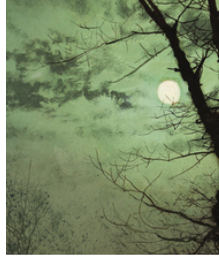


THE FRIDAY LETTER



This Week at The Wyche

Badgers tested the properties of materials and pondered whether their own skins were permeable, Stoats made magnificent mosaics, Otters wrote beautiful character descriptions of characters from 101 Dalmatians. Foxes painted gorgeous scenes of moonlight in the style of John Atkinson Grimshaw (pictured), and Hedgehogs went for a map walk in order to draw aerial plans of our school.



Collective Worship: DEMOCRACY!

In our collective worship assembly this week we explored democracy, voting and civil rights, proving a point by allowing pupils to vote for which hat I wore in assembly (they voted for a baseball cap) and then a referendum on which way I was to wear it (backwards!). Then a child proposed a Private Members Bill to suggest I should wear it sideways, which was passed with a strong majority. As a result this week pupils will be electing their school council representatives in democratic polling and the results will be announced next week.



Support for Parents - Parenting Courses.

Children's behaviour can change and challenge for a number of different reasons. If you are struggling with your child's behaviour (pre-school, primary or secondary) the courses below can help. They are not for "failing" parents (whatever that means), they are for parents who want to know more and skill up for the lifelong job of being a mum, dad or carer. Come and chat if you are unsure.

<https://strengthening-families.net/parenting-courses/> (weekly)

<https://learn.togetherness.co.uk/online-learning/course/6> (webinar)



Online Safety - Nintendo Switch & Switch 2

We know the Nintendo Switch 2 is on many Christmas lists, but the original Switch is still the console of choice for thousands of young gamers. On Pp 4&5 you will find an online safety guide for both consoles, helping you tackle a range of potential risks such as indecent images, overspending and inappropriate language. **Make sure your little gamer is safe as they play on either platform.**

Have a wonderful weekend together and enjoy this amazing "St Martin's Summer",
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.

In this issue

This week at the Wyche

PAGE 01

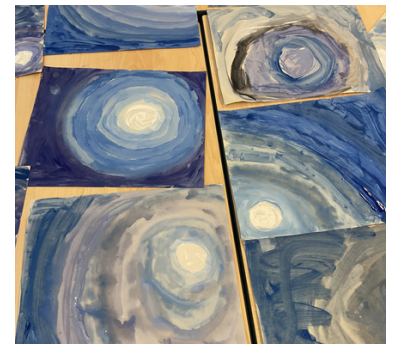
House points, attendance,
Stars of the Week &
information

PAGE 02

What's on next week and
dates for your diary

PAGE 03

In school this week:



Fox Class Art!

In art this week Fox class have been learning about the famous landscape artist John Atkinson Grimshaw. The children have started working on paintings mimicking his style - I am looking forward to sharing the finished results next week when the children have added their urban landscapes!



Buzz and Strive. painting masterpieces.

"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. 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 Otters had the best attendance with a stupendous 99%. Go Otters!



School Uniform



We have had an increasing number of children coming into school wearing incorrect uniform and also with numerous jewellery items and hair accessories. As a school we do not insist on crested items but do ask that the children come dressed in-line with the uniform policy and wearing school shoes rather than trainers. We have also seen a variety of large hair accessories in non-school colours and also various jewellery items. Can we ask that hair accessories be in school colours and of an appropriate size. Can all jewellery please stay at home - children are permitted to wear a small pair of stud style earrings. Thank you

Puzzles Needed

If anyone has any 4,6,8,10 or 12 piece puzzles in usable condition, KS1 are looking for donations. They would also love any picture puzzles - where the shape fits the entire hole. Any donations can be handed directly to the KS1 team or into the school office. Many Thanks

Oakerwood Trip

On Tuesday our year 6 class go on their school residential trip to Oakerwood. Can I remind all year 6 parents to ensure they are set up on Seesaw as this is where pictures and updates of the children will be posted. On Friday afternoon Mrs Walley will email from the school communication email to advise what time the children are expected back. You are welcome to come and collect your child (and their washing), from the office at this time. Oakerwood is always a highlight in the Year 6 calendar and we are sure the children will have an incredible time and make some lifelong memories.

Harvest Festival

Our school harvest festival service will be held in All Saints church at 2pm on Tuesday 7th October (all are invited). This year we are collecting food donations for the Malvern Foodbank. This is a fabulous local charity who work tirelessly to support the local community. It would be fabulous if we, as a school, could send lots of donations there way so can we encourage you to pop an extra item in your shopping basket over the next few weeks to contribute. Please see their desired list but any tin/non perishable would be amazing.

Thank you for your continued support.



Harvest appeal

Help support your food bank this Harvest

In the four weeks leading up to Harvest, the food bank will provide over 100 food parcels for local individuals and families facing hardship.

Donate food

Donate an item or two from our shopping list, ensuring we can provide food for people facing hardship in your community.

Donate money

Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects.



Shopping list

- Hot dogs (tins)
- Laundry - liquid/sheets
- Laundry - powder/tabs
- Rice 500g
- Tins of corned
- beef/ham/stew/chili
- Tins of
- mackerel/sardines
- Biscuits
- Cat food, dry

Malvern Hills Foodbank
<https://malvern hills.foodbank.org.uk>

Registered Charity in England & Wales (1151964)



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
EDITH FARRELL
DANIEL TURCINAVICIUS

FOXES
ROSE DEVO
JAMES SALMON

OTTERS
MAYA GREEN
LILY GRAY

STOATS
BEATRICE BUTLER
ELEANOR RANSTED -
PRICE

BADGERS
FAITH HORNE
SAMUEL PRINCE

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 29th September: Apollo Falconry Visit KS1
Peripatetic Guitar Lessons
Netball Club, Group 1 - afterschool 4.15pm

Tues 30th September: Choir Club - afterschool 4.15pm

Weds 1st October: Peripatetic Piano Lessons
Peripatetic Violin Lessons
KS1 Drawing Club - lunchtime

Year 6 Residential Trip
to Oakerwood
Tuesday - Friday

Thurs 2nd October: Peripatetic Drum Lessons
Art Club - afterschool 4.15pm
Multigames - afterschool 4.30pm

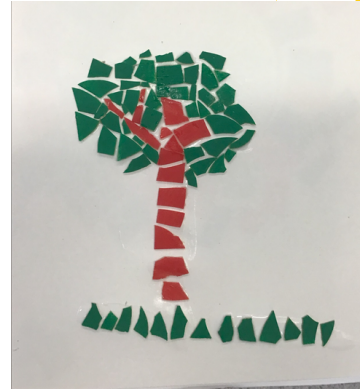
Friday 3rd October: Yr 5 Cross Country Morning

Dates for your Diary

- Monday 29th September - KS1 Owl Visit
- Tuesday 30th Sept - Friday 3rd Oct - Oakerwood Residential Trip
- Monday 6th Oct - Otter Class History Man Visit
- Tuesday 7th Oct - Harvest Festival Service in All Saints Church, 2pm, all welcome
- Wednesday 8th Oct - Stoa Class History Man Visit
- Thursday 16th Oct- School Photo Day
- Wednesday 22nd & Thursday 23rd Oct - Whole School Parents Evening
- 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

Pasta Mosaic!

Stoa class created some fabulous art work this week, painting pasta sheets then breaking them up and sticking down to create beautiful picture mosaics. The results were fantastic - well done Stoats!



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about NINTENDO SWITCH 2

Nintendo launched its Switch 2 games console in early June 2025 – its first new console in eight years. While it builds on the original's success by remaining compatible with certain existing games, it also adds powerful hardware and new features like GameChat and a USB-C camera. As more children look to upgrade, it's important to understand how this new console might affect their play and safety.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EASIER TO ACCESS MATURE CONTENT

18
CENSORED

Despite Nintendo's reputation for family-friendly titles, mature games like *Cyberpunk 2077* and *Hiltman* have been released onto the platform. With the Switch 2's improved performance, developers will be able to port even more mature-rated games. These may appeal to children due to their popularity, but they contain content that is highly unsuitable for young audiences.

IN-APP & GAME STORE PURCHASES

The Nintendo eShop enables purchases with just a few taps. If payment details are saved and PIN protection is disabled, children may unknowingly make costly purchases – including game add-ons, cosmetic items or entire new releases – without parental approval.

UNRESTRICTED ONLINE PLAY IN SOME GAMES

While GameChat is one feature, Switch 2 also connects to the broader Nintendo Switch Online service. Many free-to-play titles like *Fortnite* or *Splatoon 3* allow voice or text chat with strangers unless chat settings are adjusted, meaning children could encounter inappropriate language or unwanted contact.

GAMECHAT & REAL-TIME VOICE COMMUNICATION

GameChat enables live chatting with up to 12 people, even across different games, with optional video and screen-sharing. Though children under 16 are restricted to chatting only with approved friends, the sheer interactivity could raise privacy concerns or create pressure to remain online longer.

CAMERA COMPATIBILITY & PRIVACY CONCERNS

The optional USB-C camera supports video calling and facial overlays in games; however, this also raises the risk of cyberbullying or the unwanted sharing of personal images. The camera can be disabled, removed or covered, and parental controls are essential to manage how and when it is used.

POWERFUL PULL OF FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

Nintendo's mascot, Mario – along with Pikachu, Donkey Kong and others – remains hugely appealing to younger audiences, especially after the success of the recent film, *'The Super Mario Bros. Movie'* (2023). These beloved icons are central to Nintendo's branding and often feature in merchandising, adverts and in-game promotions, creating strong emotional attachments in children and a sense of urgency to keep up with their peers.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHECK RATINGS & USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Every Switch and Switch 2 game comes with a PEGI age rating. Before buying one, ensure the content matches your child's age. Use the Nintendo Parental Controls app to monitor gameplay, set screen-time limits and manage friend requests.

REMOVE OR RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

Avoid accidental spending by unlinking credit cards from the device. Instead, consider adding funds via prepaid eShop cards or requiring a PIN for purchases. Some banking apps can also be set to approve transactions manually.

REVIEW FRIEND LISTS AND CHAT PERMISSIONS

Child profiles are restricted to chatting with approved friends only, but it's good practice to regularly check their friend list and communication settings. Use the Parental Controls app to switch off voice or video chat if necessary.

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Teach children how to block, report and capture any behaviour or content that makes them uncomfortable. The console's built-in tools allow them to create screenshots and video clips, which can aid in reporting any issues. Keeping an open dialogue helps children feel supported and safe.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Games Editor of Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



The National College®



The Switch is a hybrid console released by popular video game company Nintendo in 2017. It's classed as a hybrid because it's designed to be played both at home on a television, like traditional consoles (think a PlayStation or an Xbox) or out and about like a portable console, such as a GameBoy. It uses two detachable and wireless 'Joy-Con' controllers on either side of the console's screen, which can be used by one or two players. The Switch can be played on the internet with the purchase of Nintendo Switch Online, in the living room together or on the go during long journeys, but bear in mind it needs to be charged just like anything else!



What parents need to know about



NINTENDO SWITCH



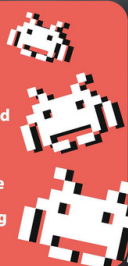
NINTENDO SWITCH ONLINE

Nintendo Switch Online is a paid service that allows the console to be played (you guessed it) online, by linking to other Switch consoles around the world. It can be purchased through the Nintendo eShop for a single account on the device, or with a family membership plan which covers 2 accounts. The purchase options come in three tiers; 1 month, 3 months and 12 months but be aware these auto-renew unless you specify otherwise.



ONLINE DANGERS

While online, your children will be able to play with and chat to people on compatible games, which will mostly be good-natured fun, but could potentially expose them to vulgar language, indecent images or worse. There are options to limit this though, which are detailed below. It's worth remembering that many games can be played offline, so while it's not essential to get Nintendo Switch Online, it is certainly something to consider.



NINTENDO eSHOP

The Nintendo eShop is where games can be purchased over the internet and downloaded directly onto the device. If you choose to enter your bank details (or PayPal account) onto the Switch, you can save them for easy access later on. Do note however that these can be viewed by anybody with access to the console, unless you specify otherwise. A child might accidentally purchase a game or item from the shop if these details are left improperly protected, which could leave you with a nasty surprise.



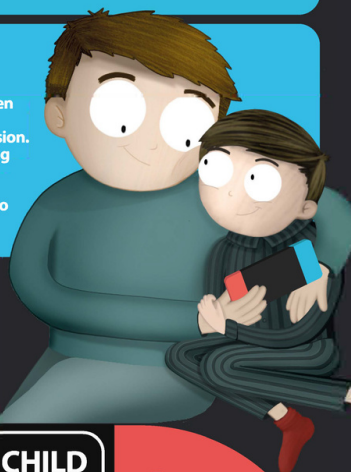
NINTENDO'S VIDEO GAME SELECTION

Nintendo as a company offers some of the most entertaining and safe video games on the market. Games featuring characters like Super Mario, Donkey Kong and Yoshi are always a safe bet for a child-friendly experience. It's always prudent to check each game before you buy it (especially if the game hasn't been made by Nintendo) but as a rule of thumb, anything official containing well-known names like these will be great for your children, giving you peace of mind while they enjoy them.



PORTABLE GAMING

Being able to take the Switch anywhere is a huge bonus when travelling. What's more is that almost every game can be enjoyed without the need to 'dock' the console with a television. Battery life on the Switch varies depending on what it's being used for but typically it will last around 3 or 4 hours before needing to be recharged. When the time comes, any USB-C charger will be able to do the job, but it's best and quickest to return it to the dock, which requires a normal plug socket.



Top Tips For Parents

PARENTAL CONTROLS

Nintendo released a free downloadable app that can be used in tandem with the Switch called Nintendo Switch Parental Controls. Once you've got the app on your mobile device, it's a simple process to pair your two devices, giving you a suite of options to help make sure your child is having fun in a safe and structured environment curated by you.



ONLINE RESTRICTIONS

Another major inclusion in the app is the ability to block your child from seeing anything to do with age restricted games. There's also an extremely helpful feature that restricts access to games that have free communication features between strangers on the internet. This includes things like private messages and unsolicited images. Should you be concerned that strangers might be using the games to talk to your child, a simple press of a button will disallow any access they might have.

PLAY WITH YOUR CHILD

One of the wonderful things about the Switch is that there are an abundance of great games you and your child can enjoy together, and even with the whole family. Nintendo has a long history of making and supporting fun, family friendly games like Mario Kart and Mario Party, both of which can be played with two or more players using the Joy-Con controllers.



NINTENDO ESHOP SETTINGS

In the Nintendo eShop you can set up a password to help stop your child or somebody else from accessing any sensitive information, such as bank account details. The options here include entering a password to access the eShop to begin with, when any saved credit card information access is attempted, or when PayPal is accessed. Choosing which areas are password protected helps ensure you're deciding what level of access is given on the device. For example, if you're happy to have your child browse the shop for games they might want, you can allow access to the eShop but introduce the password before a purchase is made ensuring no mishaps occur.



LIMITING PLAY TIME

By linking the app with the Nintendo Switch, you can set time limits and reminders when you think enough time has been spent playing. It also lets you see if a game is still being played and gives you the option to automatically put the console into sleep mode if the message is ignored. This should only be used as a last resort though as it could cause some friction between you!

SET PLAY TIMES

Another handy feature is the ability to set different playtimes for days of the week, allowing you to tailor play time around you and your child's schedules. This is great for setting boundaries and encouraging gaming as part of a healthy routine. It will also help your child organise with their friends when they can all be online.



SEE PLAY HISTORY

The Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app can also send a report telling you how much time your child spends playing each game. This is a great way to spot their favourite or most played games and might be a nice way for you to find out more about a title before talking to your child about it. It could also help identify any possible issues around playtime before they arise.

Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGbible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.

