

THE FRIDAY LETTER



This Week at The Wyche

This last week of half term the learning has not stopped. Hedgehogs made lovely autumn, pictures out of leaves and glue, Foxes completed their delightful moving pictures of owls in D&T, Otters wrote delightful dotty dalmatian dog poems, Stoats have finished their study of the similarities and difference between Scottish and Bengali folk songs and Badgers, completed their reading and study of Louis Sachar's Holes, and they have loved every word.



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Collective Worship: Safety

This week in collective worship we began practicing carols and Christmas songs (sorry, but we've got to get cracking...) and learning about how we can give others the gift of kindness, as presents they can take with them to make them feel emotionally safe.

Support for Parents - Children & Teens

If you sometimes find the parenting job hard, you are not alone. Every one of us has that day, that week, that year even, where they just don't have the answers. Check out our webpage with a range of support or come and talk to a teacher you trust. We can always listen and often help.
<https://www.wyche.worcs.sch.uk/children-and-teens>



In school this week:



Online Safety - FORTNIGHT's New Season

Fortnite has received an update and whilst it is not quite as popular as it was, remains a game widely played by young children. It's important to remember if your primary age child plays Fortnite **that it is a 12 certificate, and always has been** and for very good reasons. If you choose to allow your child to play Fortnite, check out the guide on p.4 and make sure your child is as safe as they can be.

Holes!

On Thursday the Year 6 class celebrated as they finished their class story 'Holes' by Louis Sachar. The whole class have absolutely loved the story.

Take the analogue challenge on p.5!

Thank you for your support this half term. Have a great week together and we'll see you on Monday 3rd November 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.



Buzz and Strive.
Also enjoyed Holes, but prefer Rosemary Sutcliffe's Eagle of the 9th. Roman don't cha know?

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

Malvern Wyche C of E Primary School

Together *We Soar*



Attendance Matters

It's the end of half term and we have all earned a break. thank you for committing so much to having your kids at school. We know they get ill sometimes but if they are healthy, send them in. We love to see them and every drop of education is **GOLD**.



School Disco

There is still time to purchase your ticket for the upcoming Autumn disco being held at the school on the 7th November. KS1 (4.30-5.30pm) and KS2 (5.45-6.45pm). Tickets are £3 per child and available using the link below (please copy and paste into your browser).

Closing date for this is 31st October.

<https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/event/fotw-autumn-glow-disco-2025>

After school Club Information & Multisports

All afterschool clubs commence the first week back after half term with Netball moving onto group 2 children. Mrs Tinsdale has decide to open Multisports up to Year 5 pupils (aswell as year 3 and 4), she will be doing lots of fun games in the hall to include benchball and dodgeball. If your child would like to be added to the multisports list please email the school office (office@wyche.worcs.sch.uk) with your childs name and collection information for after the club - spaces will be allocated first come first served.

Arts Projects for Schools

The children bought home their Christmas art projects last week. Please visit the following website to place your orders of Christmas goodies including cards, wrapping paper and tote bags. Orders need to be made by 3rd November in time for Christmas delivery to school.

apfsorders.co.uk

Staying Healthy this Winter

With the cold weather approaching, as a school we have been sent guidance to follow re keeping the children healthy through the Winter months. Please have a look at the following document which outlines when to keep your child at home and for how long, in the event of illness.

<https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2024/09/04/a-parents-guide-to-keeping-kids-healthy-this-school-year/>

Malvern Food Bank.

In an effort to continue supporting the local Malvern Hills food bank in the run up to Christmas we will be keeping a donation box in the entrance hall by the office. If you are in a position to pick up an item from the list above whilst out shopping and drop it in to the box the school will deliver the donations.

URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS (10 OCTOBER 2025)

HOT DOGS (TINS)
LAUNDRY - LIQUID/SHEETS
LAUNDRY - POWDER/TABS
MICROWAVE RICE PACKETS
PACKET PASTA SAUCE
TINS OF HAM
TINS OF MEAT - SPICY/CHILLI
DOG FOOD, TINS/POUCHES
CAT FOOD, TINS/POUCHES

WE ARE ALSO SHORT OF:

BISCUITS
COFFEE 100G AND 200G
MEATY SOUP, TINS
TINS OF CORNED BEEF
TINS OF FRUIT COCKTAIL
TINS OF MANDARINS
TINS OF MEAT - STEW/SAUCE
TINS OF PEARS
TINS OF PINEAPPLES

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

LIAM CRONIN

ARABELLA RANSTED-

PRICE

FOXES

FELIX CARTER

RONYA ALEXANDER

OTTERS

BELLA MORRIS

ESTHER DOWNES

STOATS

JESSE JONES

SEAN MACDONALD

BADGERS

MEGAN MABEY

WILLIAM COOK

Housepoints

This week Perseverance took the top spot with an incredible 118 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 3rd November: Peripatetic Guitar Lessons
Netball Club - 4.15pm Group 2

Tues 4th November: Choir Club - 4.15pm

Weds 5th November: Peripatetic Piano Lessons
Peripatetic Violin Lessons
KS1 Colouring Club - Lunchtime

Thurs 6th November: Peripatetic Drum Lessons
Art Club - 4.15pm
Multiskills - 4.30pm

Friday 7th November: Whole School Pantomime Morning



Dates for your Diary

- Friday 7th Nov - School Panto Morning (all classes) , Friends of the Wyche School Disco (afterschool)
- Monday 10th Nov - Badger Class History Man Visit
- Friday 5th Dec - School Christmas Fayre
- 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



Stoat & Otter Class

On Thursday this week both Otter and Stoat classes donned their wellies and took a walk to 'explore physical and human features in the local area'. They finished off by making a fire, toasting marshmallows and enjoying smores! Can you spot the Wyche teacher who they spotted on their way?

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FORTNITE



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 650 million registered users, Fortnite remains one of the most played and discussed online games globally. Known for its vibrant graphics, fast-paced gameplay, and cultural crossovers with everything from music artists to superhero franchises, the game continues to capture the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks trusted adults need to know about, including game updates, and offers practical safety tips to help address them.

ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player, offline mode in Fortnite; it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about, both in terms of connectivity and using up data. You may find that dedicated, young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about family time or trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – limited-time cosmetic 'skins', music tracks, LEGO items, and battle passes. Children can feel pressured to spend money on V-Bucks – the in-game currency – to avoid missing out, particularly as exclusive items rotate frequently. Some items may not return to the store for years, while Battle Pass rewards are often "gone when they're gone".

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

There's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as mini-games and emotes. Guns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, so discretion is advised. Past seasons have introduced characters and references from mature franchises like The Witcher and Halo.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. Crossplay allows friends to play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC, while the Party Chat feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can put youngsters at risk of exposure to strangers, inappropriate language, and cyberbullying.

FREQUENT UPDATES

Seasonal releases introduce new map changes, gameplay mechanics, and cosmetics. Ongoing updates can increase screen time and potential for obsession as children try to unlock rewards before the season ends. These regular renewals help to hold players' interest, but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back. Seasons often change thematically.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from films and TV shows like Power Rangers and Avatar: The Last Airbender, to comic book characters including Batman. Other collaborations with series, artists, and influencers may expose children to music, language, or ideas that are more suitable for older audiences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

DISCUSS SAFE SOCIAL INTERACTION

Talk with children about who they're playing with online. Coordinate play time with the child's friends for socialisation and safety in numbers. Encourage them to avoid private voice chats with strangers and remind them not to share personal information. Use real-life examples to explain potential risks, and remind them that if they see something concerning, they should tell a trusted adult.

SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents to do something fun with their child, while making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game. Make sure any young player knows this.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



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The Analogue Challenge

This half term we challenge children (and grown-ups too) to try some old-fashioned **analogue** activities.

How many things can you try which don't involve a digital screen or a device?

Why not try...

gardening, walking in the woods, painting a picture, spotting birds, playing sport, skipping, picking fruit, baking, jigsaws, making music, teddy bears picnic, a doll's tea-party, sock-puppet manufacture, write a poem, build a LEGO spaceship ("spaceship!"), invent a code, write a story, create a new game, junk modelling, dress up ...



Tell us about what you tried, bring examples of what you drew, made or baked, (or take a photo if you must, but that's digital 😊)

SAFETY FIRST: Don't forget to tell an adult what you are doing – ask for help with scissors or tools, and be careful outdoors, near roads or water. You are precious, after all.