skirt</li><li>• Grey pinafore dress / Blue and white gingham dress in summer - optional</li><li>• 'Dark royal blue' round neck sweatshirt / royal blue jumper*</li><li>• 'Dark royal blue' V-neck sweatshirt cardigan / royal blue knitted cardigan*</li><li>• White polo shirt*</li><li>• Plain white cotton shirt/blouse</li></ul>



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Sport	Sport
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Royal blue' or white T-shirt*</li> <li>• Navy blue shorts (not fitted)</li> <li>• Navy blue hoodie (zipped or pouches) – optional</li> <li>• Navy blue tracksuit bottoms – optional</li> <li>• Pumps / trainers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Royal blue' or white T-shirt*</li> <li>• Dark blue skort.</li> <li>• Dark blue hoodie (zipped or pouches) - optional</li> <li>• Dark blue tracksuit bottoms – optional</li> <li>• Pumps / trainers</li> </ul>

In addition, please note the following:

We require – white, grey or black socks or grey, navy or black tights

- No open-toed sandals or boots, black or navy enclosed shoes only
- Navy-blue scrunchies/bobbles to tie all shoulder-length hair back
- Plain Alice bands
- No jewellery except for a watch and plain stud earrings
- Make-up is not permitted at school
- Nail varnish is not permitted at school

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 either myself or Mrs Brown to discuss requirements.

### **SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD**

We are increasingly concerned, as I know you are, about the impact of smartphones and technology on our children (see visual re parent's views). Whilst there are huge benefits to some technology, there is evidence that the cost to childhood is growing. Society is changing. People are struggling more. We think that the exposure to social media is significant in this. There is now a wealth of evidence of the negative effects of smartphones and social media on children and teenagers. These include:

- Poor mental health, such as depression and anxiety
- Issues with attention and sleep
- Risks of cyberbullying and exposure to harmful content like violence or inappropriate material

Smartphones are made to be addictive. They distract children (and adults) and are stopping children from learning important life skills. At present, children often get their first phone in primary school, and over 90% of 12-year-olds have a smartphone. This period is crucial for brain development, and the younger a child gets a smartphone, the more potential harm it can cause. We want to help you to change this. We want society to understand that things need to change.

We are committed to ensuring that our school environment remains smartphone-free for children, and we want this to continue for them into their secondary schools.



We encourage you to delay giving a smartphone to your child until they are at least 14 years old. A growing number of parents and schools across the country are Ettington Church of England Primary School  
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choosing to do this. If you need to contact your child while they travel to and from school, a simple 'brick' phone is enough. 'Brick' phones do not have internet connectivity, and they are inexpensive. They do not impact on mental health, or attention or sleep.

Alternatives to a smartphone can be found here:

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

We know that this isn't going to happen overnight, but we want to be on the journey to promoting positive mental health and successful childhoods.

The smartphone free childhood movement recognises the impossible position parents have been placed in – either we give our children access to a device we know is harmful or we risk alienating them from their peers. If we all agree to delay giving our children smartphones, and instead give them brick phones until at least the end of Year 9, the peer pressure instantly reduces. Saying no can feel impossible when you're acting alone. Acting collectively makes it infinitely easier. If you would like to find out more about support for parents who want their children to be smartphone free, do please visit Smartphone Free Childhood. I would highly recommend this website. It is well researched and I have been working closely with the founders. We would like all of you to sign the pact together! From Years R- 6, eventually. We know that most of you completely agree, and already wish that things could be different. This has to start somewhere. You can protect your child's mental health by delaying this.

[SMARTPHONE FREE SIGN UP](#)



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## PARENTSAFE

It's never easy to know how to keep our children safe when they aren't with us, and sometimes even when they are, if we don't know what's happening in their lives or on their devices! Who are they talking to, what are they doing, are they okay?

The link below takes you to PARENTSAFE -with ideas for keeping your children safe online

[keeping your children safe online](#)



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# COPING AT CHRISTMAS

The Added Pressures of Christmas can be Tough, but it's Important to know there's always Someone you can Talk to...

**NHS** 111 online

Call 111 & select option 2 to speak to the NHS Mental Health Crisis Response Service 24/7

[Nhs.uk/mental-health](https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health)

**PAPYRUS**

Under 35s can Call 0800 068 4141, Text: 88247 or Email: [pat@papyrus-uk.org](mailto:pat@papyrus-uk.org) 24/7

[Papyrus-uk.org](https://www.papyrus-uk.org)

**SAMARITANS**

Call 116 123 to talk to Samaritans, or email: [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org) for a reply within 24 hours

[Samaritans.org](https://www.samaritans.org)



Call MIND's Mental Health Helpline 9am to 6pm, Monday to Friday on 0300 102 1234

[Mind.org.uk](https://www.mind.org.uk)

**shout**  
85258

Text "SHOUT" to 85258 to contact the Shout Crisis Text Line, or text "YM" if you're under 19

[Giveusashout.org](https://www.giveusashout.org)

**CALM**

Mental Health Forum & Chat for Men from 5pm - midnight every day Call or Watsapp 0800 585858

[Thecalzone.net](https://www.thecalzone.net)

[ChristmasCountdown.uk](https://www.ChristmasCountdown.uk)



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## Useful contacts

### Mental health & wellbeing

#### **CW RISE**

Rise is a family of NHS-led services providing emotional wellbeing and mental health services for children and young people in Coventry and Warwickshire.

#### **Dimensions Tool**

A web-based app that will help you to find well-being support in the local area specific to your needs, or someone else's needs, after you answer a series of questions.

#### **Relate**

Counselling service for young people.

#### **Kooth**

Join Kooth, the free online mental health community for young people in Warwickshire. Includes counselling via text service.

### Family support

#### **Family Lives**

Support for a wide range of topics relating to family life.

#### **Warwickshire Family Information Service**

Advice and support provided by Warwickshire County Council.

#### **Warwickshire Health Visiting**

Support and advice for parents/carers with a children under 5.

### [Click here for useful apps and websites for children & young people](#)

Our service is here to support school-age children, young people and their parents/carers in Warwickshire with all things health & wellbeing - just get in touch to find out more.



Text ChatHealth (11-19 years): 07507 331 525

Text ParentLine: 07520 619 376

Call us: 03300 245 204

Email us: [connectforhealth@compass-uk.org](mailto:connectforhealth@compass-uk.org)

Visit our website: [www.compass-uk.org/services/c4h](http://www.compass-uk.org/services/c4h)



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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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## **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.

I heard of a very unfortunate incident last week where an ambulance was unable to drive down one of the roads off Banbury Road due to parking congestion caused by parents' parking.

**Please use the Community Centre for drop off and pickup.**

## **Goodbye**

A huge thank you and 'Goodbye' to Mrs Harper who is leaving us at the end of this week. We will miss her and her laughter enormously. Thank you, Mrs Harper, for all the years of dedication, love and laughter you have brought to the school.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank all of the staff for their continued hard work and support to ensure that your children continue to receive an excellent education – providing all with the opportunities to use and develop the gifts and talents that they have been blessed with.

I wish you all a very happy, safe and peaceful Christmas with your loved ones.

Very best wishes,

Mrs Michelle Crowe

Head Teacher



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## Dates for your calendar and diary

Spring Term 1 2026	Spring Term 2 2026
<b>Monday 5 January 2026</b> (Teacher Training Day)	<b>Monday 23 February</b> (School reopens to pupils)
<b>Tuesday 6 January 2026</b> (School reopens to pupils)	<b>Thursday 5 March</b> World Book Day
<b>Thursday 8 January 9.30am</b> Final Reception 2026 Parent Open Morning	<b>Tuesday 24 March 9.30am-10.30am</b> 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
<b>Monday 12 January</b> Year 5 & Year 6 Young Voices Utilita Arena Birmingham	<b>Last day of term: Friday 27 March</b> Easter Holidays
<b>Monday 19 January</b> Full Governing Board Meeting	<b>Monday 13 April</b> (School reopens to pupils)
<b>Thursday 22 January</b> Reception Eye Testing	
<b>Monday 26 January 9.15am-10.15am</b> Reception Parents Writing Inspire Workshop INFORMATION TO FOLLOW	
<b>w.c. Monday 2 February</b> Switch off Fortnight	
<b>Tuesday 10 February</b> Safer Internet Day	
<b>Monday 16 February</b> Half Term	



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