

Diary for week commencing 16th September 2024

	Before School	Morning	Lunchtime	Afternoon	After-School
Monday 16 th Sept	Buddies 8.30am – NESSY	Whole-School Assembly – Fairtrade by Eco- Group	KS2 Wellbeing Club	Year 4 swimming	Buddies until 5.30pm
Tuesday 17 th Sept	Buddies 8.30am – NESSY	Reading Challenge celebration assembly			Buddies until 5.30pm
Wednesday 18 th Sept	Buddies NESSY	Art & DT Sharing Assembly			Buddies until 5.30pm
Thursday 19 th Sept	Buddies NESSY	Whole-school nasal flu vaccinations	Choir Years 3-6 Warhammer (by invitation)	Reading Buddies	Buddies until 5.30pm Fiery Feet Street Dance (years 1, 2 and 3). 3.30-4.15pm
Friday 20 th Sept	Buddies		Eco-Group	House Reward Celebration Assembly	Buddies until 5pm School BBQ 5-7pm

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

NAME YOUR CHILD'S UNIFORM

Please can parents ensure they label all uniform. We cannot return lost uniform to its owner if it is not named. Thank you for your help with this.

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS

After-school clubs we are planning to run this term are as follows. They will be starting week commencing 24th September.

Multi-Sports – Mondays 3.30-4.30am with Mr. Hyde. Open to Years 3-6.

Netball – Tuesdays 3.30-4.30am with Mrs. Cleaver. Open to Years 4-6.

Football – Thursdays 3.30-4.30pm with Mikey. Open to Year 2 only this half term. Open to Year 1 only after half term.

Street Dance – Thursday 3.30-4.15pm with Fiery Feet. Open to Years 1, 2 and 3 only (starting 12th September).

Other clubs running at lunchtimes are on the main timetable at the top of this email.

Family B-B-Q Friday 20th September 5pm



We are holding a family BBQ on Friday 20th September on the school playground starting at 5pm. The purpose of the BBQ is to welcome new families into our school community and to 'catch-up' with each other with our news. A notice and booking form will be sent out via children this coming week and replies are to be sent back by 11th September. The entrance fee is £1 for adults and children are free. Hot dogs and burgers [and vegetarian options] will be between £1 and £2. This is a non-profit-making event that has been organised by Friends of Bishops Itchington Primary School (FoBIPS) for our school and we are very grateful for their help with this. All family members of

children who attend our school are very welcome.

[Please note that no alcohol or dogs or pets are permitted at this event. If the weather is wet, then we will unfortunately have to cancel.... But fingers crossed. Thank you.]

Does anyone have a large gas BBQ that can be transported to the school for the BBQ please?

We are appealing to 6 people to bbq and/or serve at the BBQ for an hour each between 5-7pm. If you are available and would like to support the school, then please could you email FoBIPS on fobips@gmail.com or you can contact the school office.

Thank you so much for your support.

No Mobile Phones or Personal Devices



Please note that our school does not permit mobile phones or personal devices to be used once visitors and parents have stepped inside the school perimeter gates. Thank you for helping us to keep our children safe.

Southam Tesco Store – Please Vote for your School!



The deadline for putting Tesco blue tokens in the Bishops Itchington School box is approaching. Our box will be removed on 30th September. With push, we might be able to win the vote [we are currently just in second place!] Thank you so much for supporting the school.

Medicines

Prescription medications must be handed to the school office and an authorisation form completed and signed by parents on the first day of term before school can administer any medication to children. Please do this once your child has entered school. School cannot give any medication to children unless this form has been signed by the parents/guardian.

Short-term medication, such as anti-biotics, will be kept in the office fridge and given by the office staff at the appropriate times. Other medication for chronic illnesses (such as inhalers for asthma or epi-pens) will be kept securely in the classrooms so they are accessible to staff and pupils when needed. These types of medication must also be handed to the office staff and permission forms signed in the first instance.

Under no circumstances, can children keep any form of medication in their school bags, drawers or clothing (unless this has been specifically agreed and risk-assessed).

We apologise, but we are not able to give non-prescription medication to children. For specific circumstances, please contact the office for advice.

If you have a safeguarding concern about your child, then please let the school know straight away.

Friends of Bishops Itchington School (FOBIPS) AGM Monday

The Annual General Meeting for FoBIPS will be held on Monday 23rd September at 7pm at school. As you may know, Donna Davenport is stepping down as Chair. We are looking for a new Chair [this can be a shared position]; a Vice Chair [can also be shared] and some new committee members.

The Chair's report and Treasurer's reports will be issued by Friday 20th September. Any one interested in joining the committee should notify FoBIPS on fobips@gmail.com or let the school office know prior to the meeting so nominations can be made. The meeting will take around one hour and we look forward to a new exciting chapter in our FoBIPS history. To make the meeting compliant with FoBIPS Constitution, 20 people are required to attend. So, if you are in two-minds, please do turn up so we can make this happen! Many thanks.

Term-Time Holidays are against the law!

The law regarding children taking time off school for holidays has been updated from 1st September 2024. This communication for our parents is in three sections:

Section 1: Why it is important that your child does not miss school – my book is missing a chapter!

Section 2: A summary of the new legislation.

Section 3: The new legislation (the more-wordy version) that has been issued by Warwickshire Local Authority.

Section 1: Why it is important that your child does not take holidays during term-time – “My book is missing a chapter”.

- Children who miss lessons are disadvantaged because they cannot catch up on the learning missed or the experience of sharing discussion with their class to secure understanding. This can be compared to reading a book where there is a chapter missing: the reader is not able to follow the story because there is a gap in the story.
- Coming back into school having missed lessons causes embarrassment for children and insecurity because their peers know what happened and the absent child does not.
- It causes disruption to the education of other children in the class because adults have to support the child who missed the lessons rather than supporting the learning of other children. This applies to every single lesson including art, design and technology, PE as well as phonics, maths and English.
- It can cause social difficulties for children who did not experience the same conversations, experiences or games that other children have engaged with. This can cause a lack of confidence and in some cases isolation.
- From time-to-time, all children are unwell, which of course cannot be avoided. So missing more school with holidays, further impacts on a child's learning.

Section 2: Summary of the new Legislation

- Starts on 1st September 2024.
- School may grant authorised leave for exception circumstances only.
- The need or desire to have a holiday is not an exceptional circumstance.
- The leave must be authorised before the absence is taken.
- All decisions are made on individual merits. Exceptional circumstances are in the realm of weddings, funerals, difficult family situations, observing religious ceremonies and the like.
- Applications can only be made by the parent with whom the child usually resides.
- All unauthorised absences will be referred to Warwickshire Attendance Service.
- The first leave of absence offence will result in a fine issued to each parent of each absent child at £160 (reduced to £80 per child if payment is made promptly).

- The second leave of absence offence within a period of three years will be £160. No reduced amount or payment plans.
- The third leave of absence offence within a 3-year period will be referred for criminal prosecution proceedings.

Section 3: The New Legislation – Updated Information for Parents

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court clarified 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 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 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 2023-24

It is important to note, 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 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.

Leave of Absence taken in the academic year 2024-25

The law relating to Penalty Notices is due to change with effect from 1 September 2024. Therefore Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absences taken after this date 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.

Issued by Warwickshire Local Authority

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

All the staff at Bishops Itchington Primary School

Explore. Achieve. Celebrate.

Together we grow happy, responsible and adaptable individuals
who are ready to continue their life-journey.