



Arden Forest Infant School

www.ardenforest.warwickshire.sch.uk

March 2026 Newsletter : No 7

Head's News

Dear Parents and Carers,

The last few weeks of term have been busy with learning as well as lots of different events.

Our 'Mothers and Others' day celebrations on Friday were truly wonderful. The pupils all made or decorated biscuits and sang songs to serenade the special women in their lives. The photos below are just a few of the moments captured from the day.

This term, we have been working hard to ensure the children across the school, secure their knowledge of phonics and can apply them when decoding words in Reading Practice. All of the children are having extra practice during the school day to ensure good progress and develop their fluency.

We have also been focusing on handwriting, using the Little Wandle programme to improve the basic skills of writing, including pencil grip and letter formation. Please look out for the invitation to a Parent Workshop on Phonics, Reading and Writing after the Easter holidays.

The leaders and staff at school have also revisited the vision for the school. We believe that every child should be: **Included, Inspired and Successful**. We are excited to share this with the children after Easter and embed this into every aspect of school life, including the curriculum and learning.

Warm wishes

Mrs R Gunn, Headteacher



School Start and Finish Times



Gates open	8.25am
Classroom doors	8.30am
School day starts	8.35am
Registration ends	8.45am
Break - Year 1	10.25 - 10.40am
Year 2	10.45 - 11.00am
Dinner time	12 - 12.50pm
End of day	3.05pm

Parents & Teachers

Association

If you are interested in joining the schools PTA please call 02476315913 or email -

admin2630@welearn365.com



Nut Free School

Please do not send your child in with **Nutella spread** sandwiches as it contains nuts. We have a few children who have a severe nut allergy's and cannot be around any nuts.

Also can we ask that grapes to be cut in half as they can cause choking.



Mothers and Others' Day- Friday 13th March



Class Photos

Tuesday 17th March, we have Wrates Photography group to take your child's individual/class photo.

If your child has PE on this day (year 1 & 2) please send your child in wearing their Green Jumper/Cardigan and a polo shirt and their PE trousers/leggings and trainers.

We are enabling a before school session for parents to have "sibling" photos where siblings do not attend Arden Forest, e.g. toddlers. Junior school etc. This session is bookable via the school office and will take place between 8 – 8.35am. Due to time constraints appointments will be given to first come first served basis.

Thank you for your co-operation.



Sustainability - Zero Carbon Schools Campaign

We are in the second year of our commitment to the UK's Zero Carbon Schools campaign.

As part of our involvement in 'Let's Go Zero 2030' we have reduced our carbon footprint from 160.41 tonnes CO₂e per year to 150.22 tonnes CO₂e per year.

If you are passionate about improving our environment and sustainability, please email us on the admin email or speak with the school office to express your interest, as we are keen to help our Eco Council make further improvements both at school and in the wider world.

Your school's carbon footprint



9.5
x around the
globe
Driving a car



5677142.9
Cups of Coffee
Regular coffee



281844.0
Avocados
One average avocado



24581.4
Black
T-shirts
Made from cotton

Source: [Ecochain](#)

After School Clubs

If your child attends an afterschool club and you need to get in touch with the school re pick up etc, please call the school mobile number **07821869161** between 3.45-5.00pm.



If you need to call before 3.45pm call the normal number 02476315913.



Useful Diary Dates

Tuesday 17th March—Year 2 learning Showcase

Friday 20th March—Red Nose Day

Tuesday 24th March—Year 1 Play –2pm

Wednesday 25th March—Reception Disco

Friday 27th March—The Great Egg Race—Last day of term

Easter Holidays 30th March—10th April

Monday 13th April— Children return to school



Class Dojo - Communication

You can now communicate with your child's class teacher via Class Dojo. Class Emails are no longer being used.

Class Teachers have 2 working days to reply to messages, but please remember their working days finish at 5:00pm.

Please do not contact the Class Teaching Assistants on Class Dojo, TA's do not have access to Dojo for direct communication and therefore your messages will be missed.

And finally, if your child is absent from School, you are required to phone the School Office to inform them (as per school policy and protocols). If you would also like to inform your class teacher, this is optional, however the School office must receive a phone call, as per our Attendance Policy.

Office - admin2630@welearn365.com or **02476 315913**



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 regulations regarding Leave of Absence (The Education (Pupil Regulations) (England) Regulations 2006 as amended by Education (Pupil Regulations) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013.) advise:

Head teachers **shall not** grant **any** Leave of Absence during term time **unless they consider** there are **exceptional** circumstances relating to the application.

If the leave is granted, Head teachers are able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for.

It is for the Head teacher to decide what is 'exceptional' and it is at their discretion if the circumstances warrant the leave to be granted. When making an application for Leave of Absence in advance 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. 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 ie the parent with whom the child normally resides.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child will be required 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, which may result in legal action being taken against the parent(s), by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

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 and could result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case-by-case basis and on its own merits.

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'. This may result in legal action against the parent, by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice. All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council.

It is important to note, Fixed 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 in the amount of £120 each, totalling £240 for both children, this is reduced to £60 per child if paid within 21 days).

Where a Fixed Penalty Notice is not paid within the required timeframe as set out on the notice, the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal proceedings under S444 Education Act 1996.

Fixed Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority

Warwickshire School pupils recorded 96,366 half day sessions of absence due to holiday in the Academic year 2021/22.

Notice for parents

To comply with the Pupil Registration Regulations amended 2016 and Data Protection expectations, it is vitally important that **Arden Forest Infant School** keeps accurate and up to date information relating to every pupil on roll.

The information we are required to record includes:

Pupil's full legal name (and if appropriate, their preferred name).

The name, address and contact details of every person known to the school/academy who is a parent* to the pupil with whom the pupil normally resides (this is the address that has been used to register with their GP).

The name, address and contact details of any additional parent*.

Any other emergency contact details.

In order to gather this information, every year we send out data collection forms. Parents are asked to complete the form with as much information as possible and then return to the school, signed and dated. We would ask that even where there are no amendments to the data collection sheet, parents return the form, signed and dated.

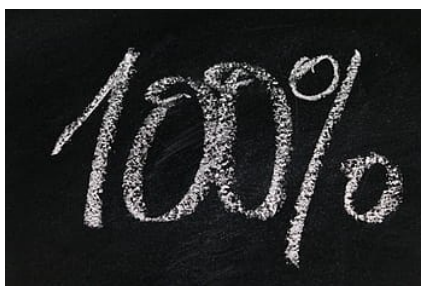
Arden Forest Infant School requests that if you change your contact number, move home or there are any other circumstances which may impact your child, the school is notified as a priority.

N.B. *The Education Act 1996 defines a 'parent' as a). any natural parent, whether married or not, b). any parent who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility as defined in the Children Act (1989) for a child or young person c). any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person.

100% Attendance!

A huge congratulations to those Families who have received Certificates and Letters of congratulations for achieving an impressive 100% attendance since September.

Excellent attendance is more than just being present; it supports confidence, friendships, learning continuity, and long-term academic success. We truly appreciate the dedication you have all shown in making education a priority.



WHY ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

Every Day in School Counts



Better Attendance = Better Achievement



Pupils with 95-100% attendance are **1.9 times more** likely to reach the expected standard in reading, writing and maths at Key Stage 2 than those with 50-35% attendance.

At secondary school, pupils with near-perfect attendance are **almost twice** as likely to achieve a Grade 5 in English and Maths GCSE compared to pupils who miss just a few extra days.



Even a Few Days Missed Has a Big Impact



Missing just **10 days** in Year 6 can reduce the chance of meeting expected standards by 26%.

Missing **10 days** in Year 11 can halve the chance of getting a Grade 5 in English and Maths.



Attendance Affects Future Success



Each extra day of absence in secondary school is associated with a **£750** drop in future earnings.

Persistently absent pupils could earn **£16,000** less by age **23** than their regularly attending peers.



Attendance Builds Skills Beyond the Classroom



Students who attend regularly develop stronger friendships, better social skills, and strong learning habits that support lifelong success.

YOUR ATTENDANCE TARGET: AIM FOR 100%

Every day in school helps you learn more, achieve more, and prepare for a bright future.