

THE FRIDAY LETTER



This Week at The Wyche

Badgers began to design the shelters they will build at Oaker Wood as part of their Design & Technology, Stoats wrote character descriptions of that out-and-out rotter Cruella De Vil, Otters experimented with whether rocks can be used to make marks (to estimate their hardness) Foxes learned about the symbols which designate different faiths and Hedgehogs went for a welly walk and a British Wildlife Treasure Hunt.



Collective Worship: British Values

In our collective worship assembly on Tuesday we considered British Values and pondered the idea that whilst we can **value British** past in achievements and heritage: it's landscape, pop music, literature and sport, **British Values** are about Britain's future. This calls for us to be reflective, to have high standards of behaviour for ourselves, to uphold law and order, respect and engage in democracy, seek and promote liberty and tolerate and respect others. The greater our behaviour is, the greater Great Britain will be. We considered the Gospels' message about the Kingdom of Heaven, and what values this requires us to show, and asked: when Christians say: "Thy will be done," what that means for our behaviour and choices.



Support for Parents - Parenting Courses.

Back to school can be a time when children's behaviour can change 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 - Snapchat

Snapchat is a 13+ app. From AI-generated filters and chatbots, to disappearing messages and the Snap Map location-sharing tool, it's easy for children to stumble into unsafe territory and the safeguarding and exploitation risks are high. If your primary or pre-teen wants or us using Snapchat it is best you are fully prepared for the risks and able to make the appropriate discussions to make them safe.



Have a wonderful weekend and enjoy the Autumn weather,
whatever it brings,
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.

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In school this week:



Stoat Class Science!

In science class this week the Stoats have been learning all about the permeability of different rock types. They did a series of experiments using a variety of different rocks and water to see which were the most absorbent.



Buzz and Strive. It's Autumn, and they're making jam.

"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 Hedgehogs had the highest attendance with an incredible 98%. Amazing result - keep it up.



Vaccination UK - Flu Nasal Spray

Vaccination UK will be visiting the school on Thursday 25th September to administer the nasal flu spray to the children. All parents need to complete the on-line consent form whether you are opting IN and would like your child to have the nasal spray or opting OUT and do not want your child to have the spray. I have popped the link below for you to copy and paste into your browser for convenience - can I please encourage everyone to complete the form. Any queries please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

<https://midlands.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/worcestershire>

Data Catchment & Consent Forms

Thank you to those of you who have already sent back the pupil information forms. It is absolutely vital that we have up to date information for all the children in school so if you have not done so already could you please send them in asap. We also have various trips and visits coming up, can we please encourage you to send the forms and £ in for these aswell. Please be advised the school makes **no** money on trips/visits and relies on your contributions to actually cover the costs - if we do not receive enough of these contributions we will have to cancel visits/trips. - Many Thanks

Afterschool Clubs

Hopefully the children have enjoyed their afterschool clubs this week. A reminder that Multi-games is now open to all in KS2 - if your child would like to join we have spaces available. The club is on a Thursday evening until 4.30pm - please let Mrs Walley know, in the office if you would like to attend.

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/chilli
- Tins of
- mackerel/sardines
- Biscuits
- Cat food, dry

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

Registered Charity in England & Wales (1151984)



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

WILLOW BRADSHAW-LEE

GABRIEL CARPENTER-PEACHEY

FOXES

NED HOLLINGWORTH

SAMUEL WOOD-HALLE

OTTERS

AVA GREGORY

ELYCIA VIVIAN

STOATS

ARCHIE SEYMOUR

ELIZABETH COOK

BADGERS

LILLY KERRY

OLIVER SWATRIDGE

Housepoints!

The Housepoint Winner this week is Perseverance with an incredible 206 house points
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 22nd September: Peripatetic Guitar Lessons
Netball Club, Group 1 - afterschool 4.15pm

Tues 23rd September: Choir Club - afterschool 4.15pm

Weds 24th September: Peripatetic Piano Lessons
Peripatetic Violin Lessons
KS1 Drawing Club - lunchtime

Thurs 25th September: Vaccination UK visit - Nasal Flu Spray
Peripatetic Drum Lessons
Art Club - afterschool 4.15pm
Multigames - afterschool 4.30pm

Friday 26th September: Badger Class 2nd Swim

Dates for your Diary

- Monday 29th September - KS1 Owl Visit
- Tuesday 30th Sept - Friday 3rd Oct - Oakerwood Residential Trip
- Monday 6th October - Otter Class History Man Visit
- Tuesday 7th Oct - Harvest Festival Service in All Saints Church, 2pm, all welcome
- Thursday 16th October - School Photo Day

Wellywalk Wednesday

On Wednesday, Hedgehog class braved the damp to enjoy their welly walk around the school grounds. The children were looking for signs which had been posted throughout the grounds featuring native British wildlife. They did a fab job finding the pictures and stumbled upon some worms and ladybirds whom they named - Keith, Bruce and Dave!
Well Done Hedgehog Class.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

SNAP STREAK

97

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 🔥 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

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/snapchat>



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