



Newsletter 21  
Friday 27th February 2026

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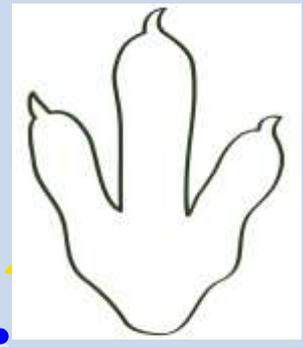


# Reception



# Dangerous Dinosaurs

This week in Reception, we had great fun starting our new theme, 'Dangerous Dinosaurs'. On Monday, the children discovered a huge egg in the playground along with a trail of large, muddy footprints. The children shared their predictions about what might be inside the egg, with ideas ranging from dinosaurs and crocodiles to dragons and even ostriches! The children also used cubes to measure the footprints.





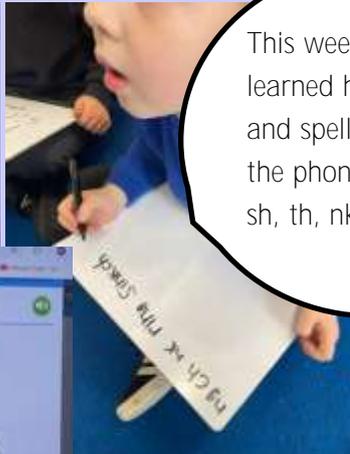
## Floppy's Phonics

# Looking at Learning

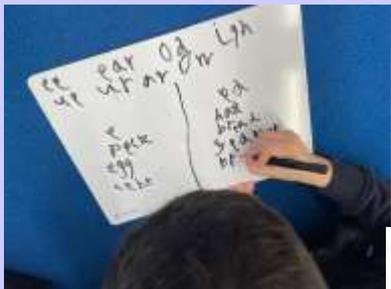
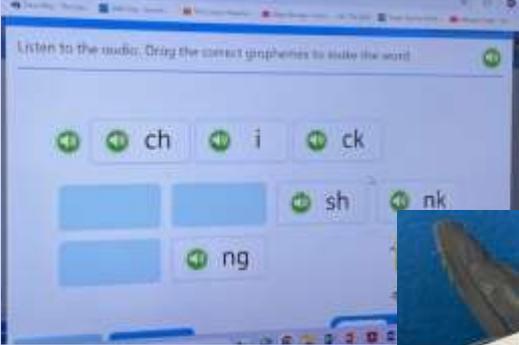
The children in Years 1 and 2 continue to work hard in their daily phonics sessions.

They are very skilled at setting out their work independently on whiteboards, recording the revised part of the session where they practise recall of phonemes and then dividing their board to demonstrate the different codes for the phoneme they are learning.

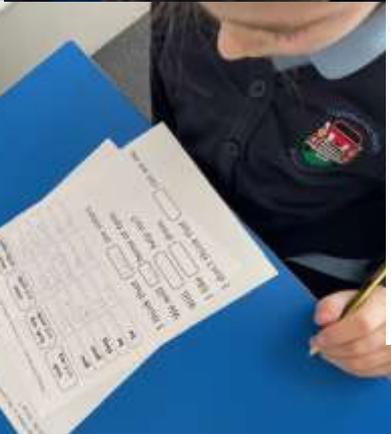
The Floppy Phonics programme also allows for deeper discussion about the meaning of words supporting their vocabulary and understanding. The children then work independently to apply their knowledge in order to read and write words containing the new phoneme as well as practising their key words.



This week we learned how to read and spell words with the phonemes: ch, sh, th, nk and ng.



We learned two codes for the short phoneme 'e.' There is 'e' as in egg and 'ea' as in feather.



- look and say
- you
- your
- they
- be
- he

We are practising reading and spelling our tricky (key) words by placing them into sentences.



UN Convention on the Rights of the Child  
Article 29: Goals of education





# Looking at Learning

**Map of the United Kingdom**

Belfast

Edinburgh

London

England

✓ Clearly cut out and well done!

The London Eye

**Map of the United Kingdom**

✓ Clearly cut out - well done!

St Paul's Cathedral

**8 London map**

- to go to London you can take a plane, 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
- Visit first to see Big Ben and Westminster Palace
- go north to see the animals at the Zoo
- For Tower of London
- below is the London Eye
- What a super map of London
- Look museum Rembrandt
- to see tower bridge
- follow the River Thames to
- Keep an eye on the red telephone box

Bucharest!

It has its own arc de triomphe

Nick name "Little Paris"

The city was destroyed by a fire

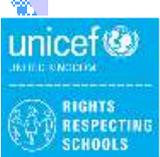
Bucharest - Capital of Romania

food this is mici

Fun facts about Bucharest

The palace of the parliament is the heaviest building in the world!

the city is named after a shepherd called Bucur



UN Convention on the Rights of the Child  
Article 29: Goals of education





At our school, we celebrate learning in all its wonderful forms.

Learning is not just about discovering new information and developing new skills, it is also about strengthening what we already know and building on our experiences. In the classroom, we enjoy exploring our curriculum subjects through engaging lessons, but our learning goes far beyond that. We learn through songs and games, through exciting trips and visits, and by sharing ideas and experiences with one another.

**Learning doesn't stop at the school gates. There are so many** exciting opportunities to learn at home too. This might include reading, completing home learning tasks, or enjoying educational games, but it can also involve many other valuable experiences. When we spoke to the children, they shared a fantastic range of interests. Some love cooking and trying new recipes, while others enjoy arts and crafts. We have children who are passionate about exercise and learning how to keep themselves healthy. Others enjoy building and creating, caring for their pets, visiting museums, and going on special days out with their families.

We would love to celebrate these wonderful home learning adventures by creating a photo display showcasing the many ways our pupils learn outside of school. Please send any photographs to Mrs Manley ([manley.j@welearn365.com](mailto:manley.j@welearn365.com)) so that we can include them in our display. **We can't wait to see and share all the amazing learning taking place at home!**

Thank you from,

Sat and Lottie (Learning Detectives)



I enjoy learning computer coding, my dad teaches me.

Stefan

I am learning to play the piano, I am looking forward to getting better. It also helps me to feel calm.

Freya

I go to swimming lessons. I enjoy learning to swim as it is so much fun.

Hazel



UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 29: Goals of education

Article 31: Leisure, play and culture



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.**

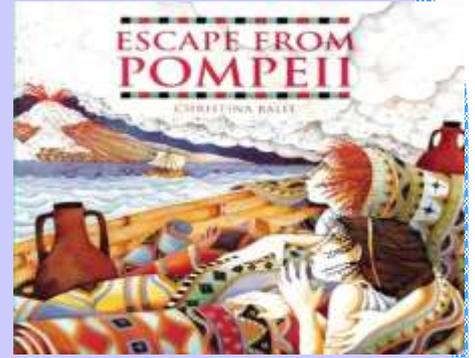
Your cooperation helps maintain positive relationships with our neighbours and contributes to a safer, more pleasant environment for everyone.

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





This week, Year 3 and 4 were introduced to their new class text, *Escape from Pompeii* by Christina Balit, which is closely linked to their Rocks, Relics and Rumbles topic.



The children listened carefully as the story was shared in sections, allowing them to discuss and reflect on each part. They explored the key events leading up to and during the eruption of Pompeii, developing their understanding of how the disaster unfolded.



The children created a text map of the story. This involved using actions, key phrases and illustrations to help them remember important events.

Through this engaging approach, the children were able to retell the story confidently, using expression and detail to bring the narrative to life.



Convention on the Rights of the Child  
Article 29: Goals of education



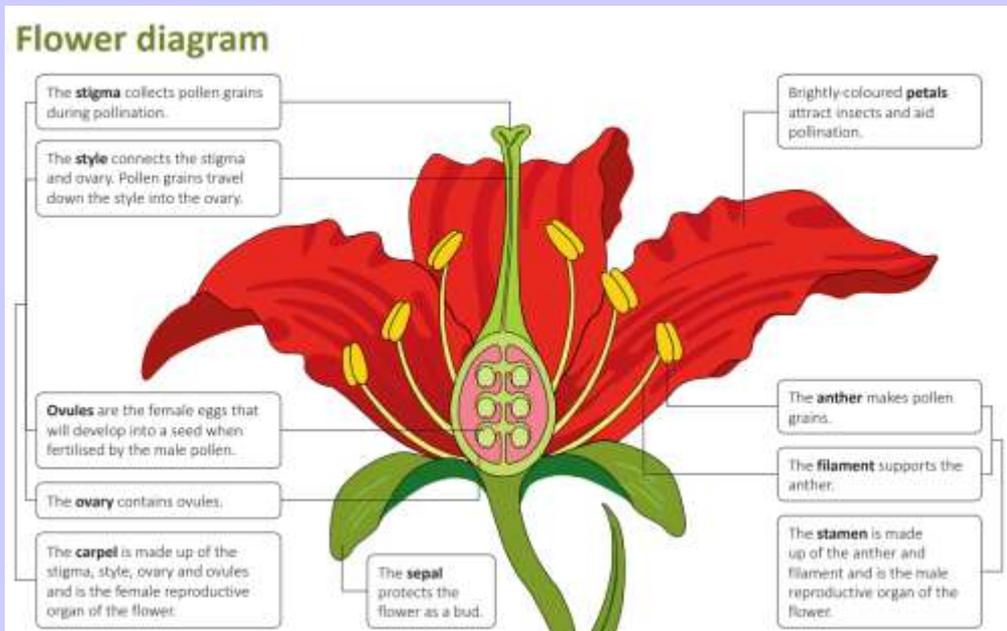
# Looking at Learning



This week, children in Years 5 and 6 have continued their learning about reproduction in plants.

During their science lesson, they worked in pairs to dissect a daffodil. They started by looking at the flower as a whole, and seeing which parts they could see and name. They were able to find everything in the picture below other than the ovules. For this we would need to cut open the ovary.

Once dissected, the children were able to group the parts of the flower by their jobs and could identify the male and female reproductive parts.



We were surprised by how many ovules (unfertilised eggs that will eventually become seeds) there were when we opened the ovary.

Looking at Learning



# Looking at Learning



We set out our flowers in an exploded diagram style. This showed how the flower would look if we put it back together again.



We love practical science lessons because they help us see our learning in action and deepen our understanding through hands on experiences .





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 [wccycletraining@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:wccycletraining@warwickshire.gov.uk).

Looking at Learning



UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

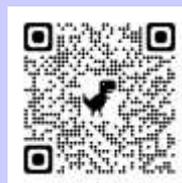
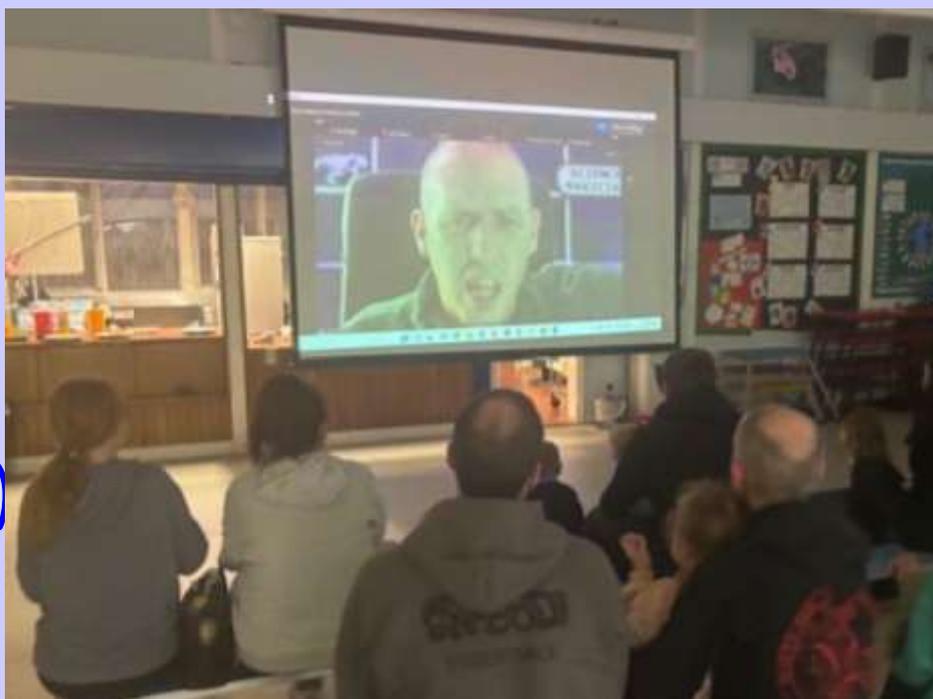
Article 29: Goals of education



# Looking at Learning

Thank you to the children and families who joined us at school on Wednesday evening to watch the live streaming of Dr Matt Pritchard's surprising science show. Dr Matt Pritchard, the Science Magician, combines his love of STEM subjects with magic, creating amazing performances that both inspire and educate.

This opportunity was made possible through our school's participation in the **Enthuse Partnership** and was designed to spark our children's curiosity ahead of Science Week in March, when they will take part in some exciting hands-on learning activities in their classes.



UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 29: Goals of education

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?

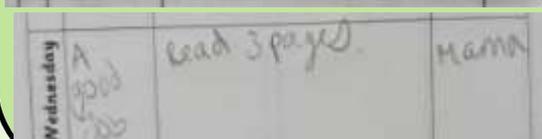
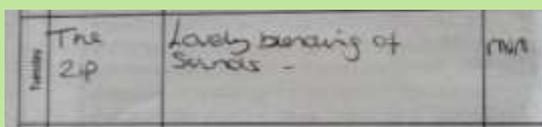
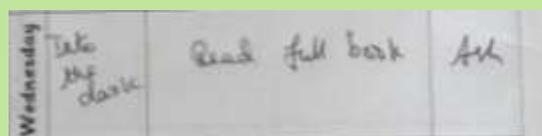
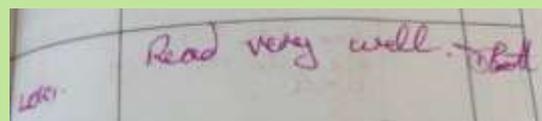
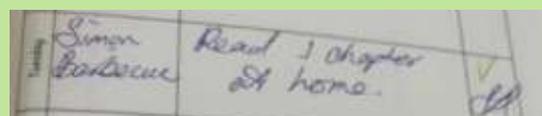
**Encouraging Critical Thinking:**

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	
February	
Friday 27th February	Year 5 netball workshop, selected 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
Monday 9th—Friday 15th March	Science week
Friday 27th March	Non uniform day. Please bring a suggested donation of £1 for school fund.
Monday 30th March—Friday 10th April	Easter holiday.



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](mailto:beck.s@welearn365.com).



We're encouraging families to think about a smartphone free childhood wherever possible.

Giving children more time to play, chat, explore, and be creative without screens helps them build confidence, friendships, and happy, healthy habits.

Follow the link to explore the Smartphone Free Childhood webpages for more information.

### The 7 SUPERPOWERS of smartphone-free kids

- 01. More time**  
Based on UK kids' average usage, they could get over 35 hours a week back to use in the real world.
- 02. More freedom**  
More space to grow into themselves – without pressure from likes, trends, or group chats.
- 03. Real social skills**  
They build confidence and vital skills by talking, listening, and laughing together – face to face.
- 04. Better mental health**  
Less time scrolling means less anxiety, fewer comparisons, and more joy in the everyday.
- 05. Digital resilience**  
They learn to use tech intentionally – creating, thinking, questioning, not just scrolling endlessly.
- 06. Focused learning**  
Without constant distractions kids can focus, think clearly and get in the zone – in and out of school.
- 07. Proper sleep**  
No late-night scrolling means deeper rest, brighter moods, and a brain ready for tomorrow.

Join hundreds of thousands of families delaying smartphones and social media – together.

**SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD** SMARTPHONEFREECHILDHOOD.ORG

## 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: [eef.org.uk/literacy-early-years](https://eef.org.uk/literacy-early-years)

Education Endowment Foundation (2019).  
*Improving Literacy in Secondary Schools.* Education Endowment Foundation: London.  
Available online: [eef.org.uk/literacy-s23-ks4](https://eef.org.uk/literacy-s23-ks4)

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\\_Development\\_Evidence\\_Review.pdf](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Literacy_Development_Evidence_Review.pdf)



Healthier families

# 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

*Choose wholegrain*

### 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, mango, taut, mini corn
- ✓ Salad vegetables
- ✓ Vegetable Soup

*Add salad to your sandwich*

*Use a bit more flesh for different textures*

### 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

*Choose low sugar baby products*

### 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

*Keep processed meat to a minimum*

*Choose oily fish like salmon once every 2 weeks*

### 5 Drinks

to rehydrate your body

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

*Match water to 150ml juice*

**Occasionally!**

Meat products such as sausage rolls, pies, sausages  
Plain cakes/sponges and biscuits of appropriate portion sizes

*Plain cakes occasionally*

For more healthy packed lunch ideas and recipes visit [www.phunkyfoods.co.uk/recipes](http://www.phunkyfoods.co.uk/recipes)



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.

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

**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.

**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.



UN Convention on the Rights of the Child  
 Article 29: Goals of education  
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**Educaterers**

Plan for nutrition	
<p><b>Monday</b></p>  <p><b>Chicken Burger in a Bun G.</b></p>	<p>or</p>  <p><b>(vg) Plant Power Burger in a Bun (G)</b></p>
<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>  <p><b>Cheese &amp; Tomato Pizza (G.D)</b></p>	<p>or</p>  <p><b>(v) Cheese D.</b></p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>  <p><b>Roast Pork, Apple Sauce</b></p>	<p>or</p>  <p><b>(vg) Classic Quorn Roast, Apple Sauce G.</b></p>
<p><b>Thursday</b></p>  <p><b>Chicken &amp; Vegetable Pie (G)</b></p>	<p>or</p>  <p><b>(vg) Quorn Dippers in a Wrap with Tomato Salsa (G)</b></p>
<p><b>Friday</b></p>  <p><b>Battered Fish Fillet F.G</b></p>	<p>or</p>  <p><b>(v)(h) Rainbow Risotto (D)</b></p>

**Educaterers' New**

Menu

Next week is Week 2 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



Mental Health in Schools Team  
**Tips For Wellness**



Dimensions tool



Free online personalised self-care information & support for adults and children in Coventry & Warwickshire

## Relaxation

Relaxation is when our mind and body is free from stress and tension. Research has found that this can help us to think clearly, concentrate, sleep well, feel more confident and even boost our immune system!

Relaxation can look different for everyone, and it can be helpful to try a few different relaxation techniques to see what works best to make you feel happy and rested.

### Our Tips for Relaxation:

1- Try some **breathing exercises**, such as finger breathing or square breathing. Breathing exercises are great as you can do them in any place, at any time. Follow the QR code to try flower and candle breathing!



Flower and  
candle  
breathing

2- **Drawing or colouring** can help you to express your feelings and focus on something peaceful. This is a great way to relax your mind!

3- Practice **mindfulness** by taking a break away from any screens and devices. This could be going on a walk or being outside in nature. Try to use as many of your senses as possible, think about what you can see, hear, smell, touch and even taste! You could even try cloud watching to calm your mind.



Calm yoga  
stretches

4- **Stretch** it out, practice yoga to stretch out your muscles to relax and reduce tension. Try following the QR code for a yoga video!

5- A warm **bath or shower** can be a soothing experience that helps to relax muscles and calm your mind. You could make it extra relaxing with quiet music and bubbles!

In Coventry and Warwickshire, for any urgent mental health concerns, contact the RISE Crisis Helpline available 24/7, by calling NHS 111. Alternatively, call 999 or visit A&E in an emergency, for example if medical attention is required.

MHST are available to support you and your school throughout the school year including term time and school holidays.

Please contact your school's Mental Health Lead for information and advice.

# Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health



Why not try our mindfulness colouring activity at home this week? It's a simple and enjoyable way to help you relax, unwind, and take a mindful moment in the day.

# Lighthorne Heath Learning Heroes

## Reception

Mrs Gill has chosen Hazel as her hero this week. Hazel has been working super hard with her maths and has impressed the adults with her knowledge of number bonds to 10. Hazel has shown good problem-solving skills and curiosity this week. Fantastic work Hazel!



Co-

## Years 1 & 2

This week we have chosen Everleigh as our Y 1 & 2 Hero. She has shown great determination and enthusiasm for our 'Beast' model-making activity during our Guided Reading lesson. She also amazed us with her confident reading voice as we practised using the microphone for our class assembly. Great Job, Everleigh!

Have a go



Concentrate

## Years 3 & 4

This week, Mrs Madahar would like to choose Ellie as the Lighthorne Hero. She has worked brilliantly across all lessons and has shown a kind and helpful nature towards everyone. I was particularly impressed by the determination Ellie showed during her swimming lesson. Great work, Ellie!



Be curious!

## Years 5 & 6

The hero in Years 5 & 6 this week is Rosa. She worked hard dissecting a flower in our Science lesson paying careful attention to each stage. One child had missed the session and she confidently talked her through the process and patiently helped her to dissect and flower and display its parts too. Well done, Rosa.



Enjoy learning



Persevere



Keep improving



Use your imagination



## 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**



UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 29: Goals of education

Article 5, Parental Guidance, Article 18, Parental responsibility

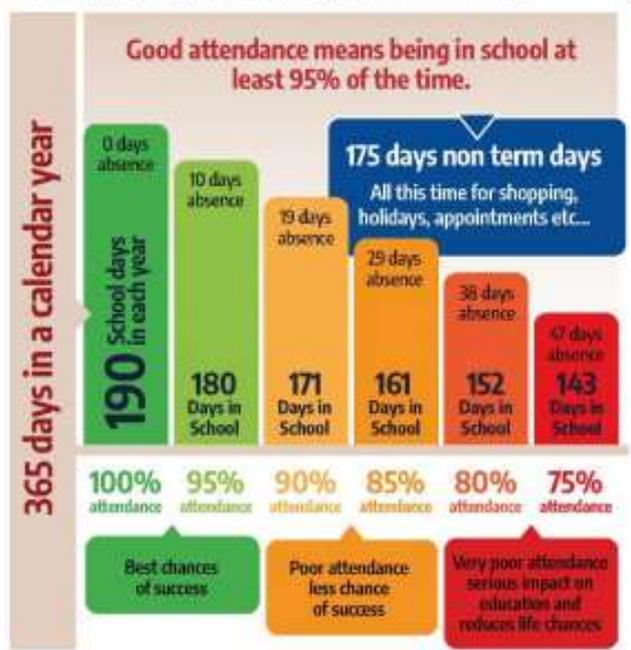


# Attendance and Punctuality

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

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.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged 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 'salt 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.



### 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!

### 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 13). This isn't a perfect substitute for parental supervision, as the app's filtering system is automated, and Google can't manually review all videos.

### 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.



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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





## **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@storyimaginary.co.uk](mailto:warwickleamingtonspa@storyimaginary.co.uk) or visit  
[www.warwickleamingtonspa.storyimaginary.co.uk](http://www.warwickleamingtonspa.storyimaginary.co.uk)



# 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 30<sup>th</sup> March,  
27<sup>th</sup> April, 26<sup>th</sup> May, 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 20<sup>th</sup>  
July, 17<sup>th</sup> August, 14<sup>th</sup> September, 12<sup>th</sup>  
October, 9<sup>th</sup> November, 7<sup>th</sup> December



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