



St. Mary's News

"SHINE AS A LIGHT IN THE WORLD"

Matthew 5:16

Newsletter No: 47



Dear Families,

We have lots of wonderful things happening at St Mary's this coming week. We are kick starting the week with a very exciting trip to Chester Zoo on Monday 29th January. Can we please remind families that children are to wear full school uniform with sensible footwear, ideally trainers or walking boots, and layers including a warm and waterproof coat.

We are saying goodbye to Mrs Johnson this week as she moves onwards and upwards to her new position at Brewood Middle. We want to take this opportunity to again, say THANK YOU for all the support she has given to the staff and the families during her time at St Mary's CE First Academy, she will be greatly missed. Good Luck Mrs Johnson!

The second familiar face we are waving goodbye to this week is our beloved Reverend Rachel who is now moving onto another position in Wales and to be closer to her family. We cannot thank Reverend Rachel enough for her support and commitment to us at St Mary's and the community. She will be dearly missed but we wish her the very best of luck for her future. Thank you Reverend Rachel!



We also have Parents Evenings coming up this week. The first being on Tuesday 30th and the second on Wednesday 31st January. If you have not yet booked an appointment with your child's class teacher, please visit the school office to arrange this. There will be an opportunity to look at your child's books during your visit.

Unfortunately, Mrs. Brennan is off work at present, but Mr. Dickson will be spending an increased amount of time at St Mary's. Please direct any class dojo messages to the school office rather than to Mrs. Brennan during this time.



Please can we take this opportunity to remind you about the importance of your child's attendance in school. This includes arriving at school on time. We appreciate that there may be the odd occasion where your child is unwell, or they are running late for school. However, every time your child arrives after 9am, they are marked late, and this impacts the percentage of their attendance and can lead to late fines if it happening regularly. If you feel you need support with attendance, please get in touch. We work with the Educational Well-fair officer to monitor the attendance of children who are falling below 95% and she will also contact families to offer support where needed.

Have a lovely weekend,

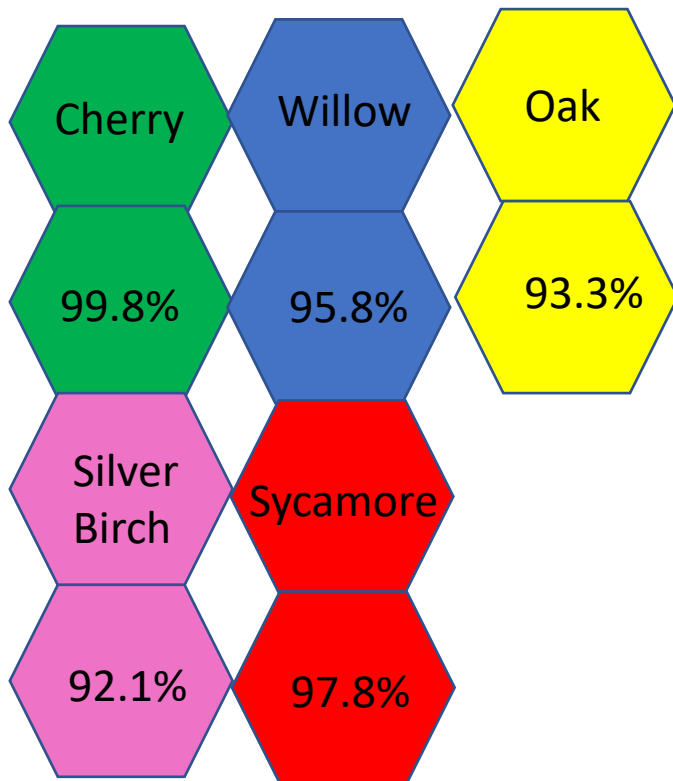
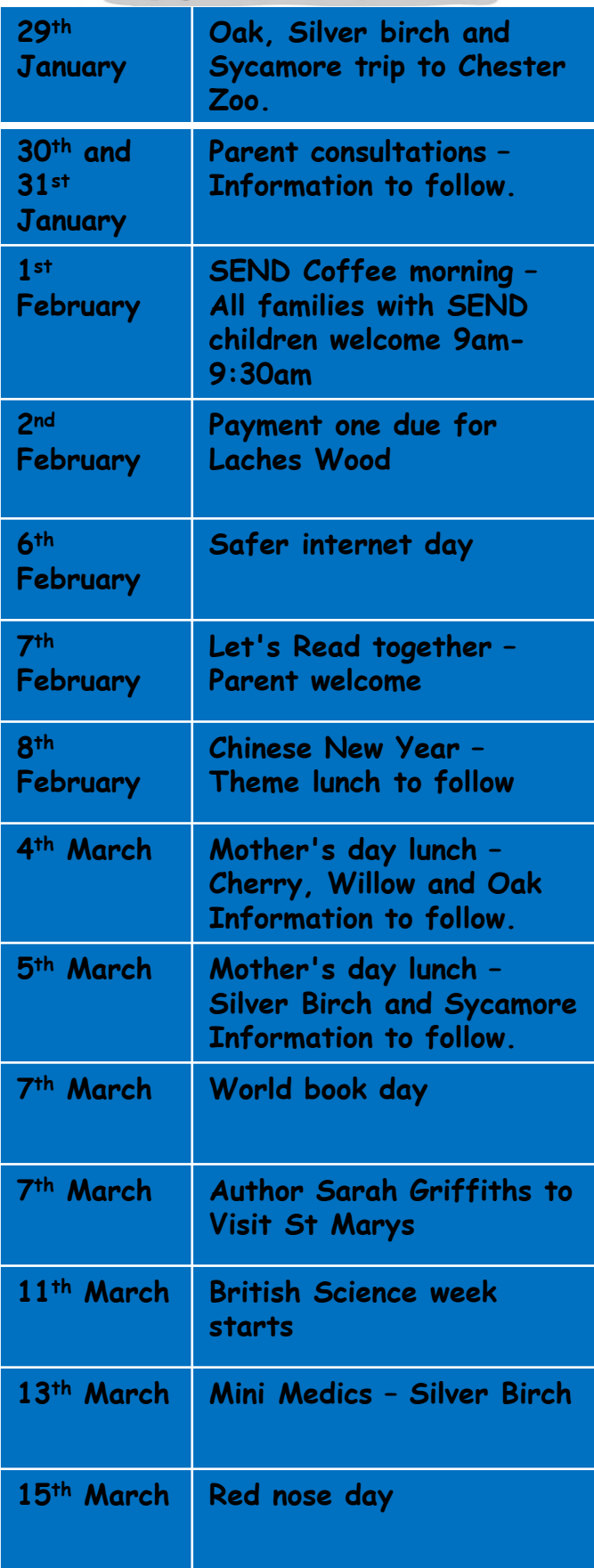
Mr. Dickson
Executive Principal

*Chester Zoo
Monday 29th January
Oak, Silver Birch and Sycamore trip.*

*Parent Consultations
Tuesday 30th January and Wednesday 31st January*

*Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 6th February*





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



Star of the week



Class	Pupil
Cherry	Maddie
Willow	Olivia
Oak	Billy
Silver Birch	Francis
Sycamore	Oliver

**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**

Free School Meals

Are you entitled?

Are you entitled to Free school meals, please use the link below.
<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Apply-online.aspx>



WEEK 2

Allergy information available on request

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Main				
Macaroni Cheese (v)	Pork Sausage and Mashed Potatoes	Roast of the Day with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Beef Lasagne	Fish and Chips
Vegetarian				
Mild Chickpea Coconut Curry with Rice (v)	Vegan Sausage and Mashed Potatoes (v)	Roasted Vegetable Tart with Roast Potatoes and Gravy (v)	Veggie Curry with Rice (v)	Cheese Toastie and Chips (v)
3rd Options				
Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw
Deli				
Deli Option with Ham, Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese				
Vegetables				
Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables
Dessert				
Vegan Sweet Potato and Ginger Cake	Fruit Shortbread	Cinnamon Toast Bake	Vegan Chocolate Brownie	Fruit Jelly
Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt

Fresh seasonal salad and bread available daily. Fresh fruit and yoghurt available daily as an alternative to the dessert of the day.

6th Nov, 27th Nov, 18th Dec, 8th Jan, 29th Jan, 19th Feb, 11th Mar

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

TikTok is a video-sharing social media app which lets people create, view and download looping 15-second clips. Typically, these are videos of users lip-synching and dancing to popular songs or soundbites (often for comic purposes), enhanced with filters, effects and text. Designed with young people in mind, TikTok skyrocketed in popularity in 2019 and has featured near the top of download charts ever since. It now has around a billion users worldwide.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most videos appearing on a child's feed are light-hearted and amusing. However, some clips have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, themes of suicide and self-harm, or young users acting in a sexually suggestive way. The sheer volume of uploads is impossible to moderate entirely – and since TikTok's launch in mid-2017, users can view third-party content outside the app.

18
CONCERN

EXPLICIT SONGS

TikTok primarily revolves around videos of users lip-synching and dancing to music. Recently, some featured songs will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. In fact, the app's young user base, there is a risk that children may view older users' videos and then be inclined to imitate any explicit language or suggestive content.

WASH!

TIKTOK FAME

The app has created its own celebrities. Charli D'Amelio and Addison Rae, for example, have managed to make big money on TikTok – leading to many more being attracted to go viral and become "TikTok famous". While most aspirants seem happy to be "the next big thing", not all children, however, may be happy to have to go to work there or to be in the public eye.



HAZARDOUS VISIBILITY

Connecting with others is central to TikTok – including commenting on and reacting to users' videos, following their profile and downloading their content. The majority of these interactions are harmless, but – because of the abundance of teen users – TikTok has experienced problems with predators contacting young people.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social media, TikTok is designed to be addictive. It can be hugely entertaining – but that also makes it hard to put down. As well as the catchy nature of the short video format, the app's ability to keep users intrigued about what's coming next makes it a strong lure to scroll endlessly and to turn into a 40-minute day.

IN-APP SPENDING

There is an in-app option to purchase "TikTok coins", which are then converted into digital rewards for sending to content creators that a user likes. While coins from this is an optional feature, the service, TikTok is also connected with shopping, which allows users to buy products through the app.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK ABOUT ONLINE CONTENT

Assuming your child is above TikTok's age limit, talk to them about what they've viewed on the app. Ask their opinion on what is appropriate and what isn't. Explain why they shouldn't give out personal details or upload videos which reveal information like their school or home address. In the long run, leading them to think critically about what they see on TikTok could help them to become better media users.

MAINTAIN PRIVACY SETTINGS

The default setting for all under-18 accounts is "private". Keeping it that way is the safest option. It means only users who your child approves can watch their videos. The "close" (which lets users share clips from other people's videos into their own) and "duet" (where you build on another user's video by recording your own video alongside their original) features are also only available for over 18s. This might clash with your child's aspirations of social media stardom, but it will limit their account against predators.

LEARN ABOUT REPORTING AND BLOCKING

With the correct privacy settings applied, TikTok is a relatively safe space. However, if you see something that's through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report inappropriate content and get them to come to you about anything upsetting that they've seen. TikTok allows users to report anyone breaching its guidelines, while you can also block individual users through their profile.

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing lets parents and carers link their own TikTok account to their child's. Through your mobile, you can control your child's safety settings remotely – including limiting screen time, managing their ability to exchange messages (and with whom) and blocking a lot of age-inappropriate content. TikTok's Safety Centre also provides resources for parents and carers to support online safety among teens. These resources can be found on their website.

USE RESTRICTED MODE

In the app's Digital Wellbeing section, you can filter out inappropriate content (specific content creators or hashtags, for instance) using "Restricted Mode". This can then be locked with a PIN. You should note, though, that the algorithm moderating content isn't totally dependable – so it's also to size aware of what your child is watching.

MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child to manage their time on it in the Digital Wellbeing section. Under "Screen Time Management", you can limit the daily permitted time on the app (in increments ranging from 30 minutes to two hours). This permission can also be turned beyond a limit. That way, your child can get their regular dose of TikTok without wasting the whole day.

Meet Our Expert

Poppy Koss is a social media expert and digital media consultant who's passionate about empowering digital citizens for parents and adults. She has extensive experience in the social media space and is the founder of Koss & Co., a professional digital marketing and creative studio in a digital world.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

SOURCE: TfL experts



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



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