

NEWSLETTER 5 – 9th October 2015

Dear Parents, Pupils & Governors,

Reminder for Parents – Leave Of Absence during Term Time - Attendance regulations stipulate a Head teacher may not grant a leave of absence during term-time unless there are exceptional circumstances. *Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case by case basis and on its own merits.* It is for the Head Teacher to decide what he views as 'exceptional' and it is at their discretion if the circumstances warrant the leave to be granted. If the leave is granted, the head teacher is able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for. The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent. 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). Where a Fixed Penalty Notice is issued and 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. Parents are asked to respect the new regulations under which the school must work and if there is a need to take a child out of school during term-time, an application or request must be made in advance and make clear how the circumstances are exceptional.

Bell Boating Regatta – Some of our Year 5 and 6 pupils took part in the Bell Boating Regatta along with teams from other local schools on Saturday. Both Bidford teams did well coming came 2nd and 4th. Thank you to parents for their support and taking part in their own race!

Harvest - Rev Ruth and Mrs Meehan led our Harvest celebrations on Monday. Thank you to parents for their kind donations and for joining us. The Harvest sale organised by the Year 5 pupils raised nearly £130 for Water Aid, a charity who help provide clean water in developing countries.

Indoor Rowing – Our boys and girls teams took part in an indoor rowing competition at Alcester Academy on Wednesday with a fantastic result of 1st and 2nd. Well done to everyone who took part in both events and thank you parents for transport and support.

Coats – Please ensure you child comes to school with a waterproof coat for use in inclement weather.

Secondary School Applications - The closing date for secondary 2016 applications is **31st October**. Online applications can be made at: <http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/applyforschool>.

Dates for your Diary –

- Party Church is on 11th October at 4pm in St Laurence's Church. The theme is 'Joseph' and will include crafts, songs, a bible story and food.
- School Open Mornings for prospective parents will be on Monday 12th and Wednesday 14th October between 10 and 11.30am Parents Evenings will be held on Tuesday 20th October and Thursday 22nd October.

Book of the Week – Children in Year 3 & 4 are reading 'The Last Polar Bears' by Harry Horse. When Grandfather sees his very first polar bear in a zoo, he is determined that one day he will get to see one in its natural habitat. One day he sets off to the North Pole with the faithful Roo but is the treacherous journey to Walrus Bay worth the risk...?

Mr A Simms

The latest from Bidford School Association...

We have a few things to share from our latest meeting...

- ✓ We are very pleased to say we are providing BSA funds to install an all-weather seating / play area for KS2 – to be fitted as soon as possible! Thank you for all your generosity and support which has made this happen. The kids themselves have asked for this new area.
- ✓ There will be an Autumn disco on Friday, 13th November – tickets will be on sale after half-term.
- ✓ We will be talking all things Christmas Fayre after school on Wednesday 11th November – hope to see lots of you there! Plans are already underway for this big event which will be on 4th December.
- ✓ We would like to welcome Sue Woodward as our new BSA Treasurer and thank Emma Van Zyl for all her hard work!

If you would like to see any more detail on the BSA funds and our plans for the next two terms, then please pop into school Reception and ask to see the BSA minutes.

We would love to get to know our new parents and those that haven't been involved before. Please feel very welcome at all our events and if you want to get involved then that's fantastic – you'll have loads of fun!

Find us on Facebook – “Bidford School BSA”

The BSA Committee:

Emily, Glenda, Laura and Sue

Emily Lee – Chair (07989323997)

Glenda Vassie – Vice-Chair (07928656855)

Laura Simpson – Secretary (07712166158)

Sue Woodward – Treasurer