



# News from Great Alne Primary School

**Responsible, Respectful, Ready**

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

We've had another busy and exciting week here at Great Alne Primary!

On Thursday last week, our pupils involved in the **Spark Music Project**, spent the day in a professional recording studio, (Woodbine Studios), to record their own composition, under the band name '**Now Or Never**'. They did really well, especially considering some of the group had never even played musical instruments before the project, and they behaved politely in the studio. They were a credit to Great Alne Primary!

Last Friday, we held a wonderful **History Dress-Up Day**, and it was fantastic to see the children arrive dressed as historical figures. They thoroughly enjoyed playing old-fashioned games on the playground, learning about our local history, and immersing themselves in the past. The day was topped off with a visit from an ice cream van—delicious and well deserved! This special day also marked the official unveiling of our new **school mural**, which beautifully depicts the history of our lovely village, Great Alne.

On Tuesday morning, we had a special music assembly, so that '**Now Or Never**', (**Spark Music Project**), could play for their parents and the rest of the school.

In addition to our local history celebrations, the children in **Key Stage 2** had the enriching experience of visiting a **Sikh Gurdwara in Leamington**, where they learned about Sikh beliefs, practices, and culture—an inspiring and respectful trip for all involved.

This week also saw a **learning walk** take place across the school, with a focus on the learning environment, teaching and learning, and behaviour. It was heartening to see so many children and adults working so hard, supporting one another, and contributing to what makes our school such a happy, welcoming place to be.

Looking ahead, the next few weeks are **action-packed** with exciting events and activities. Please continue to check the **weekly newsletter** for important dates and information. We always strive to give you as much notice as possible, but if you have any questions or need clarification, do not hesitate to **contact the school office**.

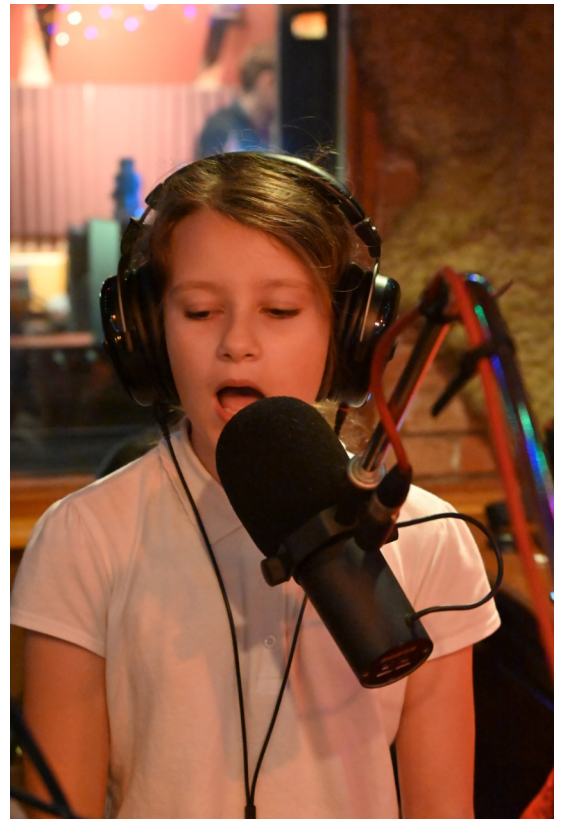
Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Warm regards,  
*L. Williams*  
Headteacher





**Spark Music  
Project:  
'Now Or Never'  
19 June 2025**



**Great Alne Primary  
School @ Woodbine  
Studios, Leamington Spa**





# Great Alne History Day









Now

Now



'Now Or Never' perform for the  
School and Parents as part of the  
Spark Music Project  
- 24th June 2025



Now



## **Dates for your Diary Summer 2025**

**Friday 27th June School Disco**

**Friday 4th July—Whole school trip to All Things Wild Zoo and Dinosaur Park**

A packed lunch will be needed.

Children will leave school at 9am and return by 3.20pm

**Monday 7th July— Sport's Afternoon 1pm**

This event will be run by FITT4Kids at school from 1pm– end of the school day.

**Wednesday 9th– Friday 11th July**

**PGL Residential Trip for Owls Class**

**Monday 14th July– Whole school trip to Forest School Heart of England Site**

Please drop of your child from 8.40 am and collect at 2.45pm. Children will need a packed lunch.

**Wednesday 16th July—Year 6 Leavers Cricket games and pizza afternoon.**

2pm onwards. Parents of Year 6 Leavers are warmly invited to attend.

**Thursday 17th July– Year 6 Leaver's Assembly**

9am Parents of Year 6 children are warmly invited to attend.

# SUPPORT GREAT ALNE PRIMARY at **TESCO**

Simply pop the Blue tokens in our collection slot  
at all Alcester & Stratford branches!



BETWEEN JULY & SEPTEMBER 2025. ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE  
CHILDREN OF GREAT ALNE PRIMARY SCHOOL.  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



## **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 Wight 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.**



# Attendance

## Our Mission

At Great Alne Primary School, we believe good attendance is vital for a child to achieve their full potential.

We aim to promote good attendance by providing a safe and motivating environment for all children.

As a team, we will together break down any barriers a child or family may have to accessing their education.

Our school attendance target is set at 96%

Every child matters, every day matters.

### Home/School agreement

Parents/Carers and school both have a legal duty for attendance.

It is a legal requirement for each and every child to access regular education

If you need support with your child's attendance, please reach out to either your child's class teacher, or the headteacher.

## FAQ's

### What is PA?

PA stands for 'Persistently absent.' This is when your child's attendance falls below 90%

### What is risk of PA?

Risk of PA is when your child's attendance is at risk of dropping below 90% - we aim to offer early intervention support at this stage.

### What is an EPN?

EPN stands for Education Penalty Notices. EPN's are issued for unauthorised absences, this includes term time holidays.

### I'll just go on holiday and pay the fine?

EPN's have now been capped nationally at TWO fines within any 3 year period. After this, other action like a parenting order or prosecution has to be considered - this could mean a fine of up to £2500

### What is an unauthorised absence?

A child being kept off school unnecessarily or without good reason. Term time holidays is not a justified reason to take your child out of school.

### What happens if I keep my child off, and don't contact school?

School will call home to try and obtain a reason for absence - if no reason is provided, school may carry out a visit to your home - this is to check on the welfare of you and your child.

Attendance is a safeguarding matter.

## School Attendance Parent Leaflet



Responsible, Respectful, Ready

Head of School:

Miss L Williams

SENDCo: Mrs B Hancock

Office Manager: Mr M Gavin

Telephone: 01789448247

Email: [admin2024@welearn365.com](mailto:admin2024@welearn365.com)

Website: <https://www.greatalneprimary.org/>

## Every day counts

100% attendance	0 days missed	No learning missed!
97% attendance	5 days missed	A weeks learning missed
94% attendance	12 days missed	2 weeks and 2 days learning missed
90% attendance	19 days missed	3 weeks and 4 days learning missed
85% attendance	30 days missed	6 weeks of learning missed
80% attendance	40 days missed	8 weeks of learning missed

## Every minute counts

Always on time!	No hours missed!	No learning lost!
5 minutes late each day	15 hours missed	3 days learning missed
10 minutes late every day	32 hours missed	6.5 days learning missed
20 minutes late each day	65 hours missed	13 days learning missed
30 minutes late each day	95 hours missed	19 days learning missed

90% attendance, or only 5 minutes late, may sound like a small issue, but the amount of learning missed is huge!

Make each day count!

## Attendance Procedures

### Absence

If your child is going to be absent from school, you must contact the school office before 9:00am to provide a reason for absence.

### Medical evidence

If your child is absent from school and is at risk of becoming persistently absent (at risk of falling below 90%) you may be required to provide medical evidence for your child's absences.

This way, we can make sure absences are authorised.

### Punctuality

If your child arrives to school after registration closes, your child will receive an unauthorised late mark - this impacts your child's attendance.

### PA/ risk of PA

We want to avoid children becoming persistently absent (below 90%)

Interventions will be put in place when your child's attendance becomes at risk of becoming PA. This may include supportive parent meetings.

### Fines/ holidays

Holidays are in no circumstance unauthorised by school. Unauthorised absence due to holidays will result in a fine being issued from Warwickshire County Council.

## Celebrating Attendance

Celebrating children's attendance achievements is key to keeping our children motivated and engaged.

We celebrate attendance in so many ways such as...

Weekly Attendance Assembly

Weekly class attendance award

Individual half term certificates for 100% attendance and Improving attendance



## Why does school attendance matter?

Missing a few days of school here and there may not seem a big deal, but research shows that it can have a significant impact on children's learning. A child who misses school just 2 days per month will lose out on 18 days' education across the school year – that's nearly four weeks.

Children who miss a substantial amount of school fall behind their peers, and struggle to catch up. Most of the work they miss is never made up, which can lead to big gaps in their learning. Poor attendance often starts at primary school, and children who fall into this pattern are likely to underachieve at secondary school. Friendships can be affected by persistent absence, too: it can be hard for a child who misses lots of school to form relationships with their classmates.

We will be reviewing our Attendance and Punctuality Policy this term and will continue to keep you up-dated about your child's attendance and punctuality.

**Our target for all children is to achieve 96% attendance.**

# Attendance Matters

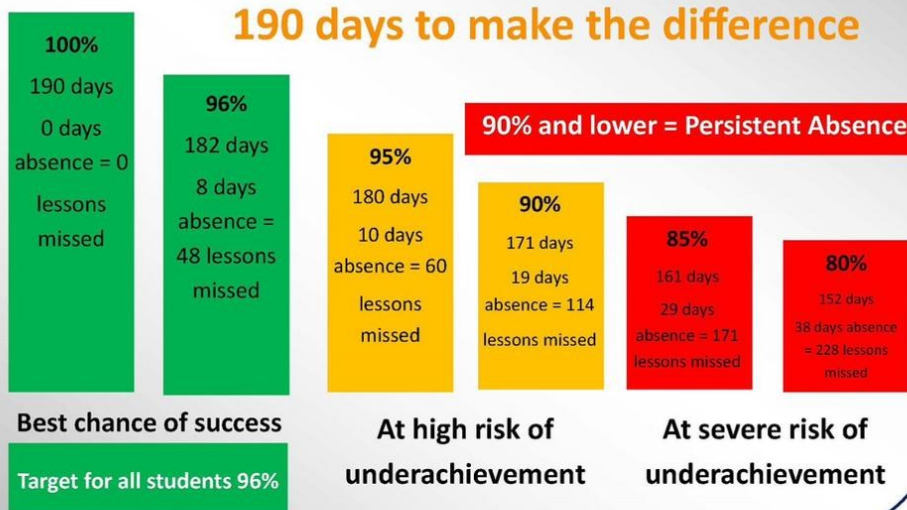
**Good attendance means .....**

**Being in school at least 96% of the time or 180 to 190 days**

**365 days in a calendar year**

**175 days not in school for holidays, appointments, exercise**

**190 days to make the difference**



**Attend school regularly, attend school punctually, attend school prepared!**





# Parent Governors wanted!

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL PRIMARY  
SCHOOL?**

**DO YOU HAVE SPARE TIME AND AN INTEREST IN  
VOLUNTEERING?**

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR A VARIETY OF SKILLS – NOT JUST IN  
EDUCATION**

**WE ARE A SMALL FRIENDLY TEAM**

**LOTS OF SUPPORT AND TRAINING AVAILABLE**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP PLEASE CONTACT US TO FIND OUT  
MORE...**

**Contact the office for further information:**

**[admin2024@welearn365.com](mailto:admin2024@welearn365.com)**

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**TOP BOX STUDIOS**  
Stratford upon-Avon Vocalise Theatre Company  
PRESENTS

**Annie JR.**





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**JULY 2025**



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