



Newsletter

DECEMBER

"To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake it is necessary to stand out in the cold."

WELCOME!

Dear Families,

As I sit and write the final newsletter of 2022 I reflect upon all that has happened since we came back to school in September. In spite of all the less than cheery news around, on planet EJS, I am pleased to say that this term has been a really busy and successful one for all of us in school. Visitors to school continue to report a positive feeling around the school, especially the manner in which your children conduct themselves around the school and in their classrooms.

In September, we started with a new look mixed aged group class setting, with the teachers getting to grips with their new classes. As always, the day to day focus was clearly around settling the children in to the new normal, but your children

have responded so positively to the learning opportunities this has brought. All that remains is for me to wish you all a merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. See you back in school on Wednesday, 4th January, 2023!!!

Christmas at Giles Church



After missing out last year, we all walked to St Giles church for our Carol Service lead by the Rev Jo - our narrating and singing were amazing!

Christmas Dinner Time



From someone who struggles even fry an egg, I do wonder how the Educaterers staff excel every year when they cook our Christmas dinners.

Well over 100 meals were produced and we thank them for their skill ... and roast potatoes!



Staff Goodbyes

Miss Southam leaves us after 15 years at St Giles/ Exhall Juniors. It is difficult to summarise the impact of her work in such small a space. She has shown tremendous dedication to the role, and will be a sad loss to the school. Her support and care has shown such positive impact on the children in her class, and her knowledge and expertise has benefitted the practice of many staff.

Mr. Burch will be moving on to work as a Specialist Teacher for REFRESH Nurture Provision based in Solihull. He has shown great dedication in supporting the students during his time with us. We wish him every success and happiness as he moves on to new pastures.

Mrs. Loonam also leaves after being here for ten years. We thank her for her support from behind and in front of the lunch counter during lunchtimes, and wish here luck in her new role as learning support assistant at another local school.

We thank them all for their efforts and commitment towards the children and families at Exhall Junior School. We all wish them our best.

St Giles Church Tree

Each year, St Giles Church offer the church groups to display Christmas trees from the local community. Our 'Helping Hands' group has once again created a masterpiece to be included in the

St Giles Church Christmas Tree display in the church grounds over the festive season.



From Blot to Nature Spot



After a chance conversation at the end of a school assembly on being safe around building sites, we now has a school entrance to be proud of!



Anneka Jones, Social Value Coordinator from Countryside Partnerships hosted an assembly in the school before the summer holidays about site safety and job prospects in construction, before setting a challenge for students to design a poster to display on their nearby site. As Countryside staff were leaving the school, a further opportunity to support the local community was chanced upon.



The patch of land just outside the school gate had been left to become overgrown, it looked unsightly and was attracting litter. From discussions with the school, Countryside Partnerships, together with the help PDP Associates and Brewood Landscapes, soon put a plan together to make the area not only attractive to the eye, but to the local wildlife.



With support children from our Helping Hands, Countryside Partnerships and Brewood, they spent the afternoon planting bee-friendly shrubs and bulbs. The team also left the children with packets of wildflower seeds and a birdbox to further encourage nature to the school.



The new wild area will not only provide a place for nature, but it will make the entrance to the school something to be proud of. A massive thanks to everyone involved



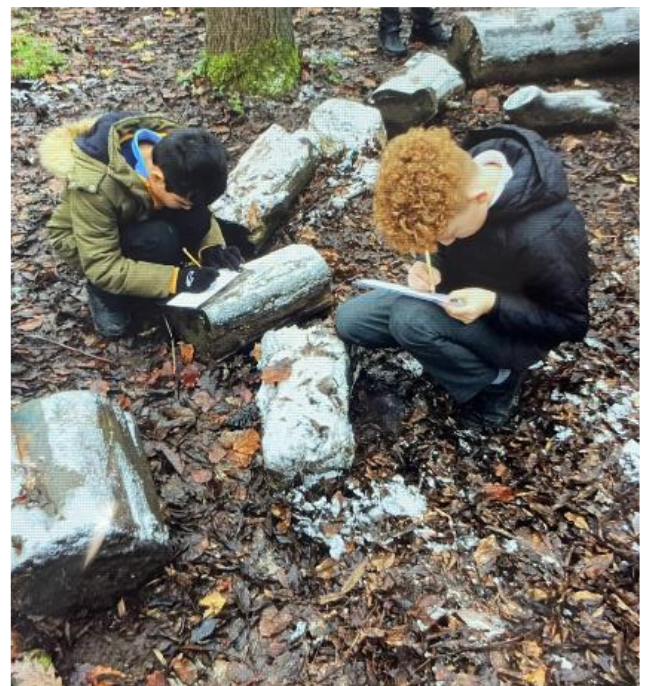
Science Outside

Year 5 in science have completed two outdoor lessons on our current topic 'Living things and their Habitats'.

One lesson was an invertebrate hunt looking for the different types of invertebrates found in the local area- they found; insects, annelids, crustaceans, myriapods, arachnids and molluscs.



The second lesson was searching for habitats – Yr. 5 looked at the conditions of them e.g. temperature, food source, water source, sun light etc.



They completed some sketches of them too for a more focused study back in class.

Electronic Device Santa Gifts

It is that time of year where Santa maybe particularly generous bringing new electronic devices for children. It is vital that these are set up so that children can access age appropriate material. If you do this at the outset (obviously after Santa has delivered any gifts) then it will ensure that your children's devices will be protected and give you more control. Make a family agreement

Making a family agreement is a great way to think about how your family uses the internet, and to help make sure that everybody understands the importance of staying safe and positive online.

A family agreement is a chance for you to make agreements about your use of the internet. It can include how often you use technology, if it is allowed to be used in communal spaces like at the kitchen table, and if permission needs to be gained before downloading any new apps.

Talk to your child about using tech safely

One of the most important things you can do before handing over a piece of technology is to talk to your child.

Having a conversation shows your child that you are engaged in their online lives, and shows that you are available and interested in helping them should they face difficulties whilst using

technology or spending time online. Some conversation starters that could help you to have these discussions include:

What will you use this device for?

Can you show me what your favourite thing to do online is?

Can you show me how to play on your favourite game?

What tips can you give me about spending time online?

What is OK and not OK to share online?

What would you do if something worries you whilst you're online?

Do you know how you block or report on the games you're playing? Can you show me how to do it?

A Places for 3 & 4 year old children

Was your child born between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019?

Exhall Cedars Infant, Nursery & Preschool still have a few spaces left in our Nursery for January 2023, please pass on to any friends and family with children that will be aged 3 by 31st August 2018.

All children are entitled to either 5 morning or 5 afternoon sessions (subject to availability) free of charge.

Contact them for an application form,

Tel: 02476 316034

Email: admin2635@welearn365.com.

Applications open for Reception and Junior School Places

Please note that the deadline for Reception and Junior school places comes around very soon after Christmas (15 January 2022). This applies to children born between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019 for Reception, and any child currently in Year 2 at an infant school who want to move to a junior school.

To help parents and carers to make successful applications, there is a video with lots of practical tips and advice, plus a written guide with useful information on how the process works. If they'd like to learn more, or ask questions of the school admissions team, two online webinars are being held in early December, which are open to everyone and free to join. Bookings can be made using the links below:

Thursday 1 December at 7pm: [Link](#)

Tuesday 6 December at 7pm: [Link](#)

All applications received by the deadline of 15 January will receive a school offer on 17 April next year, which is National Offer Day. Any applications submitted after the 15 January deadline will only be considered after this, meaning the child is much less likely to be offered a place at a preferred school.

Applications should be made online at:
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/primaryplace

SATS Information: change of test dates

Following the announcement of an additional bank holiday on 8 May 2023, the dates for KS2 tests scheduled for that week are changing. The new schedule will be: **Tuesday 9 May to Friday 12 May**. ALL Y6 students are required to be in school on those days.

SEND REVIEW

Warwickshire County Council is consulting on two areas relating to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Details about the two consultations are below.

They welcome all views and feedback. You can choose to respond on just one or both consultations.

[Send Consultations](#)



Please let us know if have queries, issues or questions.

If we've got something wrong, please let us know, it's important for us to help and support. Just call into the office or call

tele 024 76313375

admin2571@welearn365.com

STAY SAFE & KEEP BUSY THIS CHRISTMAS!

Christmas Activities

Get Outdoors

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Places to
see Santa!



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Mental Health in Schools Team (MHST)

Tips For Wellness:

Christmas



By many, Christmas is thought of as a very happy time of year. But for some, Christmas can unfortunately be a really difficult time. It can bring up upsetting memories for people, can make people feel very overwhelmed, or people can feel lonely over the Christmas period.

Christmas is a time of giving. Giving does not necessarily mean gifts, 'giving' can be an act of kindness, even something as small as smiling at someone. 'Giving' to others has been proven to support mental wellbeing. Not only is it nice to be a 'receiver' of an act of kindness, but it also helps the 'giver'. Evidence has shown that people who carry out an act of kindness at least once a week are more likely to rate themselves as 'happy'.

Being a 'receiver' makes us feel appreciated and valued. 'Giving' makes us feel rewarded, 'giving' also helps us to build social networks.

Try some of the below activities over the Christmas period:

1. Say thank you to someone, for something they've done for you
2. Phone a relative or friend who needs support or company
3. Ask a friend how they are and really listen to the answer
4. Go Christmas carolling!
5. Have a go at making your own Christmas present for someone from scratch
6. See how you could help out a charity
7. Arrange a day out for you and a friend or relative
8. Offer to help a relative with a job around the house (maybe theres something you could help your family with on Christmas Day!)

#ThanksKids recognises the super efforts and kindness of young people and thanks them via personalised #NHSStars certificates and pin badges. Please spread this message amongst your school community, all you need to do is let us know by nominating the young person using this email address: cwptr.thankskids@nhs.net and we'll do the rest!!

MHST are available to support you and your school throughout the school year including term time and school holidays. Please contact your school's Mental Health Lead for information and advice.

Exhall Cedars Infant School



Exhall Cedars is a **small, nurturing Infant School**, in the **heart** of the Exhall community, serving Exhall, Bedworth, Hawkesbury Village, Brindley Edge and the Warwickshire/Coventry border.

Cedars provides an **excellent educational experience** for children aged 2-7 years.

Ofsted March 2020:

"Nurturing relationships exist between adults and children in the setting. Children get off to a good start." "Leaders have created a warm and welcoming environment for pupils and staff. Pupils like school and they feel safe."



Pre-school & Nursery

We provide sessional term time provision for 2-4yrs. We support 2Help and 3yr old NEF, including 30 hr provision for working parents.

Nursery 3-4yrs: am/pm or all day sessions

Pre-School 2-3yrs: Flexible to your needs.

Wraparound for 2-4yr olds is available, through school, at an additional cost

We accept Tax Free Childcare and Childcare Vouchers