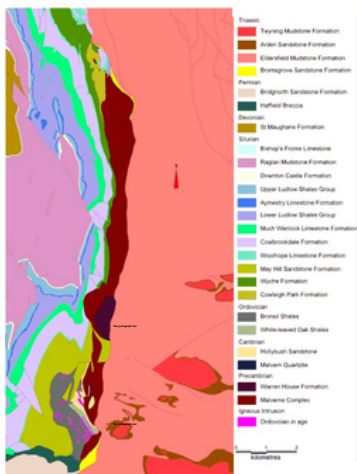


THE FRIDAY LETTER



This Week at The Wyche

This week at the wonderful Wyche we soared as Badgers learned about the geological constitution of the Malvern Hills (rather more complicated than you might think), Stoats and Otters found out the effort needed to transport all water for drinking, washing and farming in containers (by doing it), Foxes considered the history and development of modes of transport (faster, lighter and more expensive apparently!) and Hedgehogs learned about a balanced diet and a healthy plate of food.



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Spirituality

This week a beautiful KS2 outdoor geography lesson gave pupils the sense that others are less well off than themselves and as one pupil expressed in Worship Council "we don't know how lucky we are to have taps and clean water".

"So light up the fiiiire, and let the flame burn ..."



Collective Worship

This week we sang together the classic hymn "Colours of Day" and thought about the value of some very precious objects. We related these to the people we love and the precious value of our relationships with each other. Mrs Baylis gave two teams a quiz about the price of different things but then shared photos of her lovely family who, of course, are absolutely priceless to her.

Support for Parents

Don't forget the resources on our website which offer a range of support. For example, there is a mental health page to help people or pupils suffering with their emotions, thoughts or fears. Check it out here:

<https://www.wyche.worcs.sch.uk/mental-health>



Feeling grateful, counting our blessings and having empathy for the lives and struggles of others are spiritual experiences and add that extra-dimension to our learning.

Together We Soar

Strive and Buzz

Big fans of David. They reckon the kestrel in the photo is a mate of theirs. If you say so, guys, if you say so.



Online Safety ... Online Wellbeing

Digital devices are woven into everyday life for children and young people, but balancing the benefits with potential risks can feel challenging. The guide on p.4 explores how screen use can influence sleep, emotional regulation, physical health and online experiences, offering clear context around why concerns about wellbeing are growing.

We have been so lucky weather wise this week and it has led to a large amount of active outdoor learning of the kind we adore, see you next week for more soaring ...

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 Absolutely Matters

Congratulations to Hedgehog class who take ownership of Buzz this week with an incredible 100% attendance! Whole school attendance continues to remain positive. Thank you for your ongoing support.

100%



100%

SATs Week!

The week beginning Monday 11th May is Year 6 SATs week. Can we ask that all children arrive **PROMPTLY** into school at 8.55am. We need to give our Year 6 class the very best chance at their tests without the disruption of the door opening and closing and children walking through the classrooms.

David Attenborough Day!

On Friday 8th May we will be marking a very special day here at The Wyche - David Attenborough's 100th Birthday! To celebrate, we are inviting all pupils to come into school dressed as one of the following -

- an animal
- a habitat (E.G the arctic, rainforest)
- a young explorer
- or simply in green or blue to represent land and/or sea

During the day the children will take part in a variety of different activities celebrating the natural world and thinking about the planet. **If the weather allows we will be inviting the children to eat lunch on the grass outside the school - with this in mind please either send your child in with a packed lunch or order a 'packed lunch' option from Black Pepper for that day!**

We look forward to seeing everyones ideas.



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

MARTHA LITTLE
ARABELLA RANSTED-PRICE

FOXES

ARTI VINCENT
REMI KAUPPINEN

OTTERS

TILLY ENGLEFIELD
THEO WILTON-CROWDY

STOATS

LUCAS DOWNES
ROXY ALEXANDER

BADGERS

PATRICK LUNNEY
SAMUEL PRINCE

House Points

This week Sugarloaf took the top spot with an incredible 83 points. Congratulations to all!



New Teacher!

Great news for future Otters. On Friday 17th April We appointed Mollie Llewelyn-Shone - a kind, creative and inspiring teacher who shone (no pun intended) in teaching and in interview and is going to be a superb asset to the Wyche and a delightful teacher for your children.

Mrs Kneale will still teach Otters until the end of term in July as promised and Miss Llewelyn-Shone will start in September. She'll be popping in to meet the children over the next few months.

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 4th May:** Bank Holiday - School Closed
- Tues 5th May:** Peripatetic Drum Lessons
- Weds 6th May:** Fox Class Cricket Festival
Peripatetic Violin Lessons
Peripatetic Piano Lessons
Eco Club - Lunchtime (Packed Lunch for those attending)
- Thurs 7th May:** KS1 Multiskills - afterschool until 4.30pm
- Fri 8th May:** David Attenborough Day! See above for details
Otter Class 3rd Swim



All Stars Cricket provides a fantastic first experience for all children aged between 5-8 years old. They will have 8 weeks of jam-packed fun, activity and skills!

Dynamos Cricket provides a perfect introduction to Cricket for all 8-11 year olds! Dynamos is all about fun and provides children with a more social offer, focusing on the skills to play the game.

Find your nearest All Stars & Dynamos programme using the link below!

<https://ecb.clubspark.uk/AllStars/Search>



Dates for your Diary

- Friday 8th May - David Attenborough Day
- W/C Mon 11th May - Year 6 SATs Week
- W/C Mon 25th May - Half Term
- Wednesday 3rd June - Yrs 5 & 6 Bellboating in Upton (details to follow)
- Friday 5th June - Sports Day
- Tuesday 7th & Wednesday 8th July - KS2 Performance, All Saints Church (details to follow)



Hedgehog Class

In phonics Hedgehog class were practising their reading in pairs. They were incredibly focused and worked together beautifully to tell the stories. What a lovely sign of our warm school community Well done Hedgehog Class!

Baking Club

The children are having a fantastic time on Monday afternoons in Baking Club. Last week they made some beautiful 'no bake' chocolate traybake and this week they made some beautiful cornflake cakes - I am looking forward to next weeks delicious treat!



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about DIGITAL DEVICES & WELLBEING

Children aged 7 to 14 now spend roughly 3 to 5 hours a day on phones, tablets, consoles, and computers. That much screen time has parents and educators worried – not just about the hours logged, but about online safety and the knock-on effects on mental health. This guide brings together practical, expert-backed strategies so adults can nurture healthier digital habits and help young people thrive both on and offline.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SLEEP DISRUPTION

Excessive screen time, especially before bed, can interfere with melatonin production and delay sleep onset. Children may struggle to concentrate or regulate emotions due to poor sleep hygiene linked to late-night device use.

ONLINE PEER PRESSURE

Social media platforms expose children to unrealistic standards and peer validation loops. Likes, comments, and follower counts can influence self-worth and lead to anxiety or risky behaviour to gain approval.

CYBERBULLYING EXPOSURE

Children may encounter bullying through messaging apps, games, or social media. This can be persistent and anonymous, making it harder to detect. Victims often feel isolated and reluctant to report incidents.

REDUCED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Time spent on screens often replaces outdoor play and physical activity. This sedentary lifestyle can contribute to obesity, poor posture, and reduced cardiovascular health.

EMOTIONAL DYSREGULATION

Fast-paced digital content can overstimulate young brains. Children may become irritable, impatient, or struggle with boredom and emotional control when not engaged with screens.

PRIVACY AND SAFETY RISKS

Children may unknowingly share personal information or interact with strangers online. Without guidance, they may not understand the long-term consequences of digital footprints or unsafe online behaviour.

Advice for Parents & Educators

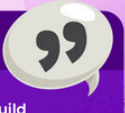
SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Establish screen-time limits and device-free zones, e.g. classrooms and dinner tables. Use parental controls and co-create a digital use agreement with children to encourage accountability. Trying a visual schedule or timer app can help children understand and stick to limits.



ENCOURAGE OPEN DIALOGUE

Create a safe space for children to talk about their online experiences. Ask open-ended questions like, "What did you enjoy online today?" to build trust and awareness. Try setting aside 10 minutes each day for a digital check-in where children can share what they've seen or done online.



MODEL HEALTHY HABITS

Children mirror adult behaviour. Demonstrate balanced device use, take regular screen breaks, and prioritise face-to-face interactions to reinforce positive behaviours. Making a habit of putting your phone away during meals and conversations can show that real-life interactions come first.



PROMOTE DIGITAL LITERACY

Teach children how to evaluate online content, recognise misinformation, and understand privacy settings. Empower them to think critically and act responsibly in digital spaces. You could use real-life examples from the news or social media to help children practise spotting fake information.



Meet Our Expert

Adam Gilllett is Associate Vice Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School and works on secondment one day a week for Minds Ahead, which works with schools on improving their mental health provision.



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