



# Lower Farm Weekly



Friday 21st March 2025

## Congratulations!

A huge congratulations to our winning artists in the Nuneaton Festival of Arts and Crafts, digital art category. Four of our Year 4 pupils have won 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup> and joint 3<sup>rd</sup> places. We are over-the-moon for these budding artists and even more so that Alexandr, who won first place, has also been awarded the coveted 'Harry Branston Award' for his artwork. The winners are as follows:

- Alexandr - 1<sup>st</sup> place**
- Aminah - 2<sup>nd</sup> place**
- Siya - Joint 3<sup>rd</sup> place**
- Maddie - Joint 3<sup>rd</sup> place**

If you would like to see their work, or any other entries, please pop down to see it exhibited at the Nuneaton Museum & Art Gallery where it will be shown until Saturday 26th April.

Our craft entries will be submitted to the festival in April. We will keep you notified of any further winning entries when the craft section has been judged.

## Y2 Mothers Day Event Friday 28th March

14:30



We would like to invite one special lady from each child's family in Year 2 to join us for refreshments and celebrate Mothers Day on **Friday 28th**

**March** at 14:30  
(doors open at 14:25)

## Value Awards



<b>Beech</b> - Freya	All School Values
<b>Birch</b> - Keira	Integrity & Respect
<b>Cherry</b> - Amiya	Achievement & Resilience
<b>Chestnut</b> - Muzammil	All School Values
<b>Elder</b> - Cruz	Resilience & Achievement
<b>Elm</b> - Isla-Mai	Care, Integrity & Achievement
<b>Hazel</b> - Timmy	Achievement
<b>Holly</b> - Daisy	Care, Respect & Resilience
<b>Oak</b> - Oliver	Resilience, Respect &
Achievement	
<b>Olive</b> - Jacob	Resilience
<b>Pine</b> - Millie	Resilience & Integrity

## Attendance

For week beginning  
17th March 2025



<b>Beech Class</b>	<b>96.2%</b>
<b>Birch Class</b>	<b>97.2%</b>
<b>Cherry Class:</b>	<b>94.5%</b>
<b>Chestnut Class:</b>	<b>95.2%</b>
<b>Elder Class:</b>	<b>94.7%</b>
<b>Elm Class:</b>	<b>98.6%</b>
<b>Hazel Class</b>	<b>96.5%</b>
<b>Holly</b>	<b>97.2%</b>
<b>Oak</b>	<b>97.2%</b>
<b>Olive</b>	<b>95.4%</b>
<b>Pine</b>	<b>96.7%</b>

**Congratulations** to those classes that have reached an attendance of **97% or above**. It would be great to see every class reach 97% next week.



## Litter Picking at Lower Farm!

We would like to say a huge thank you to two of our Year 5 boys who decided between themselves to make our playground and field look tidier. They have been litter picking during their lunchtime break and just look at all the rubbish they have collected! They have both done an awesome job, and we are so very proud of them.

**Well done boys!**





# Encouraging Healthy Habits - Eat Well and Move More campaign

Warwickshire County Council is supporting families to make healthier choices through the Eat Well Move More campaign, helping children build lifelong healthy habits. Schools play a key role in reinforcing these messages, and we're asking for your support in sharing this important information with families.

## **Eat Well**

Healthy eating starts with simple swaps. Replacing fizzy drinks, juice drinks, and flavoured milks with water, lower-fat milk, or drinks with no-added-sugar is a great way to cut down on sugar. Energy drinks are not recommended for children under 16 as they are high in caffeine and can lead to physical and mental health issues.

Involving children in meal planning can also encourage healthier eating. Let them choose recipes, pick vegetables and fruits at the supermarket, and get them helping with meal preparation. Children learn by watching their parents—so setting a good example can make a real impact.

Portion size matters too. Kids are smaller than adults, so start with a smaller portion. If they're still hungry, they'll ask for more. When eating out, look for child-friendly options that include fruit and vegetables, and try to avoid bigger portion sizes like 'go large' or 'supersize' deals.

Sugary snacks can add up quickly. Fruit and vegetables are a great snack choice, but if kids are having packaged snacks, aim for no more than two a day.

## **Move more:**

A healthy lifestyle also involves plenty of physical activity. Children should ideally be active for at least 60 minutes a day, with 30 minutes taking place outside of school. This can be broken into short 10-minute bursts—they could try scootering to school, skipping to the shops, or dancing to a song!

There are lots of ways to encourage children to be more active. Make exercise fun by turning activities into games like tag, hide-and-seek, or dancing. Walk or bike to school if possible or visit a local park for a family walk. Warwickshire also offers a range of after-school sports clubs where young people can stay fit while developing socially

**For more information and resources, visit:**

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/eatwellmovemore](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/eatwellmovemore)



Friends of Lower Farm Academy

FRIDAY 28TH  
MARCH

**NON-UNIFORM DAY**

PLEASE BRING  
CHOCOLATE  
DONATIONS



In exchange for pupils having a non-uniform day, please donate in-date & unopened chocolate to be used as prizes at the Easter Bingo event (taking place on Thursday 10th April)

**b i n g o**





Friends of Lower Farm Academy

# EASTER

**b** **i** **n** **g** **o**

**THURSDAY 10TH APRIL**  
**5-7PM**

**ENTRANCE: SIDE DOOR OF SCHOOL HALL**

**PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE FOR  
FREE ENTRY TICKET**

**£5 FOR 5 GAMES  
(OR £1 EACH)**

**PRIZES TO BE WON!**

**REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE  
(CASH PREFERRED)**



Scan to book your  
**FREE ticket!**



Families welcome, parent/carer supervision required

**[WWW.PTA-EVENTS.COM/FRIENDSOFLOWERFARMACADEMY](http://WWW.PTA-EVENTS.COM/FRIENDSOFLOWERFARMACADEMY)**

Each person must have a ticket. Entrance tickets **MUST** be shown on arrival

# Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 25th March: Year 2 trip to Coombe Abbey

Friday 28th March: Non-uniform day - Easter Egg donation for Easter Bingo

Friday 28th March: Year 2 Mothers' Day celebration 14:30 (doors open at 14:25)

Thursday 10th April: KS1 Music Concert - 14:30 due to limited space may we please ask one adult per child to attend

Thursday 10th April: Easter Bingo and Raffle Friday 11th April: School closes at 13:30 for Easter holidays (no wraparound care)

***Easter Holidays: Monday 14th April – Friday 25th April***

***Monday 28th April: Staff Inset Day - school closed***

Tuesday 29th April: School opens for summer term

Wednesday 30th April: Parents/Carer Pupil Progress Meetings 15:30 - 18:00

Thursday 1st May: Parents/Carer Pupil Progress Meetings 15:30 - 18:00

***Monday 5th May: Bank Holiday - school closed***

Friday 23rd May: Non-uniform day - bottle donation for Summer Fayre

***Half Term: Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May***

Friday 6th June: Non-uniform - gift donation for Summer Fayre

Friday 13th June: Year 3 Fathers' Day celebration - times TBC

Friday 20th June: Sports Day and Summer Fayre (details to follow)

Wednesday 2nd July: Transition Day

Thursday 10th July: Parent/Carer Share Event 14:30

Friday 18th July: School closes at 13:30 for summer holidays (no wrap-around care)





UK Health  
Security  
Agency

# Stop norovirus spreading

Norovirus, also known as the 'winter vomiting bug', is the most common stomach bug in the UK. It can spread easily through close contact, or by contaminated surfaces, food or water.

The main symptoms of norovirus include a sudden onset of nausea, followed by projectile vomiting and diarrhoea, usually 1 to 2 days after becoming infected. Other common symptoms include a high fever, a headache and aching arms and legs.

Good hand hygiene is important to stop norovirus spreading.

## To stop norovirus spreading, you should:

- wash your hands thoroughly using soap and warm water after using the toilet or contact with a sick individual and before preparing and eating food.
- stay off school or work until you have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least two days
- not rely on alcohol gels instead of washing your hands, as these do not kill the virus
- wash any contaminated clothing or bedding using detergent at 60°C using disposable gloves to handle any items
- use bleach-based cleaners to disinfect surfaces

**If you catch it, stay home for 48 hours after your symptoms clear**

**DO**



Wash clothes and bedding at 60°C



Wash hands with soap, clean surfaces with bleach-based disinfectants



**DON'T**



Go to work or school, visit care homes or hospitals



Prepare food for others



Most people will make a full recovery in 2-3 days without needing any medicine. It is important to keep hydrated – especially children and the elderly.

Try not to visit A&E or GP surgeries if you have symptoms of norovirus unless advised to do so by a healthcare professional, as this may spread the bug to others. Call ahead to a GP or ring NHS 111 if you are worried about your symptoms.

Further information is available at NHS 111 or NHS.uk (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/norovirus/>)



# mum2mum market

BABY AND CHILDREN'S

## NEARLY NEW SALE

**SATURDAY 5TH APRIL**

**10am - 12pm**

**LOWER FARM ACADEMY**

**SCHOOL HALL**



BUY top quality preloved baby and children's goods at our award winning pop-up markets. Entry £2 on the door - everyone is welcome!

Stall  
booking  
and info



Book your stall online, and keep 100% of the proceeds



www. **mum2mum market**.co.uk





# FRIENDS OF LOWER FARM ACADEMY

## Pre-Loved Uniform

✓ QUALITY CHECKED ✓ LOW PRICES

✓ FULLY STOCKED ✓ WASHED



✓ EASY ORDERING;



📱 ORDER ONLINE

🛒 SENT HOME



[HTTPS://FRIENDS-OF-LOWER-FARM-  
ACADEMY.SUMUPSTORE.COM/](https://friends-of-lower-farm-academy.sumupstore.com/)

All proceeds raised go to the school

**APPLICATION FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR A SCHOOL PUPIL IN TERM TIME IN  
EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES ONLY**

**Important Information for Parents/Carers**

Generally, the DfE does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be an exceptional circumstance.

- **Exceptional circumstances:** All schools can grant a leave of absence for other exceptional circumstances at their discretion:
  - It must be requested in advance by a parent who the pupil normally lives with.
  - Schools are then expected to consider each application individually taking into account the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind the request.
  - If a leave of absence is granted, it is for the school to determine the length of the time the pupil can be away from school.
- When making an application for Leave of Absence the resident parent is advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the Head teacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify of their decision.
- Requests for leave of absence should be made before any arrangements confirmed or money committed.
- It is advised if you have not received notification from the school regarding the leave of absence request, it is your responsibility to ascertain if the leave is authorised prior to the start of leave.
- Failure to make a request for a leave of absence in advance will result in the absence being recorded as unauthorised.
- Any additional days taken either side of a leave of absence period, which has not been applied for, may be considered as part of the leave of absence period and be unauthorised.
- Unauthorised Leave of Absences will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service upon the child's return to school for consideration of a Penalty Notice.

Please see over for important information relating to the changes in relation to Penalty Notices

I wish to apply for Leave of Absence from school to be granted to:

Name of Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Form Group: \_\_\_\_\_

First Date of Proposed Absence: \_\_\_\_\_ Last date of Proposed Absence: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected date of return to school: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Proposed Absence – please provide reasons to support the application including evidence (see *overleaf before completing*):

.....  
.....  
.....

Total Days Requested on this occasion.

(For siblings) I have also applied to \_\_\_\_\_ School/Academy for leave of absence for  
(Insert child/children's name)

Signature of resident Parent/Carer: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**For school use only: NAME OF CHILD: \_\_\_\_\_ Date received by school: \_\_\_\_\_**

1<sup>st</sup> date of absence requested by parents: ..... Last date of absence requested by parents:  
.....

Expected date of return to school (as advised by parents): .....

Absence: Authorised / Unauthorised / Split (please delete as appropriate)

The reasons for this decision are: .....

- **LOA record sheet to be completed by school and submitted where verbal requests made/ for other relevant information**

Head teacher/Attendance Lead: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: .....

- **Copy of this completed section should be sent back to parent with letter**



- Parents have a legal duty to ensure that their children of compulsory school age receive a suitable full-time education through regular attendance at a school or otherwise (ie home education) (Section 7 Education Act 1996). If a child who is of compulsory school age, who is registered at school and fails to attend regularly, it is the parent that will be guilty of an offence (Section 444 (1) Education Act 1996).
  - Section 576 Education Act 1996 defines 'parent' as:
    - Any natural parent, whether married or not;
    - Any parent who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility as defined in the Children Act (1989) for a child or young person;
    - Any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person.
  - The National threshold is 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks. If the local authority believes a penalty notice would be appropriate, they retain the discretion to issue one before the national threshold is met. This might apply for example, where parents are deliberately avoiding the national threshold by taking several term time holidays below threshold, or for repeated absence for birthdays or other family events. Please refer to Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for non-school attendance and penalty notices for further information.
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#### **Leave of Absence taken after 1 September 2024:**

The law relating to Penalty Notices has been amended and Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absences taken after 1 September 2024 will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.

- **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.
  - **Third Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice).** *A penalty notice will 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.*
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- Any Penalty Notices issued and/or prosecution will apply to each parent for each child who fails to attend school (e.g 2 absent children is 2 offences under section 444 Education Act 1996).
  - A Penalty Notice is an alternative to prosecution, however if the Penalty Notice expires and is not paid Warwickshire County Council will consider instigating a criminal prosecution under the Education Act 1996.
  - Payment plans will not be offered and/or payments received outside of the 28 day period will not be accepted.
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- Where criminal proceedings are issued and a parent is found guilty, the court could issue a sentence of a fine of up to £1,000 for a Section 444(1) conviction; or £2,500, a community sentence period or a custodial period of up to 3 months for a Section 444(1A) conviction.

## **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 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.**