

THE FRIDAY LETTER



This Week at The Wyche

This week Hedgehogs explored the properties of a range of materials, Foxes learned what the Quran is and how important it is to Muslims, Otters learned about circuits and experimented with lights and motors, Stoats, inspired by Benjamin Britten's The Night Mail music, composed settings to poetry on a range of electronic and acoustic instruments, and Badger Class met the incomparable and inspirational explorer Al Sylvester.



Collective Worship

This week we considered the awe and wonder we feel when we see the birds which surround us in our environment, and how this is good for our mental and spiritual wellbeing. Birds are throughout the bible as signs of hope, from the dove with an olive branch to ravens feeding the Prophet Elijah and of course, as a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

Support for Parents - Financial & Living

Times can be hard, and the cost of living is still high. There is support available on our website on the link below. Don't forget, we are always here to talk to if you need a listening ear and we can tell you about services and give advice which might help.



Online Safety - New Devices (Reducing the Risks)

Not all children have digital lives, but most do one way or another. The safest way to allow children to live a digital life is to be in dialogue with them and talk through the risks. On p.4 is a guide to help you talk in detail about the risks, good habits and healthy lives so make digital lives safe.

It's been a wonderful week and the school is buzzing with colour, life and learning. Have a great weekend and we'll see you next week for yet another 5 days of Wyche goodness,, 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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As part of their music learning, Fox class have made and painted some beautiful guitars which are proudly now displayed in the cloakroom!



STRIVE AND BUZZ
DOING SOME BIRDWATCHING.

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

Malvern Wyche C of E Primary School

Together *We Soar*



Attendance Very Much Matters

Foxes won Buzz once more with the highest attendance this week. Thank you for all you are doing to ensure kids get the education they are entitled to by law. Keeping children off school without good cause is against the law. Our policy says that avoidable absences which meet the 10-in-10 rule (10 unauthorised in 10 days) will be referred to the local authority to consider fining. We'd really rather not, so let's get them in if they are well enough to be here.



Whole School Parents Evening

Next week we will be opening the booking system for our upcoming parents evenings which are being held on Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th February. As always, booking is on a first come first served basis, please only book one appointment per child. If you have any issues or want to change an appointment then cancellations need to be made via email to the school office. The booking link will follow next week.

World Book Day

We are looking forward to World Book Day which is coming on Thursday 5th March 2026. This year's theme is 'Awesome Adjectives', the words which help to bring characters alive! The children are invited to dress up as any adjective they choose, which can be as simple or as complicated as they like. For example : blue, dark, sparkly, shiny, awesome, sleepy, incredible, adventurous.....the list is literally endless. If your child is desperate to wear a character costume, this is no problem, as all characters can be described using adjectives, for example Harry Potter could be 'magical' or 'brave'. All we ask is that they make a label showing the word. Get ready for a parade of costumes and words on the playground in the morning!



'Raring to Go' Hereford and Worcester

Please copy and paste the link below to access the digital publication of 'Raring To Go' Hereford and Worcester - a local online magazine filled with local opportunities and events.

<https://magazines.raring2go.co.uk/herfordandworcester/winter2026/>

RSPB Big Schools Bird Watch 2026

This year the school are taking part in the RSPB Big Schools Bird Watch. On the 2nd February the whole school will be spending time outside recognising different species of birds and recording their findings. The numbers will be collated and then sent off to the RSPB where they will put together all information from schools across the country and produce a snapshot of the species and varieties of birds across the UK. You too can take part by signing up on the RSPB website and recording the birds you can see in your garden.



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

LIAM CRONIN
JESSICA BOND

FOXES

REMI KAUPPINEN
ARTIE VINCENT

OTTERS

THEO WILTON-CROWDY
AVA GREGORY

STOATS

FLORENCE DUESUND
OLLIE YOUNG

BADGERS

DANNY CHURCHFIELD
JUNIPER CALVERT

House Points

This week Midsummer took the top spot with an incredible 165 points. Congratulations to all!

WHAT'S ON ?

Mon 26th January: Peripatetic Guitar Lessons
Netball Club - afterschool until 4.15pm
Yr3/4 Gymnastics at The Chase (Parent collection from The Chase at 3.45pm)

Tues 27th January: Choir Club - afterschool until 4.15pm

Weds 28th January: FAME for Otter Class
Peripatetic Piano Lessons
Peripatetic Violin Lesson

Thurs 29th January: Peripatetic Drum Lesson

Friday 30th January 3rd Swim Stroat Class

Malvern Multi-Sports Camp

Providing young people aged 4-14 with an opportunity to have fun, develop sports skills and meet with friends.

16th & 17th
February 2026

8.45am-3.30pm
@ Sport Dyson Perrins
Leisure Centre

Yates Hay Road, Malvern, WR14 1WD.

£27.50 per day or £49.50 for 2 days.



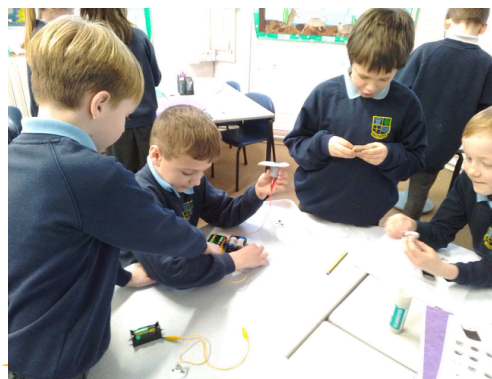
To secure your place, contact:
ben.robertshaw@live.co.uk
MSr Sports Coaching
07879 779569

Dates for your Diary

- Weds 11th & Thurs 12th Feb - Whole School parents Evening (details to follow)
- Mon 16th Feb - Fri 20th Feb - Half Term
- Thurs 5th March - World Book Day (details to follow)

Otter Class

Otter class have had a fabulous week. In science they have been working on circuits and enjoyed a brilliant lesson producing circuits, making bulbs light and propellers spin. They then braved the weather and spent time with Mrs Tinsdale learning the skill of Orienteering. Well done Otter Class!



Tips for Encouraging Open Discussions about DIGITAL LIVES

The online world is an entirely familiar and commonplace part of life for today's children and young people, far more so than for previous generations. There are many positives to children being able to access online materials, so it's important not to demonise the internet, games and apps, and limit the benefit of their positive aspects. At the same time, we do have a responsibility to educate children about the hazards they may encounter online (just as we would about real-world dangers) so it's essential that we don't shy away from talking to them about the complex – and often sensitive – subject of what they do and what they see when they're online.

Here are some suggestions for kicking off conversations with your child about their digital life ...

MAKE YOUR INTEREST CLEAR

Showing enthusiasm when you broach the subject signals to your child that you're keen to learn about the positives of their online world. Most children enjoy educating adults and will happily chat about what they use the internet for, or what games and apps they're into and how these work. Asking to see their favourite games and apps in action could help you spot any aspects that may need your attention – such as chat functions which might require a settings adjustment to limit contact with strangers. Keep listening even if your child pauses for a long time: they could be considering how to phrase something specific, or they may be gauging your reaction.

BE OPEN AND HONEST, APPROPRIATE TO THEIR AGE

At various stages, children and young people become curious about puberty and how their body changes; about relationships; about how babies are made; and about sexual health. If your child knows that they can discuss these sensitive subjects with you, they tend to be less likely to go looking online for answers – which can often provide them with misleading information and, in some cases, lead to them consuming harmful content. Don't worry if you don't immediately know the answers to their questions – just find out for yourself and go back to them once you have the facts.

REMIND YOUR CHILD THEY CAN ALWAYS TALK TO YOU

In my role I work with many children and young people who admit being reluctant to tell a trusted adult about harmful content they've viewed online, in case it leads to having their devices confiscated. Emphasise to your child that you're always there to listen and help; reassure them that if they do view harmful content, then they are not to blame – but talking about it openly will help. Children shouldn't be expected to be resilient against abuse or feel that it's their job to prevent it.

KEEP TALKING!

The most valuable advice we can give is to keep talking with your child about their digital lives. You could try using everyday situations to ask questions about their online experiences.

DISCUSS THAT NOT EVERYTHING WE SEE ONLINE IS REAL

Here, you could give examples from your own digital life of the online world versus reality – for example, those Instagram posts which show the perfect house: spotlessly clean, never messy and immaculately decorated. Explain to your child that there are many other aspects of the online world which are also deliberately presented in an unrealistic way for effect – such as someone's relationship, their body, having perfect skin and so on.

TRY TO REMAIN CALM

As much as possible, try to stay calm even if your child tells you about an online experience that makes you feel angry or fearful. Our immediate emotions frequently influence the way we talk, so it's possible that your initial reaction as a parent or carer could deter a child from speaking openly about what they've seen. Give yourself time to consider the right approach, and perhaps speak with other family members or school staff while you are considering your next steps.

CREATE A 'FAMILY AGREEMENT'

Involving your whole household in coming up with a family agreement about device use can be immensely beneficial. You could discuss when (and for how long) it's OK to use phones, tablets, consoles and so on at home; what parental controls are for and why they're important; and why it's good to talk to each other about things we've seen or experienced online (both good and bad). Explaining your reasoning will help children to understand that, as trusted adults, we want to make sure they are well informed and kept safe. Allowing children to have their say when coming up with your family agreement also makes them far more likely to stick to it in the long term.

Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings of RAISE (Raising Awareness in Sex Education) has almost 20 years' experience delivering relationships and sex education and training to schools, colleges and other education providers. A published author on the subject, she also advises the Department of Education on the staff-training element of the RSE curriculum.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday