

THE FRIDAY LETTER

This Week at The Wyche

Happy Friday to you all!

This week at the wonderful Wyche has seen Red Class learn about polar regions and role-play a penguin "huddle" (like a rugby scrum, only with more beaks), Yellow Class speculated about the geography of Max's Island and drew carefully scaled maps of "Where The Wild Things Are", Blue Class, began a travel brochure about our lovely locale of Malvern, Orange Class made some delightful savoury scones - with a twist - and the addition of tomato, cheese and herbs made them into "Pizza Scones!". and Green Class asked the question "if you could stay one age forever, what age would you choose?" in preparation for their exciting end of term production "Peter Pan". If you could stay one age your whole life, what would you choose?

Online Safety

It's good for children to interact with their friends and many now do this online. However, with more and more children having Smartphones, the risks from online unkindness and even bullying are greater and the impact on children can be devastating. Use our handy guide on p.4 to make sure your child is as safe as houses when chatting with friends.



Collective Worship Assemblies

This week's assemblies celebrated St George's Day, with a look at the origin or the following of St George in the christian church and considering how we could slay dragons (peacefully) in our day to day life. Could we buckle on the armour of kindness and tolerance and do battle with unkindness, exclusion and unfairness. We think so. Take *that*, unfairness!



Support for Parents - Relationship Help

All relationships have their challenges and sometimes adults struggle to get on. Sometimes this means you need help to stay together, sometimes you need help to separate. There are times when people in relationships overstep the mark and someone needs protection too. Our webpage on Relationships <https://www.wyche.worcs.sch.uk/relationships> is full of support and services to help. Remember, **you are not alone**; people are here to help.

Be kind to yourselves this weekend, and cherish each other. We look forward to seeing you again next week. Take care until then,

in continuing partnership.

Mr Murphy.

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In this issue

This week at the Wyche
PAGE 01

House points, attendance,
Stars of the Week &
information
PAGE 02

What's on next week and
dates for your diary
PAGE 03

In school this week:



Red Class

Red Class children have been learning about Polar animals focusing on penguins. The class even re-created a penguin huddle!

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

Malvern Wyche C of E Primary School

Together We Soar



Attendance

Attendance is still at 94.9%, which is great, but we can still manage an upward trend. Thanks to all of you who invest in your children's futures by sending them in every day they are fit to attend. Valuing education and showing confidence in the school is such a gift to them and to us. We work very hard to make the school a lovely place to be and appreciate your support at the other end.

If there are any barriers to your child attending regularly, please let us know. We can solve most problems if we work together and put our minds to it.

Year 6 Enterprise Day - Date Change!

Please be advised the Enterprise Day for year 6 has been re-arranged and will now be on Friday 14th June. We are very much looking forward to seeing what Year 6 produce!

Music Lesson Invoices

This week, we have sent home the new invoices for Spring Term private music lessons. Spring term was a shorter term and therefore this is reflected in the amounts outstanding. Payments will need to be made in either cash or cheque made payable to Worcestershire County Council, to the school office. We would like to thank those parents who have already settled the outstanding amounts. If you are having any difficulties please do not hesitate to contact the office to discuss payment options

School Uniform - Hats!

Please can all children bring into school a named hat to wear during playtimes. We are beginning to welcome the Spring sunshine and want to enjoy it safely.

Term Dates 24/25

Term dates for the next academic year (24/25) have been confirmed and approved by the governing body. The INSET days for 24/25 are as follows :

Monday 2nd September

Tuesday 3rd September

Monday 6th January

Monday 28th April

Monday 21st July

For the schools full list of term dates, please see The Wyche school website under the parent tab, where all the information is up to date.



Strive the Eagles is expecting a visitor next week. Watch this space.

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:

Red Class

Athena Hawkins
Harry Husband

Yellow Class

Grace Baldwin Smith
Beatrice Salmon

Blue Class

Susannah Dolan
Matthew Ledington

Orange Class

Megan Mabey
Olly Hammond

Green Class

Alice Day Thompson
Oliver Robson

Housepoints!

Perseverance took the crown this week with a huge 85 Housepoints!

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.

- Mon 29th April:** Private Guitar/Ukelele Lessons
Private Brass Lessons
Dance Club Afterschool until 4.15pm
Computing Club Afterschool until 4.15pm
KS1 Sports Skills Afterschool until 4.15pm (Group 1 only)
- Tues 30th April:** KS1 Cricket at Malvern Cricket Club (Packed Lunches needed)
- Weds 1st May:** National Dental Survey for 5yr olds
Private Woodwind Lessons
Private Piano Lessons
Private Drum Lessons
Blue Class FAME
- Thurs 2nd May:** Multi-Games Club Afterschool until 4.30pm
- Friday 3rd May:** Drawing Club Afterschool until 4.15pm
Film Society Afterschool until 4.15pm
Blue Class 3rd Swim

Dates for your Diary

- Year 6 SATs week Monday 13th May - Friday 17th May
- Year 6 Enterprise Friday 14th June 2.30pm
- Sports Day - Friday 7th June
- School Summer Fayre - Thursday 4th July 6pm - 7.30pm
- KS2 Performances Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th July 6pm



Building Churches!

Red class have been having a fabulous time this week learning all about weddings and making vows in a sacred place. As part of this they have been making and decorating churches with stained glass windows. They all look fabulous!

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about HOW TO COMBAT ONLINE BULLYING

Defined as "ongoing hurtful behaviour towards someone online", cyber-bullying makes its victims feel upset, uncomfortable and unsafe. In the digital world, it has numerous forms – such as hurtful comments on a person's posts or profile; deliberately leaving them out of group chats; sharing embarrassing images or videos of someone; or spreading gossip about them. Cyber-bullying can severely impact a young person's mental health ... so, in support of Anti-Bullying Week, we've provided a list of tips to help trusted adults know what to look for and how to respond to it.

1. GET CONNECTED

Playing online games together with your child or connecting with them on social media (providing they're old enough) is not only fun but also an excellent way of establishing some common ground to discuss things you've both seen or done online – as well as keeping an eye on who your child is communicating with in the digital world.

2. KEEP TALKING

Regular chats with young people about their online lives are good practice in general, but they can also be an excellent refresher to help prevent cyber-bullying situations. Topics you might want to revisit include why it's important to only connect online with people we know and trust, and why passwords should always remain secret (even from our best friends).

3. STAY VIGILANT

Observe your child while they're using technology and just after they've used it. Are they acting normally, or out of character? Possible signs of a problem may include seeming quiet or withdrawn, jumpy or anxious, angry or repeatedly checking their phone. When you feel it's the right time, you may want to check in with them to see if everything is OK.

4. MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE

If an online bullying incident does occur, it may take a while before your child is ready to open up about what happened. Just gently remind them that they can always come to you with any problems – and that they won't be in trouble. You might also suggest a trusted family member they could turn to, in case they feel too embarrassed to tell you directly.

5. BE PREPARED TO LISTEN

When conversations about online bullying do take place, they're likely to be difficult, emotional and upsetting for both you and your child. Actively listen to your child while they're bringing you up to speed, and try not to show any judgement or criticism – even if they haven't dealt with the situation in exactly the way you would have hoped.

FURTHER SUPPORT AND ADVICE

If you or your child need additional help with an online bullying issue, here are some specialist organisations that you could reach out to.

Childline: talk to a trained counsellor on 0800 1111 or online at www.childline.org.uk/get-support/

National Bullying Helpline: counsellors are available on 0845 225 5787 or by visiting www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk/cyberbullying.html

The NSPCC: the children's charity has a guide to the signs of bullying at www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/ and can be reached on 0808 800 5000

6. EMPOWER YOUR CHILD

Depending on their age, your child might not want a parent 'fighting their battles for them'. In that case, talk through their options with them (blocking the perpetrator, deleting the app and so on). By allowing your child to choose the path they take, you're putting them in control but are also demonstrating that you're there to support them along the way.

7. REPORT BULLIES ONLINE

Cyber-bullying often takes place through a particular app, social media platform or online game. If this is happening to your child, encourage them to report the offender to the app or game in question – ideally with screenshots to support their complaint. Most games and apps have reporting tools specifically to stamp out abusive behaviour and protect users.

8. ENCOURAGE EMPATHY

Protecting themselves online is the priority, of course, but young people should also feel empowered to help if they witness other people falling victim to cyberbullying. Even if they don't feel confident enough to call someone out on their abusive behaviour online, they can still confidentially report that person to the app or game where the bullying occurred.

9. SEEK EXPERT ADVICE

Victims of online bullying frequently experience feelings of isolation and anxiety, a loss of self-esteem and potentially even thoughts of self-harm or suicide. If you think that an incident of cyber-bullying has affected your child's mental wellbeing, then seek psychological support for them. There are some useful contact details in the central panel below.

10. INVOLVE THE AUTHORITIES

If the nature of any online bullying makes you suspect that your child is genuinely in imminent physical danger – or if there are any signs whatsoever of explicit images being shared as part of the bullying – then you should gather any relevant screenshots as evidence and report the incidents to your local police force.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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