

THE FRIDAY LETTER



This Week at The Wyche

Happy Friday to you all,

This week Badgers have been making props, designing sets, rehearsing and generally preparing for their production of Olivia! next week. (including a transformative professional theatre coaching session - thank you Sarah-Jane!). Stoats have been crafting their "ocean going" longboats, Otters have been making digital (and analogue) animations, Foxes have been finishing their work on Hans Holbein by painting portraits of themselves as kings and queens, making sure their eye, skin and hair colour is true to life, and Hedgehogs explored the mechanism for raising a drawbridge and applied it to their model castles.



Collective Worship: Engagement

This week we considered journeying forward to the next stage of our lives, whether that is leaving our reception class, going into Key Stage 2, or leaving The Wyche for high school. WE spoke about it being a leap of faith and how we need to trust the people around us that walking through the door of opportunity is safe, although scary, and good things come with change.

Support for Parents

Don't forget we are here to listen if you need any support as a family, and we can still make referrals to MELO for children who might be having a hard time emotionally. Come and chat if there's anything which we might be able to signpost support to.



Online Safety - Nintendo Switch 2

This is a really hot topic amongst young children and gamers and millions of children will be putting this new console on their birthday and christmas list. However, with any internet-enabled device, especially with growing AI in the mix, there are age limits, restrictions and risks to consider. Our guide on p.4 will help you "Switch 2" the safest way of gaming (awful pun, sorry). Please consider these risk if you are giving this console to your child - they are quite eye-opening.



OFSTED Report

Our Ofsted report has been published and is lovely. Great also that the area they identified to improve is one we had identified for our school improvement plan next year so we are in step. Your lovely children did us proud and you, as a parent body were immensely supportive. Thank you. Find the report online at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/21/116830>

Have a great weekend - thank goodness it's cooler now. On Monday we begin our last fortnight full of learning, fun, rites of passage and celebrations,

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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Olivia Teaser!

Sometimes words are not necessary
- and the pictures do the talking!



Buzz and Strive - please get your mum and dad to set that up safely before you play. It's only as safe as you make it.



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

Malvern Wyche C of E Primary School

Together We Soar



Attendance Really Matters

Hedgehogs have taken ownership of Buzz this week with a fabulous 96% attendance for the week. Congratulations Hedgehog Class and can we thank you all for your ongoing support.



Olivia!

The school and church are a buzz with Olivia rehearsals. Badger class is a hive of prop activity and the excitement is mounting as ticket sales have been fantastic!

Can we remind you that ALL children involved need to be back at school on Tuesday and Wednesday evening for 5.30pm. The children will need to be collected from the church between 7.30pm and 7.45pm.

A reminder that refreshments will be available in the church with donations for Gofu Ju so please remember your cash.

Music Lessons

A letter will come home next week to all of next years KS2 pupils regarding peripatetic music lessons. The school have a number of Severn Arts Music teachers who visit each week and conduct music instrument lessons with the children. These lessons include, guitar, drums, clarinet and piano. If your child would like to start or continue peripatetic music lessons next year, please complete the form on the bottom of the letter and return to school, however sign up and payment for these sessions is now directly through Severn Arts. If you are having any troubles or have any queries or questions then please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Afterschool Clubs

With the exception of Girls Football, all afterschool clubs have now finished for this academic school year (girls football finishes on Monday). There have been some fantastic clubs available for the children this year which have included netball, drawing, film society, lego, computing, coding, gymnastics and multiskills. New club sign ups for the Autumn term will be released in early September.

School Reports

All children will be bringing home their annual school report this evening. Please return the enclosed slip, with any comments back to school.

School Games Gold Mark Award

We are delighted to announce that we, Wyche Primary School, have achieved the School Games Gold Mark Award for the 2024/25 academic year. The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

Mrs Baylis works tirelessly throughout the year to ensure all the children are given fantastic sporting opportunities so a HUGE congratulations and thanks to her for all of her efforts.

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

NOAH NEMETH-WILLIAMS
LUNA WILLIAMS

FOXES

ARLO SMITH
ALAYNA BAIG

OTTERS

JOCELYN HART
TILLY ENGLEFIELD

STOATS

JUNIPER CALVERT
HENRY BINKS

BADGERS

ALEXANDRA MALIK-GOUGH
OLI HAMMOND

Housepoints!

Midsummer took the top spot this week with a WHOPPING 93 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 7th July: Peripatetic Guitar Lessons
Girls Football Club - afterschool until 4.30pm

Tues 8th July: Peripatetic Drum Lessons
Peripatetic Woodwind Lessons
Olivia Performance - All Saints Church 6pm

Weds 9th July: FAME Showcase for Stoa Class 9.30am
Peripatetic Piano Lessons
Olivia Performance - All Saints Church 6pm

Thurs 10th July:

Friday 11th July: Otter Class Final Swim

End of Term
Friday 18th July
Start of New Academic Year
Wednesday 3rd September

Other than Girls Football on Monday there are NO afterschool clubs this week.
New afterschool club sign ups will be released in early September!

Dates for your Diary

- Tuesday 8th & Wednesday 9th July - 'Olivia' Performances, All Saints Church 6pm
- Wednesday 9th July - Stoa Class Recorder Showcase
- Monday 14th July - Whole school transition day
- Friday 18th July - Year 6 Leavers Service, All Saints Church 9.15am



Year 5 Athletics Day.

On Wednesday the Year 5 children visited the Chase High school for an Athletics Day. The children had a fantastic time taking part in a variety of activities and games including the high jump and long jump.

They behaved beautifully and had a fantastic time.

Well Done Year 5



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 *Hitman* 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.



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