Newton Regis
C of E Primary School

Austrey
Church of England
Primary School

Newsletter

Date: 28/11/25



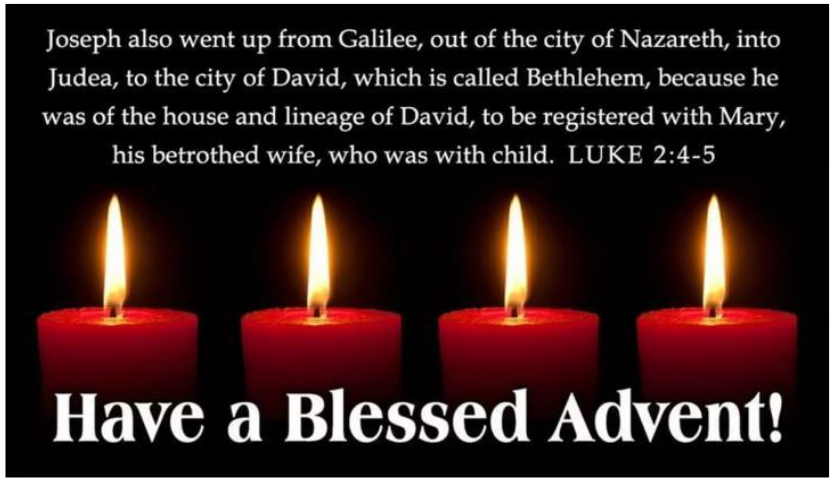
Becoming the person God made me to be: living, learning, loving.

"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made"

Psalm 139:14

Advent

We are well and truly in the run up to Christmas now and the children have been learning about the church season of Advent – 'a four-week season in the Church calendar dedicated to anticipating the arrival, or "advent," of Jesus of Nazareth, the long-awaited Messiah and King.'



We will be lighting the first candle on our wreath on Monday:. a purple candle that represents HOPE and is the PROPHECY CANDLE. In the following weeks we will be lighting the BETHLEHEM CANDLE which represents PEACE and is also purple, the SHEPHERD'S CANDLE which is pink and represents JOY. The final purple candle is the ANGEL'S CANDLE which represents LOVE. The final candle in the middle is white and is known as THE JESUS CANDLE and, in churches, is lit on Christmas Day.



We will also be joined by Revd Joanne and Mrs Bufton-McCoy for our annual 'Stir Up Monday' assembly. **The name comes from the Anglican prayer, "Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord," and the day is when families gather to make their Christmas pudding.**

Dear Parents and Carers - Reverse Advent Calendar

As we approach the festive season, I am excited to tell you a wonderful initiative we will be participating in again this year: a Reverse Advent Calendar.

Traditionally, an advent calendar counts down the days until Christmas by offering a small treat each day. In contrast, our Reverse Advent Calendar encourages us to give back to our community. Instead of receiving, we will be donating items to our local food bank, helping those in need during this special time of year. This is instead of asking you to bring in items at Harvest time.

How It Works: We invite each family to bring in one non-perishable food item each week throughout December if you can. Here's the schedule:

Week 1 (November 24 - 28): Canned goods (e.g., vegetables, soups)

Week 2 (December 1 - 5): Toiletries (shower gel, shampoo, handwash)

Week 3 (December 8 - 12): Snacks (e.g., biscuits, cakes, dried fruit)

Please send your contributions to school on the designated days, and we will collect them for the food bank. This is a fantastic opportunity for our children to learn about generosity and the importance of helping others.

Thank you for your support and participation in this meaningful initiative. Together, we can make a difference in our community!

Y5/6 Hockey at TQEA - Austrey

On Wednesday 19th November, two Austrey teams competed in five hockey matches against other schools. Their energy, teamwork, and resilient mindset shone through, even in the cold conditions. Both teams played brilliantly, finishing 3rd and 5th place, they should be very proud of their achievements!



Year 3 and 4 Dodgeball Finals

On Friday 21st November, our Y3/4 Dodgeball Teams went back to Kingsbury Community Centre to compete in the finals. Both teams played brilliantly; competing in 5 matches that comprised of three mini games per match. There were wins, loses and draws and the final results were really close. Austrey's final position was 6th and Newton 4th. Newton were the second highest performing "small school" in the entire competition and so will progress through to play against the Bedworth and Nuneaton finalists after Christmas.

A special mention to Isobel from the Austrey team who had a head bump in the first game - well done for being so brave.







KS2 Cross Country - Y3/4

On Wednesday 26th November, the third XC race took place in Water Orton in the coldest conditions we've experienced so far! Five brave girls took on the Y3/4 race with Georgia N being the first to finish in 8th position. Not far behind her was Lilly (10th) and Adelaide (12th) followed by Sienna in 33rd place. Lissy had been poorly most of the week but was still determined to give it her best and started the race with a smile on her face.

For the boys, Alfie W ran his best race to date, finishing 5th overall. Following him was Eddie (17th), Tommy (25th) and Felix (28th). Kyan made his XC debut, hoping to follow in the footsteps of his speedy XC sister, Imogen, coming in in 33rd place, Next to finish was Coby in 28th and Joey in 45th place. Well done all - and to the parents who cheered them on in the freezing temperatures.





KS2 Cross Country - Y5/6

In the Y5/6 race, Nessa came 4th for the third race in a row, followed by Arabella and Darcie in 18th and 19th positions. Amber finished in 26th place and Elsie B in 33rd.. Leah had also been poorly most of the week but was still determined to race and gave one of the laps a go before deciding it was best to stop. Well done for trying Leah.

For the boys, Arlo fought hard on the second lap to advance his position and was rewarded with the silver medal after finishing in 2nd place. Lincoln managed his highest position of the season (12th), with Jacob coming in just behind him in 13th. Dougie was next back in 22nd, followed by Rory in 29th, Ollie in 30th, Freddie in 35th, Rafe in 40th and Chester in 42nd. Ronnie also gave it a go but didn't finish this time. A big well done to all of the team for running in such cold conditions.





Christmas Lights Switch on

Newton Regis – this will take place on Saturday 6th December. As parents stay with the children, we do not need permission but if your child will be taking part can you email or phone Mrs Pick so she can make a list.



A separate letter will be sent out at Austrey for Friday 5th December as we need signed permission

Date: 21.11.25	
Wagtails	Vivienne - Dignity
Ducklings:	Poppy - Hope
Harlequin:	Ava - Trust
Robins:	Kai - Trust
King Eider:	Jack – Dignity
Owls:	Jacey - Trust
Mandarin:	Lucas – Forgiveness
Kingfishers	Chester – Justice

Date: 28.11.25	
Ducklings:	Allyssia – Community
Wagtails:	Kiera - Trust
Harlequin:	Olivia J – Forgiveness
Robins:	Oscar - Trust
King Eider:	James – Community
Owls:	Abel – Community
Mandarin:	Oliver – Dignity
Kingfishers	Lucas – Dignity

Values Lanyards



Pupils of the week

Date:	21.11.25
Wagtails	James C
Ducklings	Olivia W
Harlequin	Arabella
Robins	Oscar
King Eider	Sybill
Owls	Daisy
Mandarin	Bertie
Kingfishers	Jack

Date:	28.11.25
Ducklings	Charlie B
Wagtails	Oliver W
Harlequin	Chloe
Robins	Chloe
King Eider	Georgia
Owls	Royce
Mandarin	Stefan
Kingfishers	Robin RG

Staffing changes

Mrs Barclay will be leaving us at the end of this term and has secured herself a job outside of teaching.

If you would like to say goodbye to her, her last day will be Thursday 18th December.

I am sure you will join me in thanking her for working with your children over the years and wish her all the best in her next adventure.

Information from Warwickshire Attendance service

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.

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.

You can view your child's attendance certificate 'live' through Arbor. If you need help logging into this, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Pick or Mrs Harvey.

OUR CURRENT ATTENDANCE PERCENTAGES FOR THE YEAR SO FAR ARE

Austrey
94.6%

Newton Regis
95.9%
(not including nursery as attendance is non statutory)

National is currently 95%

Dates for your diaries

- Friday 5th December - Austrey pupils to sing for the Christmas tree light switch on at 5.45-6.15
- Saturday 6th December - pupils to sing for the Christmas tree light switch on at Newton Church 6pm
- Wednesday 10th December - AUSTREY Nativity Play 9.15am and 2.15pm
- Wednesday 10th December - FACES (Austrey) Santa's grotto for Wagtails and Robins 4.30 - 5.30pm
- Thursday 11th December - NEWTON Nativity Play 9.15am and 2.15pm
- Thursday 11th December Santa's grotto for Ducklings and Harlequin 4.30 - 5.30pm RUN BY SCHOOL STAFF

Dates for your diaries cont ...

- Friday 12th December - Christmas Jumper Day - £1 donation for Save The Children
- Monday 15th December Christmas film night for King Eider and Mandarin 3.15-5pm RUN BY SCHOOL STAFF
- Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th FACES (Austrey) Christmas film nights 3.15-5pm
- Thursday 18th December - Church services ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND. NEWTON 9am AUSTREY 2.15pm
- Friday 19th December break up for Christmas
- Tuesday 6th January - Schools re-open

AUTUMN TERM 2025	
Inset Day	**Monday 1st September**
Term starts	Tuesday 2nd September
Half Term	Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October
Inset Day	**Monday 3rd November**
Term ends	Friday 19th December
SPRING TERM 2026	
Inset Day	**Monday 5th January**
Term starts	Tuesday 6th January
Half Term	Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February
Term ends	Thursday 26th March
Inset Day	**Friday 27th March**
SUMMER TERM 2026	
Term starts	Monday 13th April
Bank Holiday	**Monday 4th May**
Half Term	Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May
Term ends	Friday 17th July
Inset Day	**Monday 20th July**