

BLIS NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 23RD MAY 2025

What a fantastic half term it's been! We've been incredibly lucky with the weather, which has made our outdoor events all the more special. A huge thank-you to all of you for your wonderful support and attendance at both our Sports Day and Maypole Dance performances. The children were thrilled to share their hard work with you and took such pride in showcasing their skills - they truly shone!

As we head into the half term break, I want to thank-you once again for your continued support. I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable week, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 2nd June.

Upcoming Events:

June -
23rd & 24th

- Parents Evening

July -
2nd

- Transition Day
- 11th
- Year 2 Fun Day
- 17th
- Year 2 Graduation

Key Dates

Half Term:

Monday 26th - Friday 30th May

Training Days:

Friday 18th and Monday 21st July

2025/26

Training Day:

Monday 1st September

First day of school:

Tuesday 2nd September

important

With the warm weather continuing, please ensure your child comes to school with a sun-hat, named water bottle and sun-screen.

If your child attends an after-school club, please ensure they are collected promptly from this.

The school day starts at 8:45am and ends at 3:15. Pupils must arrive by 9:00am. Pupils who arrive in school after 9:00am will be marked as late.

Pupils who arrive after 9:30am will be marked as absent for the morning session which will have an affect on their attendance data.

COMING SOON

Parents Evening will be taking place on Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th June. Appointments can be made via Magic Booking.

Transition Day will be taking place on Wednesday 2nd July for all children in school. Details of this to follow after half-term.

Year 2 Special Events

Each year we love to celebrate Year 2 before they leave us and move on to the Junior School. They will be having their fun day on Friday 11th July and Graduation will take place on Thursday 17th July. Details of this will be released closer to the time.

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 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 the parents' 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 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.

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.

Leave of Absence taken in the academic year 2025-26

The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 19 August 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absence taken from September 2025 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.

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

Please be advised that from September 2025, we will be a referring school and all leave of absence requests will be sent to the Warwickshire Attendance Service.