

Welford on Avon Primary School News

Dear Parents,

Welcome to this week's Newsletter. As we approach the Easter break, I wanted to take a moment to extend warmest wishes to you and your families. It has been a very busy term filled with learning, growth and memorable experiences for our pupils. They have shown incredible resilience, creativity and dedication and we couldn't be prouder of their achievements.

Refurbishment of the Boys Toilets

Over the Easter break the boys' toilets are having a well overdue refit. This work has been made possible through capital funds and a significant contribution from FOWS.

Year 2 Recorder Performance

Following the success of their recorder lessons, Year 2 were invited by Warwickshire Music to perform in a virtual recorder concert. The children have practised their performance a lot and performed 'Mamma Mia' by Abba.

School Disco

Our school disco last week, was a roaring success and a great time was had by all! Thank you to FOWS for organising, everyone who attended, helped or supported this event.



Forest School

A great final week out at Forest School. Each class has been out to toast marshmallows and pop popcorn. We have discussed fire safety, the fire triangle and the science behind how popcorn pops!

Please make sure that your child brings their Forest School kit on the correct day so that they can enjoy this outdoor experience.

Mr Deeley Forest School Lead

Sportshall Athletics Competition

After qualifying as winners from the Southern Warwickshire Indoor Athletics competition, twenty three children from Year 5 and 6 went to the regional Sportshall tournament on Thursday 21st March, in North Solihull. The children competed against seven other area winners from Warwickshire, Solihull and Coventry. After a monumental effort by all the children involved, we finished second, narrowly missing out on the top spot. A massive congratulations to all the children, who performed fantastically, epitomising all our Welford values.

Mr Deeley PE Lead

Reception News

Reception have had a fantastic week with their virtual trip to Paris on Tuesday. We took a virtual flight, piloted by Captain Cox and supported by, quite frankly, a very rowdy cabin crew. All passengers disembarked safely and enjoyed a trip to the Eiffel Tower, The Notre Dame cathedral and the Musée d'Orsay. We created watercolours inspired by Monet's water lilies and enjoyed a fabulous snack in a Parisian café, accompanied by some authentic accordion music. I would like to extend a huge thank you to Mr & Mrs Knight, who kindly supplied the croissants and Pan au'Chocolat, which were absolutely divine. Wednesday saw our super Spring assembly, which the children delivered with their usual contagious enthusiasm and then to round off the week, we went to space in the planetarium, courtesy of the Think Tank from Birmingham. It was amazing and concluded our learning about space, which we started during Science week, answering some of the more complicated questions that we had struggled to find answers to, such as 'are comets and meteors the same thing?' Thank you to the learning officers in the planetarium for answering that question in particular and inspiring our little scientists of the future.

Mrs Cox Reception Class Teacher

Mobile Planetarium Visit

Children from Reception to Year 6 were treated to a trip into space this week, with our visit from a mobile planetarium. The children were fascinated to see the view of our planet from space as well as 'flying' through Saturn's rings to see what they were made of. The visit has definitely sparked their curiosity about our wider world!

Mrs Pote – Science Lead

Year 4 Reading Celebration

Over the last few weeks, Year 4 have been taking part in a Warwickshire-wide initiative, to celebrate reading. The Year 4 Reading Celebration is organised by Warwickshire Schools Library Service and aims to promote reading for pleasure and the use of local libraries. As part of the celebration, the children in Year 4 have been completing their own reading logs and a team of four represented Welford on Avon at the final celebration event, on Monday morning at Stratford library. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the joy of reading alongside children from other schools and we were very excited to find out we had won the quiz! Well done to everyone in Year 4 for taking part in the Reading Celebration.

Miss Field Year 4 Class teacher

Year 1 Theme Day

We enjoyed our 'All Around the World' day on Tuesday this week. The children came into school dressed in the colours of a flag. It was a lovely opportunity for children to share and celebrate their heritage, with many children dressing to represent countries that their parents or grandparents grew up in. We would like to extend a huge thank you to Mrs Hallahan, who came and spoke to the children all about Mumbai in India and Mrs McCarthy who spoke to the children about Sienna in Italy. We also linked the day to our history theme of castles, with the children working collaboratively, to construct some fabulous castles in the style of castle images from around the world.

Mrs Cowley Year 1 Class Teacher

Leave of Absence Information

Please read the information below which is a reminder that holidays will not be authorised during term time and a leave of absence only agreed in exceptional circumstances.

‘Parents do not have any entitlement to take their children on holiday during term time. Any application for leave must establish that there are exceptional circumstances and the Headteacher must be satisfied that the circumstances warrant the granting of leave. Headteachers will determine how many school days a child may be absent from school if the leave is granted.’

School Uniform Reminder

School uniform is an important part of the identity of our school and is linked to our ethos and values, particularly one of equality and contributes to the behaviours and attitudes we want to see across our school. We do not expect children to wear uniform with our school logo, that is a personal choice. However, we do ask that your children wear our school colours of red tops / white polo shirts and grey/black trousers/ skirts and wear comfortable and practical school shoes. Children should not wear nail varnish and if they have long hair, it should be tied back. Pupils are only permitted to wear small stud earrings and smart watches are not permitted in school.

School Open Evening

Thank you to everyone who attended out open evening on Monday night. We hope you enjoyed sharing your child's learning.

Farewell to Miss Burn

Miss Burn has decided to pack her rucksack to travel and will be leaving Welford Primary School. Over the last couple of years, she has become a very important member of our Reception, school and Star Club staff and will be sorely missed. However, we wish her well with her exciting adventure. We hope she sends us a few postcards from her destinations.

Farewell to Miss Baird

Miss Baird will be leaving us today to take up a new post. Her new role is her dream job, as it involves organising and running Netball leagues. Miss Baird started out as an apprentice at Welford four years ago and during her time as a teaching assistant, her enthusiasm and commitment has been unwavering. Miss Baird has contributed a great deal to the school and in particular our extended school curriculum. She was been central to setting up our very popular girls' football club and netball club. She will be greatly missed by staff, parents and pupils but I know she will be equally successful in her new role. Good luck!

FRIENDS OF WELFORD SCHOOL (FOWS) NEWS

Over the last five years alone, FOWS has raised over £50,000 for Welford on Avon primary school - an incredible amount! Through the funds kindly raised from parents supporting these events we have paid for, or contributed towards some superb resources, including:

- A new library
- Balance bikes
- Brand new IT equipment
- A new piano
- Key Stage 2 classrooms air conditioning unit (they are all south facing and used to get very hot)
- The new Reception class playground area.

The next thing we are supporting, are the brand-new Key Stage 2 boys' toilets, that should be refurbished over Easter. The current ones are old and in poor condition, we know these new facilities will benefit the boys in our school a great deal. (Please note the Key stage 1 and Key stage 2 girls' toilets are all already new or in good condition!)

We are currently planning the last few fundraisers for the school year: Movie night, Maypole tombola, the Summer Fair and WOA!FEST (hopefully, please see below)

WOA! FEST

The annual school summer 'camp out' and the highlight of FOWS calendar! This event normally features amazing bands, performances, tug of war, sports, crafts and face painting, as well as a great bar and BBQ. It's a brilliant event where special memories are made. It also generates the most revenue for FOWS and our school. We currently need a Lead Volunteer/ or 2 people to oversee it this year. We have lots of volunteers and contacts in place, we just need an organised person to pull it altogether. If you are interested please email: fowswelford@outlook.com by 11th April. Otherwise unfortunately WOA!FEST will be cancelled for 2024.

Monthly Updates

Food Vouchers

We want to remind families that if you require help, you can contact the school to ask about food vouchers. Please get in touch if you need help. All enquiries we be dealt with in the strictest confidence.

Parking

Please be respectful to residents on Headland Road by not parking or dropping off across their driveways. Parents are reminded that you must not park on or opposite the zig zags at any time during the school day, including clubs. Please do not park across or block driveways or on road junctions. We run an unofficial one-way system so that all cars drive in from the Barton Road and leave via the church and ask that parents drive at 10mph. Your cooperation will ensure greater safety for all coming to and leaving school.

Coats, hats and gloves

A reminder to make sure that your child brings a coat to school every day, to ensure they are ready for cold weather. We also encourage pupils to bring hats and gloves, so that they remain warm during break and lunchtime.

Welford Wrigglers

There will be no Wrigglers over the Easter break, so the next session will be on Wednesday 11th April from 9.15am until 11.15am.

Welford (Binton) Bridge

The Binton Bridge remains closed but should change to a traffic light system over the next few days. However, plans keep changing so please check the situation before your return after the Easter break. The most recent schedule about the closure has been emailed.

School Playing Field

Our school field will be open over the Easter break. As a reminder to all, the playing field is school (WCC LA) property and the school is responsible for its upkeep.

Spring Celebration Assemblies

It was wonderful to celebrate Spring this week with celebration assemblies from all classes. On Wednesday, Nursery and Reception shared their beautiful artwork created through both collage and the use of pastels. Thursday saw Year 1 and Year 2 share their Design and Technology pieces with Year 1's giant Easter bunny created by folding and twisting paper and Year 2's use of levers and linkages to create opening eggs. Key Stage 2 followed today, by sharing their knowledge of Easter and how it is celebrated in other countries. All assemblies included singing to lift the spirits and send us into the Easter holidays with a smile. Well done to everyone!

Wellness @ Welford

Warwickshire Family Information Services

<https://us5.campaign-archive.com/?u=a24b439ef7022ae0d86f9ca6e&id=30d834303d>

In this week's Family Information Service newsletter, there is information about the Vision Support Service, Easter activities at Warwickshire Country Parks, Neurodiversity Celebration Week and much more!

What is the Family Information Service?

The Family Information Service (FIS) supports families across Warwickshire with information and signposting to help with a wide range of family issues. You can get in touch with the team by emailing fis@warwickshire.gov.uk, calling 0800 408 1558 or finding support on www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies. Head over to their Facebook page to see where you can find the FIS team across the county this week.

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

<https://searchout.warwickshire.gov.uk/holidays-activities-food-haf>

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme is funded by the Department for Education (DfE) to provide young people who are in full-time education (Reception to Year 11) and eligible for benefits-related free school meals with access to enriching activities and meals, for free, during the three main school holidays: Winter, Spring and Summer. Follow the link above for more information.

HELP PAYING FOR YOUR CHILDCARE

CHILDCARE SUPPORT IS EXPANDING APPLY NOW FOR APRIL

All the information you need about the child care offers that are available to all parents. Changes are coming into place so please follow the link to find out if you are eligible for more help

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

Wellness @ Welford Continued

Discovery Webinars

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/warwickshire-county-council-31960567793>

These webinars are aimed at professionals and families within Warwickshire to inform them on the role of the Family Information Service and includes a guided tour through the FIS and SEND Local Offer webpages. This session will highlight the broad range of information and support that can be found on these two websites. Included in this webinar will be information on the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme. Please follow the link above to book

RISE

Please follow the link below to Warwickshire RISE website.

<https://cwrise.com/for-parents>

They provide early support, information and guidance on many emerging mental health issues to children, young people, parents and carers. They can offer:
o consultations with a clinician

o training

o themed coffee mornings focusing on areas of requested support.

If you would like to know more please email rise

risecommunityoffer@covwarkpt.nhs.uk

Welcome to the Recovery and Wellbeing Academy

<https://www.recoveryandwellbeing.co.uk/>

‘The Academy offers a wide range of courses and workshops designed to empower your mental health and wellbeing provided by a number of Partner organisations working together. Courses are delivered face to face and online via Zoom. All Academy courses and workshops are completely FREE OF CHARGE and open to anyone over the age of 18 living in Coventry and Warwickshire who wants to better manage or understand their mental health and wellbeing. Friends, family, staff, and carers are encouraged to attend as we strongly believe in learning together to get the most out of the courses on offer.’

Warwickshire SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) is a free, confidential and impartial service providing information, advice and support for parents/carers, children and young people aged 0-25 who have or may have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Contact Warwickshire SENDIASS

<https://www.warwickshiresendiass.co.uk/>

Picture News

This week's story: Many families who travelled to Glasgow for an event that claimed to channel the magic of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory were sorely disappointed.

Question: What's the best way to handle disappointment?

Reflection: There will be times when we are excited and looking forward to something but it may not be quite what we wanted or hoped it would be. Learning how to deal with disappointment is important.

British Value connected to this story: Individual Liberty

There are times in our lives when we feel disappointment. We can choose how we respond to it. It is important to remember we are responsible for our actions.

Protected Characteristics – Religion and Belief

Our religion or belief affect the places we choose to visit. They may also impact how we overcome disappointment. We should never be treated unfairly because of our religion or beliefs.

UN Rights of a Child:31. Rest, Play, Culture, Arts

We all have the right to rest, relax and play and take part in cultural activities. Visiting places can help us do this.

Picture News at Home is attached to this newsletter so you can continue this conversation at home.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in your child's education journey. Wishing you a wonderful holiday. School closes for the Easter Break today and reopens on Monday 8th April at 8.55am.

Mrs Leeman and Staff

FOR MORE VISIT: www.welfordonavonschool.co.uk