



St. Mary's News

"SHINE AS A LIGHT IN THE WORLD"

Matthew 5:16

Newsletter No: 26



Dear Parents and Guardians,

This week we have been especially proud of our Year 2 children who have been completing their "Secret Agent Training Skills" (SATs) and we are very proud of each and every one of them. SATs are the statutory assessment that currently takes place at the end of Key Stage 1 (Year 2) and the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6). The assessments in Key Stage 1 allow children to show the progress made from starting school in Reception. At St Mary's we are celebrating the children's successes in their SATs but also recognize that they shine in many other ways including through artistic or musical skills, sporting skills, being kind and caring and demonstrating our key Christian values of belief, respect and friendship.



Last week we had a fantastic residential at Laches Wood. It was wonderful watching our oldest pupils embrace independence and new challenges. My personal highlight was watching and hearing the children encourage each other (and the adults) as we got onto the rafted canoes. Without being prompted children encouraged each other verbally and many held out a hand to each other, without being asked, to offer a bit of reassurance when needed. Year 4 were a pleasure to have at Laches wood, wonderful ambassadors for our school and a real credit to their families at home.



Coming up, during the week beginning 5th June, we will be working alongside the pupils at Brewood Middle for a Spiritual Arts Week. Children across the federation will be looking at the theme 'What a Wonderful World' studying aspects of the Creation Story and the responsibility we have for looking after the natural world. During the week, at St Mary's, each class will be having a workshop where parents and guardians are warmly invited into school to support the children in the class with their creative projects. Where possible, we respectfully ask that younger siblings do not attend the workshops. However, please do not let this prevent you from attending to support your child.

Please see below for the different class workshops:

Monday 5th June - Silver Birch, 2-3pm

Tuesday 6th June - Oak, 2-3pm

Wednesday 7th June - Cherry, 11.00-11.45am

Wednesday 7th June - Willow, 2-3pm

Thursday 8th June Sycamore - 2-3pm

Have a wonderful weekend and see everyone on Monday.

Many thanks
Mrs. N R Brennan

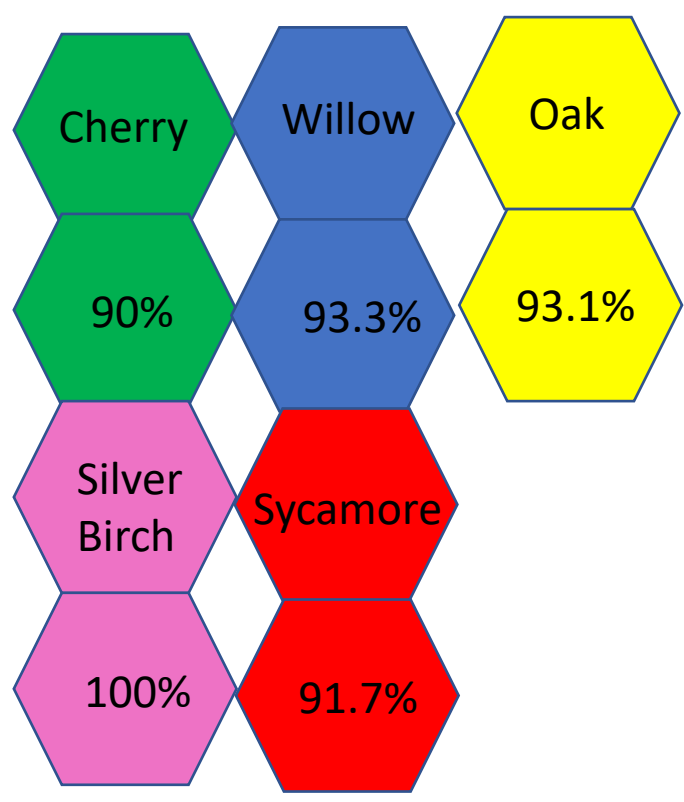


Eco Stars Award

**Congratulations to Year 4 for looking
after the environment at Laches
Wood.**



23 rd May	Silver Birch trip to Wolverhampton Adventure Golf
26 th May	2:30 pm Oak leading worship - Oak parents welcome.
29 th May - 2 nd June	Half Term
5 th June	All children Welcome back.
Week beginning 5 th June	Spiritual Arts Week Workshops 5/06/23 - Silver Birch, 2pm-3pm 6/06/23 - Oak, 2pm- 3pm 7/06/23 - Cherry, 11-11.45am 7/06/23 - Willow - 2-3pm 8/06/23 - Sycamore, 2-3pm
19 ^h June	Fathers day lunch Cherry, Willow and Oak
20 th June	Fathers day lunch years Silver Birch and Sycamore
21 st June	8:30 - 8:45am family wake up shake up in school hall
27 th & 28 th June	Parent Evening
3 rd July	New reception children - Story time
7 th July	Music concert Cherry, Willow and Oak class 2:15pm parents welcome
12 th July	Sports day 1pm onwards. (Including formally loved school uniform sale)
20 th July	PTA Disco - Details to follow.
21 st July	Whole school service at St. Mary's church
21 st July	Year 4 Leavers celebration details to follow.
24 th July	2pm Year 4 Leavers worship - Year 4 parents and guardians invited.
25 th July	Staff Inset day - School closed to children



Congratulations to all our classes who have reached our government’s expectation of 96% or above..

★ Star of the week ★

Class	Pupil
Cherry	Layla
Willow	A Superstar
Oak	Rubie
Silver Birch	Jenson
Sycamore	John-Brian

A massive well done to all children for all their hard work this week. We are proud to call you a part of our St Mary's Family



Holiday Penalty Notice Request (PNR) Guidance 2022

A penalty notice can be issued for as little as 1 days unauthorised absence but must be coded as a "G" on the attendance register.

The child must return to school and have an attendance mark before we can process the penalty notice request. If this occurs at the end of a term or academic year then it will need to be submitted the following term when the child returns.

There are no specific exceptional circumstances that the LA go by to authorise a holiday. It is at the headteachers discretion, examples of exceptional circumstances may include; terminal illness of child or parent, a parent who has just completed a tour in the armed forces or a funeral of a close relative.

Parent requests leave of absence.

Issue letter to inform parent absence will be marked as unauthorised and they may receive a penalty notice.

Mark the period of absence as unauthorised using the "G" code.

Once the child has returned to school submit the penalty notice request form to educationcoreoffer@staffordshire.gov.uk

Parent does not request leave of absence.

Once the child has returned, issue a letter that you suspect the child was on unauthorised leave for the purpose of a holiday. Allow 7 days for the parent to provide evidence they were not on holiday.

If no evidence is provided. Mark the period of absence as unauthorised using the "G" code.

Please submit the penalty notice request form to educationcoreoffer@staffordshire.gov.uk

Best Practice Advice

- Keep a log of correspondence with parents regarding unauthorised leaves of absence. This includes phone calls, voicemails, emails etc.
- Respond to the request for leave within 7 days or in the case of a suspected holiday as soon as possible after the child returns.
- Name and address correspondence to both parents. *E.g. Mr John Smith and Mrs Rebecca Smith.* (Even if emailed).
- Only name parents on the PNR you wish us to issue the PNR to (for separated families, this may be only the parent who went on the holiday).
- You must give parents full names on the PNR form.
- PNR's need to be submitted separately even in the case of siblings to maintain GDPR during our administrative procedures.
- All paperwork needs to be sent to:

educationcoreoffer@staffordshire.gov.uk

Checklist for submission:

- Completed PNR form.
- Signed attendance certificate showing G codes for period of holiday and return to school mark. (If your school share attendance data with us this is not required initially).
- Parental holiday request (If submitted).
- Schools letter notifying parent that leave will be marked as unauthorised and a penalty notice may be issued.

DINE

WITH MIQUILL

WEEK THREE

DINE

Main Meal

DINE

Vegetarian

Dessert
STOP

Sweet Options

MONDAY



Italian

**Cheese & Tomato
Baguette Pizza**
with sweetcorn

**Veggie
Bolognese**
with whole grain
pasta
& sweetcorn

TUESDAY



**All In One
Sausage & Cheesy
Potato Bake**
with carrots

**All In One Veggie
Sausage & Cheesy
Potato Bake**
with carrots

WEDNESDAY



**Roast Chicken
& Stuffing**
with roasties
fresh veg & gravy

**Vegetable Pastry
Plait**
with roasties
fresh veg & gravy

THURSDAY



**Chicken Tikka
Masala**
with whole grain
rice

Chinese Omelette
with whole grain
rice &
5 spice cauliflower

FRIDAY



**Golden fish
fingers**
(Salmon or
Pollock)
with chips
& beans

**Vegetable
Fingers**
with chips
& beans

Fresh Pasta and Tomato Sauce available every day
Filled Jackets and freshly made sandwiches are also available

Banoffee Dessert

**Vanilla Sprinkle
Sponge**

**Rice Crispie
Cake**

**Apple Sponge
Cake**

Flapjack

WEEK COMMENCING:
10/4, 1/5, 22/5, 12/6, 3/7, 24/7

Fresh Bread, Yoghurt and Fruit are available daily



HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUB

At Brewwood Community Hub

51 Deansfield Road, Brewwood, Staffs ST19 9HT



30th, 31st
May, 1st
June &
2nd June



8:30 am - 4:30 pm Full Day

£20

8:30 - 12:30 Half Day

£10



LOTS
OF
FUN!

AGES
5-13

07816 540275

sarah.t@sportscool.org

ARTS AND CRAFTS



AND MUCH MORE!

INFLATABLES

FOOTBALL

ARCHERY

DANCE

GLOW IN THE DARK DODGEBALL

To book on to one of our courses, follow
the simple steps below!

1. Please visit www.sportscoolwolves.schoolipal.co.uk
2. Log in to your account (first time users will need to register and provide the required details).
3. Select the School, followed by the club you wish to book for.
4. Select which child/ren you wish to attend.
5. Follow the payment process.
6. Once paid you will be fully booked onto the course.

We look forward to seeing you!

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SOCIAL MEDIA & MENTAL HEALTH

An estimated one-third of children have a social media account, so it's important that trusted adults know what content young people are consuming, what they're posting and the interactions they're having. On social media, it can be easy to go down 'rabbit holes' that aren't beneficial to our wellbeing. As platforms grapple with managing such 'legal but harmful' content, lives are being impacted – sometimes to tragic effect. We might be daunted by the scale of the tech giants and their content which so enthral young people, but we can still help children to be aware of their mental wellness: recognising when something isn't OK... and knowing what to do about content that upsets them.

1. UNDERSTAND THE ALGORITHM

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Algorithms rank content by user interest: someone who regularly interacts with sports news, say, will see the latest results at the top of their feed. Likewise, if a user browses content that can cause harm, that's what will be recommended to them in future. Someone who's had a bad day and looks for posts which reflect their mood will find similar content being suggested to them more and more.

2. AVOID THE MAIN FEEDS

Avoiding the default feeds on social media platforms limits the amount of recommended content that's shown. Users can opt to only scroll through the accounts they follow, use restricted modes, or highlight posts that they don't want to see more of. Explore the platform safety settings to see how you can take control of what your child's phone shows them when they open the app.

3. DISCUSS WHAT THEY'VE SEEN

Chatting about what your child's seen online keeps you aware of the content they're interacting with. Don't assume that platforms are screening out inappropriate material, or even that your child would recognise content as being harmful. Discuss with them what they follow, what posts they like and what comes up in their feeds: if alarm bells ring, it could be time for a more in-depth talk or to seek support.

4. LEARN HOW TO HIDE CONTENT

If your child stumbles across unsuitable content on social media, there's the option to hide that post as well as indicating you'd prefer any similar material not to be suggested in future. On some platforms, you might also be able to block posts that contain specific words, which is an excellent way to start taking control of what your child sees online.

5. SET DAILY LIMITS

Phones and most apps can tell you how much they're being used. Spending too long online can mean a child misses out on other activities that are important to all-round wellbeing. You could set some family rules – for everyone to follow – around device use, such as screen time limits and tech-free spaces: involving your child in creating this agreement makes them more likely to stick to it.

6. MONITOR THEIR ACTIVITY

Keeping a discreet eye on how your child is using social media can help ensure they're not entering potentially dangerous situations. As they grow up, of course, children need space to exercise their independence – but you can still occasionally ask to see what they're looking at. Be transparent about your own social media use and try not to sound judgemental about your child's.

7. TURN OFF PUSH NOTIFICATIONS

Even for adults, it's tempting to check an email or message as soon as the alert sound pings. Push notifications encourage people to open their apps and spend time on their device, so turning them off will help your child to practise mindful use of tech. Most of us have other things that we need to focus on as a priority – and those notifications will still be there later, when we have more time.

8. USE DEVICES TOGETHER

Giving children internet-enabled devices and complete freedom to explore platforms on their own can result in exposure to hugely damaging content. You could consider making a particular area at home a designated space to use phones, tablets and so on – making it much easier to monitor what content your child is viewing and (if necessary) steer them away from any potentially harmful paths.

9. ENCOURAGE OTHER ACTIVITIES

Mental health professionals often highlight the importance of exercise, quality time with loved ones, a balanced diet and restful sleep for our mental wellbeing. Spending hours on social media can cause us to sacrifice other activities that our brains need to feel well – so encouraging your child to put down their phone and enjoy something that doesn't involve a screen can be immensely beneficial.

10. TALK ABOUT PEER PRESSURE

Most platforms default children's accounts to private, so only people they've accepted as friends can see their posts. This reduces the risk of bullying or unkind comments, but – just like offline life – the digital world can still make children feel as if they need to act or look a certain way to fit in. Talk to your child about peer pressure, and listen to any concerns so you can provide the support they need.

Meet Our Expert

Shazia Sarwar-Azim is executive headteacher at a specialist primary school and, as an emotional therapy coach, works with school leaders to focus on the SEND, mental health and wellbeing agenda. A passionate advocate for vulnerable learners, Shazia is a Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and the author of *The Rainbow Within*, a book which supports children with SEMH needs.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-55246505>
<https://sproutsocial.com/insights/social-media-algorithms/>