

THE FRIDAY LETTER



This Week at The Wyche

This week Hedgehogs began to plan their ceramic models of wildlife (in the style of sculptor Nick Mackman), Foxes learned about a range of animal habitats as they start to explore the habitat of the Malvern Hills, Otters learned how Humanism and Christianity are similar and how they are different, Stoats began to learn about the History of the BBC and the evolution of broadcasting. Badgers began planning their enterprise initiatives and developed some really rather impressive flyers and posters. Start saving your pennies.



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Spirituality

One of the ways we are spiritual here at the Wyche is by making meaningful connections with each other. Today I witnessed a group of year six girls taking the time to sit with a much younger child with complex needs and teaching him their names, asking about his day and generally offering kindness love and care without it being asked of them.

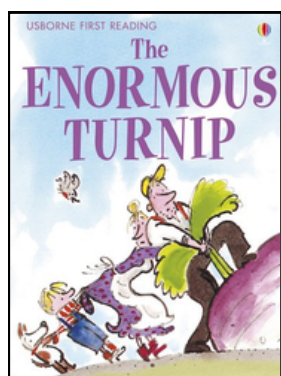


Its things like this we call "soaring" and are what makes the Wyche a magical place to work, learn and belong.

Together We Soar

Collective Worship

This week we considered **engagement** through the classic tale of The Enormous Turnip. We discussed how Jesus told his disciples that the Kingdom of God is like a tiny seed which can grow and grow until it becomes a bush which can shelter all the birds of the air. The same goes for the Turnip, which caused the whole farm, down to the smallest mouse to soar by pulling together in the same direction resulting in delicious turnip for everyone. Turnip crumble anyone?



Support for Parents

Don't forget the range of services available through the school if you are struggling in any way. Come and have a chat www.wyche.worcs.sch.uk/support-for-parents

Pregnant & Baby

Children & Teens

Mental Health

Relationships

Financial & Living

Legal & Criminal

Online Safety - AI Toys ... privacy - security and healthy play.

AI is everywhere these days. Is it bad? Is it good? Is it an opportunity or a threat or both? The truth is nuanced and complex but its effect on our children should be considered carefully. The guide on p.4 deals with the rise of AI toys aimed at young children and unpacks the risks and caveats to help you manage these devices should you choose to give them to your kids.



Its been a PACKED week of learning, evbents, trips and visits. There is literally never a dull minute here at The Wyche! See you next week, for more of the different!

#Together We Soar!
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.

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

Malvern Wyche C of E Primary School

Together We Soar



Attendance Properly Matters

Congratulations to Fox Class who win Buzz this week with an amazing 99% attendance! Thank you for your ongoing support with ensuring the children are in school when possible.



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
SADIE DAVIES
ALEXANDER ADIE

FOXES
JAMES SALMON
ALEX TARK

OTTERS
ORLA LEWIS
AVA GREGORY

STOATS
WHOLE OF YEAR 5!
MONTY HILL JONES

BADGERS
MEGAN MABEY
NICOLE STIMSON

Friends of the Wyche Duck Race!

It is not too late to get involved in the Friends of the Wyche Duck Race. With some fantastic prizes up for grabs this promises to be a truly fun event. See the poster which details how you can sponsor/create a duck and take part. Copy and paste the following link into your internet browser to take part

<https://www.balloonrace.net/fotws/registerduck>



Year 3 and 4 English Fun!

On Wednesday Otter Class and Year 4 Stoats could be found all over school, working in pairs to search for cards to identify the fronted adverbials on them. They used these to create their own imaginative sentences. Well done guys!



Year 5 Morgan Experience at The Downs

On Thursday, following a number of successful entries into a Morgan ‘car design’ competition our year 5 pupils were rewarded with a trip to the Downs where they designed and engineered the ‘next generation of Morgan Car’. The children had a tremendous morning and were treated with a tour and seat in a Morgan car!



House Points

This week **Midsummer** took the top spot again with an incredible 146 points.

well done to everyone who got even one house point



Buzz and Strive are coaching their friend for the Duck Race. Come on Kenny!



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 8th June: Peripatetic Guitar Lessons

Thurs 11th June:

Tues 9th June: Peripatetic Drum Lessons
Show Choir- afterschool until 4.15pm

Fri 12th June: Otter Class 6th Swim

Weds 10th June: Peripatetic Violin Lessons
Peripatetic Piano Lessons
Eco Club - Lunchtime



Dates for your Diary

- W/C Mon 15th June - PTA Duck Race
- Tues 16th June - KS1 Malvern Hills Walk
- Fri 19th June - Year 6 Enterprise Market
- Tues 23rd June - Yr 5 Lifepath, Yr 6 Malvern College Science
- Tues 30th June - Yr 5 Chase Athletics Day
- Tuesday 7th & Wednesday 8th July - KS2 Performance, All Saints Church (details to follow)
- Mon 13th July - Whole School Transition Day
- Fri 17th July - Yr6 Leavers Service, Last Day of Term



On Wednesday Badgers and Stoats had the exciting opportunity to go bell boating on the River Severn - with an Olympic rower who has been honoured with an MBE, his name is Andy Train.

Bell boating is an exiting water sport activity in which ten people paddle in a twin hulled boat, They started at Upton Marina where they started their voyage along the Severn It was a very long journey, we paddled an hour down the river constantly racing one another, our first stop was a small field where we ate our snack and then we set off again.

Four boats raced down the river determined to be the first to reach finish line. It was easier going up the river as the wind was in our favour but it was challenging on the way back constantly fighting the wind but we pushed on, many of the four boats spent more time in a bush than actually rowing but still it was a very amazing opportunity.

On the way back, we had an official race in which everybody came within two feet of each other we were now nearing the end of our voyage and thought that we might try out some standing paddling. And that was the end of journey across the Severn.

The hardest bit of the journey was navigating the marina and docking the boats, but after a few minutes we were safely back on land after a very fun day out, Thanks Andy!!

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI TOYS

This festive season, the newest toys on the shelves do not just blink or make noise; they listen. Many now come with artificial intelligence (AI), allowing them to talk, learn, and even respond to a child's emotions. These toys can be educational and engaging, but they also collect, store, and process information. This guide explains what that means for families and why it matters.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

TOYS THAT LISTEN AND LEARN

When a toy uses AI, it collects data such as voice recordings, interactions, and background sounds. This information is sent to remote servers, where it is analysed to improve responses. Your child's voice becomes training data, which may be stored indefinitely or shared with third parties.

WEAK SECURITY PROTECTIONS

Some AI toys have poor password protection or open network connections. Others may have microphones or cameras that stay on, even when the toy appears to be off. This can lead to recordings being made without your knowledge, including conversations unrelated to play.

ARTIFICIAL VOICES, REAL INFLUENCE

For very young children, an AI companion may become one of the first voices they interact with regularly. How that voice shows humour, empathy, or authority can shape how a child learns to communicate. If the model is artificial, then part of what is learned is artificial as well.

PRESSURE TO KEEP ENGAGING

Some toys reward repeated use or track engagement, encouraging children to interact more. When children compare how their toys perform, it creates pressure to play more often. This increases the amount of data collected and can make learning feel like competition.

MARKETING THROUGH PLAY

Toys that learn a child's preferences may feed that data into future advertising. A toy that knows a child's favourite colour or hobby could help a company design more targeted marketing to that child and their family.

PLAYTIME AS DATA TRAINING

The information collected from children helps train AI systems. Their voice, emotional responses, and behaviour shape how machines 'understand' people. Play becomes part of a much larger system that influences how future technologies behave.

Advice for Parents & Educators

START WITH A CONVERSATION

Talk to young people. Explain that some toys learn from what they say and do. Help them understand that even friendly technology should have boundaries, and to ask questions about it. Curiosity is healthy, blind trust is not.

SET LIMITS ON USE

Turn off Wi-Fi or Bluetooth when the toy is not in use. Check for updates regularly, as they can change privacy or safety settings. Treat connected toys like any smart device; they should be monitored, updated, and switched off when not in use.

MODEL DIGITAL AWARENESS

Children learn from adults. If they see you checking privacy settings, reading terms, and talking openly about online safety, they are more likely to do the same. Show them how to question technology in a healthy way.

RESEARCH BEFORE YOU BUY

Look for toys that work offline or store data locally. Check for a free or demo version so you can test how it behaves. Read privacy policies to understand what data is collected, where it goes, and whether it's shared with others.

REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS

Find out where the data is stored and who has access to it. Some companies sell or share data with advertisers. If the toy connects through an app, check what it requests access to and limit those permissions whenever possible.

BALANCE AI WITH REAL PLAY

AI toys can be fun and creative, but they are not a replacement for real human interaction. Encourage time away from technology with activities that foster emotional and social development. Use AI toys to support learning, not define it.

Meet Our Expert

Clara Hawking is Executive Director of Kompass Education. She advises governments, school trusts, and global organisations on AI governance and safeguarding, helping schools and families understand how technology shapes learning, wellbeing, and the digital future of children.

