



## JANUARY Newsletter

### WELCOME!

Dear Families,

It seems a long time ago now, but we hope that you did have a wonderful break and wish that 2024 is a happy and successful year for all in the EJS family and community.

There are lots of exciting developments for the school to look forward to in coming weeks and months. In order to keep up to date with all things happening, please ensure that you are signed up for all electronic updates from the school, especially Class Dojo – more later about that. If you need help with this, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school office.

#### **A few reminders**

The school day starts at 8.45 am every day with the register taken just a few minutes later. Please try hard to get your child to school for this time to avoid

missing the beginning and lots of information sharing about the day ahead. Whilst we definitely prefer children to be in school if a little late rather than not at all, it would be good to welcome everyone to the school day at the same time.

Please make sure that when travelling to and from school by car you follow parking and road laws and restrictions, so that all in the community remain safe.

Thank you for your understanding when we had to close the school. Despite all efforts by staff, including the kitchen team, the break in our gas supply meant we had no hot water, heating or ability to cook on the school site. With the water main bursting just outside the school before Christmas, and now the gas, we are buying lots of batteries – just in case!

## Autumn Attendance

<b>Class</b>	<b>Percentage of class receiving an award</b>	<b>Gold</b>	<b>Silver</b>	<b>Bronze</b>
<b>A</b>	63%	8 children	6 children	6 children
<b>B</b>	45%	2 children	6 children	2 children
<b>C</b>	50%	6 children	2 children	3 children
<b>D</b>	61%	6 children	11 children	3 children
<b>E</b>	60%	6 children	7 children	2 children
<b>F</b>	58%	5 children	6 children	4 children

Thank you to all the parents and carers who have supported us this year so far with making sure their child is at school more than 95% of the time and that they are on time each day. You are making sure that your child doesn't miss out on important learning experiences throughout the year.

Thank you also to those parents who have improved their child's attendance following a letter/meeting to say that their child was at risk of being persistently absent – the efforts you've made are really appreciated.

Above are our Autumn Term awards attendance awards, they are given for each term - therefore every child has the potential to achieve 95% or better each term. Attendance is important because statistics show that pupils with good attendance have higher attainment in school. Studies also show that children with attendance above 95% make better progress socially as well as academically. With the focus and development on the curriculum that has taken place at school then children who are absent will find gaps in their sequential knowledge.

The table below demonstrates how much school children miss if they are absent and it is surprising how this adds up. We are fully aware that children get ill and these are mainly responsible and unavoidable for the majority of absences. The aim of this is the positive promotion of attendance for all so please no holiday requests or days off for birthdays etc.

<b>If your child misses...</b>	<b>That equals...</b>	<b>Which is....</b>	<b>over 13 years schooling</b>
<b>1 day every 2 weeks</b>	<b>20 days per year</b>	<b>4 weeks per year</b>	<b>Nearly 1 ½ years</b>
<b>1 day per week</b>	<b>40 days per year</b>	<b>8 weeks per year</b>	<b>Over 2 ½ years</b>
<b>2 days per week</b>	<b>80 days per year</b>	<b>16 weeks per year</b>	<b>Over 5 years</b>
<b>3 days per week</b>	<b>120 days per year</b>	<b>24 weeks per year</b>	<b>Over 8 years</b>

## Bedworth Library



To support us with making every child a reader, we do encourage you to take your child to our amazing local library. Books are expensive, and to have the latest books ready to be selected and free is a great resource to have

There's lots going on in the library –  
Drop in activities, no need to book.

**Book, Rhyme, and Duplo Time** - stories, rhymes and play for 18 months to 4-year-olds

**Lego Club** – creative themed sessions for children to build and create with Lego

**Rhyme Time** – songs and rhymes for 0 to 2-year-olds and parents and carers

**Story Stomp** – fun session for 2 to 4-year-olds and their parents and carers to follow on from Rhyme Time

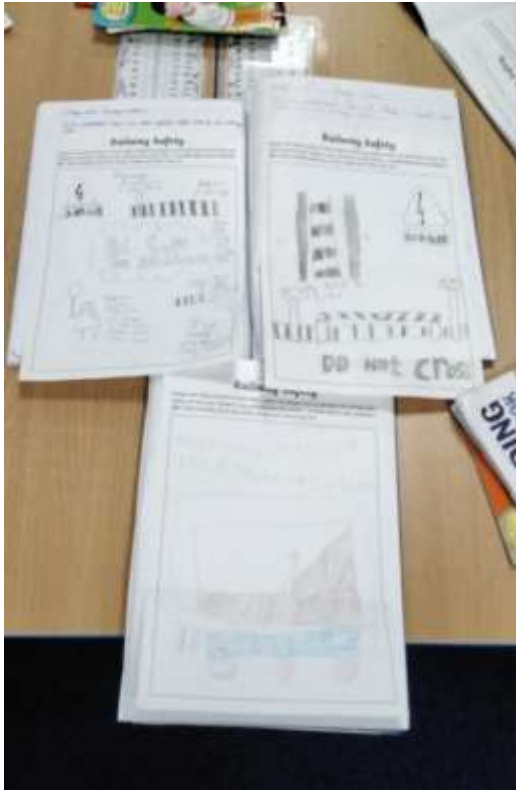
As well as -

- [books, talking books, large print](#) - browse and borrow books from our shelves
- [request books online](#) and collect in the library

- [staff select](#) - we can supply book(s) that you like to read
- [library account](#) enquiries & general enquiries including joining
- [computers with printing](#) – printing is A4 black & white and colour. Bookable in advance online, by phone or ask in the library
- [Hublet tablets](#) for use in the library to access eMagazines, eNewspapers and other library eResources. This is a free service
- [scanning](#) - instructions are available but staff support is limited. Book the Scanner PC to use this service
- [photocopier](#) – A3/A4 black and white and A3/A4 colour
- [Wi-Fi](#)
- self service machines to issue, return & renew
- [local studies and family history](#)
- [Asian reading material](#)
- [Reading Well collection](#) – mental and physical health self-help books and eBooks
- sensory toys - available on request for use in the library
- [spoken word playaways](#)
- [Micro:bits](#) for loan – start coding with tiny programmable computers. For over eight year olds.
- [concessionary travel passes](#) - applications and renewals by appointment only. Please contact the library to make a booking
- read and relax area
- limited study space

## Year Three Safety Work

Are you Switched On for every journey you make? Is the question Network Rail have been asking in regards to being safe around our railways. Here's an example of Year 3 work about Railway Safety.



With a railway line not too far away from us, please take to time to have a chat with your child, especially if they have older brothers and sisters, or have a look together on this link [Switched on to Rail Safety](#)

## Attendance

The Supreme Court reached a decision in 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 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. 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.



## Year Six Sketching

Sketching is a good practice for all ages and, surprise, it has nothing to do with the end result. It's all about the process — a process that improves our general well-being. Our children love to draw, however many of us stop sketching as we get older, but it's never too late to start up again

We have a lot of amazing artist in the school, especially in Year 6.

Here, they are showing off their sketching skills of Henry VIII – they have really captured his character, as well as his feature.



Now you have go!





## Having High Expectations

The expectation around what children need to be achieving in their writing is very high. The curriculum is looking for every child to be a successful independent writer in many different styles before they start secondary school

Here's an example, Year 4s are finding the writing features they need to use to describe the young witch, Mildred Hubble, from the Worst Witch series. They will then go on to use these in their own work when they write independently

Great work Year Four!

Mildred Hubble, **a young, curious witch** in her first term at Miss Cackle's Academy for Witches, was bespectacled and artistic. **Her hair**, which she chewed absentmindedly, **followed her** in long, twisted braids. Miss Cackle's Academy looked like a prison, hidden far away. **Not unexpectedly**, Mildred's mischievous side often landed her in trouble, as she struggled to follow strict rules.

**Despite her ability to find trouble**, Mildred still had lots of friends. She had a **nice, bright smile** that was positively contagious. Her clothes were black and grey, **and** slightly tattered, **but** endearing. The only splash of colour in the school was the **silky, soft sash** which indicated the house each which belonged to. She always had bootlaces trailing along the floor and Mildred often wore her hat back-to-front.

Her family was ordinary, **but** Mildred was obviously special.

Expanded noun phrase

conjunction

fronted adverbial

personification

The same goes to Maths. Confidence working with numbers in the tens of thousands to thousandths, plus a good understanding of fractions, will secure a good starting point as students move into Year 7. Opposite, Year 6 worked hard on understanding numbers with 3 decimal places in maths.

They were excellent at representing numbers in different ways and they all confidently completed their tasks.



## Proposed Academy Conversion

The education landscape is changing, as evidenced by the many schools in Warwickshire that have already converted to academy status or are currently considering this adjustment. Local Authorities are especially finding it harder to provide personalised support to individual schools due the pull on their reduced budgets.

In the last few years due to low numbers entering our infant feeder school, with the option to go to the many other schools in the local area, we have struggled to have full classes, and in some years we have to mix age groups. With more children comes financial sustainability, and this secures stability for you and your children.

For these reasons, Exhall Junior School's Governing Body and the school's Senior Leadership Team have been exploring the possibility of converting to academy status, looking carefully into the benefits for your children and the community.

The governors and school leadership team believe that conversion to an academy and joining an established Trust will offer many advantages and opportunities whilst ensuring that the values of our school, and its community, remain. In the upcoming weeks we will be sharing with you the options open to us. If you have any other initial thoughts or questions around the converting to be an academy, please email Amanda Gardiner (Chair of Governors):

[gardiner.a1@welearn365.com](mailto:gardiner.a1@welearn365.com)

## Inventive Lunchtimes



Some of our students decided to show off their creative skills during lunchtimes. Rather than take part in the organised games, or free play areas, they chose to build a den.

All our children love the outdoors, Liam in particular, has always been interested in nature, and can often be found with a range of sticks in his hand, but this time, with help, he's excelled himself.

The level of expertise to make this freestanding den is very impressive!

It was quite a feature in the playground and demonstrates that with so much need around, the world of innovation will be required, and every idea is a potential invention waiting to shape the future.





We have just started to use 'Class Dojo' in school. The system is an online communication app which connects carers, parents, children and teachers. It is a secure way for staff to share messages, videos and photos with parents in their class. Miss Spencer will be sending out further details around it's usage and how best for us all to communicate news and events. Our hope is that this will increase everyone's learning engagement as it will allow us to share those wonderful classroom moments through the class 'feed'.

### **Warm Welcome Volunteers Also Needed**

Warwickshire Libraries are looking for Warm Welcome Volunteers - if you enjoy chatting to people of all ages and from all walks of life, have great interpersonal skills and a warm personality, this role might be for you.

A Warm Welcome volunteer will offer library visitors a 'warm welcome' and a helping hand to make the most of their visit over the Winter months. The volunteer may direct customers to events, activities or facilities, offer

refreshments, help set up a game or jigsaw, be available for a chat and to direct visitors to library staff for support and advice.

You will have the opportunity to meet lots of new people and perhaps 'make a difference' to their day.

[Link for more information](#)

### **Dates for your Diary**

**6th February - Safer Internet Day enrichment**

**20th February - Year 5 and 6 trip to Think Tank**

**7th March - World Book Day enrichment**

**8th March - Mother's Day event - details to be announced**

**W.C 11th March - British Science Week enrichment event**

**19th and 21st March - Year 6 Parents Evening**

**22nd March - Year 3,4,5 Reports send home**

**22nd March - Ramadan enrichment event**



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 of call

tel 02476313375 or

[admin2571@welearn365.com](mailto:admin2571@welearn365.com)



Mental Health in Schools Team (MHST)

### Parent/Carer Tips:

Supporting your child with positive friendships

Top tips for speaking with your child about friendships: |

- Be available to listen
- Avoid making assumptions or placing blame
- Don't diminish how they are feeling
- Try not to rush to solution

It can be useful to discuss with your child what a positive friendship looks like:

- Being able to be yourself with someone and have fun
- Being able to trust someone and be honest with each other
- Respecting each others boundaries
- Listening to each other and being kind



*A guide to supporting young people with their friendships*

**It can be helpful to: Share your own experiences of friendships**

**Modelling good friendships and positive talk about others**

**Have conversations about how they can be a good friend**

**Enable new friendship opportunities**



# 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





## Nuneaton & Bedworth

# Grub and Hubs



Are you in need of a warm space, and some free/cheap food over the winter period?

We have brought some information together into one website which shows where you can find cheap/free food and warm spaces this winter.



Scan this QR code to head to the website!

Do you run a warm space or free/cheap food opportunity? Or do you know of one that we haven't yet got on our site? Drop us an email to [nuneatongrubandhubs@gmail.com](mailto:nuneatongrubandhubs@gmail.com)

An initiative developed by:



and local volunteers



✉ [fis@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:fis@warwickshire.gov.uk)

🐦 @WarksFIS

📘 WarwickshireFIS

☎ 01926 742274



**We provide free information to support families with children and young people aged 0 - 25 across Warwickshire on issues including:**

- Childcare
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- Help with family finances
- One to one support
- Parenting support
- Support with bullying

All our information is available at [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fis](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fis)





**Where all  
children  
and young  
people are:**



**HEARD**



**SAFE**



**HEALTHY**



**SKILLED**



**HAPPY**

**Everyone can play a part in making the  
county a great place to grow up and learn.**

**Join us in creating a future we can all believe  
in, be part of Child Friendly Warwickshire.**

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