



This Week at The Wyche

Happy Friday and welcome back to our lovely community, we hit the ground running this week learning about the lives of Muslims in the UK (Badger Class), planning an Anglo-Saxon museum exhibit, (Stoats), rehearsing a sea shanty (Otters), considering what is in the four Gospels and what Christians believe about them (Foxes) and painting plants from life (Hedgehogs). We also welcome the return of our teaching student Miss Mackley who is based in Otter class. Give her a warm Wyche welcome if you see her. Ramadan begins this weekend for our Muslim brothers and sisters and we wish them Ramadan Mubarak and a peaceful and prayerful holy season. Lent begins for Christians next week so I hope you have plenty of pancake batter ready. We will be exploring these times of reflection, fasting of prayers for faithful people across the world over the next few weeks in assembly.



A tea clipper, 300 years ago.

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In school this week:

Collective Worship

We began considering **Inspiration** by looking at what the term had ahead in the Christian calendar (Lent, Holy Week and Easter ... pancakes ...) and asking what Jesus meant when he said "Let your light shine". We mused on what that might look like for children and adults in the school and how our Christian STRIVE values might help us do it. The children were full of *bright* ideas.



Online Safety - Alexa

Lots of families have allowed voice generated tech into their homes to connect them with Amazon or another content provider - are there any safeguardis or risks? Check out our handy guide on p.4)"Alexa, read me the newsletter..."



Support for Parents - Resources

Don't ever feel you can't approach us to talk about issues in school, at home or in your own lives. WE can provide advice about a number of issues such as managing separate relationships, domestic abuse or problems with children's behaviour. Everybody needs help sometimes. There is a great list of training and support on our website here: <https://www.wyche.worcs.sch.uk/support-for-parents>



We hope you have a lovely week.

*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 is in immediate danger, please call the police on 999.



This week the children in Stoot Class have been learning all about dentition. To support their learning the children made moulds of teeth out of clay. They produced some fabulous sets of teeth and had a great time.

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

Malvern Wyche C of E Primary School

Together We Soar



Get the Attendance “Buzz”

Badgers had the best attendance this week with a stonking 97.8%. Thanks for all you do, every one of you, to see that your child gets a daily education. We do our very best to lift their hearts and broaden their horizons, and the more often they are here, the higher we soar!



World Book Day

On Thursday (6th March) the school will be celebrating this years **World Book Day**. All children (and staff) are invited to come into school dressed as a Traditional Fairytale Character.

Do not go to any expense buying costumes, please use things you already have at home!

We look forward to celebrating stories!

Please see some character ideas.



Drop Off and Collection Parking

We have again received a number of complaints from local residents about parking/waiting by parents when dropping off and collecting children. Please ensure you are leaving your vehicle in a safe and legal place. Please do not block roads or driveways and, where possible, do not use the driveway down to school.

Music Lesson Invoices.

Thank you to those parents who have paid music invoices. Can I encourage any outstanding money to come into school as soon as possible. If you have any problems with this please do not hesitate to contact the office.

After-school Clubs - Gymnastics

All afterschool clubs resume next week. Please be aware that next weeks after-school gymnastics club is being held on Wednesday instead of Thursday. Collection is at the normal time of 4.30pm. Be advised that this is for one week only.

Climbing On The Wall!

Please can you encourage your children to stay off the walls in and around the school. Mr Hinton works very hard to ensure these are safe however they are definitely not built for climbing on. Thank you, in advance for your help with this.

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.

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
Maeve Green
Samuel Wood-Halle

Foxes
Elycia Vivian

Ronya Alexander

Otters
Jasper Jutton-Lowe
Ollie Young

Stoats
Sullivan Baker
Roxanna Alexander

Badgers
Penny Jones
Lily-May Davies

Housepoints!

Beacon took the top spot this week with a fabulous 94 points
Congratulations.

WHAT'S ON ?

Mon 3rd March: Peripatetic Guitar Lessons
Books and Biscuits - Hedgehog Class 3pm
Netball Club after-school until 4.15pm

Tues 4th March: Peripatetic Woodwind Lessons
Peripatetic Drum Lessons
Colouring Club after-school until 4.15pm
Art Club after-school until 4.15pm

Weds 5th March: Peripatetic Piano Lessons
FAME for Stoa Class
Gymnastics Club after-school until 4.30pm (please note change of day for 1 week only)

Thurs 6th March: WORLD BOOK DAY!

Friday 7th March: Stoa Class 6th Swim
Film Society after-school until 4.15pm
Chase Netball afterschool 3.45pm - 5.30pm (invited pupils only)



Dates for your Diary

- Thursday 6th March - World Book Day
- Tuesday 11th March - KS1 Trip to St Peters Garden Centre
- Monday 24th March - Bishops Wood Trip for Otter & Stoa Classes (Info to follow)
- Wednesday 2nd & Thursday 3rd April - Parents Evening
- Tuesday 8th April - Easter Service at All Saints Church



Half Term Toilet Roll Challenge!
We received some incredible entries for the half term toilet roll challenge with some of the children spending lots of time and effort producing some beautiful Fairytale characters.
Well Done Everyone!



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What parents & carers need to know about...

AMAZON ALEXA

Alexa is an artificial intelligence (AI) software assistant created by Amazon in 2014 through which smartphone, tablet and smart device users can issue voice commands and ask questions in a range of languages by issuing the 'wake' or activation word Alexa. It can be accessed in several ways and is integrated into a growing number of 'smart' products including speakers, phones and clocks. Once viewed as expensive gimmicks, Alexa is now one of the most used voice assistants in the world.

Privacy concerns

By their nature, AI voice assistants involve the collection of large amounts of data. How this is stored and the uses to which it is put has aroused growing concern. Experts also worry about who has access to voice recordings, which in 2019 the company admitted sometimes included employees of Amazon and its commercial partners. There is also the more general anxiety that internet voice assistants might record private conversations and not only commands or questions.

Age-inappropriate content

Using Alexa as a speaker to play your favourite songs is one of the most popular uses for the device. However, without any parental controls in place, Alexa won't filter the lyrics so it's possible that children could hear something they shouldn't. Similarly, Alexa isn't always able to identify who or what age the person is who is issuing a voice command so if children ask a question which might not be age-appropriate, the chances are they're likely to get an age-inappropriate answer.

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

PRIVATE

Check privacy settings

It's possible to delete Alexa's recordings either entirely, or for a given period, with the instruction "Alexa, delete everything I said." Alternatively, set up the Alexa account privacy settings for that account to delete recordings every three or 18 months. Existing recordings made using the Alexa app can be deleted via Settings > Alexa Privacy > Review Voice History. A final tweak is to turn off the setting that allows Amazon to 'use voice recordings to improve Amazon services.'

Control voice input

If privacy is paramount, one idea is to locate Echo devices in only one room rather than having several throughout the home. In addition, Alexa can be activated only when it is needed by manually turning off the microphone on Echo devices between use. Users can tell when Alexa is in listening mode as an indicator light should appear or an audible tone should sound.

Insecure devices

The devices and their background services are another worry, which can have software vulnerabilities that make them insecure in complex ways. In 2020, for instance, researchers discovered that the services to which Echo products connect were insecure, potentially allowing hackers to access personal information such as voice conversations. In 2017, researchers were able to directly hack an Amazon Echo to send audio to attackers. Amazon has a good record of fixing security problems when they are discovered but it is never possible to find every problem.

Changing Tech Relationships

In a 2019 report published by the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation, concerns were raised on the disruptive effect that voice assistants and smart speakers, such as Alexa, were having on the way that children interact with technology. From building sentiment and forming relationships which could encourage them to overshare personal details, to a fear of consuming content driven by commercial algorithms and an inability to assess reliability, how Alexa operates could considerably change children's relationship with technology in both the short and long term.

Safety Tips

Look out for 'Skills' apps

A big appeal of Alexa is that thousands of companies have created apps, which Amazon calls 'skills', that add useful capabilities, often integrations with other products or services. These are installed by asking Alexa to 'open/play/start' the skill. For example, a travel skill might be installed to check and automate checking train times and hotel bookings. However, it's important to remember that each of these might have a different privacy policy. A cautious approach is to install as few as possible, de-installing ones no longer in use.

Talk about technology

As more and more homes install voice assistants and smart speakers such as Alexa, it's a good idea to talk to children about safe use of technology. Talk to them about what Alexa can be used for, how useful it can be and how to use it properly. Use it together to begin with and discuss any concerns they might have. Always make sure that children know to never share any personal or sensitive information and that if they need to talk about anything, they should always speak to a trusted adult.

Meet our expert

John E. Dunn has edited and written for numerous computer and technology magazines since the early 1990s, most recently Which Computing, The Register, Forbes.com, Techworld, Computerworld and Naked Security. He is a specialist in online cybersecurity and cybercrime and their growing effect on education, young people and the public.

