

THE FRIDAY LETTER



This Week at The Wyche

This wonderful week at the wonderful Wyche Badgers did some close observation of the style of Hans Holbein and completed some exceptional pencil sketches of Henry VIII, Stoats learned about Boudicca and how she fought back against the invading Romans, Otters learned about the first person in the Christian Trinity, and why Christians pray "Our Father", Foxes learned why churches are special places for believers and Hedgehogs travelled on feet, hands and knees in gymnastics.



Collective Worship

This week we practiced carols and learned about trust in relationships and thinking carefully about whether people are telling the truth, (The Fox and the Crow) and trusting the goodness of nature and creation by trying to eat naturally in a healthy way for our physical and mental wellbeing. Mr Turley prepared overnight oats right there in front of the kids. Magic.

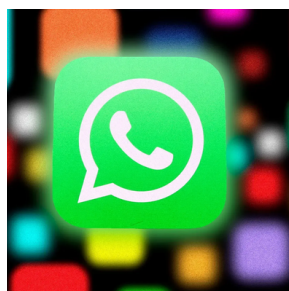
Support for Parents - Finance and Living

Our Support For Parents page on the Wyche website has lots of help and guidance about financial and money matters, including debt, loan sharks and housing should you need it. You can always come and talk to a member of staff if you are struggling in any way. We will definitely be able to support you by signposting to the best or most appropriate available service. www.wyche.worcs.sch.uk/financial-support



Online Safety - What's up with WhatsApp?

WhatsApp was a very popular platform for young people but many parents are saying "no" to this 13+ app because of the high risks it poses. If your child has WhatsApp or is asking for it, the guide on page 4 will give an idea of why it is not safe for primary age pupils and help you make informed choices about their wellbeing and online safety in your home.



What a golden week of perfect Autumn mornings (even the rainy ones). Enjoy the mists and mellow fruitfulness until we meet again.

*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:



Year 6 Haka!

In PE our Year 6's have been looking at and learning about the 'Haka'. The children have been enjoying creating and performing their own versions of the Maori ceremonial dance.



STRIVE AND BUZZ.
HAKA-ING LIKE A PAIR OF KAHUS!

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

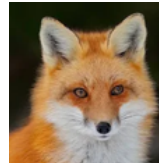
Malvern Wyche C of E Primary School

Together *We Soar*



Attendance Totally Matters

Foxes got the bird this week so he will be flying with Year 1 & 2 for a week of eagle-eyed learning. If you are struggling with your child attending school, please reach out and we will support you as much as we can. Don't forget our policy is not to approve term-time holidays and to refer those of 5+ days to the local authority to consider a potential penalty notice. Thanks for your support.



School Driveway

Can we once again kindly ask parents, where possible, to NOT use the driveway down to the school. This is posing ongoing safety concerns and causing general disruption at morning drop off and afternoon collection times. Thank you.

Black Pepper Christmas Lunch

This year Black Pepper are serving up their Christmas lunch on Tuesday 9th December. Orders for this MUST be placed online, direct with Black Pepper BEFORE Tuesday 2nd December.

Coats!

Can we please ask for all children to be sent into school prepared for the cold weather. All the children need to go outside during playtimes and lunch and some are coming into school without coats and then asking to stay indoors as they are cold. Unfortunately we do not have the staffing to facilitate this so would encourage named coats, hats, scarves and gloves so the children can be comfortable outside.



The Downes Maths Challenge

On Thursday, four of our Year 6 pupils visited The Downes where they took part in the annual Maths Challenge. The children put in teams with other children from different schools and took part in various maths based activities. They did an amazing job representing the school.

Football!

On Wednesday Mrs Baylis took both a boys and girls team to represent the Wyche in the West Worcester Football tournaments at Dyson Perrins. Mrs Baylis reported that the children performed and behaved beautifully despite the freezing weather conditions. Well Done!



Stars of the Week

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

HEDGEHOGS

AMINA BAIG
ISAAC PEREIRA

FOXES

NOAH NEMETH-WILLIAMS
LIZZIE CAFFULL

OTTERS

ROWAN POULTER
PHOENIX LEVY

STOATS

ROXY ALEXANDER
ELLA SEDLACEK

BADGERS

MATTHEW LEDINGTON
MEGAN MABEY

House Points

This week **Perseverance** took the top spot again this week with an incredible 128 house points.

Congratulations to all!



URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS (10 NOVEMBER 2025)

TINS OF HAM
LAUNDRY - LIQUID/SHEETS
LAUNDRY - POWDER/TABS
JARS OF JAM
UHT MILK 1L
TOMATO KETCHUP
TOOTHPASTE ADULT
TRADITIONAL PORRIDGE OATS
DOG FOOD, TINS/POUCHES

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 24th November: Peripatetic Guitar Lessons
Netball Club - 4.15pm Group 2

Tues 25th November: Choir Club - 4.15pm

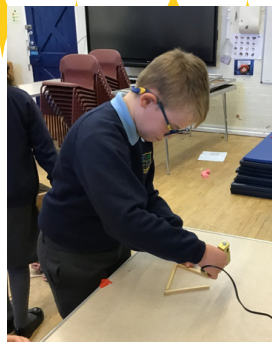
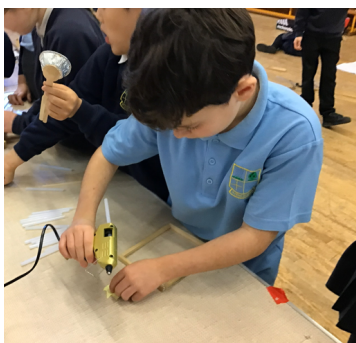
Weds 26th November: Peripatetic Piano Lessons
Peripatetic Violin Lessons
KS1 Colouring Club - Lunchtime

Thurs 27th November: Peripatetic Drum Lessons
Art Club - 4.15pm
Multiskills - 4.30pm

Friday 28th November: Badger Class 7th Swim

Dates for your Diary

- Friday 5th Dec - School Christmas Fayre
- Tuesday 9th Dec - School Xmas Dinner Day - Please order with Black Pepper by 2/12/25
- Wednesday 10th & Thursday 11th Dec - KS1 Nativity Evening Performances (More details will follow)
- Tuesday 16th Dec - Whole School Carol Service - All Saints Church, 2pm, all welcome
- Friday 19th Dec - End of Winter Term
- Tuesday 6th January - 1st Day back for pupils - 1st day of Spring term.



Roman Catapults !

On Monday Otter and Stoat classes came together to construct Roman Catapults. The children used a variety of materials including wood, cardboard, elastic bands, string and bottle tops and used a range of tools such as hacksaws, mitre blocks and glue guns.

Keep an eye out for the finished results, coming up in the next few weeks!

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WhatsApp is a free messaging service owned by Meta which allows users to send text and voice messages, make video calls, share multimedia – such as images, videos, documents and polls – and have group chats. WhatsApp messages are encrypted, meaning only the sender and the recipient can view what is sent. While this privacy may sound attractive on paper, this app comes with several associated risks that must be considered – especially for younger users.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GROUP CHATS

Group chats let friends talk together but can pose problems for young users. They might feel excluded – like discovering events they weren't invited to. Hurtful comments can also escalate quickly, as more people join in, amplifying the impact through a wider audience.

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it attractive to scammers. Tactics include impersonating a child in an 'emergency' to request money, or triggering a login code, then pretending to be WhatsApp and asking for it – giving them access to private messages and personal data.

CHANNELS

'Channels' let users follow topics anonymously, interacting only through polls or emoji reactions. However, fake channels can mimic real ones, spreading misinformation, hate speech, or phishing for personal data. WhatsApp may also collect and share channel-following info with third parties, raising privacy issues.

DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Disappearing messages help share sensitive info, but young people may wrongly assume they're fully private. Senders can opt for their message to vanish after 24 hours, 7 days, or 90 days – or for media, after one view. However, recipients can still save them by bookmarking or taking screenshots, reducing their privacy.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's simplicity makes sharing news quick – accurate or not. To help curb misinformation, messages forwarded over five times now show a 'Forwarded many times' label with a double arrow. This alerts users that the message isn't original and may be unreliable.

CHAT LOCK

The new 'Chat lock' feature lets users store specific messages in a separate passcode- or biometrically-protected folder. While useful for privacy, it could be misused by younger users to hide conversations or content they know parents and educators might find inappropriate, including age-restricted material.

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature helps friends meet up or parents check a child's route home. However, anyone in a child's group chats can track their location, potentially revealing their home address or regular travel patterns to strangers.

AI INTEGRATION

Meta AI on WhatsApp poses risks to children, including exposure to misinformation, inappropriate content, and data privacy issues. AI responses may be inaccurate, and kids might share personal information unknowingly. It can also hinder critical thinking by offering ready-made answers.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution. Get them to consider, for example, whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. To do this, go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups'. You can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...'. Additionally, if the child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content sent to one user to then be shared more widely, and even publicly on social media. Encourage them to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Have a conversation with youngsters about how they're using WhatsApp, emphasising that it's for their own safety. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of messages that are in there, who they're with and why they have been hidden. Also, if a young user has sent any 'view once' content, discuss their reasons for using this feature.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/whatsapp-2025>