



HOULTON  
SCHOOL

## Weekly Bulletin

Week ending Friday 11 February 2022

### Half Term

School will finish at the usual time of 3:10pm next **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022**.

Pupils return to school on **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February** following the half term break.

### PE reminders for next week

#### Upcoming fixtures:

- **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February: Boys Handball** – Houlton vs Avon Valley (at Houlton – pick up time 4:45pm). Team sheet has been posted on the PE notice board and information will be sent out via Edulink
- **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February: Handball** – boys and girls (details to be confirmed via Edulink)

A massive well done to our Netball team on Tuesday who beat Guilsborough Academy 10-3 in only their third game together. They have now won two games consecutively and are improving game on game. It is great to see the effort and enthusiasm the girls bring to every game. Megan from Armstrong has been awarded 'player of the match' for the last two games.

### Morse College Charity Tombola

**Reminder:** Morse are running a charity tombola for the British Heart Foundation.

This will take place at lunchtime on Valentine's Day in the auditorium.

Tickets are 50p each.



### Change of Contact Details

Should you move house or need to change any of the personal details we hold for your family in school, can you please email your new details to [Hello@houltonschool.org.uk](mailto:Hello@houltonschool.org.uk) to ensure that your contact details are kept as up to date as possible.

## Leave of Absence During Term Time: Updated Information for Parents

The Supreme Court recently reached a decision in the case of *Platt v Isle of Wight Council* which has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time. The parents/carers of children of compulsory school age are required to ensure that they attend school on a regular basis. 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/carers 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 Principal retains the ability to authorise leave in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. When considering such requests for a leave of absence, the school are obliged to act within the law. Principals may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application. If the leave is granted, Principals are able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for.

It is for the Principal to decide what is 'exceptional' and it is at their discretion if the circumstances warrant the leave to be granted. The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent/carer.

*Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case-by-case basis and on its own merits.*

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child will be required 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, which may result in legal action being taken against the parent(s)/carer(s), by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Failure to make an application for leave in advance can also result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s)/carer(s).

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council.

**It is important to note**, Fixed Penalty Notices are issued to each parent/carer of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents/carers, means each parent/carer 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 Fixed 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.

Fixed Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices.

**Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority**

**Warwickshire School pupils recorded 31,196 half day sessions of absence due to holiday in the Autumn term 2019.**

**Friends Of Houlton School**

# CAKE SALE



**18th February**

**Parents, Teachers and Bakers, we need your help!**

FOHS will be having a cake sale during lunchtime, which can be purchased by the children for a small fee of £1 or less, depending on the cake size. Raffle tickets can also be purchased for a showstopper cake, 20p a ticket or £1 a strip.

**Please support your school by providing cake contributions on the morning of the 18th.**

Monetary contributions to go towards future events

For offers of support or any questions, please contact [hellofohs@gmail.com](mailto:hellofohs@gmail.com)

**Parentkind**  
Member Association