



This Week at The Wyche

It's been wonderful to return for the Spring Term and we have certainly hit the ground running. Badger class learned about the action of the heart and found their pulse, Stoot class were charmed by the beautiful illuminated manuscripts made by medieval monks, Otters learned about the skeleton (nothing scary - just science) Fox class were thrilled by the "Sea Interludes" of Benjamin Britten and Hedgehog class learned about Edward TingaTinga and made beautiful black and white animals with dots of paint.

Collective Worship

We launched a half term of Respect this week, considering how to have respectful conversations with people who may seem different to us, and substitute curiosity and kindness, for laughter or silence. We read about how the bible tells us we are all made different for a purpose and the variation in people is a joy and a gift.

Online Safety - New Devices - New Start

Many children will have got tablets, phones or internet-enabled devices for Christmas. These are exciting presents but unless set up by parents can be very risky. Please read our handy guide on p.4 and if you have not set up devices to be safe for children, there is no time like the present. Like locking the front door at night and fastening their seat belt in the car this is a basic safety job which it is our privilege as parents to do.

Support for Parents

Worcestershire' has the "Starting Well" initiative which offers a wide range of help and support for parents and families. Please check it out here or guide and friends and family members to it if you think they need support. Remember, we are always here to listen and offer help.

<https://www.startingwellworcs.nhs.uk/families/>

Everybody loves Christmas and New Year but ... truth... it's been great to see you all again and get back to some learning. Take care in the cold weather and we will see you next week for more of the different!

Always 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 is in immediate danger, please call the police on 999.

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In school this week:



Hedgehog Class - Welly Walk Safari!

This week Hedgehog class made some fabulous binoculars which they then used for a welly walk safari. The children enjoyed exploring the bottom garden area and finding all of the 'animals' that were hiding.



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

Malvern Wyche C of E Primary School

Together We Soar



Get the Attendance “Buzz”

Otters were the best attendees this week with an excellent 97%. We will continue to work really hard to give your children the best education we can, please support us by sending them in if they are well enough to be here and resist those term time holidays and visits. Education is so precious - savour every drop!



Afterschool Clubs

A new clubs sign-up form will be published on Monday 13th for sign up to this term's clubs. Please pay particular attention to the year groups displayed - only children in the specified year group will be able to attend the club. As always, the clubs are offered on a first come, first served basis - do not assume that you have a space in a particular club just because you have signed up. Confirmation letters will be sent home by next Friday to confirm which clubs you have been allocated a space. Film Society was hugely over-subscribed last term, priority will be given to those who were refused a spot last term, however you will still need to sign up for the club on the sign up form so I am aware that you still want the space.

Stoat Class - Swimming.

Stoat class are due to start swimming lessons on Friday 17th January. Thank you to those who have already returned consent forms and monies. If you have not done so then please return consent with your contribution as soon as possible - without consent your child will not be able to go!

Medication in school

Can I please remind parents that **all** medications need to be signed in through the school office. Please **do not** send medication with children, in school bags.



Hedgehog Class Fruit Tasting

This week Hedgehog class have been enjoying the story of Handa's Surprise. To support their learning journey they have been looking at and tasting a variety of fruits from the story including pineapple, mango, avocado and passion fruit!

NSPCC Number Day 2025

On Friday 7th February all the children are invited to come into school dressed as a number or wearing something numerical. The day will have a maths theme with various number related activities happening. It's maths but not as you know it!



Family First

Please copy and paste the link below to access your free copy of Family First magazine.
<https://familyfirst.co.uk/issue1-25>

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.

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:

Hedgehogs
Endeavour Preston
Henry Wilsdon

Foxes
Ned Hollingworth
George Checketts

Otters
Jesse Jones
Scarlett Williams

Stoats
Flo Kauppinen
Isa Baig

Badgers
Lucy Pullen
Oliver Hammond

Housepoints!

Perseverance took the crown this week with a fabulous 62 points
Congratulations.



WHAT'S ON ?

Mon 13th Jan: Peripatetic Guitar Lessons

Tues 14th Jan: Peripatetic Woodwind Lessons
Peripatetic Drum Lessons

Weds 15th Jan: Peripatetic Piano Lessons
FAME for Otter Class
Science at Malvern College Yr6
(collection from Thirlstane Road)

Thurs 16th Jan:

Friday 17th Jan: Boccia for invited students at Hanley Castle School
(during school time)
Stoat Class 1st Swim



Messy Church 2025
January Messy Church will take place at
All Saints Church on Thursday 16th January
3.30 pm for 4.00 pm start
We will be serving food!
Looking forward to seeing you.

There are NO afterschool clubs this week.

Dates for your Diary

- Wednesday 15th January - Yr6 Science afternoon at Malvern College
- Friday 17th January - Stoat Class Swimming
- Week beginning Monday 20th January - Afterschool clubs start
- Friday 7th February - NSPCC Number Day 2025
- Friday 14th February - Last day of Half Term
- Thursday 6th March - World Book Day (plans to follow)



Survival of the Fittest!

To support their new topic of learning for this term - Survival- our year six class took part in a Survival Simulation Task. Always a favourite, the class thoroughly enjoyed discussing and ranking in order of importance, what they would scavenge if stranded in freezing conditions.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP NEW DEVICES FOR CHILDREN

At Christmas, millions of lucky children will be excitedly ripping the wrapping off new phones, tablets, computers or consoles. However, in the rush to let young ones enjoy their shiny gadgets, many parents neglect to set these devices up safely – increasing the chances of children going online and stumbling across adult content, making expensive downloads or installing unsuitable apps. A little time configuring the device properly can save a lot of anguish later. Here are our top tips to ensure that a dream gift on Christmas morning doesn't turn into a nightmare by New Year.

PASSCODES FOR IPHONE/IPAD

If your child's getting their own iPhone or iPad, you can set parental controls that make it difficult for them to access inappropriate content or download expensive apps. Once the device is set up, go to the Settings app and tap Screen Time, then select Use Screen Time Passcode and enter a passcode. Keep it to yourself so your child can't switch the protection off.

SCREEN TIME SETTINGS ON IPHONE/IPAD

Once you've set a Screen Time Passcode, you can adjust various safety settings. You could, for example, only allow communication with people from the Contacts app, place restrictions on App Store purchases and apply age limits to movies, music and web content. There are many more protective options available within the Screen Time settings section.

FAMILY LINK FOR ANDROID

Parents can manage Android phones and tablets, as well as Google Chromebooks, through Google's Family Link app. This gives your child some independence (and their own Google account) but lets parents monitor which apps are being used, set limits on content and ensure that parental permission is required to install apps. Look for Family Link in the Google Play Store.

ADD A CHILD TO FAMILY LINK

The easiest way to add a child's device to Family Link is to set it up with its own Google account. It's a good idea to create this before they use their new phone, tablet or Chromebook. Once they're logged in, open the Family Link app on your phone, press '+' in the top right and add a new family member using their Google account details. Then follow the on-screen instructions.

FAMILY SHARING ON A MAC

Families using a Mac get similar screen time options to iPhone and iPad users. Again, if you're setting up a Mac for a child, make yourself the main admin and add them as a user. This is handled through Apple's Family Sharing service, which not only allows you to put controls on child accounts but share apps and other purchases with them too. Search 'family sharing' at <https://support.apple.com>.

PLAYSTATION PARENTAL CONTROLS

With parental controls for the PS5, you'll need a PlayStation Network account (as the 'family manager') and the child will need their own account, which they should sign in with on the console. This all needs to be set up in advance, so you might want to do it before the big day. Go to PlayStation.com and search 'family account' for instructions.

DISCUSS IT WITH YOUR CHILD

If you're planning to implement any kind of restriction or protection settings on your child's new device, we'd recommend having a discussion with your young one first about what these controls do, and what they are for. If you try to impose parental controls surreptitiously or with no advance warning, don't be surprised if your child tries to find a way around them.

SET AN ADMIN ON PCS

On Windows PCs and laptops, it's important not to let your child share a general user account or be the main admin on the device. If you're booting up a new family PC or a child's own device, set it up using your own account details and you'll become the admin by default. Then set up children with their own separate account: Settings > Accounts > Family & Other Users > Add Other User.

SET WINDOWS LIMITS

Once your child's account has been created, a parent admin can go back into the Family & Other Users menu and apply limits to it. These include restricting screen time, the type of games and apps that can be installed, web filters and more. Microsoft also includes reporting tools which, for example, can email you with a weekly summary of your child's activity on the device.

TREAT AN XBOX LIKE A PC

The same control settings you use for a PC can be used to apply parental controls on an Xbox. Again, once your child is signed into the Xbox with their own account, you can then monitor and regulate their activity from a PC or web browser. Microsoft's dashboard allows you to manage voice communication through the console: so you can limit who can contact your child, for example.

INSTALL XBOX FAMILY SETTINGS

If you don't have a PC, but your child does have an Xbox, it might be easier to use the Xbox Family Settings app for iPhone or Android. Here, you can restrict console screen time (particularly handy if the console is in a bedroom), restrict communication and monitor the types of game being played. There's also a feature where you can allocate spending money for games or in-game purchases.

STAY VIGILANT

It's important to remember that none of these methods is 100% foolproof. Nobody will ever invent flawless filters or parental controls – not least because what's unacceptable to some parents is perfectly acceptable to others. So although devices' parental controls will help to keep your child safe online, they work best side by side with good old-fashioned parental vigilance.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and writes regularly about internet safety issues.



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