



St. Mary's News

"SHINE AS A LIGHT IN THE WORLD"

Matthew 5:16

Newsletter No: 28



Dear Parents and Guardians,

We've had a busy week enjoying both the summer weather and seeing the children continuing to learn and develop. At this point in the year, we begin to look back at the progress made from September and can see real changes in the children not just academically but emotionally as well. Our pupils, your children, really are the pride and joy of our little academy and I am proud of each and every one of them. Next week you will be able to speak with your child's class teacher during our parents' consultation evenings. If you have not received the separate letter with details of how to book appointments, please contact Mrs Johnson in the office and she will be happy to help you.



We have lots of end of term activities coming up including transition events for both our Year 4 leavers and new Reception starters:

Whole school:

27th and 28th June - Parent and Guardian consultation evenings .

11th July - SEND coffee afternoon with Mrs Guy, 2.30pm

12th July - Sports day on the field, 1pm-3pm. Please bring chairs and blankets to sit on as well as your trainers ready for the parent races!! Our PTA will be selling 'formally loved' school uniform for next year as well as refreshments, cash and card payments accepted.

(17th July - Back up date for sports day if weather is poor.)

20th July - End of year disco, 3.15pm-6pm. Children to wear school uniform on this day and bring party clothes in a bag to change into before the disco begins. Further details to follow from our PTA.

21st July - End of year worship at church including a presentation to Year 4. All parents and guardians welcome to supporting the children walking safely to and from church and enjoy the service.

24th July - All children in school for 'Fun-day Monday'

25th July - School closed to all children for staff INSET day.

Year 4:

1st July - Rocket day at Brewood Middle Academy, please contact the Brewood office for further details.

5th July - Year 4 transition day at Brewood Middle Academy contact the Brewood office for further details.

21st July - Year 4 fun evening, 3.15pm-7pm, details to follow.

24th July - Year 4 leavers worship, 2pm, all Year 4 parents and guardians welcome to celebrate the successes of the children and wish them well moving into middle school.

New Reception starters:

3rd July - Story time with Miss Bown, 2.30pm.

10th July - Story time with Miss Bown, 2.30pm (Our PTA will be selling 'formally loved' uniform will be on sale during this session)

Many thanks

Mrs. N R Brennan



Eco Stars Award

Congratulations to Sycamore Class

Who are this week's Eco stars!

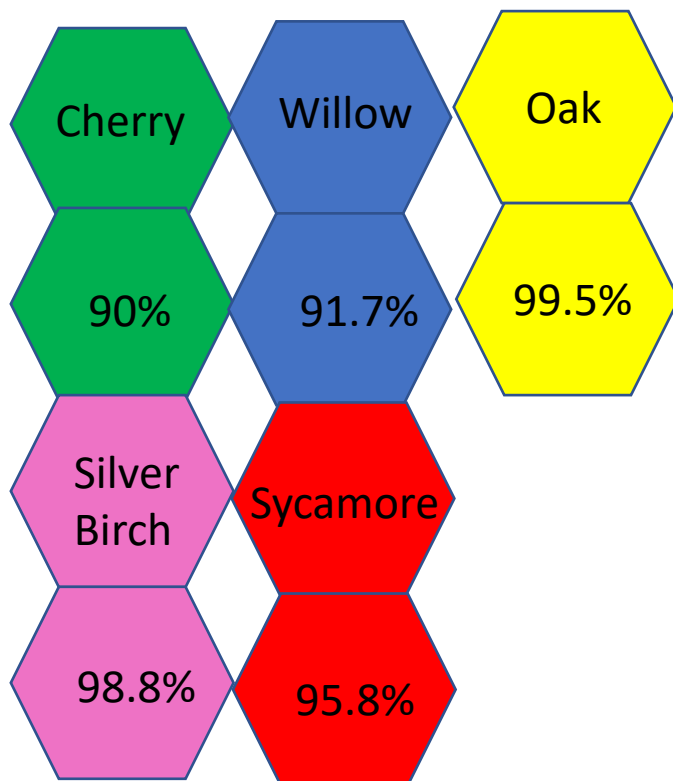




Attendance Matters



27 th & 28 th June	Parent Evening
3 rd July	New reception children - Story time
5 th July	Year 4 Transition day at Brewood Middle
6 th July	Silver Birch and Sycamore trip to Cadbury World.
7 th July	Music concert Cherry, Willow and Oak class 2:15pm parents' welcome
11 th July	'SEND coffee and catch up' 2:30pm - parents welcome.
12 th July	Sports day 1pm onwards. (Including formally loved school uniform sale)
13 th July	Rocksteady Concert 2:30pm parents' welcome.
18 th July	American theme lunch for Pupils - Information to follow.
19 th July	Picnic Day for all children and staff.
20 th July	PTA Disco - 3:15pm - 6pm.
21 st July	Whole school service at St. Mary's church
21 st July	Year 4 fun evening 3:15pm -7pm 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	Evie
Willow	Linkon
Oak	Olivia
Silver Birch	George
Sycamore	George

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

DINE

WITH MIQUILL

WEEK TWO

DINE
Main Meal

DINE
Vegetarian

Dessert
STOP
Sweet Options

MONDAY



Margherita Pizza
with carrot &
sultana salad

TUESDAY



**Beef Burger
in a Bun**
with wedges
& sweetcorn

WEDNESDAY



Roast Gammon
with roasties
fresh veg & gravy

THURSDAY



Chicken Curry
with whole grain
rice

FRIDAY



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

Mac n Cheese
with carrot &
sultana salad

**Veggie Burger
in a Bun**
with wedges
& sweetcorn

Summer Veg Tart
with roasties
fresh veg & gravy

**Sweet Vegetable
Curry**
with whole grain
rice

**Cheesy Bean
Wrap**
with chips

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

Apple Crumble

Vanilla Cup Cake

**Chocolate
Brownie**

**Peaches
& Ice Cream**

Lemon Cookie

WEEK COMMENCING:
24/4, 15/5, 5/6, 26/6, 17/7

Fresh Bread, Yoghurt and Fruit are available daily



Coffee Afternoon for SEND parents & Guardians



Come for a coffee and catch up with our Inclusion
Lead, Mrs Guy, at an informal coffee afternoon on
Tuesday 11th July 2:30pm

All parents and guardians welcome.

SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB



At Bilbrook Village Hall
Boeys Ln, Codsall, Wolverhampton WV8 1JL

1st August -
25th August
Tuesday-
Friday



8:30 am - 4:30 pm Full Day

£20

8:30 - 12:30 Half Day

£10



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5-12

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We look forward to seeing you!

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AI VIRTUAL FRIENDS

Artificial Intelligence – particularly in terms of how it generates natural language – has seen significant development over the last six months, with companies releasing new AI-based software or adding an AI element to existing apps (such as Snapchat, for example). One form of AI to become especially popular has been the 'AI friend' or chatbot, as children eagerly experiment with these new-found computer-generated companions. There are now numerous apps available with this 'virtual friend' functionality, with the likelihood of it being added to other successful platforms soon.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

AI chatbots may not always be able to recognise when content is age inappropriate or harmful and should be filtered out. So there's a possibility that children could be exposed to offensive language or explicit material while conversing with their virtual friend. The companies producing such AI solutions are also unlikely to take responsibility for any content that their algorithms generate.

REDUCED SOCIAL CONTACT

An excessive reliance on chatbots for social interaction could potentially cause a child to begin reducing the amount of face-to-face communication they have, leading to social isolation. If young people become dependent on chatbots to provide companionship, it could very likely hinder the development of their real-life social skills.

LACK OF SENSITIVITY

Chatbot software isn't always sophisticated enough to pick up on subtle emotional cues or recognise signs of distress in children, as most humans would. It might therefore fail to respond appropriately. AI misinterpreting what it's being told or replying insensitively to a young user who's already struggling could potentially impact a child's emotional wellbeing or exacerbate any existing emotional issues.

UNINTENTIONAL BIAS

AI companions are only as reliable as the information they've been programmed with. The algorithms they use, therefore, may unintentionally promote bias, stereotypes or discriminatory behaviour (as many originate from the USA or the UK, for instance, they can display a distinctly western-centric worldview). This could lead to children developing skewed attitudes and behaviours.

COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS

Although many are now undeniably advanced, AI-powered chatbots still have limitations in terms of understanding complex concepts, context and nuance. Depending heavily on chatbots to help with learning or solving problems may stunt the development of a child's own powers of critical thinking, creativity and ability to engage in open-ended discussions with other people.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Chatbots typically collect data about users, including personal information and conversations. This is ostensibly to improve their performance as they gradually learn about our behaviour – but many experts are warning that there may be significant risks associated with how this information is stored and used (the possibility of potential breaches or misuse by third parties, for instance).

Advice for Parents & Carers

CHAT ABOUT CHATBOTS

If your child is already expressing an interest in AI apps, a relaxed, natural chat should help you to discover which ones they're aware of and how they're using them (or are planning to). Discuss these options with your child and perhaps do your own research to ensure you think they're suitable. Once you're totally happy, you could sit with your young one and begin exploring AI chatbots together.

TAKE CONTROL

As with any form of app or game, when it comes to AI chatbots we'd strongly recommend that you consider employing parental controls (either on the device being used or within the software itself) to manage which apps your child can download and use. This is particularly important for younger children, who may be more at risk of being upset or frightened by inappropriate content.

CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If your child is keen to engage with AI chatbots, encourage them to do so in a safe environment. Ideally in a shared space at home, so you can easily keep an eye and ear on their progress. Set up appropriate content filtering measures in advance – and gently remind them that you'll be close by and ready to help with any questions or concerns that may arise.

FIND A BALANCE

Work alongside your child to establish the right balance in terms of how they might use AI-powered chatbots – and when it's appropriate. It's important to make sure that children are still getting plenty of opportunities to learn to solve problems for themselves, as well as building their interpersonal skills through face-to-face conversations with friends, family members and teachers.

RECOGNISE THE RISKS

It's unlikely that most children will have even considered the potential risks attached to having a virtual companion. So it's probably wise to explain some of the possible hazards and challenges of AI chatbots to your child. In particular, emphasise that AI isn't a real person (however much it might sound like one) and may occasionally tell them something that isn't entirely impartial or accurate.

Meet Our Expert

A certified information systems security professional (CISSP), polymathism is the creative app at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East, with a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security. He believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.



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