

# Coten End Newsletter

Issue No 7

Friday 19th December 2025

## Message from Mr Williams



Dear Parents and Carers,

We say it every year, but the Autumn Term is a marathon and I am sure I can speak for children, staff and parents when I say that we are all exhausted. We are also extremely proud. Proud of our children, our staff and our community. The progress made has been phenomenal and everyone that is part of the Coten End family deserves a great deal of joy, happiness (and definitely rest) over the next two weeks. Thank you so much for your support, your participation in the many, many Christmas related events, the Come and Learns, the OPAL events, the FRIENDS events and the day-to-day support that is required for our school to be successful.

I would encourage you to have a look at the article later in the newsletter about Year 5's visit to Harry Potter World. This is the first time that Year 5 have visited as part of their 'Magical Muggles' topic. It was so lovely to see how excited the children were about the trip and it really brought their Learning Theme to life. I have seen some of their narrative writing since and they have clearly been well and truly inspired. This is now a visit that your child will experience in Year 5 as long as it remains available to schools, and I have no doubt that it will become a real highlight of every child's time at Coten End.

As with any end of term, we have some farewells to say and also some warm Coten End welcomes. Firstly, Gill Urmston is leaving us this Christmas. Gill has been a part of Coten End since September 1996. Yes, you heard that right. I was 5 years old! Gill has worked as a Teaching Assistant for all this time, as well as taking on numerous other roles including Senior Midday Supervisor and Cover Supervisor. This is a staggering length of time and she has touched the lives of countless children, and in all likelihood the children of some of those children! We will be sure to celebrate Mrs Urmston's time at Coten End appropriately after Christmas and the children will be involved in this.

We have welcomed Miss Julie Peach to our Year 1 TA team and will be welcoming three new Midday Supervisors to join our OPAL team in January: Mrs Shanti Perakash, Mrs Deena Rawat and Mrs Carine Cruz Marques – Carine and Shanti will be familiar faces as they are parents of children in school.

All that remains to be said is a very, very Happy Christmas. We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 6th January ready to meet 2026 with the same level of determination, kindness, responsibility, courage, collaboration and curiosity that we have thrown at the last 15 weeks.

Best wishes,

**Nick Williams**  
Head of School



**BE SAFE BE RESPECTFUL**

# Message from the Chair of Governors

In between the excitement of Christmas preparations and the many moments that make this time of year so special, I have been taking stock of what has been an incredible term at Coten End. It has been a term full of energy, challenge and progress, and one that has offered many opportunities to see the school at its very best.



Spending time in school is important in my role, not just to celebrate what is going well, but to understand the experiences of our children and staff, so that the decisions we make as governors are thoughtful and well informed. This term that has included joining Key Stage 2 on their trip to the Albany to see Beauty and the Beast, where excitement filled the theatre and the violin playing goblin may well have stolen the show. I also had the pleasure of watching the Reception nativity, which was a joyful reminder of the confidence and care that underpin life at Coten End. Finding myself dangling from a cliff face on the Year 6 residential was not something I had anticipated, but it offered a powerful glimpse of the resilience and teamwork our children show when faced with challenge.

From a governance perspective, this term has been both busy and positive. Governors have continued regular monitoring visits and worked closely with the Senior Leadership Team to ensure that all children are included, supported and able to flourish. We remain focused on providing appropriate challenge and support, always with the aim of securing the best possible outcomes for every child.

We are encouraged by the continued impact of OPAL, which is enriching playtimes and supporting wellbeing and creativity across the school. Alongside this, we have reflected on the strong achievements of the past year, which speak to the determination of children, the expertise of staff and a shared commitment to improvement.

This term we also say thank you and very fond farewell to Chiedza Mupfumira, who is stepping down as a governor. Chiedza joined our governing board in September 2023, has been an outstanding support and a true critical friend to the school. She has brought balance, thoughtful challenge and a clear focus on ensuring behaviour is well monitored and supported, always rooted in what is best for the children. She will be greatly missed.

I would like to close by thanking our wonderful teachers and support staff whose efforts, both in and beyond the classroom, ensure that every child receives the support and guidance they need to thrive. Thank you, also to our Senior Leadership Team for their continued leadership and commitment. Mr Williams, as Head of School, alongside Mr Grana and Mrs Pope, lead with clarity and care. We are also grateful for Mrs Sheepy's ongoing guidance and support as Executive Head, which brings both stability and ambition to the school.

I wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a genuinely good rest. I suspect we will all need it!

With best wishes, Hannah

**Hannah Webber**

## Achievement Assemblies

Due to revised and enhanced safeguarding procedures in school, all Celebration assemblies (to which parents and carers are invited) will now take place in Lower School Hall. To help accommodate these changes, assemblies for some year groups may have changed day and time. Thank you for your understanding.

Day	Time	Year group
Monday	9.05am	6
Tuesday	9.05am	5
Wednesday	9.05am	Reception
	2.45pm	3
Thursday	9.05am	2
	2.40pm	1
Friday	9.05am	4

# Reminders from the office for the New Year

## **SCHOOL APP — My Child at School**

Please ensure that you have activated your My Child at School (MCAS) app and have 'push notifications' enabled. When messages and announcements are sent via the App you will then receive a notification to check your messages; parents who do not have the App activated will receive messages by email, however these sometimes take a while to get through whereas App messages are instant.

## **ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL**

Absences must be reported to the office by **9.30am**. We would prefer the MCAS App to be used to report absence or you can contact the school office by phone or email, [cot-admin@stowevalley.com](mailto:cot-admin@stowevalley.com). Please contact the office each day that your child is absent to give an update on illness.

## **MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS / ILLNESS**

Where possible, please arrange **medical or dental appointments outside of school hours**. If this isn't possible, we ask that children attend school before and/or after their appointment to minimise lost learning time.

The NHS provides clear [guidance](#) on when children are well enough to attend school. Most mild illnesses — such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough — do **not** require time off school, unless a child has a temperature.

Please remember that there are clear NHS guidelines regarding vomiting and/or diarrhoea—children must remain off school for 48 hours **since the last incidence of any vomiting or diarrhoea even if this is a one-off occurrence**.

(If your child is off sick and you have pre-ordered a school lunch, please inform the office so that they can cancel the order.)

## **LUNCH ORDERING**

The school dinner menus can be viewed on the school website via the link below:

[Coten End Primary School - School Dinner Menu](#)

It is very useful for the office and kitchen if dinners could be pre-ordered on ParentPay. Dinners can be ordered or amended on ParentPay up to 8.00am each day. If you are unsure of how to access your ParentPay account please contact the office.

## **CHANGES TO COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS**

We respectfully request that parents endeavour to inform the office of any changes to arrangements by midday as we cannot guarantee that messages will be delivered in the afternoon due to the busy-ness of the school office.

# Parents' Evenings—Spring 2026

This is advance notice of the dates for Parents' Evening meetings next term. The dates are:

Tuesday 3rd March and Thursday 5th March 2026.



# LATEST NEWS

## Harry Potter World



**Year 5 had an “enchanting” day out at the Warner Bros Studio Tour as part of their Magical Muggle learning theme this term.** The children took part in a Creative Creatures workshop, linking perfectly with their English unit on character description and narrative writing. They explored how imaginative details can

bring fantastical beings to life. They will now bring these skills back to their own stories in class.

The magic continued as pupils ventured through the iconic sets of the Harry Potter films. From stepping into Dumbledore’s office and wandering through the eerie Forbidden Forest, to arriving at Platform 9¾ and examining real film props and costumes, the children were completely immersed in the wizarding world. A particular highlight was the green-screen Quidditch experience, followed by the breathtaking sight of the 1/24th scale model of Hogwarts Castle.

This unforgettable trip truly brought the children’s learning to life. The young witches and wizards were thrilled to recognise features from their class text, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone*, and to see how the beloved story was transformed for the big screen.

A particularly special moment was when one of our children got to open the Great Hall Door in front of hundreds of visitors. A fantastic moment as the children went from thinking they were sat in a basic cinema room to walking through the very familiar doors into an incredibly magical Christmas Hogwarts.

A spellbinding day was had by all, and we would truly recommend this visit to any schools studying the Harry Potter books. It is an opportunity for all children to visit the Studios at a time where it is not expensive or where tickets are sold out. A lot of our children would never have visited before or in the future - a truly worthwhile experience



Learning for everyone, learning from everyone.



# A Thank You from FRIENDS



On behalf of FRIENDS, we would like to thank you all for your wonderful support this term — from generous donations to volunteering your time at our events. We truly couldn't do it without you.

This term has been a busy and exciting one, with our Pumpkin Pop-Up, fundraisin', cake sale, Christmas fairs, raffles, letters to Santa and Stories with Santa. Seeing the children's faces light up at the Christmas fairs and during Stories with Santa has been a joy for us all and makes all the hard work so worthwhile.

Our treasurers have been working hard behind the scenes, and in the new year we will be able to share the total funds raised from these events.

Thank you once again for your continued support. We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you next term.

Best wishes,  
Gemma and Brittany (Co-Chairs of FRIENDS of Coten End)

## Celebrating pupil success

### James Eagles (Year 3)

James was chosen to be a mascot at the Aston Villa Ladies match on 11th December against Liverpool.

James was very proud to have this once in a lifetime opportunity. He walked out with Aston Villa's number 15, defender Lucy Parker before the kick off in the Women's Super League Game, which the team won 3-0. James was able to walk around the pitch prior to the game, met the team and collected autographs. He said that his favourite part was walking out onto the pitch with the players and really enjoyed the whole experience.



### Joshua Jackson (Year 5)

Joshua took part in the Warwickshire Primary Schools Cross Country Championship race on Saturday. He raced in the year 5 boys category against about 100 other boys and finished 3rd—a fantastic achievement! Joshua trains very hard and his family are incredibly proud of him. There is another race in February and we hope Joshua gets another great result!



### Izzy Israel (Year 5)

Izzy's recent work with the Royal Shakespeare Company is a wonderful achievement worth celebrating. Over the past three months, she has performed as Mini Macduff in *Macbeth*. Working alongside a highly skilled cast and performing on The Other Place Stage has been extremely exciting.

A standout moment of her experience was the honour of meeting Dame Judi Dench and Sir Ian McKellen, whose encouragement made a lasting impact.

Izzy's time with the RSC showcases her dedication, creativity, and promise as a young performer, an exciting step forward in her theatrical journey



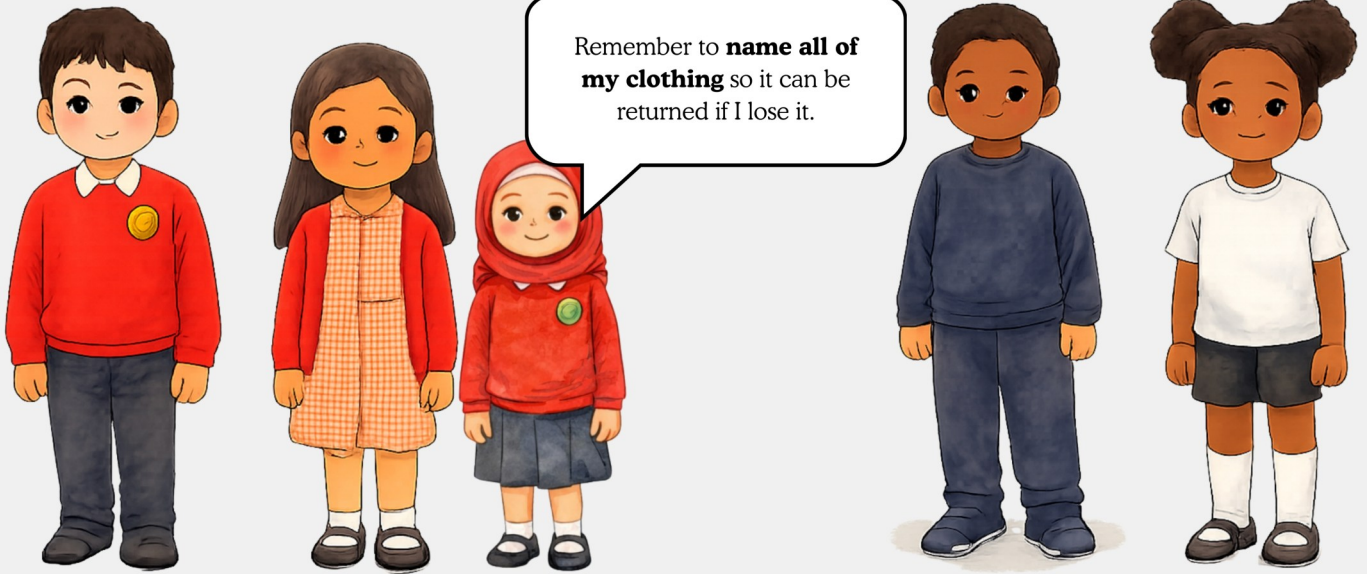
# School Uniform

## Resetting and upholding expectations

At Coten End, we believe in learning for everyone, learning from everyone. Wearing our school uniform shows that we are ready to learn, proud of who we are, and part of a caring community. Our uniform helps everyone feel included, safe and respected, so that learning can thrive.

### Flexibility

We aim to make our uniform as flexible as possible for parents, so generic uniform such as trousers, skirts, shirts and red jumpers and cardigans (without the school badge) can be purchased from a variety of outlets, particularly as they can become messy during the course of the children's learning!



### Day-to-Day

- Grey or black trousers,
- Pinafore dress or skirt
- Grey or black trousers or shorts
- Red or white polo shirt
- Red sweatshirt or jumper or cardigan
- Red and white summer dress
- Grey or white socks
- Grey, white or red tights
- Black shoes (trainers, Vans, Dr Marten-style boots, and sandals are not suitable)
- A suitable coat for all weathers (any colour) – a hoodie is not an acceptable alternative for a coat.

### Raising Standards

Children will be asked to remove accessories and make up immediately.

If children wear clothing that does not meet the uniform guidance, they will be provided with replacements for use in the day.

Staff will be asked to contact parents in this instance.

### Physical Education

For PE, children **must** have:

- Bag for PE kit.
- Red or white round necked t-shirt.
- Black PE shorts or skort (**must** be visible below line of a t-shirt).
- Black pumps/plimsolls for indoor PE.
- Black or blue navy jogging bottoms.
- Black or navy blue tracksuit top or sweatshirt (not a hoodie)
- Trainers for outdoor PE.

What are the benefits of a consistent uniform?



Order from our second hand store!



### Benefits #1

**It promotes equality and reduces social pressure.**

Uniform removes visible differences that can be linked to income. The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) research shows that reducing unnecessary social comparison can support self-esteem and engagement.

### Benefits #2

**It supports positive behaviour and school culture.**

Clear expectations for uniform contributes to a shared sense of belonging and pride which is recognised by the DfE to support positive behaviour and readiness to learn.

### Benefits #3

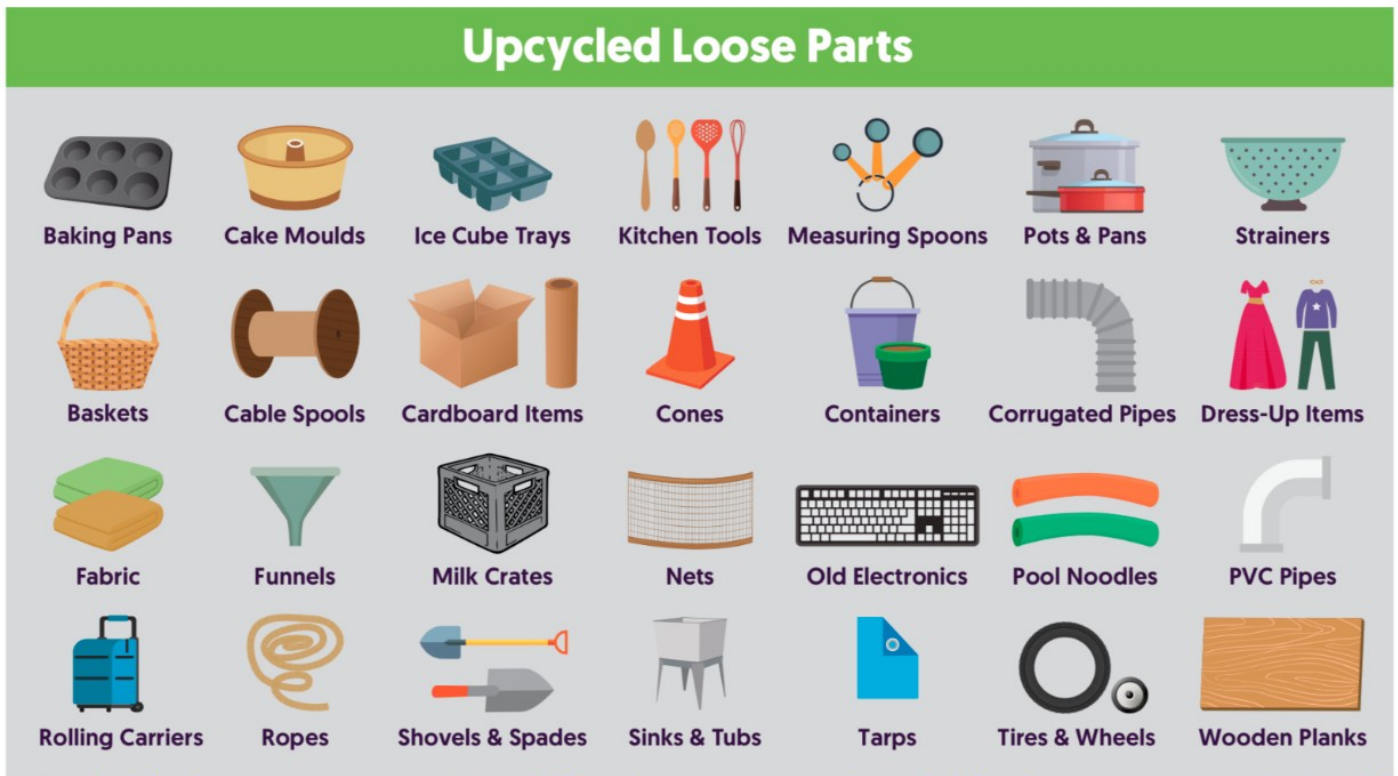
**It helps reflect the high standards and pride in our school community.**

We are proud of our school community and want our appearance to reflect the high standards, expectations and pride we have for ourselves.



## New Year Donation Drive!

Loose parts are really popular, particularly tyres, crates, pallets, ropes, tarp, planks and cable spools.



We also want your scooters and balance bikes (if in safe usable condition)



	Morning		Afternoon/Evening	After School Clubs
Monday 5th January	INSET day <i>School closed to children</i>			
Tuesday 6th January	Children return to school			Football (Y1) Netball (Y5 & 6) Hockey (Y3 & 4) Drama (Y3-6) Cookery (Y2-6) Advanced Sewing (Y3-6)
Wednesday 7th January				Judo (Y2—6) Arts & Crafts (Y1 & 2) Football (Y5 & 6) Spanish Sewing (Y3-6)
Thursday 8th January	Open Morning, 9.30am			Multi-Sports (Y2—4) 11+ Maths & English (Y5) Young Voices (Y3-6) Multi-Sports (Rec & Y1) Puzzle Club (Y3)
Friday 9th January			5MC Science workshop at Warwick School	Dance (Rec—2) Football (Y1 & 2) Chess (Y3-6) Girls' Football Squad
Monday 12th January				Football (Y3/4) Girls' Football (Y3/4) Spanish (Y1-6) Dance (Y3—6) Mandarin (Y1-6) Boys' Football Squad
Tuesday 13th January				Football (Y1) Netball (Y5 & 6) Hockey (Y3 & 4) Drama (Y3-6) Cookery (Y2-6) Advanced Sewing (Y3-6)
Wednesday 14th January				Judo (Y2—6) Arts & Crafts (Y1 & 2) Football (Y5 & 6) Spanish Sewing (Y3-6)
Thursday 15th January				Multi-Sports (Y2—4) 11+ Maths & English (Y5) Young Voices (Y3-6) Multi-Sports (Rec & Y1) Puzzle Club (Y3)
Friday 16th January			Young Voices concert	Dance (Rec—2) Football (Y1 & 2) Chess (Y3-6) Girls' Football Squad



There is always someone that can

**HELP**



**Parents and Carers** - During the Christmas holidays the Safeguarding team want to remind you that support is available

### **Warwickshire family information service**

Looking for some help and advice? Try visiting Warwickshire FIS website for lots of free advice and guidance available to all Warwickshire residents

**Website - [www.warwickshire.gov.uk](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk)**

### **Family support helpline and face to face consultations**

Family support workers are available across Warwickshire to listen, support and offer advice and guidance to families and professionals.

To speak to a family support worker over the telephone, call 01926 414144 option 1, then option 2, Monday to Friday between 9am - 4pm

**[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/children-families/service-changes-children-families/2](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/children-families/service-changes-children-families/2)**

### **Warwickshire Refuge**

If you are experiencing domestic abuse of any kind in Warwickshire, Refuge's regional Domestic Violence and Abuse Service can support you and your children to keep safe.

Call Refuge's Domestic Violence and Abuse Service Warwickshire Helpline on 0800 408 1552 (Monday-Friday 8:30am-8:30pm) to speak to one of our support workers.

**[www.refuge.org.uk](http://www.refuge.org.uk)**

### **Worried about your mental health?**

Wellbeing for Warwickshire is 'joined-up' support service for adult mental health that can meet a number of needs in a way, and a time and a place, that suits people best. For ease of use, the service has a single phone number **0800 616171** and a single website address

**[www.wellbeingforwarwickshire.org.uk](http://www.wellbeingforwarwickshire.org.uk)** and these are available for Warwickshire residents 24/7, 365 days a year.

### **Worried a child is at risk of significant harm?**

If you have concerns that a child is suffering ANY form of neglect, abuse or cruelty, contact Family Connect immediately on 01926 414144.

Lines are open from: Monday to Thursday: 8.30am - 5.30pm Friday: 8.30am - 5pm

#### **Out of hours**

If you have an emergency outside of usual office hours, please contact the emergency duty team immediately on 01926 886922.

#### **Emergency contact**

If you think that a child is at immediate risk, contact the police immediately on 999.



# Clothing Donation Drive

We are collecting **men's** clothing for a community of young men, thousands of miles away from home, alone and with no possessions whatsoever.

We desperately need clean, S/M/L donations of:

Coats

T-shirts

Joggers

Shoes

Jeans

Sweatshirts



**W.A.R.M**  
**WARWICK ACTION FOR  
REFUGEES AND  
MARGINALISED GROUPS**

Working in conjunction with:



☎ 07504 529 399

✉ warmwarwickshire@gmail.com

@WARM\_Warwickshire

# St Nicholas Church Nativity Workshop

Would you like to be in our Nativity Play on Christmas Eve? Come along to our workshop to rehearse the play. Open to all children and young people who enjoy performing!

**Monday 22nd  
Dec  
2-4pm  
St Nics Church**

**Come and  
join in!**



To book your place, email Ellie:  
[Ellie.stnicswarwick@gmail.com](mailto:Ellie.stnicswarwick@gmail.com)



# Messy Christmas!

**CHURCH - THE MESSY WAY!**

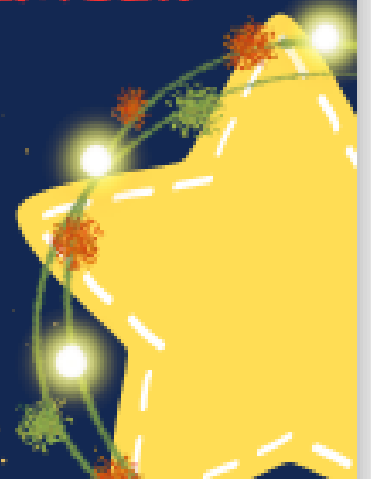
**NATIVITY STORY  
LOADS OF CRAFTS  
GIFT FOR EVERY CHILD  
SHARED LUNCH  
FREE OF CHARGE!**

**WHERE: WOODLOES PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**WHEN: SATURDAY 20TH DECEMBER**

**@ 10.30 - 12.30**

**MESSY CHURCH IS CHURCH AND IS  
PERFECT FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE  
CHILDREN WITH A PARENT OR CARER.  
OLDER/YOUNGER SIBLINGS  
WELCOME.**





# CAROLS AT WARWICK CASTLE

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL CHARITY FUNDRAISING EVENT!  
SING ALONG TO FESTIVE CAROLS WITH THE CHOIR OF ST MARY'S,  
ACCOMPANIED BY THE FANTASTIC ROYAL SPA BRASS

**SAT 20.12.2025**

GATES OPEN **6.30 - 9 PM**

EVENT LOCATION:

**WARWICK CASTLE**

WARWICK, WARWICKSHIRE, CV34 6AH

TICKET  
PRICES

**£10**

ADULT

**£5**

CHILD

FOR MORE EVENT INFO AND TICKETS VISIT: [WWW.CAROLSWARWICK.ORG.UK](http://WWW.CAROLSWARWICK.ORG.UK)

@CAROLSWARWICKCASTLE