My name is Trina Elliott and I am the Education Welfare Officer (EWO) covering Newport CE Junior School. I also cover all the other Newport Feeder Primaries plus Burton Borough School and Adams’ Grammar.

The role of the EWO is many and varied but in essence it is to ensure that children access the education available to them within our settings. This is a legal requirement once children reach 5 years old. I visit all my schools regularly and we monitor the children’s attendance and punctuality and feed this information back into the Local Authority and the Government.

We can support you, the children and the schools with any difficulties you may be facing if for any reason children are reluctant to attend school.

Below are some points which we would appreciate you read and if you would like to speak to me at any point the school will give you my number.

* ILLNESS – Please contact your school on the first day of absence; the school operate a ‘first day absence’ procedure whereby if they have not heard from you they will follow up the absence to ensure their pupils are safe. If for any reason they cannot contact you they may ask me to arrange a visit. Please be aware that this is to ensure the safety of all pupils.
* PUNCTUALITY – We do like our children to be in school on time, every day. Coming into school late can be disruptive for your child and the class they are entering late. Teachers will have prepared the class for the day and repeating this can be time consuming and take the teacher away from the rest of the class.
* COMMUNICATION – Newport CE Junior School is a lovely school and I am sure your children will be excited to attend and be part of the school community but please, if you have any concerns about them or pick up on any reluctance to attend, do speak to the class teacher. It is always better for us to nip these things in the bud rather than let them develop and believe me, we have heard it all before!
* HOLIDAYS – Head Teachers have been asked by Government and the Local Authority to only authorise leave from school for ‘Exceptional’ circumstance. Parents sometimes query what is deemed as exceptional and it would normally be something that could not take place during the 13 weeks school holidays. Please do not be offended if the Head Teacher does not authorise any leave requests; they will consider each on their own merit but rarely are there instances whereby leave cannot be taken during the 13 weeks of holidays.

Best wishes

Mrs T Elliott