

CAWSTON GRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Friday 2nd May 2025

Welcome back to the summer term – and what a start it's been, with some amazing weather to get us all in the summer spirit!



We're excited to share that building work on our new immersive class-room space got off to a flying start over the Easter break. Ashlawn Builders have been working to a tight schedule and have already laid the foundations. The main works are planned for the summer holiday, so there shouldn't be any disruption for our pupils during the term.

Congratulations to David Wilmott, whose name was drawn in our London Marathon ballot! With 15 names in the box, it was a closely watched draw. We look forward to cheering him on next year and supporting his fundraising efforts for the school.





Please remember that school will be closed on Monday for the bank holiday. On Tuesday, it's class photo day – all children should arrive in full, smart school uniform. If your child usually has PE or visits the nature classroom on a Tuesday, please ensure they bring the appropriate kit to change into.

As the warm weather continues, just a few reminders to help everyone stay safe and comfortable in school:

- Please ensure your child brings a water bottle every day water or squash only, no juice or fizzy drinks
- A sun hat or cap is strongly recommended for playtimes please make sure it is clearly named
- Sun cream: we recommend applying a long-lasting cream before school. If children need to bring sun cream to reapply, it must be named and they must be able to apply it themselves. This is particularly relevant for Year 3/4 pupils attending swimming lessons. For safety reasons, sun cream must not be shared between children
- Sunglasses are not recommended, as they are easily lost or broken. If there is a specific medical reason why your child needs to wear them, please speak to their class teacher

We're looking forward to a fantastic half term (even though there are only 14 days left!) with lots to enjoy and achieve.

Mrs Worthington Head Teacher



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 2024-25

The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 19 August 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absence taken from September 2024 will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.

- Penalty Notices are issued to <u>each parent of each absent child</u>, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means <u>each</u> 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.

Notice for parents Data Protection.

To comply with the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 and Data Protection expectations, it is vitally important that Cawston Grange Primary School keeps accurate and up to date information relating to every pupil on roll.

The information we are required to record includes:

- Pupil's full legal name (and if appropriate, their preferred name).
- The name, address and contact details of every person known to the school/academy who is a parent* to the pupil with whom the pupil normally resides (this is the address that has been used to register with their GP).
- The name, address and contact details of any additional parent*.
- Any other emergency contact details.

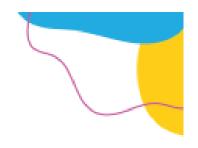
In order to gather this information, every year we send out data collection forms. Parents are asked to complete the form with as much information as possible and then return to the school, signed and dated. We would ask that even where there are no amendments to the data collection sheet, parents return the form, signed and dated.

Cawston Grange Primary School requests that if you change your contact number, move home or there are any other circumstances which may impact your child, the school is notified as a priority.

N.B. *The Education Act 1996 defines a 'parent' as a). any natural parent, whether married or not, b). any parent who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility as defined in the Children Act (1989) for a child or young person c). any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person.

Mental Health in Schools





Being mindful

Being mindful is all about taking notice of what's around us, as well as our thoughts and how we are feeling. Mindfulness is a way to focus on the present moment and what is happening now, rather than thinking about the past and worrying about the future.

Learning how to be mindful can give us the tools we need to cope with stress, build confidence, and get through challenging times. The more we practise mindfulness, the more resilient we will be!

Our tips for being mindful:

- Tune into your senses (classroom activity) = Teacher should choose a child (child A) to stand outside the classroom, they are the 'listener'. Choose another child (child B) in the class to be the 'speaker'. When child A comes back into the room, they should face the wall, then child B should say a pre-agreed sentence in an unusual or funny voice. Child A needs to pay attention, take notice and listen carefully, to guess who the speaker was! Children can take turns as the role of speaker/listener.
- 2. Create a glitter jar use an old jar or bottle and add a variety of materials, such as glitter, water, different coloured beads, food colouring, oil, and rice. Shake the glitter jar and notice how the materials move. Do they all move together? Do any of the materials separate from each other? What sound does it make? You could make one with a friend and then swap jars!
- Cloud watching this activity is great for mindfulness and relaxation. Have a go by scanning the QR code: muchasium
- Mindfulness video as a class, watch this mindfulness video from Children in Need, which
 includes 3 exercises to help you practise mindfulness: mindful looking, mindful listening, and
 mindful breathing.

In Coventry and Warwickshire, for any urgent mental health concerns, contact the RISE Crisis Helpline available 24/7, by calling NHS 111. Alternatively, call 999 or visit A&E in an emergency, for example if medical attention is required.



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.



Teacher Led after School clubs

Teacher-led after-school clubs have now been allocated, and confirmation emails have been sent to parents. Please ensure that you only send your child to a club if you have received an email confirming their place. Clubs will begin the week commencing **5th May 2025**, and the final week commencing will be **30th June 2025**.

PTA



Help the environment by recycling your empty cartridges whilst helping the PTA raise money.

This is a reminder that the PTA are still collecting branded empty printing cartridges. Drop your cartridges off at the main office or collect a collection bag and spread the word to others.

Weekly Online Safety Bulletin - Safety on the road

This free guide shares essential advice for keeping children safe around roads, highlighting practical steps like staying visible, reducing distractions and recognising hidden dangers.

Playtime Snacks

Key Stage 2 children are allowed to bring a snack from home to eat at playtime. Please ensure that this is either a piece of fruit or a cereal bar (nut free). Many children are taking items such as packets of crisps or sandwiches from their lunchboxes but these should be eaten at lunch, not playtime. We have also reminded the children of this in school



Breakfast Club



Please remember that all bookings and payment for breakfast club places need to be made via your SCOPAY account, all breakfast places must be pre booked at least 5 days in advance. If you have any questions please contact the school office.

School Lunches – SwiftKitchen app

If your child is having a hot school dinner, meals need to be booked no later than 9am via your Swiftkitchen app. If you have booked a lunch and no longer require please cancel it before 9am on the day, as we are unable to remove orders.



School Year

2024/2025

Diary Dates – Summer Term 2025

| May 2025 | | |
|-------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 05/05/25 | Bank Holiday | School Closed to Pupils |
| 06/05/25 | Braiswick Class Photos | All children to come in to school |
| | | wearing school uniform |
| 08/05/25 | Non-Uniform day – VE Day 80 th | Children can come to school wearing |
| | anniversary | Red, White & Blue |
| 12-23/05/25 | Year 3 & 4 Swimming Lessons | Consent and Payment via SCOPAY |
| 21/05/25- | Year 6 Residential | |
| 23/05/24 | | |
| 23/05/25 | School Closes at 3.30pm for Half Term | |

| 26/05/25 to 30/05/25 Half Term | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|
| June 2025 | | | |
| 02/06/25 | School reopens at 8.40am | | |
| 20/06/25 | Designated Teacher Training Day | School Closed to Pupils | |
| 26/06/25 | Year 3 Archery Day | | |
| July 2025 | | | |
| 01/07/2025 | Sports Day | Weather permitting | |
| 02/07/2025 | Secondary School Induction Day | | |
| 05/07/25 | Summer Sizzler | | |
| 17/07/25 | Year 5 Trip to London | Consent and Payment via SCOPAY | |
| 18/07/25 | School Closes at 3.30pm for Summer Holidays | | |

Please check dates regularly as more trips and events will be added as the year progresses.

Attachments

Weekly Online Safety Bulletin – Safety on the Road Mental Health in Schools - Being mindful









