

## **NEWSLETTER 28 – 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

Dear Parents, Pupils & Governors,

**Term Time Holidays** – Following the recent Supreme Court ruling Warwickshire County Council have updated their information for parents – please see the separate letter that accompanies this Newsletter.

### **Sports News** –

- Children in Reception enjoyed a morning of Sports Enrichment activities on Wednesday. They took part in a variety of team athletics including 'Sharks & Fishes'.
- On Wednesday Mr Simms took our Year 6 Boys football team to Coughton School for a league match. The result was a 1-1 draw. Thank you parents for transport and support.
- Swimming tuition for children in Year 3 has now started and will continue each Wednesday until 5<sup>th</sup> July. Please send in contributions towards the cost on a Monday morning - £3.30 per week, £16.50 half term, £33 per term. Payments can also be made on line via SIMS Agora.

**Music Tuition** – Letters have been sent home today asking if your child would like to continue/start music lessons in September 2017. Forms must be returned by Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May and deposits paid online via SIMS Agora.

**School Milk** - If your child receives Welfare Free School meals (based on income) they are eligible to receive free milk each day in school, please contact the office if you would like your child to have milk.

**Class Photos** – This year's class photos have been taken this week. We will let you know when the proofs are in for you to see.

**Year 6 SATS** – SATs for the children in Year 6 will be taking place during week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> May; a detailed timetable will sent home next week.

### **Clubs Update** –

- Year 5 & 6 Tag Rugby has now finished.
- Year 3 & 4 Tennis has started this week.
- Year 5 & 6 Rounders starts Weds 3<sup>rd</sup> May

Letters are available from the office.

**Message from Bidford Parish Council** - This year's Annual Parish Meeting is being held on **Sat 29<sup>th</sup> April between 9.30am – 12noon** at the Crawford Memorial Hall. ALL the local community is invited to come along and meet Councillors, local community and sports associations. Come and find out how much Bidford has to offer. Full details available on the following link: [www.bidfordonavon-pc.gov.uk/events.htm#e0429](http://www.bidfordonavon-pc.gov.uk/events.htm#e0429).

**Book of the Week** – Mrs Walsh's class have been reading 'The 3 Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig' by Eugene Trivizas. It is a hilarious take on the well-loved fairy tale - the classic fight between pigs and wolves as you've never seen it before!

**Mr A Simms**

*The latest from Bidford School Association...*

**Welcome back to the Summer Term... lots to look forward to!**

**Bags 2 School bags** were in your bookbags before the holiday. If you've lost it feel free to use a different bag! If you have any old clothes, soft toys, shoes etc (no uniform or bedding accepted unfortunately!) then please fill a bag and bring it along to our collection mornings on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> and Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May. You can send in more than one bag and we can arrange to collect if you have lots! Just contact us as below.

**Thank you!**

***'The BSA Committee:***

***Emily, Glenda, Laura and Sue***

Emily Lee – Chair (07989323997)

Glenda Vassie – Vice-Chair (07928656855)

Laura Simpson – Secretary (07712166158)

Sue Woodward – Treasurer

# LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

## UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court recently reached a decision in the case of *Platt v Isle of Wight Council* which has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time. The parents of children of compulsory school age are required to ensure that they attend school on a regular basis. 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 are 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.

Head Teachers retain the ability to authorise leave in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. When considering such requests for a leave of absence, the school are obliged to act within the law. Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless 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. 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.

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

**April 2017**