



9 September 2016

Thursday 29th September

7pm Reception Parent Information Evening

Wednesday 21st September

6G Bell Boating

Monday 26th September

6H Bell Boating

Wednesday 19th October

Harvest Service 11am

Wednesday 19th October

Parents Evening 4-7pm

Thursday 20th October

Parents Evening 4-7pm

Friday 21 October

SCHOOL CLOSED—Teacher

Training Day

24th—28th October

HALF TERM

Tuesday 8th November

Open Evening 6-7.30pm

14th—18th November

Anti-Bullying Week

Friday 18th November

Children in Need Day

Tuesday 6th December

5pm-8pm St. Nicholas' Night—High Street Parade

Wednesday 7th December

Reception/Nursery Christmas production

Performance 5.30pm

Thursday 8th December

Reception/Nursery Christmas Performance 9.30am

Friday 9th December

'Xmas Grotto' -Friends of St. Nicholas'

Tuesday 13th December

Year 1/2 Christmas production Performance 6pm

Wednesday 14th December

Year 1/2 Christmas production Performance 9.30am

Thursday 15th December

PM - Children's Christmas Party

Friday 16th December

9.45am Carol Service at St. Nicholas Church (Whole School) Children's Christmas lunch

Children return to school on

Wednesday 4th January
2017

Welcome back to everyone and a very warm welcome to the 70 new children who have started at the school this week. I hope you have all had a very enjoyable summer. These newsletters are published every two weeks and highlight upcoming events, celebrate success and relay important messages. Copies of these can be found on our website. Information is also shared through our Facebook and Twitter accounts.

New staff

We welcome 3 new members of staff this term: Mrs Jackson (Year R) Mrs Long (Year 2) Mrs Davies (Year 5) Congratulations to Miss Woakes who after getting married during the summer, returns to us in Year 1 as Mrs Andrews following maternity leave.

After-School Clubs

These are due to start the week beginning the 19th September. Please see separate letter.

Free School Meals

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a school meal at lunch time. However, a major impact of this new scheme is the measure of additional funding called pupil premium. The school currently gets pupil premium funding for children who are entitled to free school meals. Although children in these year groups are receiving free lunches through this new system, it is vital that you apply for free school meals if you are entitled to them so that the school continues to receive additional funding. This information is highly confidential.

It takes a matter of seconds to check if you are eligible. Please see our school website for more information: www.alcesterstnicholas.co.uk

Year 3 children are no longer entitled to a free school meal and for those parents who would like their child to continue having one the cost is **£2.10** a day.

Dataforms

You should have received new dataforms and permission slips this week. It is important that these are returned to the office as soon as possible. If during the year you change your phone numbers or email address or your family situation changes please let us know.

Within the pack is the 'permissions' form, this looks very different this year. With the changing world of the internet we are now asking parent permission to use photos in very specific areas eg social media.

Routines and information

Each term, your child's teacher will be sending home information about what the class will be learning about through their topic work. This information will also include routines such as when PE will take place. The first of these class newsletters will be sent out to parents next week.

Please can PE kits be in school everyday, this allows the teachers a degree of flexibility.

Outdoor sports kit for PPA is needed for:

- Reception** Tuesday afternoon
- Year 1 & 2** Wednesday afternoon

- Year 3 & 4** Thursday afternoon
- Year 5 & 6** Friday afternoons.

As PPA is now in the afternoons, all children will need to come to school in their uniform and bring their sports kit with them.

Holiday Requests

As many of you are aware, the rules for requesting holidays changed significantly in September 2013. All holiday requests will now be unauthorised unless the circumstances are deemed exceptional by the Headteacher. Should you wish to request leave of absence for you child(ren) please request a form from the office, giving as much information for the reasons as possible. More information regarding this is on Page 2 of this newsletter and can also be found on our website.

Class Forest School

This term, we are excited to announce that we are developing a programme of Forest School across the school. Forest School is a valuable learning experience, which offers children the opportunity to develop social skills, build confidence and explore their learning in an alternative environment.

If you have a love of the outdoors and are able to commit to supporting with this new venture for one afternoon a week, please let the office know as soon as possible. We are commencing sessions from 18th Sept.

Mrs Karen O'Shea
Head of School

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME 2016-2017 – INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013, govern all requests for leave within term-time. When considering such requests for a leave of absence, the school are obliged to act within the law.

The amended regulations removed references to 'holiday' and 'extended leave', as well as the statutory threshold of 10 school days. It is now clear that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application. If the leave is granted, headteachers are able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for.

The Government has not defined 'exceptional circumstances' as referred to in the 2013 regulations. It is for the Headteacher to decide what he/she views as 'exceptional' and it is at their discretion if the circumstances warrant the leave to be granted.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent.

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

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.

Failure to make an application for leave in advance can also result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Attendance, Compliance and Enforcement Service 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.

Warwickshire Primary School pupils recorded 60,704 half day sessions of absence due to holiday in the academic year 2013/14. This is a decrease of 42,915 on previous years. This is a positive outcome as it means that 21,457 days of education were achieved.

We greatly appreciate parental support to reduce the total amount of days lost due to holidays. We are committed to working in partnership with you to enable your child to reach their academic targets and to support their social development. For this to happen we need to keep individual attendance as high as possible - we all need to play our part.

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