

THE FRIDAY LETTER



This Week at The Wyche

This week Hedgehogs learned about different bedtime routines past and present, Foxes wrote exceptional non-chronological reports about owls, Otters learned what makes a city and city, a town a town and a village a village (ask an otter and find out...) and Stoats discovered how rock erosion forms the landscape. And Badgers... well, Badgers have been climbing trees, target shooting, night hiking, campfire singing ... more on this next week.



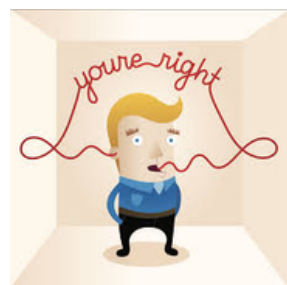
"THE WOLF SHALL DWELL WITH THE LAMB." ISAIAH 11:6

Collective Worship: Wolves & Lambs

In our collective worship assembly this week we considered wolves and lambs: one a figure of threat and menace in stories and folklore, one a symbol of youth, purity and let's face it, cuteness. Then we considered Isaiah's words that one day "the wolf will dwell with the lamb" and wondered these natural enemies can learn to co-exist in peace? Could our love and care for each other make the world a less threatening and a more harmonious place? It's worth a try.

Support for Parents - Smartphones

There are a range of views about children owning smartphones, but parents are more and more concerned about potential harms. It's not against the law to give a child a smartphone, and it's your right if you choose to do so but this organisation puts the case for waiting, and giving children a childhood without a phone. If your curious why, and for tips on child-friendly phones and managing the many risks, see what they have to say, below: www.smartphonefreechildhood.org



Online Safety - Echo Chambers

We live in times of contested views and are surrounded by highly charged debates. Whatever your own views, balance and proportion is essential, especially for young minds. Check out our handy guide on p.4 for supporting your young internet user as they are exposed to the views of "the internet".

Have a wonderful weekend together and stay out of the way of Storm Amy!,
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.



The importance of reading your child a Bedtime Story.

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In school this week:



Fox Class Art!

Last week we showed Fox class' work-in-progress paintings in the style of the famous landscape artist John Atkinson Grimshaw. This week the class completed the pieces and, Wow, they have turned out beautifully.
Congratulations Fox Class!



Buzz and Strive, big Grimshaw collectors, owners of some nice pieces, and very impressed with Fox class.

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

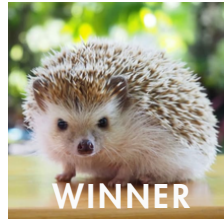
Malvern Wyche C of E Primary School

Together We Soar



Attendance Really Matters

It was our prickly pals the Hedgehogs who smashed it this week with their 98% attendance. They get to keep Buzz for the week. Thank you for your commitment to bringing your lovely kids to our lovely school every day. Why would you wish to be anywhere else?



Harvest Festival

Our school harvest festival service will be held in All Saints church at 2pm this coming Tuesday the 7th (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. If children could bring their donations into school Tuesday we will collect them in, alternatively you can drop off at the school office. 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/chili
- Tins of
- mackerel/sardines
- Biscuits
- Cat food, dry

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



Lunches!

We are getting an increasing number of children coming to school with no lunch provision (either no packed lunch or nothing ordered from Black Pepper). Whereby we appreciate the Black Pepper system can be temperamental can we please encourage parents to ensure they are ordering on time. We are doing our best to help out in these situations however please be aware that we are not sent extra food and this can be difficult.



School Disco

On Friday 7th November the Friends of the Wyche are are hosting school discos for both 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)

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

Cross Country Championships

Today, our year 5 pupils braved the weather and took part in the Cross Country Championships on Malvern College Common. The children did an incredible job and represented the school beautifully doing themselves and us proud. Well done Year 5.

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
LUCY PHILLIPS
OATHIN HAWKINS

FOXES
ARI GWILLIAM
ROWAN KERSHAW

OTTERS
THEO WILSDON
FLORA BURROWS

STOATS
ALL OF YR5 FOR A
FABULOUS CROSS
COUNTRY
PERFORMANCE

BADGERS
WHOLE CLASS FOR A
WONDERFUL
OAKERWOOD TRIP

Housepoints

This week Perseverance took the top spot with an incredible 285 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 6th October:

History Man Visit - Otter Class
Peripatetic Guitar Lessons
Netball Club, Group 1 - afterschool 4.15pm

Tues 7th October:

Choir Club - afterschool 4.15pm
Harvest Festival, All Saints Church, All invited 2pm

Weds 8th October:

History Man Visit - Stoat Class
Peripatetic Piano Lessons
Peripatetic Violin Lessons
KS1 Drawing Club - lunchtime

Thurs 9th October:

Peripatetic Drum Lessons
Art Club - afterschool 4.15pm
Multigames - afterschool 4.30pm

Friday 10th October:

Badger Class 4th Swim

Dates for your Diary

- Monday 6th Oct - Otter Class History Man Visit
- Tuesday 7th Oct - Harvest Festival Service in All Saints Church, 2pm, all welcome
- Wednesday 8th Oct - Stoat Class History Man Visit
- Thursday 16th Oct- School Photo Day
- Wednesday 22nd & Thursday 23rd Oct - Whole School Parents Evening
- 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

Apollo Falconry!

On Monday the children in Foxes and Hedgehogs had the opportunity to meet a selection of owls as they enjoyed a visit from Apollo Falconry. The birds were stunning and 'Owl Whisperer' Konnie told the children all about how they live and eat, finishing by giving the children an opportunity to hold one of the birds, a beautiful barn owl.

A remarkable and memorable experience for all!



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ECHO CHAMBERS

Digital echo chambers have become increasingly prevalent over the last half decade. Formed by a combination of social media algorithms designed to promote engagement and the basic human urge to be correct, these online environments reinforce the opinions that people already have – such as particular political ideologies – in a perpetual loop. The danger is that exposure to this constant bias can gradually nudge users towards more extreme views. That's certainly a potential hazard for young people, who tend to be more impressionable and easily influenced by things they see and read online – especially if it reflects a view they already agree with.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EXTREME IDEOLOGIES

Echo chambers can offer routes to harmful extreme worldviews. A typically teenage distrust of authority, for example, could spiral into a full-blown belief in conspiracy theories – sometimes rooted in ideas which are antisemitic, racist or misogynistic. For impressionable individuals who may be feeling disillusioned with life, echo chambers can often function as a gateway to radicalisation.

NO CRITICAL THINKING

While critical thinking skills are sometimes taught in schools, they are rarely domain specific. A lack of experience in thinking critically – for example, about things we see when browsing the internet – places young people at risk of falling prey to misinformation, untruths and false narratives, which are sometimes deliberately designed to mislead them and influence their thinking.

A VALUES VACUUM

If schools struggle to deliver on a clear ethos, founded in British values as outlined in the national curriculum, it leaves a space within which other ideologies have potential to flourish. Teaching about British values in more siloed experiences, such as PSHE lessons, doesn't always effectively convey the key notions: tolerance, democratic values, individual liberty and the rule of law.

UNDETECTABLE INDOCTRINATION

Many people enter online echo chambers every day without realising. It's easy to simply consume whatever's placed in front of us as we keep scrolling, unaware that we're being funnelled down a particular route. Not recognising that their daily digital diet could in fact be deeply biased in favour of one side or the other can accelerate a young person's journey towards more extreme ideologies.

LACK OF BALANCE

It's challenging to reflect on your own beliefs and opinions, and question whether you might have got things wrong. That's why most of us naturally lean towards consuming information which reinforces and underlines what we thought to begin with. The long-term consequence of this is general close-mindedness and, potentially, intolerance of a more diverse set of perspectives.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK ABOUT CHALLENGES

It could be helpful to explain to your child that, in general, people like to find evidence to strengthen their existing beliefs and prefer to ignore anything which supports an opposing perspective. Emphasise that it's OK if someone (politely) challenges what they think occasionally, and that any criticism of their view is purely that – a criticism of their opinion, not of them as a person.

DEBATE CAN BE GREAT

Encourage any interest your child shows in debating – whether at home, at school, or in clubs or societies. Debates require people to assess the merits of an opposing argument, so they can counter it. Putting themselves in the shoes of someone who has a different point of view is a useful way for children to approach new ideas that may contradict what they previously believed.

DISCUSS 'UNHEALTHY FEEDS'

Help your child understand how online algorithms shape which information is presented to them each day: ask them to consider why things appear in their feed on platforms like TikTok, Instagram or Snapchat. Explain that it benefits social media companies' advertising revenue to keep people coming back by showing them content which, generally, reinforces their existing world view.

THE VALUE OF VALUES

It can be hugely beneficial if your child recognises the importance of a core set of principles, such as the British values. By regularly tying their online experiences back to those essential ideas of democracy, tolerance and kindness towards others, understanding the rule of law and protecting individual liberties, you'll be helping them grow into a more resilient and robust future citizen.

VARY THEIR DIGITAL DIET

Sitting down to read online news stories with your child is an excellent way to demonstrate to them why it's important not to always get their information from just one place. Comparing how the same story is reported across popular mainstream publications – and talking about the political biases each may have – will highlight the importance of regularly checking a wide range of online sources.

Meet Our Expert

A former director of digital learning and currently a deputy headmaster and DSL, Brendan O'Keefe's experience and expertise gives him a clear insight into how modern digital systems impact the experience of children, staff and parents – and which strategies help to ensure that the online world remains a useful educational tool rather than a minefield of risks.



National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://archive.org/details/cognitiveillusions0000unse/page/79/mode/2up> | <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1369108X.2016.1216526>
<https://www.allsides.com/media-bias/media-bias-chart>