



# Rugby Free

Primary School

★ Together we learn, together we shine! ★

Newsletter 22

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February  
2026

## World Book Day

As part of our mission to promote and engage children in reading, RFPS will be celebrating World Book Day on **Thursday 5th March**. As part of our celebration, we would like to invite the children to come into school dressed up as their favourite book character.

We continue to encourage home-made and low-cost costumes. Below are some fun, easy home-made costume ideas that you and your child could make together.

- The BFG: using paper plates.
- Burglar Bill: using a paper mask.
- Matilda: blue dress and red headband.
- Handa's surprise: carrying a fruit bowl
- Mr Bump: blue t shirt and bandages
- Good night Mr Tom: coat and a flat cap
- Harry and his bucket full of dinosaurs: blue t shirt and carrying a bucket of dinosaurs
- Snow White: blue headband and carrying an apple

Please note that it is not compulsory for your child to dress up if they do not wish to. Non-uniform is also allowed.

We look forward to celebrating World Book Day on the **7th of March!**

## Year 2 Inspire Workshop

Our Year 2 Inspire Workshop on Tuesday morning was a joyful and engaging event, giving parents and carers the chance to step into the classroom and experience firsthand how the children learn in school. It was wonderful to see families exploring different learning activities together and celebrating the many ways our Year 2 pupils access their learning. The children had a fantastic time sharing their work, and we would like to say a big thank you to all parents and carers who joined us and helped make the morning so special.



## Easter Competition

Easter is approaching, and this year, we are inviting the children to decorate an egg. The eggs should be brought into school on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026, where they will be judged! Please note, this is an optional competition! We can't wait to see your "egg-cellent" creations!



## Stars of the Week

**Reception**  
**Giraffes**  
Ayra & Marlowe  
**Zebras**  
Ruby & Mia

**Year One**  
**Hedgehogs**  
Lia  
**Rabbits**  
Isabel

**Year Two**  
**Penguins**  
Adaline  
**Seals**  
Loralai

**Year Three**  
**Crocodiles**  
Katie  
**Turtles**  
Lorenzo & Morgan

**Year Four**  
**Bears**  
David  
**Eagles**  
Darshan

**Year Five**  
**Pandas**  
Billy  
**Tigers**  
Arlie

**Year Six**  
**Sloths**  
Jeo  
**Toucans**  
Amber

## Head Teacher Awards

**Ralph (Y3)** - Resilience  
**Jacob W (Y6)** - Resilience and Endeavour



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## Year 4 Residential



Year 4 have had a spectacular time at Beaumanor for their residential and have made us all feel very proud.



They took part in archery, rock climbing, shelter building, hide and seek in the cellars and much more. They showed their resilience, collaboration and



endeavour. Well done Year 4!



## Parents Evening & Book Fair

The Book Fair will be open during Parents' Evening. Please note that card payments only will be accepted.



## Girls Football

On Tuesday, I played my first ever football match with the RFPS girls football team. Last year I took part in some football training, but this was my first time on the actual team. We played 3 matches against other local schools, the first we won (1-0), the second we lost (2-1) and the last we drew (0-0), which I thought was a great result as it was our first time playing together.

Before the match I felt really nervous because I knew that the other players had more experience than me, however, everybody (including Miss Smith) was so supportive and helped me feel comfortable straight away. I quickly began to relax, and I think that I did a great job helping to defend the goal. I really enjoyed myself and had so much fun, you really should try it for yourself!

By Evelyn Y6



## Cross Country

On Thursday, our Year 5 and Year 6 runners took part in the first heat of the 'Neighbourhood cross country' races! If successful over the 2 heats, the children will have the opportunity to represent Eastern Warwickshire at county level. Cross country is a real test of endurance and the children rose to the challenge with fantastic resilience, perseverance and positive attitudes throughout the course. They demonstrated excellent sportsmanship too, encouraging one another and showing respect for runners from other school! Every pupil represented our school brilliantly. Well done to all involved and we'll see you for heat 2 next week!



## Brave the Shave



We are incredibly proud of Archer (Y5), who has officially braved the shave in support of Macmillan Cancer Support! Thanks to the amazing generosity of our school community, he has raised an incredible £1,300 (and counting!). Archer would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated and supported him — he could not be happier with the amount raised for such a wonderful cause. Well done, Archer! ❤️



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## Lost Property

During Half term we have sorted all of the lost property in school. If you are missing a red jumper or black hoodie it maybe here. Please come and check, any items not claimed by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March will be taken to charity. Please can we ask that you name all children's uniform. If an item is named it will make it back to your child, without a name its makes it extremely hard for us to return items.



## Game On Holiday Camp

Game On is operating a Holiday Camp over the Easter holiday. The booking form was attached with the newsletter on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Please liaise with Mr Sheehan directly for bookings.



The dates are: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April

## Safe & Active Schools



### Stop, Think, Park Safely

Dear Parents and Guardians,



We have been asked to share the following information from the Warwickshire Road Safety Education Team as a reminder to park legally, safely, and considerately to help keep the area outside our school safe for our pupils.

We are asking all parents and carers to park legally, safely, and responsibly, and to avoid parking in a way that causes unnecessary obstruction. Please:

- **Keep the School Keep Clear (zigzag) markings free during restricted times**, never stop, wait, or park on these markings, even briefly.
  - **Avoid parking on restricted areas**, such as double yellow lines.
  - **Do not obstruct dropped kerbs**, as this prevents safe crossing.
  - **Use designated parking areas** or park a short distance away and walk.
- **Be considerate of residents, pupils, and other road users**, and avoid blocking driveways.
- **Avoid parking on pavements**, as this can force children, wheelchair users and parents with prams into the road.
  - **Do not park within 10 metres of a junction**, to maintain safe visibility for all.
- **Be considerate of residents, pupils, and other road users**, and avoid blocking driveways.
- **Avoid parking on pavements**, as this can force children, wheelchair users and parents with prams into the road.
  - **Do not park within 10 metres of a junction**, to maintain safe visibility for all.
  - **Model safe and respectful behaviour** for children to follow.

We understand that school journeys can be challenging but taking a few extra minutes to park safely makes a big difference. By working together, we can create a safer and more respectful environment for every child at our school. Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Police do enforce these restrictions to improve safety around schools. Enforcement helps protect your children, other road users, and encourages longer-term safe behaviours. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us keep our school community safe.



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## Ramadan and Eid ul-Fitr

Ramadan and Eid ul-Fitr are approaching. We are encouraging the children to write a poem in any style about Ramadan or Eid ul-Fitr, if they wish to. All entries should be sent to Mrs Hammond by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March. All poets will receive a prize.

Some ideas are

- Acrostic Poems: Children use the word "RAMADAN" or "EID UL-FITR" to start each line.
- Shape Poems: Children write their poem in the shape of a crescent moon, a lantern or a mosque.

We look forward to sharing the poems in our classrooms.



silhouette of a crescent

## Friends of Rugby Free Primary School (PTA)

Our next **MEETING**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March  
3:30pm @ school

Come and join us to plan future events. Children can attend and will be able to read/quiet activities. We aim for this to last 45 mins.

Please enter via the office

**World book Day**

**'NEW TO YOU' SALE**

Children are invited to bring 50p to purchase a book of choice from our shop

**THURSDAY 5TH MARCH**



**Diary Dates** (please check every week as they are subject to change!)

- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar** – Parents evening Y1 – Y6 (booking now open via MCAS)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mar** – Parents evening Rec (booking now open via MCAS)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Mar** – Class photos
- 5<sup>th</sup> Mar** – World Book Day (dress up as a character inspired by a book or non-uniform)
- 9<sup>th</sup> Mar** – Y1-Y6 M&M Theatre production of Oliver Twist
- 10<sup>th</sup> Mar** – Reception Inspire workshop 9am-10am
- 10<sup>th</sup> Mar** – Y2 Warwick Castle trip
- 17<sup>th</sup> Mar** – Y3 Inspire Workshop 9am-10am
- 20<sup>th</sup> Mar** – Rec Farm trip
- 25<sup>th</sup> Mar** – Y6 Beaumanor Hall trip
- 30<sup>th</sup> Mar – 10<sup>th</sup> Apr** – Easter Holiday
- 30<sup>th</sup> April** - Y3 Hunstanton trip
- 4<sup>th</sup> May** – Early May Bank holiday

## Safeguarding

If you are concerned that a child appears unhappy or is being abused act now using the contact numbers provided below or alternatively come in to school and ask to speak to a DSL. Contact the **Warwickshire's Family Connect** on **01926 414144**. Lines are open Monday to Thursday 8am-5.30pm, Friday 8.30am- 5.00pm.

If you need to get in touch out of usual office hours, please contact the Emergency Duty Team immediately on **01926 886922**. If you think that a child is at immediate risk, contact the police immediately by dialling **999**.

**SAFEGUARDING**  
Safeguarding our children is everyone's responsibility

If worried about any child being a victim of neglect, abuse or cruelty whilst at RFPs, you must tell Miss Finch or, in her absence, one of her safeguarding team.

	Miss Finch Designated Safeguarding Lead
	Mrs Colledge Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
	Mrs Poillit Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
	Miss Bylles Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
	Mrs Screen Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Jennifer Beattie  
Trustee for Child Protection & Safeguarding

If you consider a child is in immediate danger phone the Police on 999 or phone Family Connect on 01926 414144 or out of hours on 01926 886922.

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## 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 i.e. 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.

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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 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.

All penalty notices are issued by Warwickshire County Council and all fines are paid directly to WCC. The school does not receive any of the money.



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Mental Health in Schools Team  
Tips For Wellness

## Listening

Listening is an important skill that helps us to feel connected to others and the world around us. When we listen, we can learn new things, solve problems and interact with people around us. This is great for our mental health as we are using our minds and connecting with people.



Try out these games to test your listening skills:

### 1 - Sound hunt!

Close your eyes and listen carefully to the sounds around you. See how many sounds you can identify in a minute.

This type of listening activity helps us to connect with the world around us, which can help us to feel calm.

### 2 – Weekend catch up

In pairs, partners should take it in turns to talk for 1 minute about their weekend. The children should then ask each other questions about their weekend, to see if the listener could remember what they did. Each partner can score points for each question they answered correctly.

### 3 – I went to the supermarket, and I bought a...

As a class, sit in a circle. The first person says, "I went to the supermarket, and I bought a..." and they choose an item, for example an apple. The next person has to repeat that sentence and choose their own item to add. For example, "I went to the supermarket, and I bought an apple and a book". Keep going around the circle adding items. If someone forgets an item, you move onto the next player. It gets harder as you go!

These two games encourage 'active listening', where you are taking in the information you are hearing. This is a useful skill to practice. You can also practice this at home, trying to remember what you have heard on a programme or video!

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.

Dimensions tool



Free online personalised self-care information & support for adults and children in Coventry & Warwickshire



Mental Health in Schools Team  
Tips For Wellness

## Relaxation

Relaxation is when our mind and body is free from stress and tension. Research has found that this can help us to think clearly, concentrate, sleep well, feel more confident and even boost our immune system!

Relaxation can look different for everyone, and it can be helpful to try a few different relaxation techniques to see what works best to make you feel happy and rested.

Our Tips for Relaxation:

1- Try some **breathing exercises**, such as finger breathing or square breathing. Breathing exercises are great as you can do them in any place, at any time. Follow the QR code to try flower and candle breathing!



Flower and candle breathing

2- **Drawing or colouring** can help you to express your feelings and focus on something peaceful. This is a great way to relax your mind!

3- Practice **mindfulness** by taking a break away from any screens and devices. This could be going on a walk or being outside in nature. Try to use as many of your senses as possible, think about what you can see, hear, smell, touch and even taste! You could even try cloud watching to calm your mind.



Calm yoga stretches

4- **Stretch** it out, practice yoga to stretch out your muscles to relax and reduce tension. Try following the QR code for a yoga video!

5- A warm **bath or shower** can be a soothing experience that helps to relax muscles and calm your mind. You could make it extra relaxing with quiet music and bubbles!

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.