



Reception



This week in Reception, we have been learning all about Lunar New Year.

We read the story The Great Race and talked about how each year is represented by a different animal from the Chinese zodiac. The children enjoyed finding out which zodiac animal matched the year they were born.

As part of our celebrations, the children took part in lots of exciting activities. They made a colourful dragon head for a dragon dance, created lanterns, and even had a go at using chopsticks. We also compared Lunar New Year to other celebrations we know.

We found out that Lunar New Year is an important celebration filled with family time, tasty meals, and special traditions. People enjoy dragon dances, fireworks, and give red envelopes containing money to wish others good luck.



Learning at Lookout

Home Learning for 'Bright Lights, Big City'

We are exceptionally proud of the children in Year 1 and 2, who work hard on their learning both in school and at home.

Here are a few of the amazing examples of home learning that has been completed this half term. The children always enjoy sharing their home learning with the class and this helps them to learn new skills, ideas and different ways of presenting their work. These examples showcase fantastic presentation skills, use of neat writing and also creative ways of learning new facts. Working at home has helped the children to secure new learning shared in class and is a fantastic way of developing and practising their writing skills too.



The London Eye is a Ferris wheel. It was built on the river ~~Thames~~. It opened in 2000 and is also called the Millennium Eye. It is 135 metres tall. What a super painting!



The great size of leaves allows more energy to be used to separate the fire. Spruce quickly becomes more vulnerable.

War

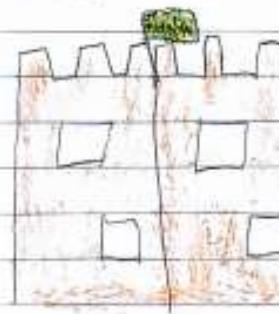


Royal Spa Centre

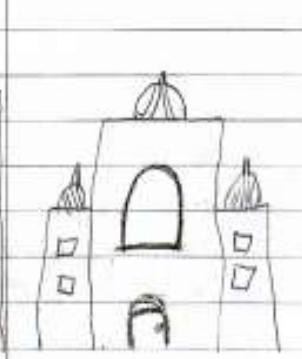
Fanbaric local
Land mark spotting



Royal building
Warwick Castle



Guernsey Sahib



Learning at Lighthorne Heath

Map of the United Kingdom

The London Eye

St Paul's Cathedral

Map of the United Kingdom

Bucharest!

8 London map

- To go to London, you can take a bus, train or a car
- Take the London bus and go to Buckingham Palace to meet the King. Located in Central London between St James's Park and Green Park.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 29: Goals of education

unicef
UNICEF
UNICEF
RIGHTS
RESPECTING
SCHOOLS

Fun facts about Bucharest

- It has its own Arc de Triomphe.
- Its name "Little Paris".
- The city was destroyed by a fire.
- Bucharest Capital of Romania.
- Food this is mici.
- The palace of the parliament is the heaviest building in the world!
- The city is named after a shepherd called Bucur.

UNICEF
UNICEF
UNICEF
RIGHTS
RESPECTING
SCHOOLS

London.

5. What to Visit?

* National History Museum

- Free entry
- Opening hours: every day, 10:00 - 17:50



* St Paul's Cathedral

Tickets £22.00



* The Shard

- Tickets £19.00 For the View

Map of the United Kingdom



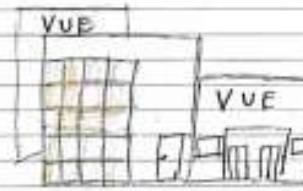
UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 29: Goals of education

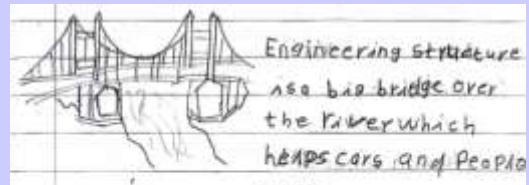
Week 2 ○ Landmarks



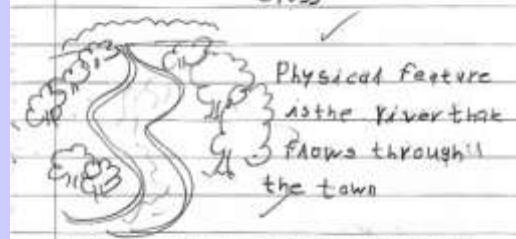
This is a memorial. I have seen this in town



This is the cinema I went to see the Minions movie with my sister.



Engineering structure
is a big bridge over the river which helps cars and people cross



Physical feature
is the river that flows through the town

All cities, towns and villages have physical and human features. Physical and human features are made by people. Take a area and write a list of the physical and human

Big Ben

96m tall

334 steps

At the highest point in London. Built 1859 - 1869

Fascinating facts

Tina

Features
the Park

the world



World Thinking Day

A number of our pupils who are also Brownies have let us know about World Thinking Day.

This is a special day when Brownies and Girl Guides celebrate their membership of Girl guiding and show their commitment to its values of friendship, respect and caring for others. This year, the movement celebrates 100 years of World Thinking Day.

Our Brownies have asked if they can come to school in their Brownie uniforms on 23rd February to celebrate this important occasion. We are delighted to support this request and pupils who are members of Brownies are welcome to wear their uniform to school on this day.

We look forward to seeing our Brownies proudly representing their groups and sharing this celebration with the rest of our school community.



Dear Headteacher

We are writing to you today to request permission for Girlguiding members at [REDACTED] to wear their Girlguiding uniform to school on 23 February 2026, in celebration of World Thinking Day.

World Thinking Day is a global event held annually on 22 February by millions of Girlguiding members around the world. It's a day to celebrate our shared sisterhood, learn about girls and young women in other countries, and take action to make the world a better place. 2026 marks the 100th anniversary of the very first Thinking Day.

Wearing their Brownie uniforms on World Thinking Day allows girls to proudly demonstrate their membership in Girlguiding and show their commitment to its values of friendship, respect, and caring for others. It also creates a visible reminder of the important work Girlguiding does in empowering girls and young women to reach their full potential.

We understand that you have uniform policies in place, and we respect those policies. However, we hope you will consider granting this special permission on World Thinking Day, as it would provide a meaningful opportunity for our girls to express their Girlguiding spirit and connect with their peers who are also members.

World Thinking Day has a different theme each year for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the world to celebrate together. This year's theme for World Thinking Day is Our Friendship.

We would be happy to provide you with any further information you may require. Resources can be found on www.campfire.waggs.org/worldthinkingday

Thank you for your time and consideration. We hope you will look favourably upon our request and allow our girls to wear their Girlguiding uniforms with pride on World Thinking Day 2026.

Yours faithfully
Girlguiding Cymru

Link to WAGGS resources 

Email for response

Find out more at: girlguidingcymru.org.uk
Registered charity No. 32329
Girlguiding Cymru, The Coach House, Bremerton, Llandinam, Powys SY17 5BS
T: 01684 508652 E: waleshq@girlguidingcymru.org.uk

Don't forget to share your event stories with us: #GirlguidingCymru 

Guides

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to remind all families to be considerate of our neighbours when driving to and from school.

When parking, we kindly ask that you:

- Avoid blocking roads and access points.
- Park legally and safely.
- Be mindful of noise and congestion, particularly during peak times.



For everyone's safety, please ensure you drive at a safe speed, always within the speed limits, and take extra care along Stratford Road, which is particularly narrow.

As our school community grows, more children and families will be accessing the school, and space in the council-owned car park outside school is limited.

If possible, please consider walking to school or using a 'park and stride' approach.

Your cooperation helps maintain positive relationships with our neighbours and contributes to a safer, more pleasant environment for everyone.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.



"Park and Stride" means driving part of the way to a destination parking in a designated spot away from the entrance, and walking the final distance, reducing traffic congestion and encouraging physical activity, especially for those living too far to walk the whole way





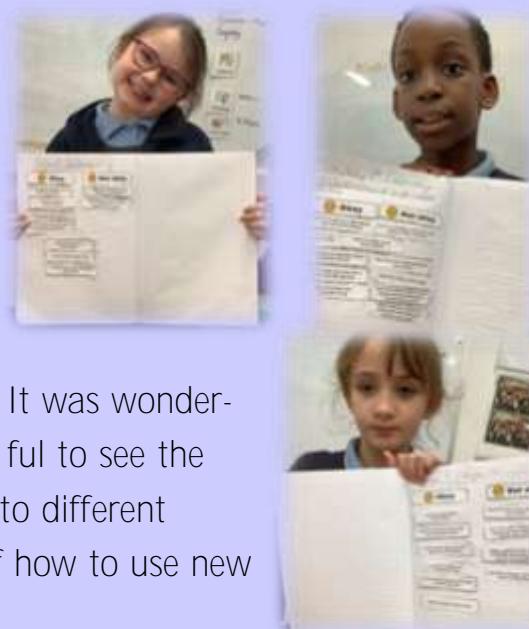
As part of Safer Internet Day 2026, Year 3 and 4 have been learning about how to use artificial intelligence (AI) safely and responsibly.

As a class, the children listened to different scenarios and held up cards to show whether they thought it was *okay* or *not okay* to use AI in each situation. This brought about some great discussions between the children, with lots of thoughtful reasoning and respectful debate.



The children then worked independently to sort scenario cards into two categories:

How can you stay safe when you use AI?



It was wonderful to see the

children engaging in mature discussions, listening to different viewpoints, and developing their understanding of how to use new technologies in a positive and respectful way.



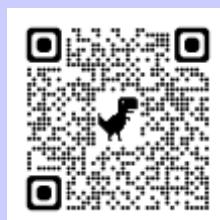
Bikeability

In Years 5 & 6, some of the children have been completing level 1 and level 2 of their Bikeability training.

This is an important time for the children and equips them with vital life skills. The children not only learn to cycle, they gain independence, social skills and a sense of wellbeing

After Bikeability, children are better at responding to risk and report increased confidence. As a result, more children cycle to school which in turn improves mental health and wellbeing. This allows children to get more out of the classroom, improving their attention span and engagement.

Healthier habits lead to increased attendance and improved academic results.



We start by learning the ABCDs of cycle maintenance...

Keeping your bike safe is an important part of being a cyclist.

- **AIR** – Have your tyres got enough air?
- **BRAKES** – Do the front and back brakes work properly?
- **CHAIN** – Have you oiled it recently?
- **DIRECTION** – Are your handlebars fixed on tight? Is your seat on tight and pointing forward?

What is Bikeability?

Bikeability is the government's national cycle training programme. It helps you learn practical skills and understand how to cycle on today's roads.

Bikeability gives everyone the confidence to cycle and enjoy this skill for life.

- ✓ For all levels of experience
- ✓ Qualified, expert instructors
- ✓ Available all year round across England



Learning Out



Holiday courses

Fully funded school holiday cycle training courses for children and young people are offered throughout the year at a variety of venues across the county.

For further information please email wcccycletraining@warwickshire.gov.uk.



UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 29: Goals of education



Plastic Free swap ideas

from your Eco committee!



Make your own oat bars! 2 or 3 ingredient bars that children can prepare themselves!



Step 1– Mash up some brown bananas with a fork.

Step 2– Mix in some porridge oats (about 3 scoops per banana).

Step 3– Add some dried fruit, cinnamon or dessicated coconut.

Step 4– Make into cookie shapes or press into a greased tin. Bake at 180 degrees for 12- 15 mins until going brown.

Can be kept in the fridge for 4 days or freeze for a later date!

Reading

Guide to Supporting Your Child's Reading

Questions to ask your child when reading fiction:

Predicting:

What do you think this book will be about based on the title and cover?

Have you read any books by this author before? What were they like?

What do you already know about this topic?

Understanding the Story:

What is happening in the story so far?

Who are the main characters? What do we know about them?

Where and when does the story take place?

Making Connections:

Does this story remind you of anything in your life?

Have you read another book like this before?

How do you think the character is feeling? Why?

Vocabulary and Language:

What does this word mean? Can you use it in a sentence?

Are there any words that you don't understand?

How do the illustrations help to tell the story?

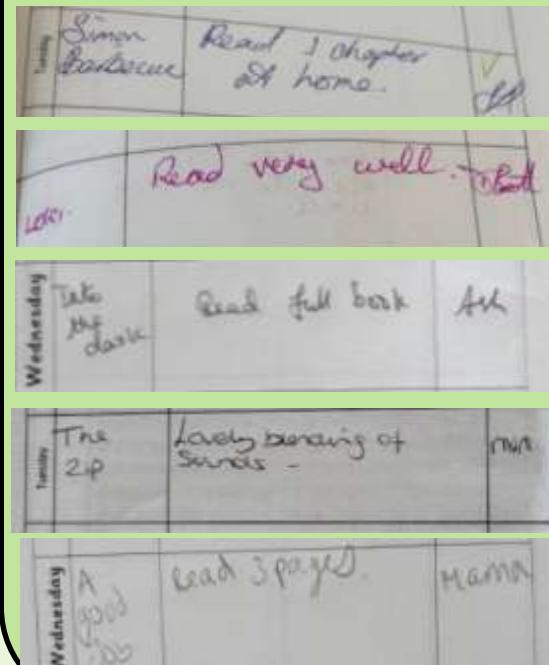
Encouraging Critical Thinking:

What do you think will happen next?

Filling in the reading record:

When signing your child's reading record, please include the date that your child read, the title of the book (or the material that they read) and your initials.

You are welcome to include additional information about your child's engagement, comprehension and confidence or some praise if you would (and this is useful) but you don't have to.



**READING
INCENTIVE**

REMEMBER...YOU'VE GOT TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT!

1. Share a book with an adult at home at least 3 times each week (you can read your school reading book or any other reading material).
2. Ask the adult to sign your reading diary each time they share a book with you.
3. Make sure that your reading diary is in school each day. On Friday, bring this to the office and show the Learning Detectives. If your diary is signed 3 times or more for that week, you will receive a raffle ticket.
4. The raffle tickets will go to celebration assembly and prizes will be given each week for raffle tickets drawn.

Diary Dates



Spring Term	
January	
February	
Monday 16th February– Friday 20th February	Half Term holiday
Friday 27th February	Year 5 netball workshop, selected pupils. Careers fair for selected Y5 & 6 pupils
March	
Monday 2nd March	Cat Weatherill– Author and storyteller to visit as part of WBD celebrations
Tuesday 3rd March	Years 1 and 2 class assembly
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day
Friday 27th March	Non uniform day. Please bring a suggested donation of £1 for school fund.
Monday 30th March—Friday 10th April	Easter holiday.

Next week is half term, we hope that all of our families have a relaxing and enjoyable week.



With best wishes from Mrs Westwood, Mrs Manley and all the staff at Lighthorne Heath Primary School.

INSET Days 2025-26

Friday 10th October 2025
Monday 1st December 2025
Monday 1st June 2026
Monday 20th July 2026

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 29: Goals of education

Article 5, Parental Guidance, Article 18, Parental responsibility



Financial Year End

We are very grateful to our families who have made payments for their children's dinners, trips, wrap around care and swimming lessons so far this financial year. However we do have a small number of families who still have some outstanding payments.



As we approach our financial year end it is most important that any outstanding debts are settled.

I am sure you can appreciate we have had to make payment for to our suppliers and staff of the above payments items and our school budget cannot absorb any loss in these areas.

Please visit your parent pay account as soon as possible to establish if you have any outstanding payments and make the necessary arrangements to clear any outstanding debts by Friday March 6 2026.

If you would like the school office to assist you in detailing any outstanding payments or you would like to enter a payment plan to clear your debts by instalments please email beck.s@welearn365.com.

7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home

Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities for learning during school closures.

1 Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)



Don't worry too much about the 'what' and 'how' of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, wherever it is!

2 Ask your child lots of questions



All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to' (even for older children). So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, 'what do you think Harry is feeling?'

3 Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read



If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'can you see the bear on the front cover? Where do you think he will go?'

4 Ask your child to summarise what they have read



When you've finished reading, talk about what happened. Acting out the things that happened in the story or describing the big idea of a chapter is really fun and maximises learning. For example, 'can you remember all the things that happened on the bear hunt?'

5 Ask your child to write about what they have read



Write, or draw pictures, from anything you've read! Big writing and pictures are even more fun. For example, use an old roll of wallpaper to make a treasure map with clues from the stories you've read together.

6 Read and discuss reading with friends or family



Make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call. Laugh about them when you are making meals together. For example, 'I hope the tiger doesn't come to tea today!'

7 Maintain the motivation to read



Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Your child is on an amazing journey to becoming a reader. Put them in the driving seat and have fun on the way! For example, 'choose your favourite story for bedtime tonight.'

Education Endowment Foundation (2018). *Preparing for Literacy: Improving Communication, Language and Literacy in the Early Years*. Education Endowment Foundation: London.
Available online: educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Literacy_Evidence_Review.pdf

Education Endowment Foundation (2019). *Improving Literacy in Secondary Schools*. Education Endowment Foundation: London.
Available online: educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Literacy_Evidence_Review.pdf

Breadmore, H.L., Vardy, E.J., Cunningham, A.J., Kwok, R.K.W., & Carroll, J.M. (2019). *Literacy Development: Evidence Review*. Education Endowment Foundation: London.
Available online: educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Literacy_Evidence_Review.pdf



BRITISH MOTOR MUSEUM

15



Techtastic Half-Term Fun!

This February Half-Term come along to the Museum for a whole host of exciting design and technology themed activities!

[> FIND OUT MORE](#)

**CRAFT
CODE
CREATE**

**TECHTASTIC
HALF-TERM FUN!**
14 - 22
FEBRUARY



January

Online - New Year, New F1 World Champion!

January

With McLaren's Lando Norris becoming the 11th Brit to win the Formula One Title, do you know them all, plus some of ...

[Find Out More](#)



2
Mellow
Mondays

Mellow Mondays - February

2 FEB 2026

Join us at the British Motor Museum for Mellow Monday to enjoy our fantastic collection on an afternoon dedicated to ...

[Find Out More](#)



14 - 22
FEB
CRAFT
CODE
CREATE
TECHTASTIC
HALF-TERM FUN!

Craft, Code, Create: Techtastic Half-Term Fun!

14 - 22 FEB 2026

Dive into the world of car design and technology this Half-Term with a jam-packed week of fun activities!

[Find Out More](#)



23
FEB

Mini Motorists Mondays - February

23 FEB 2026



2
MAR

Mellow Mondays - March

2 MAR 2026

Join us at the British Motor Museum for Mellow Monday to ...



16
MAR

Mini Motorists Mondays - March

16 Mar 2026

Healthy Lunches...

Food facts

Recipes

Activities

Children's weight



Unfortunately, staff have noticed that a small number of children are coming to school with particularly unhealthy packed lunches, which can impact their energy levels, concentration, and overall wellbeing during the school day.

Healthy lunches help children stay focused and ready to learn, as they provide the essential nutrients needed for growth and development. We encourage families to include a balanced selection of fruits, vegetables, protein, and whole grains wherever possible. Promoting healthy eating habits at a young age helps children develop positive lifestyle choices for the future.



Love your packed lunch!

Create a healthier packed lunch by choosing foods from the 5 main food groups below:



1 Starchy Carbohydrates

to re-fuel your body

Base your lunchbox on starchy carbohydrates.

Choose ONE EVERY DAY from:

- ✓ Bread, rolls, bagels, wraps, pitta or baguettes
- ✓ Pasta
- ✓ Couscous
- ✓ Noodles
- ✓ Potatoes



2 Fruit and Vegetables

to keep you healthy

Pack one portion of fruit and one portion of veg every day

Choose TWO EVERY DAY from:

- ✓ Apple, banana, pear, orange, plums
- ✓ Small pot of mixed berries or grapes
- ✓ Prepared melon or mango
- ✓ Chopped vegetable sticks: carrots, cucumber, pepper, celery, mange tout, mini corn
- ✓ Salad vegetables
- ✓ Vegetable soup



3 Dairy and Alternatives

for healthy teeth and bones

Don't forget the dairy!

Choose ONE EVERY DAY from:

- ✓ Milk
- ✓ Cheese - hard cheese, soft cheese, cheese spread
- ✓ Yoghurt or Fromage Frais
- ✓ Custard



4 Protein Foods

for growth and repair

Pack a protein punch!

Choose ONE EVERY DAY from:

- ✓ Meat
- ✓ Fish
- ✓ Eggs
- ✓ Non-dairy protein e.g. lentils, chick peas, beans



5 Drinks

to rehydrate your body

- ✓ A large glass of water
- ✓ Semi-skimmed milk - skimmed milk for children over 5 years.
- ✓ 150ml of fresh, unsweetened fruit juice/smoothie



Occasionally!

Meat products such as sausage rolls, pies, sausages

Plain cakes/ sponges and biscuits of appropriate portion sizes

For more healthy packed lunch ideas and recipes visit www.phunkymoods.co.uk/recipes

www.phunkymoods.co.uk

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 29: Goals of education

Article 18: Parental responsibilities

Article 24: Health and health services





Children aged up to 3 years

- Start brushing your baby's teeth as soon as the first milk tooth breaks through
- Parents or carers should brush the teeth.
- Brush teeth twice daily for about 2 minutes with fluoride toothpaste.
- Brush last thing at night before bed and on 1 other occasion.
- Use children's fluoride toothpaste containing no less than 1,000ppm of fluoride unless a dentist advises otherwise
- Use only a smear of toothpaste.
- Make sure children don't eat or lick toothpaste from the tube.



Children aged 3 to 6 years

- Brush at least twice daily for about 2 minutes with fluoride toothpaste.
- Brush last thing at night and at least on 1 other occasion.
- Encourage your child to brush their own teeth while supervising them.
- Use children's fluoride toothpaste that contains 1,000ppm to 1,500ppm fluoride (check on the box).
- Use only a pea-sized amount of toothpaste.

Taking your child to the dentist

- NHS dental care for children is free.
- Take your child to the dentist when their first milk teeth appear, or before they are 12 months old. This is so they become familiar with the environment and get to know the dentist. The dentist can advise you on how to prevent decay and identify any oral health problems at an early stage. Just opening up the child's mouth for the dentist to take a look at is useful practice for the future.
- When you visit the dentist, be positive about it and make the trip fun. This will stop your child worrying about future visits.

Children aged 7 and over

- Brush at least twice daily for about 2 minutes with fluoride toothpaste.
- Brush last thing at night and at least on 1 other occasion.
- Use fluoride toothpaste containing between 1,350ppm and 1,500ppm of fluoride (check on the box).
- Spit out after brushing and don't rinse – if you rinse, the fluoride won't work as well.
- Children aged 7 and over should be able to brush their own teeth, but it's still a good idea to watch them to make sure they brush properly and for about 2 minutes

How to help children brush their teeth properly

- Guide your child's hand so they can feel the correct movement.
- Use a mirror to help your child see exactly where the brush is cleaning their teeth.
- Use a small, soft toothbrush that is right for your child's age.
- Brush your child's teeth using small, circular movements.
- Remember to gently brush their gums and behind their teeth.
- Make tooth brushing as fun as possible by using an egg timer to time it for about 2 minutes.
- Don't let children run around with a toothbrush in their mouth, as they may have an accident and hurt themselves.

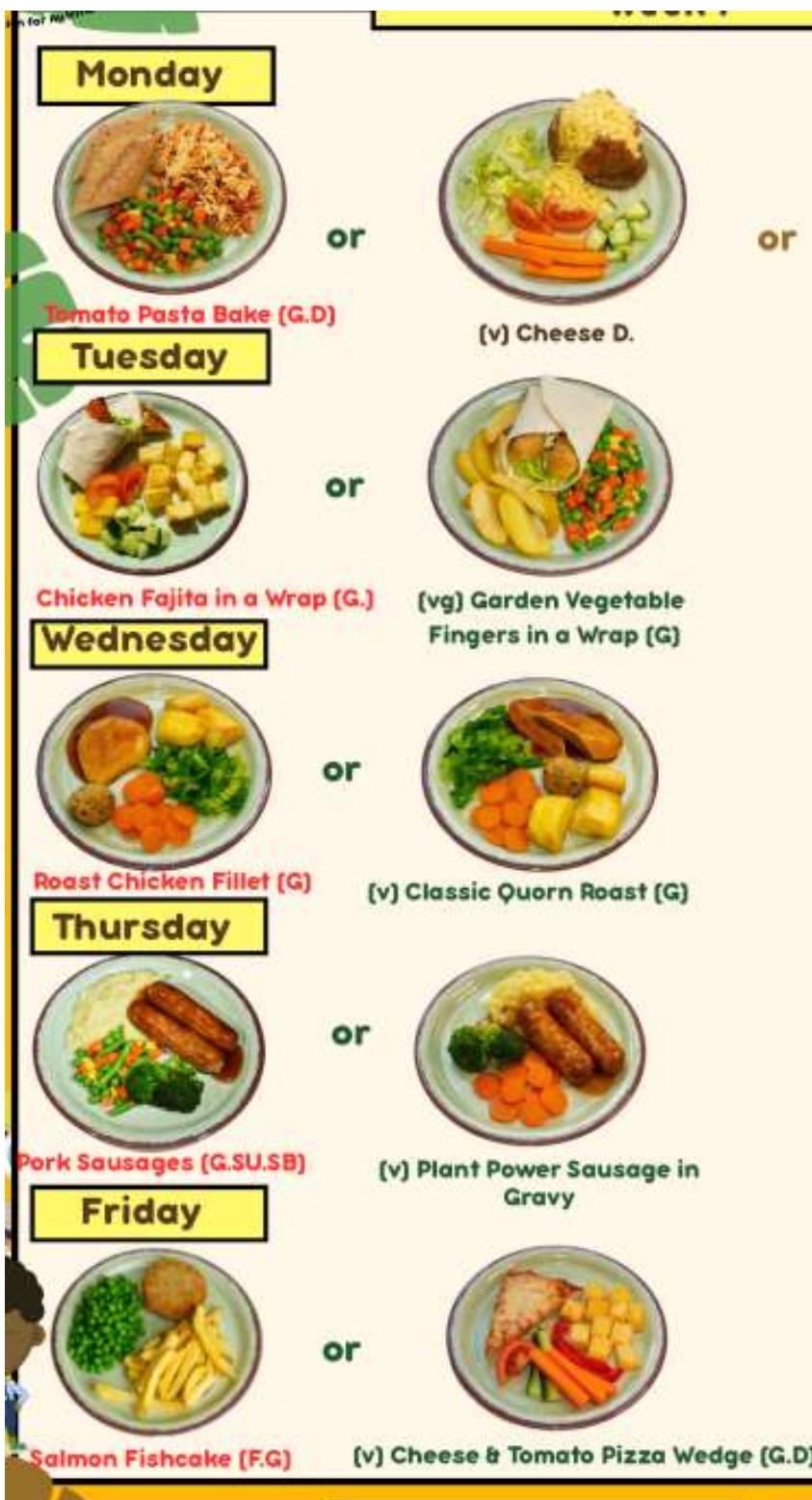


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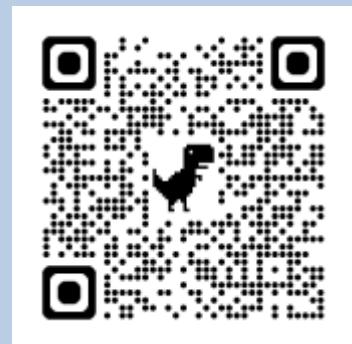
Educaterers' New

Menu

The week beginning 23/2 is Week 1 Jacket potato and choice of fillings available daily

Free School Meals

If you think that you may be eligible for free school meals applications can be made online at <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/education-learning/apply-free-school-meals>



Mrs. Manley and Mrs Hendriksen are happy to help with FSM applications, please ask if you require assistance.

Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health



15 ways to promote and support good mental health:

- Make sure you get enough sleep
- Eat healthy food and drink healthy drinks
- Learn how to relax and switch off
- Connect with friends and family
- Learn new things every day
- Helps others whenever you can
- Exercise each day
- Talk about your feelings
- Be mindful and take notice what is happening around you
- Be thankful for all the things you have
- Set goals for yourself and embrace your wishes and dreams
- Challenge any negative thoughts
- Smile more!
- Ask for help if you have a problem
- Have fun and laugh!

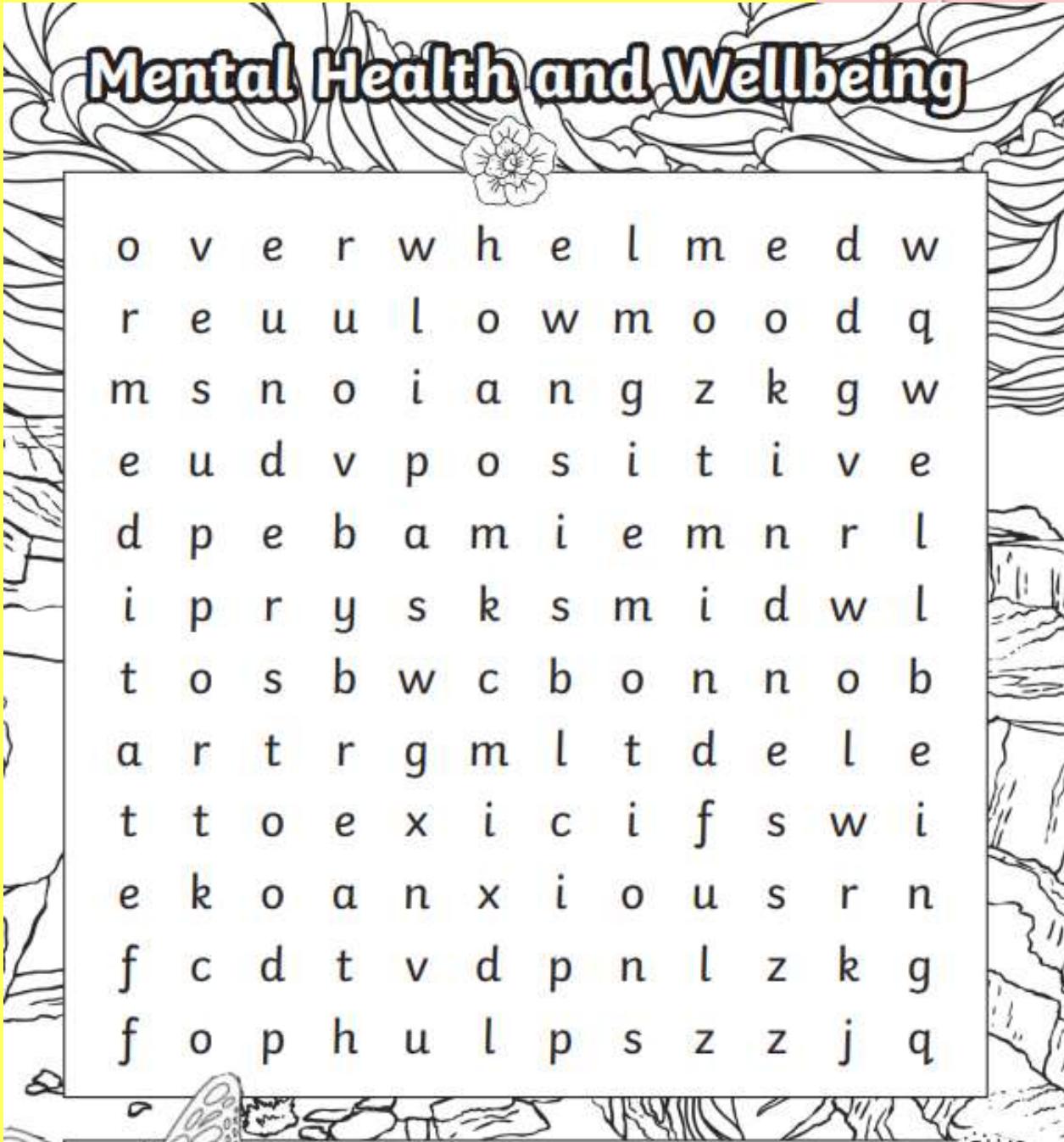


Emotional Wellbeing

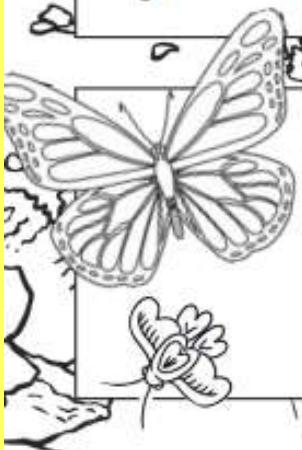
and Mental Health



Mental Health and Wellbeing



o v e r w h e l m e d w
r e u u l o w m o o d q
m s n o i a n g z k g w
e u d v p o s i t i v e
d p e b a m i e m n r l
i p r y s k s m i d w l
t o s b w c b o n n o b
a r t r g m l t d e l e
t t o e x i c i f s w i
e k o a n x i o u s r n
f c d t v d p n l z k g
f o p h u l p s z z j q



support
emotions
anxious
low mood



positive
meditate
wellbeing
overwhelmed



mindful
breath
kindness
understood

Lighthorne Heath Learning Heroes

Reception

Mrs Gill's hero this week is Skylar. Skylar has been working super hard this term with her counting. We are so proud of the progress she has made. She has shown great perseverance and resilience. Well done Skylar!

Co-

Years 1 & 2

This week, we have chosen Milan as our Hero. Milan displayed great determination with his handwriting this week, trying hard to make improvements on his last piece of work by forming his letters even more clearly and thinking carefully about where the letters sat on the line. He has also amazed us with his recall of facts about London Landmarks during our guided reading discussion. Great work, Milan!

Persevere

Years 3 & 4

Mrs Madahar's Lighthorne Hero this week is John. He has been chosen for his perseverance during maths lessons and his mature attitude towards his work. Mrs Madahar is very pleased with the effort he has been putting in and the positive approach he shows in class. Well done, John.

Keep improving

Years 5 & 6

Our Years 5 & 6 learning hero this week is Stefan for his wonderfully imaginative but also factually accurate pollination story. Well done, Stefan

Use your imagination



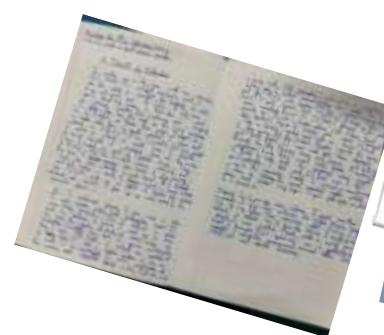
Have a go



Concentrate



Be curious!



Enjoy learning



Early Support Team Family Support Drop in Sessions

Stratford Children's Centre Every **Thursday** 12.30-3pm

Alcester Children's Centre Every **Wednesday** 1-3pm

Lighthorne Heath Children's Centre Every **Wednesday** 1-3pm

We can offer Support with...

Health and wellbeing

Supporting your Child's Mental Health

Understanding your Child's Behaviour

Behaviour Management

Developing Routines and Boundaries

Parenting Advice

Guidance and Support

So Much More...

**Pop in for a Relaxed Chat, Cuppa and
Support or Call us on**

Early Support Duty Line 01926414144

Monday-Friday between 9am-4pm



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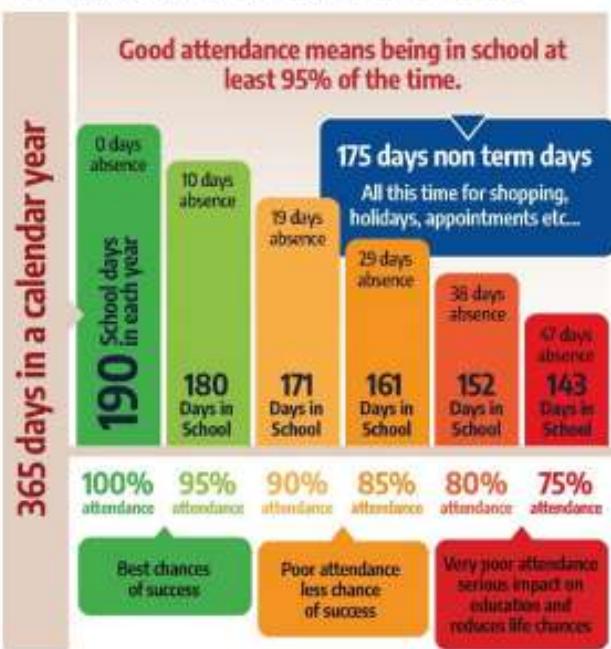
Article 5, Parental Guidance, Article 18, Parental responsibility

Attendance and Punctuality

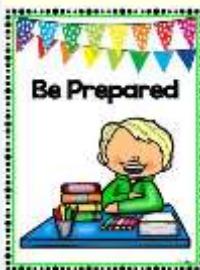


Thank you to the many parents who ensure that their children attend regularly and arrive on time. Attendance is incredibly important to the education of our children and makes a big difference to a child's ability to do well at school.

DID YOU KNOW? A two-week holiday in term time means that the highest attendance you can achieve is **94.7%**



DID YOU KNOW? A child who is 15 minutes late each day, will have missed a full 2 weeks of school in one year.



In addition to attending school, it is also important that your child has what they need each day. Parents should be aware of the days in which their child has PE and/ or swimming and ensure that children have the correct kit on the relevant day.



At this time of year it is important that children have a warm coat in school so that they can safely and comfortably play outside and complete learning activities outside the classroom.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

YOUTUBE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows YouTube. The Google-owned site lets anyone upload videos to be shared around the world, and as a result, it's an incredible resource with instant free access to material covering every conceivable topic. But with over 500 hours of video uploaded every minute, not all of it will be appropriate for young eyes.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is 'tagged as age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate content. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but it can also lead to binge-watching and screen addiction – especially if 'auto-play' is active. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

RADICALISATION

YouTube's algorithm tends to promote content that's getting the most traffic – a lot of which can be quite extreme. This can be fine for harmless topics, but YouTube isn't regulated like television, and that means that conspiracy theories, fake news and hateful ideologies can occasionally surface to warp impressionable minds all too easily. Remember – the more they watch, the more they'll be recommended.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as message other users directly. Connecting with strangers online can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, cyberbullying and – in the worst cases – online predators. If a child is creating content themselves, this can increase the likelihood of them becoming a target.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends and challenges, some of which are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may cause physical or emotional harm. Children who watch or copy them, the painful 'self and ice challenge' – where people use these two ingredients to burn their skin – is just one of many examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

The comments sections of popular content creators regularly have scammers posing as that influencer, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and often offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users aren't who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Educators

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

For older children, Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate material (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence, and sexual content) to underage viewers. To prevent children from changing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that they use to access YouTube. It's worth also turning the 'auto-play' feature off to prevent YouTube's algorithm automatically recommending something inappropriate.

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS

It's possible to sidestep most inappropriate content completely via Google's own YouTube Kids app for Android handsets and iPhone. This lets you filter content by 'preschool' (4 and under), 'younger' (ages 5 to 8) and 'older' (ages 9 to 12). This isn't a perfect substitute for personal supervision, as the app's filtering system is automated, and Google can't manually review all videos.

18+ CREDITS

TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows parents and carers to monitor what their child is watching, uploading, and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches, and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives a parent or carer oversight of how their child uses sites like YouTube and helps to ensure that they are only accessing appropriate content.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them under 18. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course. You may want to keep an eye on how children interact with this material – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand what they're interested in. Remember that creators often share content outside of YouTube, so don't ignore their web presence elsewhere!

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that a child is subscribed to can be hidden. If the child is only uploading videos set as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases. For example, users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch. If you'd like to avoid children purchasing content online, limit their access to online payment methods. Many parents have discovered the hard way that a child happily consuming a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

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 and The New Statesman.



The National College

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Some useful information for parents and carers, including online webinars can be accessed via The National College (formerly National Online Safety). At school, we teach the children about safe online behaviours but it is important that these messages are reinforced at home at that parents and carers are aware of how to support their children if issues arise.

School admissions



Warwickshire County Council

If you have a child who is due to start Reception or Year 7 next September, you need to apply for their school place. Applications can be made via the Warwickshire School Admissions Service. Visit their website for more information <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/school-admissions-appeals>

Applying for a primary school place



Applying for a Secondary School Place





Warwick, Leamington Spa and Surrounding Areas

A MULTI-SENSORY STORYTELLING experience FOR UNDER 5'S

Open the pages of imagination as we explore books and stories through singing, performance storytelling, phonics, British sign language, and a **HUGE** range of weekly play activities such as messy play, mark making, sensory play, small world, numeracy and **SO** much more! We explore a new theme and book every week. Our classes are perfect for individuals or siblings, we have something for everyone!

Classes coming to Lighthorne Heath Village Hall!

To enquire please email Kate on
warwickleamingtonspa@storyimaginory.co.uk or visit
www.warwickleamingtonspa.storyimaginory.co.uk

It's cold, it's dark, and there's only so many kids you can have in your house, so we're using the hall instead.

Come along, meet new people, and let the kids burn off some energy.

Thursday 26 February • 5:00pm

Lighthorne Heath Village Hall
(next to the shop)

Parent and child attend together.

All welcome.

Lisa (Daisy's Mum) is organising this event. She has requested that families let her know if they are planning to attend so that she is aware of numbers— the school can put you in touch if you don't know Lisa.

WARM HUB EVERY THURSDAY

11 - 1.30

LIGHTHORNE HEATH VILLAGE HALL

Enjoy a free tea, coffee, cake and conversation, FREE wi-fi and laptops available

FREE SEATED CHAIR EXERCISES EVERY WEEK - 1.00 - 1.30 a great workout

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Village Hall, Lighthorne Heath 3:15-3:45

2026:

5th Jan, 2nd Feb, 2nd March, 30th March,
27th April, 26th May, 22nd June, 20th
July, 17th August, 14th September, 12th
October, 9th November, 7th December



Each mobile library stocks:

- A selection of books, including large print
- Spoken word
- Books for young children

For more information, call (01926) 851031 or visit our website at warwickshire.gov.uk/mobilelibraries
To see our current routes, go to:
https://apps.warwickshire.gov.uk/MobileLibraries/library_routes