

THE FRIDAY LETTER



This Week at The Wyche

In this first full week back we've really hit the ground running. Badgers have continued their training to be Young leaders in the school with sports coach Kerry Tinsdale, Stoats have been geology detectives, investigating the different types of rocks and sorting them by characteristic ("sedimentary, my dear Watson..."), Otters have been investigating the symbol and sound "Om", and exploring its role in the Hindu faith, Foxes found out about nocturnal mammals and learned the names of some of their young (kits, cubs, pups, whelps and owlets) have Hedgehogs have begun learning songs about food, including "Food, Glorious Food and" and "Be Our Guest".



Collective Worship: STRIVE ... S is for "Safety"

This week we looked at the powerful words we have to protect ourselves and others. **STOP** and **NO**. We decided that the Respect value would expect us to say STOP please and NO thank you, but the effect is the same. If we don't like what is happening or what we are being asked to do by others we can say **STOP please** and **NO thank you**, and then tell an adult we trust.

Support for Parents - Parenting Courses.

Parenting can be tricky and there is no Haynes Manual for a child, but there is help available. The Solihull Approach parent's course is aimed at ALL parents for ALL children aged 0-18. Find the training here, and the good news is, it's free, as Worcestershire is paying for it on parents' behalf. Use this URL <https://learn.togetherness.co.uk/online-learning/course/6> or find a link on our website at <https://www.wyche.worcs.sch.uk/children-and-teens> and click on Understanding Your Child.



Online Safety

A large amount of children love gaming and it's a really enjoyable part of a balanced life, however, the risk of contact from strangers is just one of the reasons that many parents are concerned about their child's gaming: increased screen time, inappropriate content and in-game spending also figure among the most frequent fears. Agreeing on some rules around your child's gaming activities can certainly help, and our guide has some useful tips for establishing these boundaries. Check out our factsheet on p.4 and keep your little gamer safe.

We've had a great week at the Wyche and we wish you a great weekend together. See you next week for more magic,

*always in Partnership,
Mr Murphy*

We can all play a part in **safeguarding** children. If you are ever worried about the safety of a child, please discuss this with **Mr Murphy, Mrs Baylis or Mrs Charles**. You can refer or get advice yourself from Children's Services on 01905 822666.

If you think a child or adult is in immediate danger, please call the police on 999.

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In school this week:



The owl who was afraid of the dark

Hedgehog and Fox class have started learning about owls, both classes enjoying the story of The owl who was afraid of the dark. The children are very excited about the upcoming visit from Apollo Falconry.



Buzz and Strive

“They will soar on wings like eagles.” Isaiah 40:31

Malvern Wyche C of E Primary School

Together *We Soar*



Attendance **Really Matters**

You guys have made a superb start to the year attendance wise and we are currently at 96.25% attendance at the start of the year. Keep them coming in every day they are well enough to be here and avoid those term time holidays. This week the Hedgehogs had the highest attendance with an incredible 98%. Amazing result - keep it up.



Stars of the Week

It is always a delight to award a "Star of the Week" to a child who demonstrated the **STRIVE** values in classwork. This week's award-winning superstars are:

HEDGEHOGS
ELLIOTT DOWNES
ELSIE PROCTOR

FOXES
ARTI VINCENT
LUNA WILLIAMS

OTTERS
JASPER JUTTON-LOWE
PENELOPE PRESTON

STOATS
HARRY VINCENT
GRACE BALDWIN-SMITH

BADGERS
NICOLE STIMSON
SULLIVAN BAKER

After School Clubs

After School Clubs begin next week and confirmation slips came home with the children today. Sadly we are oversubscribed for most of the clubs and therefore have not been able to offer everything that everyone wanted. Mrs Tinsdale has offered to open Multigames out to the whole of KS2 so if anyone would like to join, please come and let Mrs Walley know in the office. Multigames is a Thursday evening until 4.30pm. Netball has been divided into 2 groups (as we had double the sign up), one before half term and one after - please check your slip to confirm whether you are Group 1 (before half term) or Group 2 (after half term).

Data Catchment & Consent Forms

Thank you to those of you who have already sent back the pupil information forms. It is absolutely vital that we have up to date information for all the children in school so if you have not done so already could you please send them in asap. We also have various trips and visits coming up, can we please encourage you to send the forms and £ in for these aswell. Please be advised the school makes **no** money on trips/visits and relies on your contributions to actually cover the costs - if we do not receive enough of these contributions we will have to cancel visits/trips. - Many Thanks

Vaccination UK - Flu Nasal Spray

Vaccination UK will be visiting the school on Thursday 25th September to administer the nasal flu spray to the children. All parents need to complete the on-line consent form whether you are opting IN and would like your child to have the nasal spray or opting OUT and do not want your child to have the spray. I have popped the link below for you to copy and paste into your browser for convenience - can I please encourage everyone to complete the form. Any queries please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

<https://midlands.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/worcestershire>

Year 6

Can all year 6 pupils be reminded to return swimming consent and £ and also the OS3 and OS4 forms for the Oakerwood visit. If you were unable to attend the 'parents session' then these forms should have come home with the children today. These forms are absolutely crucial and give you the opportunity to tell us 'everything' we need to know about your child before their trip.

Reception/KS1

Can parents please make sure they are checking book bags daily - the teaching teams are sending out communications and Seesaw invites via the book bags and want to ensure all communication is received asap.

Housepoints!

The Housepoint Winner this week is Beacon with an incredible 147 housepoints

Congratulations to all.

By living and learning together through our Christian values of *Safety, Trust, Respect, Inspiration, Value, & Engagement*, with God's help, we will support each other to "soar", lifting hearts and broadening horizons, so that by giving our best today, the world may be better tomorrow.

WHAT'S ON ?

Mon 15th September: Peripatetic Guitar Lessons
Netball Club, Group 1 - afterschool 4.15pm

Tues 16th September: Choir Club - afterschool 4.15pm

Weds 17th September: Peripatetic Piano Lessons
Peripatetic Violin Lessons
KS1 Drawing Club - lunchtime

Thurs 18th September: Peripatetic Drum Lessons
Art Club - afterschool 4.15pm
Multigames - afterschool 4.30pm

Friday 19th September: Badger Class 1st Swim

Dates for your Diary

- Thursday 24th September - Vaccination UK, Nasal flu spray
- Monday 29th September - KS1 Owl Visit
- Tuesday 30th Sept - Friday 3rd Oct - Oakerwood Residential Trip
- Monday 6th October - Otter Class History Man Visit
- Tuesday 7th Oct - Harvest Festival Service in All Saints Church, 2pm, all welcome
- Thursday 16th October - School Photo Day

Playleader Training

On Thursday afternoon, Kerry Tinsdale from Movemore Learnmore visited the school and did 'Playleader Training' with Badger and Fox Classes. The training means that the Year 6 pupils have the opportunity to help out on the KS1 playground at lunchtimes and can do so positively and appropriately. Both classes thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon, the children are equally looking forward to meeting their new friends again on the playground



Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.

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CENSORED

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Upcombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



Source: <https://hipolapp/about/privacy.html>

FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.