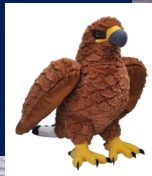


# THE FRIDAY LETTER



## This Week at The Wyche

Happy Friday to the whole Wyche community, Instead of telling you about highlights of the week, I'm going to tell you about just ONE HOUR of school life which was packed to the rafters with wonderful experiences and learning. This is without mentioning the other amazing lessons, offsite visits and experiences we fitted into the last five days.

### 2.15pm-3.15pm Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March

Stoats were in the bottom garden making Anglo Saxon mini-museum exhibits, collecting natural materials to make them authentic and collaborating freely, Otters on the bottom playground were doing the same, Some Year 5s were being trained to be play leaders in Year 6, by an expert coach, Hedgehogs and Foxes were engaging in these games as part of the training, and Badgers were having an immersive lesson about Jerusalem and its significance to Jews, Christians and Muslims, complete with the smell of incense to help children enter a different time and place. By three o'clock Foxes and Hedgehogs were having a fascinating outdoor talk from CPSO Karen Watson about her electric police bike and getting crucial cycle and road safety advice. That's **one hour** at the Wyche. Why would you miss a second?



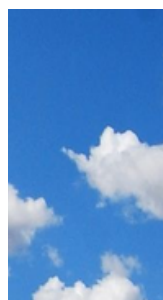
## Collective Worship

This week we looked at the meaning of the word "inspiration" in the bible and discussed its etymology as being "filled with air or spirit". We heard the story of Jesus being baptised by his cousin John and how the Gospel story relates that the Holy Spirit descended from the clouds and people heard God's voice saying how proud he was of his son. We reflected about what makes our parents proud of us; what makes us proud of ourselves and thought about how our school values could support us to do these things more of the time.



## Online Safety - "Bluesky" & "Adolescence"

In many discussion we hear **Bluesky** mentioned as a safer, more moderate version of Twitter/X. Whatever the truth of this is Bluesky is still a wide-open, international social media platform aimed at adults so if your child has expressed an interest or is actually using this 13+ app, please take a look at our guide on p.4 so you can make them safer. In other news, I was personally gripped and disturbed by the exceptional Netflix drama "**Adolescence**" this week. Whatever you think of the show, if it has caused you to revisit online safety in the home that's a good thing, and if you want to talk about it or get any advice, we're always here.



## Support for Parents - Babies & Pregnancy

If you or any of your family or friends are expecting, or have, a new baby, our families page can signpost to services which can give advice, support and care. [Check out our helpful support page today.](#)

**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.**

## 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:



As promised, PCSO Watson came back to the school this week with her E-bike to show the KS1 children. All were very excited to see how she travelled around Malvern when she was not in her normal police car!



Spring has DEFINITELY sprung, and we are basking in the sunshine. Have a wonderful daffodilly weekend (it's a word) and we will see you next week for the last fortnight of this jam-packed term.

*Mr Murphy.*

# Together We Soar



## Attendance Really Matters

**Foxes** won the attendance award this week with 97.6% attendance. Well done the Foxes. We are getting into the season where it's very tempting to take a term time holiday because of the cost, or to take that day off either side of the holidays too. Whilst we get it and we know these companies exploit pricing, education is so valuable, we urge you to keep your children in school and make the best of what we have to offer. Please see my separate attendance letter about local authority reporting and their process for issuing fines.



## Message from our Teaching Team

We really love seeing everyone first thing in the mornings and to have the playground packed with Mums, Dads, siblings and grandparents. It is a lovely part of our day, useful for quick conversations with parents, and the children really enjoy being waved off.

It is however very busy on the playground and so we have always had a no running/no tag rule in the mornings to make sure no-one is knocked flying by a speeding child. It is a blanket rule so that we don't get into conversations about who is too tall to run, who is allowed, who isn't!

We regularly explain the rule to children in assembly and in classroom so they understand it isn't about spoiling their fun, it's about keeping everyone safe.

We would be very grateful if you could support us with this. Many thanks.

## Music Lesson Invoices.

Thank you to those parents who have paid music invoices. **Can I encourage any outstanding money to come into school as soon as possible?** If you have any problems with this please do not hesitate to contact the office.

## Parents Evening Bookings.

Parents evening is this coming Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd of April. The appointment system is live so please feel free to book an appointment with your child's class teacher. All meetings are by appointment only and are approximately 10-15 minutes long - depending on the teacher. Please only book one appointment per child. Any problems please contact the office.

## Afterschool Clubs.

Please be advised that (after today) afterschool clubs have now finished for this term. A new club sign up form will be emailed out at the beginning of next, Summer term for new sign ups. Please be reminded that all school clubs are run voluntarily by the teachers and are on a first come, first served basis.

## 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**  
James Salmon  
Marnie Reysmith

**Foxes**  
Rowan Poulter  
Arlo Smith

**Otters**  
Tilly Englefield  
Lizzie Cook

**Stoats**  
Beatrice Butler  
Henry Binks

**Badgers**  
Alexandra Malik-Gough  
Alfie Field

## Housepoints!

Beacon took the top spot this week with a huge 66 points!  
**Congratulations to all.**

## The Colour Run!

It is not too late to sign up for the Friends of The Wyche Colour Run. This promises to be a super fun event being held at The Three Counties Showground on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April. Please see below the link to sign up.

[Colour Run Sign Up](#)

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.

YOU ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THE FRIENDS OF THE WYCHE

### Sponsored Colour Run!

VENUE: THREE COUNTIES SHOWGROUND  
SUNDAY 6TH APRIL  
12 - 2.30PM

FUN RUN COURSE WITH OBSTACLES  
COLOURED POWDER THROWING  
FAMILY WATER FIGHT  
ACTIVITIES WITH TEAM SUPER SPORTS  
ICE CREAM VAN - FOOD VENDOR  
FANTASTIC LOCATION WITH AMPLE PARKING



COLOUR RUN ENTRY FEE IS £2.50 PER PERSON.  
FRIENDS AND FAMILY ARE WELCOME TO COME ALONG AND OBSERVE.

# WHAT'S ON ?

**Mon 31st March:** Peripatetic Guitar Lessons

**Tues 1st April:** Peripatetic Woodwind Lessons  
Peripatetic Drum Lessons

**Weds 2nd April:** Peripatetic Piano Lessons  
FAME for Stoa Class  
Otter and Stoa class display in All Saints Church 2.45pm - 3.15pm  
Parents Evening - by appointment only

**Thurs 3rd April:** Parents Evening - By appointment only

**Friday 4th April:** Stoa Class 10th Swim  
DanceFest at The Chase - Fox Class only  
Netball & Football at The Chase 3.45pm (invited pupils only)

NO Afterschool Clubs this week!

## Dates for your Diary

- Wednesday 2nd & Thursday 3rd April - Parents Evening
- Tuesday 8th April - Easter Service at All Saints Church
- Friday 11th April - Last Day of Term (Non-Uniform Day)
- Tuesday 29th April - First Day of Summer Term



**Bishops Wood!**  
On Monday Otter and Stoa classes visited Bishops Wood where they had a tremendous time learning about the Anglo Saxon way on life. The children built shelters, made fire and played traditional games as part of their learning for the day.  
They had a fabulous time!



CONTACT US: 01684 573205 / [OFFICE@WYCHE.WORCS.SCH.UK](mailto:OFFICE@WYCHE.WORCS.SCH.UK) / [WWW.WYCHE.WORCS.SCH.UK](http://WWW.WYCHE.WORCS.SCH.UK)

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about BLUESKY SOCIAL APP

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

With an App Store rating of 17+ & Google Play rating Mature

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

While Bluesky has been around since 2019, it's suddenly taken off in a big way thanks to a significant exodus from X (formerly Twitter). Indeed, it looks and behaves a lot like Twitter before Elon Musk bought the platform. Bluesky has been touted in recent months as a safer, more open-minded alternative to X – but like any social media site, it still has its share of risks.

## NO PRIVATE ACCOUNTS

While most social networks allow accounts to be private, at the time of writing, all Bluesky accounts must be public. The development team has indicated this might change in the future, but the app is built on a public-first protocol. If private accounts are ever introduced, it may only be in a limited way – such as through the implementation of group chats.

## INTERACTIONS WITH STRANGERS

Every account being public means that anyone can be contacted by anyone else. While users don't have to respond and can easily block people and move on, it does mean that youngsters are at particular risk of being conned by scammers, messaged by predatory adults or exposed to others with ill intentions. These hazards can be compounded by the fact that Bluesky doesn't require its users to provide their real name.

## TROLLING AND BULLYING

While Bluesky currently feels a lot friendlier than X seems to have become, its lack of private accounts means that there's nothing to stop users from trolling and cyberbullying younger people. While accounts can be blocked and reported, a persistent bully could simply create a new profile, potentially making their victims feel unsafe in continuing to use the app.

## DANGEROUS MISINFORMATION

Established news organisations have fact-checking and editing processes, but social networks have no such controls and can often serve as breeding grounds for misinformation and disinformation. Bluesky will possibly be no different once it reaches a certain size, and children may not have the critical thinking skills to tell fact from fiction – or to discern an informative, honest user from a malicious one.

## ADULT TARGET AUDIENCE

Bluesky isn't designed with children in mind, and there aren't many parental controls on the platform. In an interview with the BBC, Bluesky's CEO originally said that the app would only allow users aged 18 and above to sign up, but a spokesperson later clarified its age restriction as 13+. This could imply the app was originally meant for an adult audience and suggests that making the platform more child-friendly might not currently be a priority.

## RAPID GROWTH

At the time of writing, Bluesky seems calm in comparison with other social networks where moderation is lax and the atmosphere toxic – but that's due at least in part to its smaller community. The app has recently been adding as many as a million users per day, and if that continues, there'll be more unpleasant users to handle, and moderators could struggle to maintain the pleasant environment Bluesky is currently known for.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### USE THE ADULT CONTENT FILTER

Bluesky doesn't have much in the way of parental controls, but there are content filters which can hide sexual and graphic imagery. These are enabled by default for underage accounts but can be manually turned on in the 'Moderation' section of the app's settings. The 'advanced' Bluesky Moderation Service lets you restrict content even further, hiding – for example – self-harm content, extremist rhetoric, and even rude posts.

### ENCOURAGE BLOCKING AND REPORTING

Another tool that Bluesky uses to ensure a decent experience is muting and blocking accounts. The former prevents you from seeing a specific user's content, while the latter stops them from seeing yours. If a child is encountering trolls or bullies on the platform, encourage them to use this function, while also reporting the offenders to help make the platform a nicer place for everyone.

### LOOK OUT FOR FAKES

Impersonation is a problem on all social networks. While the consequences are usually benign, imposters sometimes attempt to scam or groom children by pretending to be a popular influencer or online personality. Bluesky is unique in that it can be connected to official domains, with users' handles linking to other sites; while this isn't widely used right now, it could be a reliable way to verify celebrities and public figures in future.

### KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

As with all social media platforms, moderation and content filters can only do so much; it's highly likely that a child will eventually face something unsavoury. For that reason, it's important to make sure that young people are aware of the risks and know how to handle the technology if anything they see on the app makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

## Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/bluesky-app>

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