

# Coten End Newsletter

Issue No 8

Friday 16 January 2026

## Message from Mr Williams

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is our first Newsletter of 2026 so a belated Happy New Year! I hope that the Christmas break provided rest, family time and moments of calm after what was, once again, a busy and rewarding Autumn Term. There is always something special about the start of the Spring Term: classrooms feel refreshed, routines quickly return and there is a renewed sense of purpose as we begin the next chapter of the school year together.

The children have returned to school with real positivity and enthusiasm. It has been lovely to see familiar friendships reconnect, new learning themes introduced and that unmistakable buzz of curiosity that makes Coten End such a joyful place to be. The Spring Term is often one of our most productive; it is a time when children grow in confidence, deepen their understanding and begin to see just how much they are capable of achieving. Our staff, as always, are committed to ensuring that every child feels supported, challenged and celebrated as they continue their learning.

Today is also a particularly exciting day for our school community, as approximately 150 of our children head off to Birmingham to perform as part of Young Voices. What an event this is. For some of these children, this will be their first experience of performing in such a large arena, alongside thousands of other pupils, professional musicians and singers. The scale of the event is truly breathtaking, but even more impressive is the sense of togetherness and pride that comes from being part of something so special. The children have worked incredibly hard to prepare, learning songs and showing real commitment and resilience along the way. We could not be prouder of them, and I am sure they will make some brilliant memories.

Events like Young Voices remind us of the importance of enrichment opportunities and the role they play in building confidence, teamwork and joy in learning. As the year progresses, there will be many more chances for children to experience trips, visitors, performances and special events that bring learning to life beyond the classroom. Thank you, as always, for your continued support in making these opportunities possible.

I look forward to another successful term working together and seeing all that our children will achieve over the coming weeks.

Best wishes,

Nick Williams



**BE SAFE BE RESPECTFUL**

# Are You Eligible for Free School Meals?

If your family may be eligible for **Free School Meals** (FSM), we strongly encourage you to apply.

Applying is quick, simple, and confidential—and it can make a real difference and your application could also provide the school with **additional funding** to support learning, enrichment activities, and classroom resources.

Even if your child is in **Reception, Year 1, or Year 2** and already receives universal infant free meals, completing an eligibility check could unlock extra support for them and for the school community.

If you're unsure whether you qualify, please take a moment to check. You might be eligible and not realise it.

Families who receive the following are eligible for free school meals:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year after tax and not including any benefits you get (this is the equivalent to your work-related take home pay being less than £616.67 per month at the time of application). The Department for Education have announced that from the start of the 2026 school year, every child whose household is on Universal Credit will be entitled to free school meals, regardless of any other earned income.

To find out more and to make an application please follow the link below:

[Warwickshire Free School Meals](#)

## **Providing free school meals to families with no recourse to public funds (NRPF)**

FSM eligibility has been permanently extended to children in households with no recourse to public funds (NRPF). If you are a family with NRPF, please fill out the application form below and email it to [freemeals@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:freemeals@warwickshire.gov.uk).

[NRPF form](#)

**Your application helps support your child and strengthens our school community. Thank you for taking the time to apply.**

# Attendance Update - Important Information for Parents and Carers

We would like to inform parents and carers that from the Summer Term, the school will begin making referrals to Warwickshire County Council for Attendance Penalty Notices, in line with Local Authority guidance.

Regular attendance is vital for children's learning, wellbeing and progress. From the Summer Term, referrals may be made where there is persistent unauthorised absence, including term-time holidays.

Our priority remains working positively with families to support good attendance. If your child is experiencing difficulties that are affecting their attendance, please speak to us as early as possible so we can offer the right support.

Nearer the time, we will provide further information and share our updated Attendance Policy, which will reflect these upcoming changes to our procedures.

## 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.

**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.**

# Modern Foreign Languages

## French books

Warwick University have very kindly gifted us 5 brand new French story books which are now in the school library with all of our other books in different languages.

## Language of the half-term - GERMAN

Madame Allison won lots of fantastic German prizes from the Goethe Institut at a recent conference that she attended. Perfectly timed given that our language of the half-term is now German.



## Year 6 - Primary Bee

Well done to the following children who have successfully made it through to stage 2 of the Primary Bee competition. They will be receiving certificates in their next achievement assembly. They now have a further 40 words to learn in French, German or Spanish. The stage 1 and 2 words are on Google Classroom along with links to a programme which helps with pronunciation.

German - Maggie, Seb, Frederic, Evie

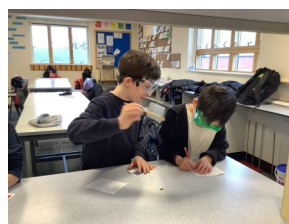
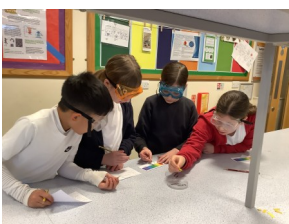
Spanish - Priyanjali, Elena, Malia, Anna, Skyla, Otilie, Ali, Laura, Rose, Theo R, Mason, Bethany

French - Fiona, Alfie, Angad, Erin, Gurbani, Jessica A, Joun, Elena, Lola, Daniel, Otilie, Genevieve, Aanya, Sam, Mason

# 5HA Visit Warwick School for Science Workshop

5HA enjoyed a thrilling visit to Warwick School for an exciting science workshop all about acids, alkalis and the pH scale. The children took part in a practical investigation where they tested a range of materials using litmus paper to identify whether they were acids or alkalis, before testing them again to find out where they sat on the pH scale — from strong acid to strong alkaline.

To finish the session, Mr Etheridge wowed the children with a dramatic demonstration of the famous 'whoosh bottle' experiment, showing what happens when gas and heat mix! As with previous visits, the children had a wonderful time and came away feeling inspired, curious, and even more enthusiastic about science.



# WAGS Gang Show

The annual WAGS Gang Show is taking place at the Spa Centre from Tuesday 24th—Saturday 28th February. The show, which features a mix of music, dance and comedy, is performed by members of local Warwickshire Scouts and Guides, from ages 6-24, and Scouts and will involve several children from Coten End.

Tickets for the shows can be purchased via the link below:

[Gang Show](#)

## Isaac's sporting success

Last term, Isaac (6WS) competed in the West Midlands Triathlon league Tristar 1 category, which is for under 11 boys. The series consisted of Aquathlons, Duathlons and Triathlons. After a very competitive series, Isaac managed to secure 2nd place overall and was awarded his trophy at the West Mids Tri Awards ceremony.

This is a fantastic result and the result of a lot of training and dedication—keep up the good work, Isaac, and keep us informed of more success!



## National League Football Tournament - Match Report

On Monday, both the boys' and girls' football teams took part in the first round of the National League Football Tournament, aiming to secure the chance to represent Leamington FC in the next stage. It was a brilliant afternoon filled with teamwork, determination and some fantastic football from both squads.

Both teams got off to strong starts. The boys won their opening match 2–0 against Milverton, with goals from Harry and Milo, while the girls battled to a solid 0–0 draw against Warwick Prep.

The boys then faced Brookhurst in their second group game. Despite Coten End creating plenty of chances, the Brookhurst goalkeeper had an excellent performance, keeping the game at 0–0. Meanwhile, the girls delivered a dominant display in their second match, beating Milverton 5–0 to send them straight through to the final.

The boys still had one group match remaining and produced an outstanding performance against Clapham Terrace, winning 5–1. Four fantastic goals came from Max, with Harry adding another, securing Coten End the top spot in the group and a place in the semi-final.

In the boys' semi-final, they faced Brookhurst once more. The match was tight and competitive, with two late goals putting Coten End 2–0 ahead. Brookhurst pulled one back in the final moments, making for a very tense finish, but the boys held firm to win 2–1 and progress to the final. This meant both the boys' and girls' teams had made it through to their respective finals — a brilliant achievement in itself.

In the girls' final against Warwick Prep, the match was closely contested. After going 1–0 down, the girls showed incredible resilience, fighting back with two excellent goals to win 2–1 and earn their place in the next round of the tournament. A superb comeback!

The boys' final saw Coten End take on Milverton once again. It was a hard-fought match with chances on both sides. With five minutes to go, Milverton managed to slip a goal past the defence. Coten End pushed hard for an equaliser, showing fantastic determination, but unfortunately time ran out, and the match ended 1–0 to Milverton.

A Huge Well Done!

Both teams represented the school superbly throughout the day. Their effort, team spirit, and perseverance, especially in tough moments, were outstanding.

A massive well done to everyone involved — you made Coten End proud!

Mr Rose



## Club spaces—Spring term

There are places available in the following clubs for this term:

- Monday
  - Football (Year 3 & 4) - contact Kits Academy
  - Dance (Y3-6) - contact Invisible Threads
  - Mandarin (Y3-6) - contact Ms Tso
- Tuesday
  - Hockey (Y3 & 4) - contact school office
  - Drama (Y3-6) - contact Laura Berridge
- Wednesday
  - Football (Y5 & 6) - contact school office
  - Arts and Crafts (Rec—Y3) - contact Kits Academy
- Thursday
  - Multi-sports (Y2-4) - contact Leamington Brakes
  - Multi-sports (Rec—Y1) - contact school office
  - Puzzle club (Y3) - contact Ms Tso
- Friday
  - Dance (Rec—Y2) - contact Invisible Threads

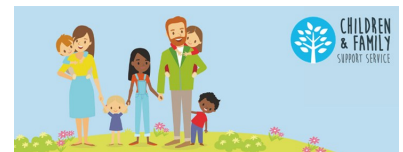
All contact information can be found on the Spring club summary, which is available on the website via the link below:

[Club providers](#)

## Family Information Service

The latest edition of the Family Information Service newsletter is available to read at:

[FIS Newsletter](#)



## Raring2Go! magazine

The winter edition of the Raring2Go magazine is available to read via the link below:

[Raring2Go magazine](#)

There is a lot of information about various local activities and visits and also what is available locally at half-term.

|                           | Morning                         |  | Afternoon/Evening                                     | After School Clubs   |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Monday 19th<br>January    |                                 |  |   | Football (Y3/4)<br>Girls' Football (Y3/4)<br>Spanish (Y1-6)<br>Dance (Y3—6)<br>Mandarin (Y1-6)<br>Boys' Football Squad |
| Tuesday 20th<br>January   |                                 |  |   | Football (Y1)<br>Netball (Y5 & 6)<br>Hockey (Y3 & 4)<br>Drama (Y3-6)<br>Cookery (Y2-6)<br>Advanced Sewing (Y3-6)       |
| Wednesday 21st<br>January | Y5/6 Holocaust<br>Assembly      |  |   | Judo (Y2—6)<br>Arts & Crafts (Y1 & 2)<br>Football (Y5 & 6)<br>Spanish<br>Sewing (Y3-6)                                 |
| Thursday 22nd<br>January  | Open Morning, 9.30am            |  |   | Multi-Sports (Y2—4)<br>11+ Maths & English (Y5)<br>Young Voices (Y3-6)<br>Multi-Sports (Rec & Y1)<br>Puzzle Club (Y3)  |
| Friday 23rd<br>January    |                                 |  | KS2 Disco<br>4.30-5.30pm—Y3 & 4<br>6.00—7.00pm—Y5 & 6 | Dance (Rec—2)<br>Football (Y1 & 2)<br>Chess (Y3-6)<br>Girls' Football Squad  |
|                           |                                 |  |   |  |
| Monday 26th<br>January    |                                 |  |   | Football (Y3/4)<br>Girls' Football (Y3/4)<br>Spanish (Y1-6)<br>Dance (Y3—6)<br>Mandarin (Y1-6)<br>Boys' Football Squad |
| Tuesday 27th<br>January   | 9.00am Year 4 Come<br>and Learn |  |   | Football (Y1)<br>Netball (Y5 & 6)<br>Hockey (Y3 & 4)<br>Drama (Y3-6)<br>Cookery (Y2-6)<br>Advanced Sewing (Y3-6)       |
| Wednesday 28th<br>January |                                 |  |   | Judo (Y2—6)<br>Arts & Crafts (Y1 & 2)<br>Football (Y5 & 6)<br>Spanish<br>Sewing (Y3-6)                                 |
| Thursday 29th<br>January  |                                 |  |   | Multi-Sports (Y2—4)<br>11+ Maths & English (Y5)<br>Young Voices (Y3-6)<br>Multi-Sports (Rec & Y1)<br>Puzzle Club (Y3)  |
| Friday 30th<br>January    | 9.00am Year 4 Come<br>and Learn |  |   | Dance (Rec—2)<br>Football (Y1 & 2)<br>Chess (Y3-6)<br>Girls' Football Squad  |



BOOK  
YOUR  
SPOT

## WORKSHOP 1

10:00 – 12:00



BOOK  
YOUR  
SPOT

## WORKSHOP 2

12:30 – 14:30

### Details:

Sew your own wash bag **for £10.**

All materials & equipment provided.

For beginner & intermediate sewers.

Choice of fabrics to choose from (or bring your own).

Sustainably made with donated fabric scraps.



30TH JAN 2026

# POP UP SHOP

VISIT THE FIRST EVER SAFELINE POP UP SHOP! BROWSE THE CLOTHING UP FOR GRABS, HAVE A CUPPA, OR TRY YOUR HAND AT CREATING YOUR OWN BAG FROM UPCYCLED FABRICS.

09:30 – 14:30



The Chambers,  
The Court House Warwick,  
CV34 4EW

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# FEBRUARY HALF-TERM CAMPS

## BROOKHURST PRIMARY SCHOOL

ULLSWATER AVENUE, LEAMINGTON SPA, CV32 6NH

MON 16<sup>TH</sup> FEB - FRI 20<sup>TH</sup> FEB

AGE 5 TO 13

08:45AM - 15:15PM

FULL WEEK  
- £100.00

FULL DAY - £22.50

AGE 4  
ONLY

08:45AM - 12:45PM

HALF  
FULL WEEK  
- £75.00

HALF DAY - £17.50

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AVAILABLE

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Go to "Book Now" & select your club!



Channel 4's The Dog House is looking for local families to offer a loving home to a rescue dog and share their reasons why on the show! If you're interested, find out more here: <https://c4thedoghousetakepart.co.uk> or email [thedoghouse@fivemilefilms.co.uk](mailto:thedoghouse@fivemilefilms.co.uk).

You can find clips from previous series on our YouTube channel @thedoghousetvofficial

# HEROES WELCOME



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