

Ettington Church of England Primary School

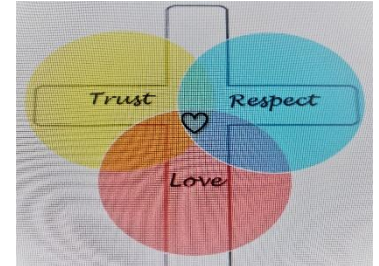
Newsletter 5 Spring Term 2026

26th January 2026

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

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

'do unto others as you would have them do unto you.'



Dear parents, carers and the wider community,

Welcome back, and happy new year! I hope you all had a lovely Christmas spent with your loved ones and that you managed to enjoy some much-needed rest and quiet time. Thank you so much for the many thoughtful cards and generous gifts we received before the holidays – your kindness and support are truly appreciated.

Christmas already feels like a lifetime ago! It has been a very busy first few weeks back, and we have jumped straight into learning. The children have settled brilliantly and have returned to school happy, confident, and excited to be back with their friends and teachers – it has been wonderful to see.

Stars of the Week

Week ending	Week ending	Week ending
Rec: Jack T Year 1: Mila W Year 2: Arabella BC Year 3: Jess E Year 4: Charlotte W Year 5: Jules E Year 6: Arjun D Star Writer: Annie L (Y4)	Rec: Tabitha D Year 1: Martha L Year 2: Izzie C Year 3: deferred Year 4: Roisin T Year 5: Deferred Year 6: Josh T Star Writer: Tabitha L (Y3)	Rec: Finley G Year 1: Renesmee S Year 2: Niko A Year 3: Beatrice H Year 4: Nancy T Year 5: Elodie-Rose S Year 6: Martha D Star Writer: Hattie O (Y2)

A huge congratulations to all of our stars!



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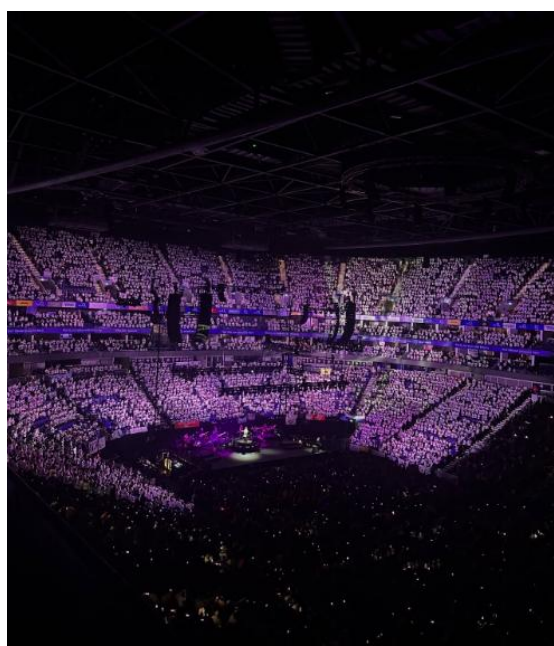
Tel: 01789 740236 Email: admin3024@welearn365.com

Headteacher Mrs Michelle Crowe

School News

It was a privilege and a huge pleasure to accompany Years 5 and 6 to Young Voices at the bp Pulse live arena in Birmingham on Monday 12th January. The largest children's choir in the world, Young Voices brings together primary schools from across the UK in a truly electrifying experience. There were nearly 6,000 children present during our event!

Led by Mrs Kemp, our children have been learning songs and accompanying actions since September. Through these unforgettable events, our children discover their voices, grow in confidence, and feel part of something extraordinary – all while inspiring a lifelong love of music. A huge thanks to the children for giving their all – in true Ettington spirit - and to the staff involved for organising and giving up their time to ensure that the children were part of a magical experience that I'm sure they will remember for many years to come.



Congratulations

We are delighted to share with you that Miss Sewell has announced that she is expecting her second child later in this academic year.

We will shortly begin the process of recruiting to cover the period of time that Miss Sewell will be away and will keep you informed.

I am sure that you will join me in congratulating Miss Sewell and her family and wishing her every joy in the future.

Food Pantry



Please don't forget that our food pantry is available. Please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Brown if school can help you.

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Attendance

Punctuality

Punctuality to school is crucial. Lateness causes disruption to the individual child's learning and that of other pupils in the class, they miss out on instructions and information about the day ahead and can feel embarrassed. Therefore, it is paramount that all pupils arrive at school on time.

The table below demonstrates the lost learning opportunities over an academic year –

Always on time!	No hours missed!	No learning lost!
5 minutes late each day	15 hours missed	3 days learning missed
10 minutes late every day	32 hours missed	6.5 days learning missed
20 minutes late each day	65 hours missed	13 days learning missed
30 minutes late each day	95 hours missed	19 days learning missed



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Leave of absence

Generally, the DfE does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be an exceptional circumstance.

The Supreme Court clarified 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 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 i.e., 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.



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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.

The law relating to Penalty Notices is due to change with effect from 1 September 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absences taken after this date 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 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 notices will be 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.



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Internet Safety

Tips, advice, guides and resources to help keep your child safe online -

As a parent or carer, you play a key role in helping your child to stay safe online.

You don't need to be an expert on the internet to help keep your child stay safe online. The link below will provide advice and resources to support you as you support your child to use the internet safely, responsibly and positively.

[Tips and guides for INTERNET SAFETY](#)

Have a conversation

It is really important to chat with your children on an ongoing basis about staying safe online. Not sure where to begin? These conversation starter suggestions can help.

Ask your children to tell you about the sites they like to visit and what they enjoy doing online. What games do you and your friends like to play online? Can you show me the websites you visit the most? Shall we play your favourite game online together?

Ask them about how they stay safe online. What tips do they have for you, and where did they learn them? What is OK and not OK to share?

Ask them if they know where to go for help. Where can they go to find the safety advice, privacy settings and how to report or block on the services they use?

Think about how you each use the internet. What more could you do to use the internet together? Are there activities that you could enjoy as a family?

SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD

[SMARTPHONE FREE SIGN UP](#)



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Useful contacts



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

Text ParentLine: 07520 619 376

Call us: 03300 245 204

Email us: connectforhealth@compass-uk.org



Child Friendly Warwickshire

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 or finding support at [Warwickshire Family Information Support](#).

Does your child use any of these social networks?



The minimum age to open an account on Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, TikTok and YouTube is 13.



The minimum age of use for WhatsApp is 16.



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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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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.

Please use the Community Centre for drop off and pickup.

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
Monday 26 January 9.15am-10.15am Reception Parents Writing Inspire Workshop	Monday 23 February (School reopens to pupils)
w.c. Monday 2 February Switch off Fortnight	Thursday 5 March World Book Day
Tuesday 3 February Monster Phonics Day Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 ONLY	Tuesday 10 March Parent Consultation Meetings
w.c. Monday 9 February Children's Mental Health Week	Thursday 12 March Parent Consultation Meetings
Tuesday 10 February Safer Internet Day	w.c. Monday 23 March Shakespeare Week
Thursday 12 February Reception Parents Maths Inspire Workshop INFORMATION TO FOLLOW	Tuesday 24 March 9.30am-10.30am 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
Monday 16 February Half Term	Last day of term: Friday 27 March Easter Holidays
	Monday 13 April (School reopens to pupils)



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