



## WELLESBOURNE CE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

**Newsletter #10 Friday 9th February**



*The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law'*

### OPAL

We are thrilled to announce that after half term, we will further launch 'OPAL' to **all** of the children in school. OPAL stands for **Outside Play And Learning**. We are sure that the older children have probably come home and told you all about it, but we wanted to ensure that everyone in our school community receives the exciting message about our engagement in OPAL.

**OUR OPAL VISION: *Our school vision is that children in our school have amazing high-quality play every day – with no exceptions.***

During a single week in school, 20% of your child's time is spent playing. Over your child's entire time in our school that is 1.4 years... so we really want to get it right! Childhood has changed over the past few decades, and now many children no longer get their play needs met outside of school. Statistics show that:

- Average screen time per day is six hours.
- Average outdoor play time per week is five hours.
- Percentage of UK children who only play outdoors with other children at school is 56%

We have seen just how much of an impact improving play can make to a school and there are many proven benefits for schools that carry out the OPAL Primary Programme. They usually include: more enjoyment of school, less teaching time lost to disputes between children, fewer accidents and greatly improved behaviour. We have begun to plan for, resource and evaluate the quality of our play provision. Over the next few weeks and months, our field and grounds will be improve with all the resources needed to ensure that playtime is fun for everyone. Children will be using more of the grounds, for more of the year. They may get a bit messier, be exposed to more challenges and have greater freedoms to play where, with whom and how they like. We intend to address the need for play which is so fundamental to pupils physical and mental well-being, so that EVERY child in our school has an amazing playtime. Playing is Learning: Learning how to communicate, learning how to negotiate, learning how to take safe risks and so much more. The PTA have made raising funds for these items their main goal and the school council have already started a wish list with you and some kind families have started buying things for the school—however, there is no need to do so and it is completely voluntary. [https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/R6M3ZGF0C4BX?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/R6M3ZGF0C4BX?ref=wl_share)

The OPAL programme that we have embarked on is going to bring about cultural change and so will not be completed overnight. Instead, it will be sustained and planned for over a two year period, as we want to get this right. This is why OPAL is on our School Improvement Plan, which is why we have an nominated OPAL Governor, nominated OPAL staff, nominated OPAL parents and why ALL staff have been trained.

Over the two year period, you will be invited to events where you can come and see for yourselves what is happening and have the opportunity to join in too.

We are **really** excited about this project and hope that you will support us in our efforts to improve playtime for all children.

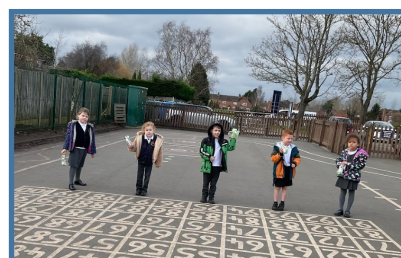


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### **KS1 Computing**

As part of computing, we following a sequenced set of instructions to build a rocket. We then 'launched' them and measured how far they flew before recording our findings on a spreadsheet.



### **Y2 Stratford-Upon-Avon Visit**



On Wednesday 7th February Year 2 visited Stratford-Upon-Avon to conduct as part of their geography learning. We were looking at the range of human features in the town and how frequently we saw them. Children worked in pairs to record their data on a tally chart and find the total. Once back at school we then used our data and represented it on a graph.



A special highlight of our visit was meeting a local community police officer who kindly let us try on her hat! All of the school staff and parent volunteers would agree that the children behaved beautifully and were a real credit to the school.



### **Y1 Fire Engine Visit**

Year 1 had an exciting visit from the Fire Service on Wednesday this week. They enjoyed learning about the uniform and how to keep safe in the event of a fire. They practised 'Stop, Drop and Roll' and listened well to the instructions. They loved seeing the fire engine and got a surprise when the firemen turned on the siren and flashing lights as they drove out of Mountford Close.



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### **Develop Archery Event**

On Tuesday afternoon, four pupils from Years 4, 5 and 6 were invited to go to this indoor archery event in Alcester. They also had a go at other events such as boccia, kurling and bowls - and the children had a great time and also got to meet 'Bug the Pug' who is also a Pets as Therapy dog in another school.



### **Netball Tournament**

At the start of this week some of our Y5 children took part in a Netball tournament at Warwick Prep School. All the children played very well and showed great sportsmanship, resulting in them achieving second place in their group. There were a total of 15 schools who took part in the event, and we were delighted with their attitude and effort.

### **Athletics**

On Wednesday morning, the Year 5 and 6 indoor athletics teams went to Stratford High for the first round of the competition. Both the boys and the girls teams performed amazingly and overall, for our session we came second. We are incredibly proud of the children's behaviour and their representation of the school—well done everyone!

### **Bicycle Bus**

Did you know just 2% of primary school children bike to school? In Holland this figure is 86%! We would like to change this statistic in Wellesbourne, in a safe, healthy and accessible way.

As part of our commitment to Safe and Active Travel, we are looking at starting a bicycle bus. We have been inspired by Simon Storey who has successfully set and run a bike bus in Leamington and 5 more schools since. He is keen to share his knowledge and success with us, and to answer any questions that you may have. He will then support us in setting up and running our own Wellesbourne bicycle bus.

<https://thebicyclebus.co.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/thebicyclebus>

We will also be working alongside Michael Clifford a BAFTA winning director, who has made both drama and documentaries. He has made a number of films about cycling, including filming Simon's well established bicycle bus. Michael is keen to film with us how to set up a bicycle bus, talking to interested families and going on rides around the area to find the safest routes.

Here is an example of Michael's work, @Making Connections, which also includes a film about cycling to school. <https://www.youtube.com/@birminghamconnected6895>

If you and your family are interested in finding out more about taking part in The Bicycle Bus, then please join us on Wed 21st Feb at 6pm.

Please let us know if you can attend the meeting via the following Google Form link:

[Bicycle Bus Google Form](#)



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# Friends of Wellesbourne PTA Page

UPCOMING EVENTS. [BOOK YOUR TICKETS HERE](#)



COME AND JOIN US FOR OUR FRIENDS OF WELLESBOURNE

## Saint Patrick's Day Quiz

FRIDAY 8TH MARCH  
WELLESBOURNE C OF E SCHOOL  
MAIN SITE

DOORS OPEN 7.15PM  
QUIZ STARTS 7.30PM  
SUPPER 8.30PM

£6 QUIZ ENTRY  
£12 WITH PIE AND CHIPS



JOIN US FOR OUR FRIENDS OF WELLESBOURNE FAMILY BINGO

SATURDAY 24TH  
FEBRUARY  
DOORS OPEN 1.30PM  
BINGO STARTS 2PM

6 GAMES OF BINGO  
1 BOOK £6  
EXTRA STRIP £1

PUPILS OF WELLESBOURNE C OF E SCHOOL ONLY



Wonderlicious BAR

## GOLDEN TICKET

You are a lucky winner. Hand in your ticket to receive your prize.

WONDERLICIOUS CHOCOLATE BARS.

£2 PER BAR.

AMAZING PRIZES TO BE WON.

WILL YOU FIND A GOLDEN TICKET?

TICKETS AVAILABLE TO PRE-ORDER  
SOON!!

## OTHER DATES FOR THE DIARY

EASTER BONNET COMPETITION - Tuesday 9th  
April

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School Disco. Yrs 1, 2 - Friday 12th April

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School Disco. Yrs 3, 4, 5, 6- Thursday 25th April

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BAG2SCHOOL-Monday 15th April

Having a Spring clean? Help us raise money for school  
by donating your, good quality, unwanted toys and  
clothes.

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SUMMER FAIR—Saturday 29th June

Need to contact us? Email us on: [Committee@friendsofwellesbourne.co.uk](mailto:Committee@friendsofwellesbourne.co.uk), Facebook [FriendsofWellesbourneSchool](#) or Instagram [FriendsofWellesbourne](#)



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## 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.

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



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# **Term Dates and Dates for the Diary**

## **February Half term**

World Thinking Day  
5BW Class Assembly  
School nurse to see Year 6  
World Book Day— PJ Day  
1P Class Assembly  
Year 4 and 3 Easter Performance #1  
Year 4 and 3 Easter Performance #2  
Last day of Spring Term

## **Easter Holidays**

First day of Summer Term  
Y6 residential  
4G Class Assembly  
RCW Class Assembly

## **Bank Holiday Monday**

Y6 SATs week  
3J Class Assembly

## **May Half term**

Year 4 Tables Check Window  
Year 1 Phonics Screen Week  
KS1 Sports Day  
KS2 Sports Day

## **2023/24 INSET day #5**

Y6 Afternoon production #1  
Y6 Afternoon Production #2  
Y6 Evening Production @ 6pm  
Last day of Summer term

## **Summer Holidays**

## **2024/25 INSET day #1**

## **2024/25 INSET day #2**

## **Monday 12th to Friday 16th February**

Thursday 11th February  
Friday 1st March  
Tuesday 5th March  
Friday 8th March  
Friday 15th March  
Monday 18th March 2:15pm  
Tuesday 19th March 6pm  
Friday 22nd March

## **Monday 25th March to Friday 5th April**

Monday 8th April  
Wednesday 10th April - Friday 12th April  
Friday 19th April  
Friday 3rd May

## **Monday 6th May**

Monday 13th May to Thursday 16th May  
Friday 24th May

## **Monday 27th to Friday 31st May**

Monday 3rd June to Friday 14th June  
Monday 10th to Friday 14th June  
Tuesday 2nd July—am @main site  
Wednesday 3rd July pm @main site

## **Friday 5th July 2024**

Thursday 11th July  
Friday 12th July  
Friday 12th July  
Friday 19th July (1:30pm finish)

## **Monday 22nd July to Friday 30th August**

## **Monday 2nd September**

## **Tuesday 3rd September (confirmed)**



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