



Rugby Free

Primary School



Together we learn, together we shine!



Newsletter 3

Friday 18th Sept
2026

OPAL



We have had another wonderful week at school, exploring our new resources, with new and exciting things arriving daily! The children have been busy forming such wonderful relationships through play and we are noticing how upbeat they are when coming in from their lunchtimes. Take a look at just a small number of magic moments this week!

What do we need from parents to help us with Opal?

Please make sure your child has a waterproof coat in school with a hood (so they can stay dry and warm and so it can be easily cleaned!). Opal is about being outside whatever the weather!

Any donations of children's wellies (size 10 – to small adult sizes e.g. adult 7) as we prepare for Winter would be hugely appreciated. Our dressing up resources have been very popular, and we are looking for any dressing up clothes (the best are things such as hats, shirts, waistcoats, skirts etc, particularly in bigger sizes).



Magic Moments

Parking

As we continue to work together to keep our school community safe, we would like to remind all parents and carers to park considerately when dropping off or collecting children from school.

Please ensure that you park in accordance with the Highway Code and local parking restrictions at all times. This includes avoiding parking on double yellow lines, across driveways, on pavements, or in locations that may obstruct visibility for pedestrians and other road users.

The roads around school can become particularly busy at the start and end of the school day. By parking responsibly, we can help to reduce congestion and, most importantly, keep our children, families, and local residents safe.

If possible, please consider parking a short distance away from school and walking the final part of your journey.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation in helping us maintain a safe environment for everyone.



Stars of the Week

Reception

Zebbras

Avery &
Kyllian
Giraffes
Harris &
Joey

Year One

Hedgehogs
Imani
Rabbits
Virvitharth

Year Two

Penguins
Austin
Seals
Taylan and
Myles

Year Three

Crocodiles
Alicja
Turtles
Dhrey

Year Four

Bears
Eleni
Eagles
Freya

Year Five

Pandas
Aadya
Tigers
Tahlia

Year Six

Sloths
Julia
Toucans
Caelan

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Attendance and Leave Requests

Children who attend school every day and arrive on time are more likely to achieve well. Learning builds progressively, with each lesson forming an important part of a child's understanding. Missing school can create gaps in knowledge that are often difficult to bridge, even with additional support.



One of the most important ways you can support your child's education is by ensuring they attend school every day, unless there are exceptional circumstances that prevent them from doing so.

By working together to promote excellent attendance, we can ensure that every child benefits from the high-quality education and opportunities available at our School.

Wherever possible, please ensure your child arrives at school on time each day and arrange routine appointments, such as dental check-ups and non-urgent medical appointments, outside of school hours. Every day in school really does count.

Reporting an Absence

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please let us know by 8:35am each day they are absent. When reporting an illness, please provide a brief explanation of the reason for the absence. Even if your child is absent for several days, we ask that you contact the school each morning unless alternative arrangements have been agreed. Absences can be reported in one of the following ways:

- By emailing the school office
- By telephoning the school office
- By sending a message via **MCAS (My Child At School)**

Requesting Planned Leave

Any planned leave or absence during term time must be requested in advance using the school's Leave of Absence Request Form this can be found [here](#). This allows the school to consider the request and ensure that attendance records are accurate.

My Child at School

To help us keep all of our children safe and ensure we can contact families quickly when needed, please take a few moments to check that your details on MCAS (My Child At School) are up to date.

Please review and update:

- Contact telephone numbers
- Email addresses
- Home address
- Medical information
- Permissions and consents, including photography and local visits



Having accurate information on MCAS helps us communicate important updates, respond effectively in emergencies, and ensure we have the correct permissions recorded for your child.

If any of your details have changed recently, please update them via MCAS as soon as possible. If you need any assistance accessing your account, please contact the school office.

Thank you for your support in helping us keep our records accurate and up to date.

Game On Holiday Camp

Game On is operating a Holiday Camp over October half term. The booking form was sent out on MCAS on Wednesday 16th September and is also attached with this newsletter. To book your dates, please liaise with Mr Sheehan directly brandon@gameoncoaching.co.uk. The dates are: **Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October 2026.**



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Earrings

We are seeing an increasing in children wearing hooped or large stud earrings. Earrings should be small studs only and be simple for school.

Earrings **MUST** be taken out for PE or taped using medical tape. Staff are not allowed to remove earrings or tape earrings and parents must provide the medical tape for the child to tape them, themselves. Any earrings taken out are the responsibility of the child. This is why we advise against earrings in the younger years of Primary school (however, this is parental choice) and they are not able to do this themselves. In the event of no tape being provided or earrings not being able to be taken out, we would need to call parents to come and do this.

PE is a statutory lesson and part of the National Curriculum and pupils must take part unless we have medical advice/evidence that they shouldn't.

Parents' Evening

Parents' Evening will take place on Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th October.

Appointments are 10 minutes long, giving you the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher to discuss their progress and development.

Appointments can be booked via MCAS. Simply navigate to the Parents' Evening section, select your preferred date, and choose from the available time slots.

Booking will open on Sunday 20th September at 6pm

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

21st Sept – 25th Sept – Y6 Residential

22nd Sept – Friends of RFPS Meeting – Brownsover Hall - 7.30pm (see below)

25th Sept – Macmillan Coffee morning in the school hall hosted by Friends of RFPS – 9am – 10am

29th Sept – Rec Early Reading and Phonics meeting for parents – 5pm

2nd Oct – Family Beetle Drive

7th Oct – Parent talk: Raising Kids in the Smartphone Era – 5pm

12th & 13th Oct - Parents evenings (more information to follow)

16th Oct – Flu Vaccinations (information will be sent out at a later date)

19th Oct – Y1 St Johns Museum trip

20th Oct – Y2 Twycross Zoo trip

21st Oct – Y4 Coombe Abbey trip

21st Oct – Year 2 production to parents – 9.15am

21st Oct – KS2 Spooky Disco 5.45 to 7pm

22nd Oct – Individual and Sibling School photos

23rd Oct - Inset Day

26th – 30th Oct – Half Term

19th Nov – Y5 London trip

20th Nov – Inset Day

28th Nov – Christmas Fayre

21st Dec – 1st Jan – Christmas Holiday

4th Jan – Inset day

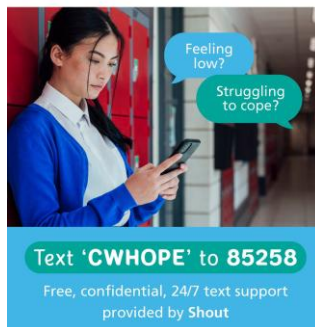
6th Jan – Young Voices

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

shout
85258

NHS
Coventry and
Warwickshire Partnership
NHS Trust



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 Collidge Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead		Mrs Pollitt Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
	Miss Butters 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.

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**.



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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The Wind in the Willows
Wednesday 28 October, 14:00



Find out more & book now at
www.macreadytheatre.co.uk



RUGBY
Art Gallery
& Museum

Half-term Holiday Fun

Create Learn Enjoy Discover
in our half-term family workshops, including:

- Relaxed Hour
- Spooky Printmaking for ages 6+
- Little Monsters Play for ages 2-5 years
- FREE Drop-in Craft (Floor One Gallery)
- Meet Waffle the Wonder Dog
- ...and take part in our FREE Building Hunt!

Find out more at www.ragm.co.uk/holidayfun

KS2 SPOOKY DISCO
21ST OCTOBER 2026
5:45-7PM

TUCK SHOP
SWEETS
CRISPS
FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS
GLOW STICKS
TATTOOS
unlimited free squash & water

TICKETS £3.00*
*£5.00 after the deadline

Deadline for tickets from the ticket site is 18th October. After this tickets will only be available from the school office until 3:30 on the day of the disco at an increased charge - cash only. You will be given a printed ticket.

DRESSING UP IS OPTIONAL. CASH ONLY. THERE WILL BE A QUIET ROOM SHOULD CHILDREN WISH TO BE AWAY FROM THE LOUD MUSIC

ENTER VIA THE MAIN PLAYGROUND TO BE SIGNED IN AND OUT AS PER THE SCHOOL DAY USING A PURCHASED TICKET REGISTER



Friends of RFPS invite you to their

Macmillan Coffee morning

Friday 25th September 2026
9-10am

Please enter via the
hall entrance

Bring family, friends
and neighbours

All donations for
drinks/cakes will go to this
amazing charity.



Free from, decaf and toys
for young children will be
available.

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Mental Health Support Team
in Schools

Tips For Wellness Nutrition



Dimensions tool



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

Nutrition refers to the nutrients in food and how our body uses them to stay strong and healthy. There are lots of positive benefits for our **physical health**, nutrition is also really important for our **mental health**!

Our brain works hard taking care of our thoughts, movements, breathing, heartbeat and senses (even when we are sleeping!), so we must fuel our brain with nutritious foods to help us function. This can help us to think clearly, increase our energy levels and support concentration. What we eat also affects our mood too!

Our tips:

- 1. Get involved in the cooking**– Can you help your parent/carer to prepare dinner? This can be a fun way to spend time with others and learn a new skill.
- 2. Make it fun**- There are lots of different ways different foods can be prepared. You could try experimenting putting different food together to see what you like and don't like.
- 3. Try something new**- When was the last time you tried a new food? It can be exciting to find out what food we like and don't like. Also, our tastes can change as we grow and develop. See if you can set yourself a challenge to try a new food this week.
- 4. Keep Hydrated**- Dehydration could lead to headaches, difficulty focusing and may impact sleep. Try to ensure you are regularly drinking water, it can be useful to bring a bottle of water to school every day to remind you to stay hydrated!

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.

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