

THE FRIDAY LETTER



This Week at The Wyche

This week at the Wyche Hedgehogs wrote firework poems using expanded noun phrases and Foxes heard the songs for our Nativity play for the first time. Otters learned about the Roman invasion of Britain and how the Roman Army made it to this island. Stoats learned about the pentatonic scale and composed with only 5 notes. Badgers began practicing the Haka and raised the roof with their Māori battle cries.



Collective Worship

This week we began to sing Christmas hymns for our Carol Service, had a visit from the scouting association to invite pupils to engage in scouting in Malvern and began thinking about trusting relationships between children ahead of anti-bullying week next week.



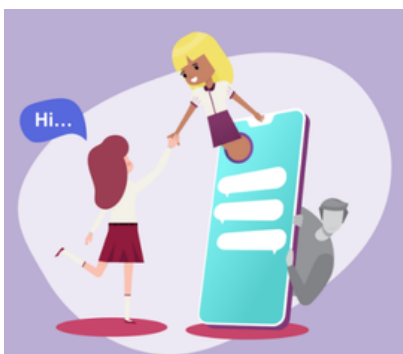
Support for Parents - Mental Health

Find support for pupil and adult mental health on our support page www.wyche.worcs.sch.uk/mental-health and don't forget, if your child is struggling with their emotions or thoughts, you can make a MELO referral at www.onside-advocacy.org.uk/melo or **ask us to do it on your behalf**. We'd be delighted. Everybody needs a little help sometimes.



Online Safety - Making Friends ONLINE

'When I were a lad' you made friends face to face, but even then there were risks. Nowadays, children not only often socialise online more than they do face to face, they can have friends who are online only. There are obvious risks involved in online relationships and our guide on p.4 helps your children with the **cyber bullying** and **'stranger danger'** which can occur all too easily on line. Give it a look and make a change if you need to. It's important stuff.



*It's great to be back and we've had a fun packed week ending in a panto and a disco. Have a lovely weekend 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:



Poppies!

Ahead of Remembrance day on Tuesday, our year 6 children have been doing a remarkable job selling poppies in and around the school.

They have a few left if you still need to buy one!



Buzz and Strive.
Also enjoyed Holes, but prefer
Rosemary Sutcliffe's Eagle of the
9th. Roman don't cha know?

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

Malvern Wyche C of E Primary School

Together We Soar



Attendance Matters

Although assembly for today was postponed Hedgehog were the winners of Buzz the "Be-Here" Buzzard with 96.9%

Keep those kids coming every day, there's so much to enjoy at the Wyche.



Anti-Bullying Week Odd Socks Day!



Next week, all primary schools in the country will be promoting anti-bullying week. Although every week is "anti-bullying" at The Wyche, we make the most of this opportunity to discuss this issue.

We use the acronym **STOP: Several Times on Purpose**, to help the children understand that bullying is more serious than everyday falling out, and **STOP: Start Telling Other People** to remind them that it is vital they ask for help.

The theme this year is Power for Good and we will kick off the week with the traditional **"Odd Socks" day on Monday 10th November 2025**. We encourage everyone to take part and look forward to seeing some brightly coloured mismatching socks!

Calling all go-getters.

Ready to try something new?

scoutsmalvern.org.uk
#SkillsForLife

Want to learn exciting new skills, have lots of fun and make new friends? We're opening Beavers for ages 6 - 8 years. Why not come along to our FREE Open Event at Scouts 1st Malvern Wells to find out more?

Who
Girls and boys aged 6 - 8 years with their parents and carers, and adults interested in volunteering

When
Tuesday 18th November 5.30 to 6.30pm

What
Exciting Beavers activities to have a go at, and the opportunity to chat to leaders

Where
Scouts 1st Malvern Wells HQ, Assarts Lane, Playing Fields, Malvern Wells, WR14 4JR

Contact
Julie at heretohelp@scoutshw.org.uk or call 07774 667074 to find out more



Scouts Assembly On Tuesday the school welcomed a leader from the Beavers/Cubs/Scouts who did a fabulous assembly for the children talking about the fabulous activities on offer at our local meetings.

The children all enjoyed the assembly and were super excited.

If you would like any further information on the local groups/meetings please contact 'Julie at heretohelp@scoutshw.org.uk.

Malvern Food Bank.

In an effort to continue supporting the local Malvern Hills food bank in the run up to Christmas we will be keeping a donation box in the entrance hall by the office. If you are in a position to pick up an item from the list above whilst out shopping and drop it in to the box the school will deliver the donations.

URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS (10 OCTOBER 2025)

HOT DOGS (TINS)
LAUNDRY - LIQUID/SHEETS
LAUNDRY - POWDER/TABS
MICROWAVE RICE PACKETS
PACKET PASTA SAUCE
TINS OF HAM
TINS OF MEAT - SPICY/CHILLI
DOG FOOD, TINS/POUCHES
CAT FOOD, TINS/POUCHES

WE ARE ALSO SHORT OF:
BISCUITS
COFFEE 100G AND 200G
MEATY SOUP, TINS
TINS OF CORNED BEEF
TINS OF FRUIT COCKTAIL
TINS OF MANDARINS
TINS OF MEAT - STEW/SAUCE
TINS OF PEARS
TINS OF PINEAPPLES

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:



DUE TO THE SCHOOL PANTO, STAR OF THE WEEK ASSEMBLY WAS POSTPONED HOWEVER WE WOULD LIKE TO COMMEND ALL THE CHILDREN FOR THEIR EXCEPTIONAL BEHAVIOUR DURING THE PERFORMANCE.



HEDGEHOGS

FOXES

OTTERS

STOATS



BADGERS



Housepoints

This week Perseverance took the top spot with an incredible 118 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 10th November: Odd Socks Day!!
History Man - Badger Class
Peripatetic Guitar Lessons
Netball Club - 4.15pm Group 2

Tues 11th November: Choir Club - 4.15pm
Quicksticks Hockey - Invited pupils only at The Chase 3.45pm - 5.50pm

Weds 12 November: Peripatetic Piano Lessons
Peripatetic Violin Lessons
KS1 Colouring Club - Lunchtime

Thurs 13th November: Peripatetic Drum Lessons
Art Club - 4.15pm
Multiskills - 4.30pm

Friday 14th November: Badger Class 5th Swim
Football - Invited pupils only at The Chase 3.45pm - 5.30pm

Dates for your Diary

- Monday 10th Nov - Badger Class History Man Visit / Odd Socks Day!
- Friday 5th Dec - School Christmas Fayre
- 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

School Pantomime - Robin Hood!

What a tremendous way to finish the week - the school panto.

This morning we welcomed M&M Theatrical Productions who delighted the children with a performance of Robin Hood.

The children absolutely loved the sets, costumes and music, they immersed themselves in the story and interacted with the cast.

May we take this opportunity to thank the 'Friends of the Wyche' who covered the cost of this event.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MAKING FRIENDS ONLINE

In today's digital world, it's increasingly common for children to form friendships with people they've never met in person. While online connections can offer children a sense of belonging, they also carry significant risks. Around 19% of children aged 10 to 15 in England and Wales have chatted online with someone they've never met face to face. This guide offers expert advice for parents and educators on helping children navigate online friendships safely.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONLINE GROOMING THREATS

Predators can use games, chat apps or social media platforms to build relationships with children and gain their trust. This may quickly develop into grooming or exploitation. Between April 2017 and March 2023, UK police recorded nearly 34,000 online grooming offences – an 82% increase in just five years.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Children may encounter distressing or explicit material while interacting with online contacts – especially via TikTok, Instagram or Snapchat. This is evidenced in a survey by the Children's Commissioner for England, which found that 45% of children aged 8 to 17 had seen content online that made them feel uncomfortable, worried or upset.

PRIVACY AND DATA RISKS

Children and young people often overshare personal details – such as where they live or go to school – without understanding the consequences. In fact, 4.4% of 10 to 15-year-olds in the UK have met up in real life with someone they'd only spoken to online.

COMPROMISED PERSONAL SAFETY

Meeting an online 'friend' in real life risks placing a child in serious danger. From abduction to coercion, the consequences can be devastating. Reports of children being harmed after such meetings are becoming increasingly common in the UK, highlighting the need for safeguarding intervention.

PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS

Online harm – such as cyberbullying, grooming or exposure to disturbing content – can lead to long-term emotional issues, including anxiety, depression and PTSD. 'Sexortion' gangs, who threaten to release sexual information about a person unless they pay them money, have reportedly targeted children as young as 11, leaving them traumatised and ashamed.

LONG-TERM REPERCUSSIONS

Children exposed to harmful online relationships early on may develop unhealthy beliefs about relationships, consent, or self-worth. In a recent case, a 26-year-old posed as a girl on Snapchat to befriend children aged 10 to 16, manipulating them into sexual activity and causing profound emotional distress. One 12-year-old tragically died by suicide, highlighting the long-term psychological harm online friendships with strangers can cause.

26 FRIENDS ONLINE NOW

Advice for Parents & Educators

TEACH SAFE ONLINE HABITS

Help children understand how to use privacy settings, protect their personal information, spot fake profiles, and report anything suspicious or concerning, like pressure tactics. Encourage them to think critically about what they share – and whom they're talking to.

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Let children know they can talk to you about their online life. Avoid reacting with anger or judgement, as this may prevent them from opening up in the future. A child who feels listened to is more likely to disclose problems before they escalate.

ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS

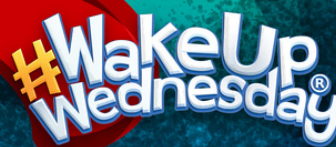
Support children in building friendships through school, clubs, hobbies and activities in the real world. Strong offline relationships help reduce children's reliance on online platforms for social interaction, and can help them develop resilience and social confidence.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Parental control settings on devices, games and apps can help manage screen time, filter out inappropriate content, and monitor activity. While no system is perfect, they provide a valuable layer of protection as children explore digital spaces.

Meet Our Expert

Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with over 30 years' experience in supporting children, families, and adults across education, local authority, and mental health settings – both in the UK (including at Parliamentary level) and internationally.



The National College