

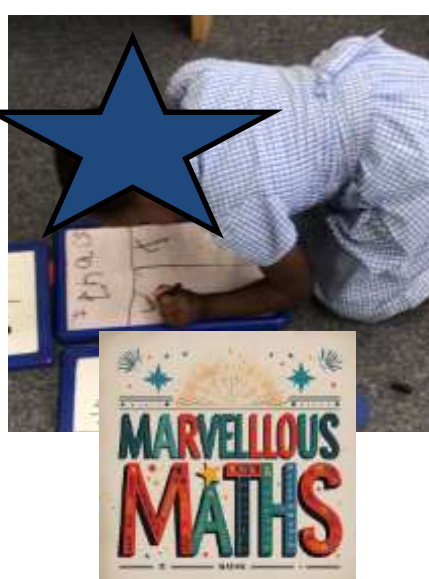
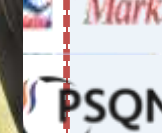


Nursery and Reception

This week, our Reception children have been consolidating their mathematical understanding through a variety of games designed to apply and reinforce key skills. The children have been practising subitising by playing a dice game, as well as developing their recording skills through a target-based beanbag activity.

These turn-taking games not only support mathematical learning, but also play an important role in developing social and emotional skills such as sharing, cooperation and managing the emotions associated with winning and losing.

Our mastery approach to teaching mathematics enables children to build a deeper understanding of number by exploring a range of visual representations and strategies, laying strong foundations for future learning.



UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 29: Goals of education





SUMMER FAIR

Tuesday 8th July
3.00pm – 3.45pm

LIGHTHORNE HEATH PRIMARY SCHOOL

FREE ENTRY

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!

- bottle tombola •
- teddy tombola •
- glitter tatoos and face paint •
- cake stall •
- raffle •
- hook a duck •
- games •
- and much more!

Prizes

Games
50p each





Science– Barn Owl pellet dissection

This week the children in Years 1 and 2 have continued to learn about local wildlife as part of their Science unit on 'Animals and their habitats.' Our science morning started with detailed research about barn owls, the children gained new knowledge about where barn owls live, how they hunt and move. They learned that barn owls have two stomachs that help the owl to digest it's prey and filter out the unwanted parts (bones or fur) into pellets, that the owl then passes from it's throat.

Following this session the children were challenged to dissect some real owl pellets, using a bone identification sheet to find out what types of prey the owl had eaten. Each pellet represented a different meal so each finding was unique and proved rather exciting as different bones, fur and skulls were discovered.



Wow! I found a whole skull from a mouse.

I found a bone from a shrew and animal fur.



We wore gloves to handle the pellets and washed our hands after the

The bones were tiny, we had to be



Transition Day

It was really lovely to see the children settling into their new classes on Thursday for our transition day. There was a real buzz of excitement as they met their new teachers and classmates, and it was great to see how quickly they started to feel at home. The way they joined in with activities and supported each other was a real credit to them.



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



Pre-school expansion



We are very excited that from September 2025 we will be offering morning and afternoon Pre-School sessions. Children are able to join pre-school the term after they turn 3 years old. We are pleased that this expansion means we will be able to accommodate families with 15 and 30 hour funding. We are currently working hard to finalise the details and admission form but would welcome expressions of interest to join the waiting list by emailing admin2064@welearn365.com



School day changes

In line with guidance from the Department for Education (DfE), all mainstream state-funded schools are expected to ensure that their school week is a minimum of 32.5 hours. This expectation has been set to help ensure all pupils receive consistent access to high-quality education across the country.

To meet this requirement, we will be extending our school day so that it ends at 3:20pm each day, from September.

This small adjustment will ensure that we are fully compliant with national expectations and will support us in continuing to deliver a high standard of education to all our pupils.

We understand that changes to the school day may require some families to adjust their routines slightly, and we thank you in advance for your support and understanding as we implement this change.



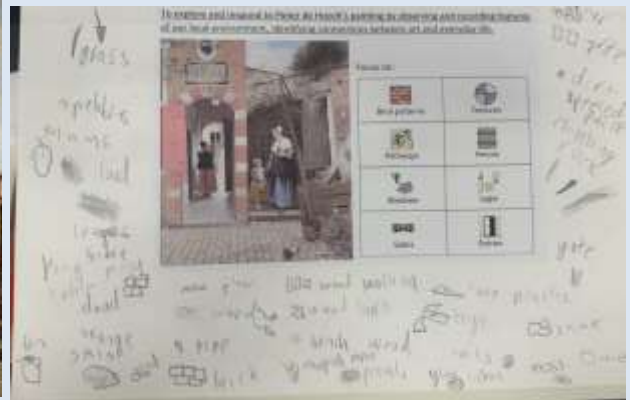
UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
Article 29: Goals of education

Art

Years 3 and 4

This week, the children have been taking part in the Take One Picture initiative from the National Gallery, focusing on the stunning painting *A Regatta on the Grand Canal* by Canaletto. The initiative encourages children to explore a single artwork in depth, and our class has embraced the challenge with curiosity, creativity, and enthusiasm.

We began the week by closely observing the painting, with the children noticing key features such as the gondolas, architecture, flags, and the crowds along the canal. They sketched these details in their own styles, practising observation and fine drawing skills



We then moved into the concept of composition by discussing how an artist guides a viewer's eye around the canvas. The children linked this to their drama freeze-frame work, using their bodies to recreate and reimagine scenes from the painting, considering how placement and posture impact storytelling in visual art.

To end the week, we explored vanishing points, perspective, and ratio, learning how artists like Canaletto use these techniques to give the illusion of depth and distance. The children experimented with their own pieces, drawing buildings, boats, and people that appeared to grow smaller as they moved "back" into the picture.





In Spanish lessons this week, the children in years 5 & 6 have been recapping their learning on numbers to 60 and then learning their numbers from 61-100.

Learning numbers in Spanish as part of our modern foreign languages curriculum is essential for the children's practical communication in everyday situations, including telling time, making purchases, and navigating transportation. It also aids in cultural understanding and enhances cognitive skills.

<div>Hola <small>SPANISH</small></div> Los números del 0 al 100 en español				
0 cero	11 once	20 veinte	30 treinta	70 setenta
1 uno	12 doce	21 veintiuno	31 treinta y uno	71 setenta y uno
2 dos	13 trece	22 veintidós	32 treinta y dos	72 setenta y dos
3 tres	14 catorce	23 veintitrés	40 cuarenta	...
4 cuatro	15 quince	24 veinticuatro	41 cuarenta y uno	80 ochenta
5 cinco	16 dieciséis	25 veinticinco	42 cuarenta y dos	81 ochenta y uno
6 seis	17 diecisiete	26 veintiséis	50 cincuenta	82 ochenta y dos
7 siete	18 dieciocho	27 veintisiete	51 cincuenta y uno	...
8 ocho	19 diecinueve	28 veintiocho	52 cincuenta y dos	90 noventa
9 nueve		29 veintinueve	60 sesenta	91 noventa y uno
10 diez			61 sesenta y uno	92 noventa y dos
			62 sesenta y dos	100 cien

Purpose of study

Learning a foreign language is a liberation from insularity and provides an opening to other cultures. A high-quality languages education should foster pupils' curiosity and deepen their understanding of the world. The teaching should enable pupils to express their ideas and thoughts in another language and to understand and respond to its speakers, both in speech and in writing. It should also provide opportunities for them to communicate for practical purposes, learn new ways of thinking and read great literature in the original language. Language teaching should provide the foundation for learning further languages, equipping pupils to study and work in other countries.





¿Cuántos cromos?

Write the correct Spanish number under each picture.

me llamo _____

1.  88 =	2.  38 =	3.  88 =	4.  21 =
5.  42 =	6.  62 =	7.  24 =	8.  84 =
9.  78 =	10.  88 =	11.  82 =	12.  82 =

¿Qué número es?

Draw lines to match the written numbers with the numerals.

me llamo _____

- | | |
|---------------------|------------|
| 1. noventa y nueve | 100 |
| 2. sesenta y ocho | 78 |
| 3. setenta y ocho | 92 |
| 4. ochenta y cuatro | 99 |
| 5. cien | 68 |
| 6. ochenta | 84 |
| 7. setenta y dos | 80 |
| 8. noventa y dos | 72 |



We practise our Spanish numbers in many different ways including through our Spanish scheme 'Learn Spanish with Luis y Sofía: A story based scheme for teaching Spanish at KS2', completing worksheets, counting as pairs and in groups and by playing lots of number based games one of which is BINGO.



Own books



You may have noticed our new OWN BOOKS bookshelf in the school reception area.

The books on the shelf are free to take home. You are welcome to keep the book, or, if you wish, return it to the shelf for someone else to enjoy.

Please use the shelf, you are welcome to browse the books on offer, however, we politely request that if the reception area is particularly busy you return when it is a little quieter.

There are books for teenagers and adults too, we want to get everyone reading. It is your responsibility as parent/ carer to make sure that your child is supervised when using the shelf and that any book chosen is age appropriate.

If you would like to donate any books to the scheme, please speak to Mrs Manley or Mrs Hendrickson (we are happy to take donations of appropriate books that are in good condition, however, we do not have the space to store a large number of books).

More information can be found at www.ownbooks.co.uk

- 1) Children who read have more words in their vocabularies
- 2) Children who read have vivid imaginations
- 3) Children who read are good at seeing pictures in their heads
- 4) Children who read are good at solving problems in their heads
- 5) Children who read are good at writing
- 6) Children who read are good at communicating in words
- 7) Children who read are inquisitive and lively
- 8) Children who read are good at concentrating
- 9) Children who read are good at reading
- 10) Children who read know quite a lot about many things
- 11) Children who read are generally very smart
- 12) Children who read have lots of words to use to express their ideas feelings and thoughts
- 13) Children who read love to read and share the good books with each other



Diary Dates



Summer Term	
June	
July	
Tuesday 2nd July	Transition day
Tuesday 8th July	Summer Fair 3-4pm
Friday 11th July	Year 5 & 6 silent disco– leavers celebration– Year 5 & 6 only. Year 5 & 6 children may 'dress to impress'.
Tuesday 15th—Thursday 17th July	Years 5&6 residential trip to PGL Liddington
Friday 18th July	Last day of term
Leavers Assembly	Leavers Assembly 10.00am
	Mufti day

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



UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 29: Goals of education

Article 5, Parental Guidance, Article 18, Parental responsibility

Lighthorne Heath Learning Heroes

EYES

Our Reception and Nursery learning hero this week is Aadhira. Aadhira has impressed us with her listening this week. Despite only just joining an established class, she has started to join in with all of our classroom routines, answering her name in the register and taking part in a range of activities. Well done Aadhira!



Years 1 and 2

Our hero this week is the smiley and hardworking Everleigh, who has particularly impressed us with the effort and enthusiasm she puts into her work. She was also observed helping other children to achieve their best, supporting them with spelling words and reading questions. What a fabulous learning partner you are! Well done Everleigh.

Years 3 and 4

This week's year 3&4 learning hero is Aurora, for her positive attitude, her preparedness, and for always making sure her work is completed with care and pride. She has shown great focus and creativity throughout the week. Well done, Aurora!

Years 5 and 6

Our year 5&6 learning hero this week is Saydie for her contribution to our maths lessons on decimals. She has worked hard on managing her distractions and used fantastic mathematical language to explain her reasoning during teacher input in our maths lessons. Keep up the good work, Sadiye!

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 29: Goals of education



Lighthorne Heath Primary School Newsletter

Co-operate

Persevere

Have a go

Concentrate

Be curious!

Enjoy learning

Keep on improving

Use your imagination

Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health



Mental Health in Schools Team
Tips For Wellness



Change

Changes are a normal part of our lives and they affect us all in different ways. Some changes may feel small to you, but big to another person, and the opposite for a different change. For example, moving to a new class or school, moving homes, or starting a new club. They can feel exciting, but they can also feel overwhelming and stressful, especially when they are unexpected. Below are some tips to help you cope with changes that may feel hard for you.

Our tips for coping with change:

1 – Keep doing things you enjoy!

When we feel stressed or worried, it can be easy for us to focus on the worries all the time and forget to do the things that make us happy. Make sure to plan in time at the weekends and evenings to do things you enjoy to help you relax and boost your mood!

2 – Think about what you can control

When a change is unexpected or overwhelming, we can feel a bit like we have no control over the situation or how it is making us feel. It can be helpful to think about what you do have control over in this situation. For example, we can't control how the change makes us feel but we can control how we react to the situation and what we do following the change. Such as, staying connected with our friends and family, keeping to our daily routines, and planning ahead where we can.

3 – Look for the positives

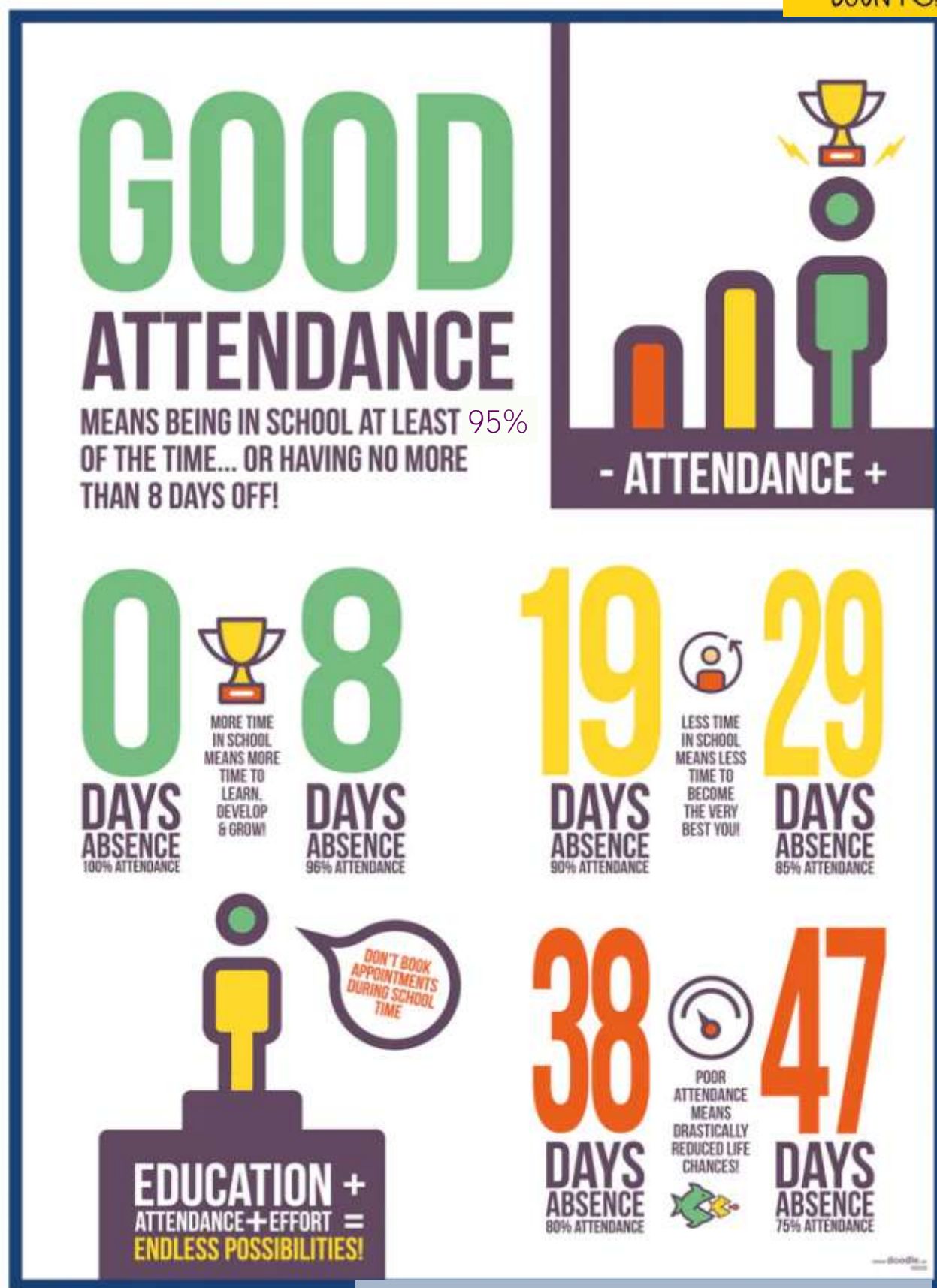
While change can feel hard, there's often something good that comes from it, even if it is not immediately obvious. Such as, new opportunities, new people or learning experiences. You might even surprise yourself and enjoy the change!

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.

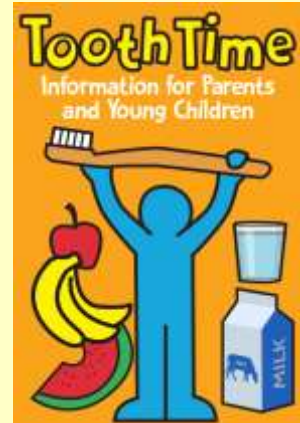
Attendance and Punctuality



UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 29: Goals of education

Article 5, Parental Guidance, Article 18, Parental responsibility



A regular teeth-cleaning routine is essential for good dental health.

It's important to use a fluoride toothpaste, as this helps prevent and control tooth decay

Children aged 3 to 6 years

- Brush at least twice daily for about 2 minutes with fluoride toothpaste.
- Brush last thing at night before bed and at least on 1 other occasion (ideally in the morning).
- Parents or carers should brush the teeth.
- Use children's fluoride toothpaste
- Use only a pea-sized amount of toothpaste.
- Spit out after brushing and don't rinse – if you rinse, the fluoride won't work as well.

Children aged 7 and over

- Brush at least twice daily for about 2 minutes with fluoride toothpaste.
- Brush last thing at night before bed and at least on 1 other occasion.
- Use fluoride toothpaste containing between 1,350ppm and 1,500ppm of fluoride (check label).
- 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.

Good oral health is important!

What do we need to know about toothbrushing?

As soon as your child's first tooth appears, brush twice a day for two minutes, using a small, soft tooth brush and fluoride toothpaste. Always brush last thing at night before bed and on one other occasion. Fluoride is a mineral and can help prevent tooth decay, this is added to many brands of toothpaste.

Children under three should use a smear of fluoride toothpaste, which contains at least 1000ppm (PPM – parts per million, this is the measurement of fluoride strength). Children over three should use a pea size amount between 1350-1500ppm.

Brushing should be supervised until at least 7 years of age.



Spit out the toothpaste after toothbrushing, do not rinse after. This helps the fluoride stay in the mouth longer and work harder to strengthen the teeth.

Remember to change your toothbrush every 3 months.

What kind of foods can my child eat?

Choose sugar free snacks in between meals such as fresh fruits and vegetables.



Healthy Fruit Options

Plain milk and water are the only safe drinks for teeth.



If you choose to give your child other drinks, well-diluted fruit juice or squash should be limited to meal times.



UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 29: Goals of education

Article 18: Parental responsibilities

Article 24: Health and health services



SUN SAFETY

This week, we have seen increased temperatures and several particularly sunny days at school.

During warm weather, please make sure that your child is safe at school by ensuring the following:

1. Sun Hat

Make sure your child brings a sun hat to school every day.



2. Named Water Bottle

Send your child with a named water bottle (water only, please).

They can refill their bottles throughout the day from our water cooler to stay well hydrated.



3. Apply Sun Cream

Please apply sun cream before school.

Children will be outside throughout the day—using the playground, school field, and class gardens.

While we provide access to shade and avoid extended sun exposure, we recommend a long-lasting sunscreen for added protection.



Let's Work Together to Keep Everyone Safe in the Sun!

HAF

Onside
Coaching

Active Kids

This Summer!

Summer Holiday Activities
& Food Programme



At Lighthorne Heath Primary School

Monday 28th July to
Thursday 14th August

**100%
FREE**
for eligible families

**Sports & Activities, Team Games, Nutritious Meals,
New Friendships, Confidence Building and more!**

Limited spaces available, don't miss out...

BOOK NOW AT haf.onsidelive.co.uk



Monday



(v) Cheese and Tomato Pizza D.G.

Vegetarian Customers Only



(v) Jacket Potato with Cheese D.



Tuesday



Pasta Bolognaise G/J Cheese D.



(v) Veggie Bolognaise G.SB.

Wednesday



Roast Pork Slice



(vg) Quorn Roast G.



Thursday



Beef Grill G.SB.SU in a Bun G.



(vg) Plant Power Burger in a Bun G.



Friday



Breaded Fish Fillet Fingers F.G



(vg) Crispy Vegetable Fingers G



Educaterers' New Menu

Next week, we will be on Week 3 of the new Educaterers menu.

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.

Guide to Supporting Your Child's Reading

Lighthorne Heath
Primary School
Reading Diary
2024-25

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?

Why do you think the character made that choice?

If you were in this situation, what would you do?

Summarising and Reflecting:

Can you tell me what happened in the story in your own words?

What was your favourite part? Why?

Did the book end the way you expected?

Extending the Story:

If you could ask the author one question, what would it be?

Can you think of a different ending to the story?

What lesson did you learn from this book?

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.

Simon
Barbecue Read 1 chapter at home. ✓

Read very well. ✓

Wednesday Take the class Read full book Ash

Friday The 2p Lovely drawing of Simon - Mrs

Wednesday A good job Read 3 pages. Mama



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.



Quality support for autistic people, families and professionals

The Community Autism Support Service offers a number of training and information sessions to parents in Warwickshire who are keen to find out more about neurodivergence, this includes supporting children who may have ADHD and/ or autism.

The service also runs a number of face to face drop in sessions. Please visit the site for more information and to access links for further support.

The service aims to:

- Improve the understanding of autistic adults, young people and children, and those diagnosed autistic, and their families, to understand autism and themselves better.
- Support people to manage and thrive at home, in education, in employment and in the community.
- Help individuals improve their communication, interaction, processing and sensory skills.
- **Help improve people's self-esteem** and confidence, manage relationships and enjoy day-to-day life.
- Support neurodiverse/autistic individuals with managing symptoms of low to moderate emotional wellbeing and mental health difficulties.
- Provide an environment where all aspects of autism are recognised, accepted and respected.
- Offer parent, family and carer support through peer activities.
- Provide resources and signpost to other community-based support.





Working in partnership with

Bromford.



Trustgreen

Come along and say hello

We're holding a Summer fun day
and we'd love to see you there.



When: 2pm – 6pm on Friday 25 July 2025

Where: The event is spread across two venues

- Avon Valley Bowls Club, Avon Valley Way (parking available)
- The playground next to the allotments, off Gaydon Coppice Avenue (no parking)

Join us for food and drinks, arts and crafts, and fun and games for the kids.

It's a great chance to meet other residents of the Upper Lighthorne developments, people from the Sage Homes team, along with other service and support providers we're working with to deliver the event, and the local Police too.

Activities and locations

If you need to park at the event, you can do so at the Bowls Club (there's no parking by the playground). To reach the playground (a five-minute walk away), just follow the path by Gaydon Coppice Avenue.

At the Bowls Club

- Free parking
- Bowls and Petanque
- Family games
- Tea and coffee

At the playground

- Bouncy castle and penalty shoot-out
- Arts, crafts and face painting
- Burger and ice cream vans
- Sage Homes team, support agencies, local organisations and Police

Drop in, if you can

There's no need to book, just drop in and say hi. If you have any questions, please contact: Dina at dina.norris@sagehomes.co.uk.

Family Support Drop In Sessions



Would you like the opportunity to speak to a Family Support Worker?

Family Support Workers can offer support with

Developing Routines and Boundaries
Understanding your child's behaviour
Behaviour Management
Health and Wellbeing
Childrens Mental Health

Join us for a consultation with a Family Support Worker at
Lighthorne Heath Children and Family Centre
2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month
1pm - 3pm



Phone: 01926 414 144
Option 1, then 2 for Family Support
Available Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm



Warwickshire
County Council



We are looking for additional players for several of our teams ahead of the 25/26 season.

Our focus is on the FUNdamentals of football, we don't trails players and instead all we ask is a desire to learn and play from all of our players

Under 9s – School Year 3 (Yr 4 in Sept 25')

Under 8s – School Year 2 (Yr 3 in Sept 25')

Wednesday evening training
Saturday morning games
Message us for more information

07466 169120
upperlighthornefc@outlook.com

NEW PLAYERS WANTED



GO GO MAKERS SUMMER CAMPS

THREE INCREDIBLE PROGRAMMES ALL UNDER ONE ROOF

GO GO MINI'S

RECEPTION CHILDREN AGED 4-5 YEARS

Our GO GO MINI'S Holiday Camp is perfect for Reception Children (aged 4-5). We've tailored our approach to help our youngest guests get the most out of the Holiday Camp experience.

GO GO ACTIVE SPORT

GO GO EINSTEIN'S STEM

GO GO CREATORS ART

GO GO GROOVERS DANCE

JNR's

5-7 YEARS (YEAR GROUPS 1-2)

THE SCIENCE LAB

ACTION STATIONS

CRAFT CLUB

SHINING STARS

SNR's

8-12 YEARS (YEAR GROUPS 3-6)

CR8TIVE'S

SPORT SKILLZ

MAD SCIENCE

BATTLE SESSIONS

STEP UP

VENUES

PRIORS FIELD PRIMARY KENILWORTH	BIRLAR HILL INFANT WIRTNASH	FINHAM PARK SECONDARY FINHAM
HEATHCOTE PRIMARY WARWICK GATES	EMSCOTE INFANT WARWICK	

GO GO XTRA!

FOR 7-12 YEARS (YEAR GROUPS 3-7)

READY FOR MORE INDEPENDENCE?

Introducing GO GO XTRA! Our NEW Holiday Camp for 7-12 year olds who are ready for a fresh experience. We go that XTRA! mile to offer engaging activities that will broaden our youngsters' minds & develop independence... setting them up for the teenage years ahead.

NEW PICK AND MIX

Where the children decide how they spend their day, from fast-paced sports to technical skills-labs & coding sessions.

EXCLUSIVE TO NORTH LEAMINGTON SCHOOL!

LEAMINGTON SPA

10% SIBLING DISCOUNT & PAYMENT INSTALMENTS AVAILABLE

2024-2025 BOOK & LEAMINGTON DAY

EARLY 8AM DROP OFF AND LATE 5.30PM PICK UP AVAILABLE WITH A SIBLING FEE

SAVE 10% UNTIL JUNE 15th 2025

✓ OFSTED REGISTERED ✓ WE ACCEPT CHILDCARE VOUCHERS & TAX FREE CHILDCARE

HAF TO BOOK VISIT:

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E: hello@gogomakers.co.uk | T: 01936 350024

★★★★★ RATED 5 STARS ON GOOGLE

BRITISH MOTOR MUSEUM

28 JUN

ARMED FORCES DAY 28 JUNE 2025

Celebrate Armed Forces Day at the British Motor Museum with our special offer to current serving and veteran members!

Find Out More

June

Online - Celebrating Le Mans 24 Hours

June

In this month's online activity we're celebrating the greatest endurance race in the world - Le Mans 24 Hours!

Find Out More

10 JUN

Gaydon Gathering - June

10 Jun 2025

Every kind of automotive enthusiast and every kind of motor is invited to the June edition of the ever popular Gaydon ...

Find Out More

14-15 JUN

Classic & Vintage Commercial Show

14-15 JUN 2025

Take a nostalgic drive to the Classic & Vintage Commercial Show and see over 400 pre-2004 commercial vehicles ...

Find Out More



Peep child development groups

FREE

peep 

What is Peep?

Peep supports parents and carers in understanding and enhancing their child's development through sharing fun, simple, low cost ideas and information with each other, and helping to create strong support networks.



What are Peep groups like?

Our 5-6-week groups offer opportunities to do more of the little things, like talking, listening, playing, singing and sharing books. Groups are small (4-6 families), encouraging, non-judgemental and friendly.

For 1-2yr olds (or 3yrs with SEND)

Where can I find a group?

Stratford Children & Family Centre (CV37 9PB)

Alcester Children & Family Centre (B49 6AG)

Lighthorne Heath Children & Family Centre (CV33 9TW)

Shipston Scout Hut (CV36 4EW)

For more information, please contact:

Sarah Walker

peep@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk

07435 117 198

To reserve your space



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

FIVE NIGHTS AT FREDDY'S

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 12

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Five Nights at Freddy's is a series of indie point-and-click horror games whose word-of-mouth success and widespread spin-off content on YouTube have helped each of the nine instalments so far to sell almost five million copies on Steam (the PC gaming platform) alone. Set in various deserted locations at night, with creepy animatronic characters suddenly coming to life, the games are rated PEGI 12 for disturbing/violent content, mild profanity and horror themes.

FRIGHTENING THEMES

Five Nights at Freddy's (FNaF for short) doesn't feature bloodshed like many horror games – but it does build tension and use jump scares, which may be too intense for young players. The sinister animatronic characters and the sensation of being trapped and defenceless could be particularly unsettling, as could the inclusion of disturbing elements such as murder or possession by evil spirits.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

18

As a result of FNaF's popularity, a sizeable YouTube community based on fan-made content has developed around the game. While the majority of this material is still child friendly, there are a number of channels which are geared more towards mature audiences; they contain adult and disturbing themes, for example, and (in some cases) age-inappropriate language.

STRESSFUL SITUATIONS

Due to FNaF's suspenseful atmosphere, it can be extremely stressful for players. Constantly checking that one's surroundings are safe is a crucial part of the gameplay and could create residual stress or even obsessive-compulsive behaviours. Several media reports have suggested that some younger children have experienced severe nightmares or sleep anxiety after playing games from the series.

PLAYING IN ISOLATION

Many parents will be referred to learn that Five Nights at Freddy's is a single-player game which doesn't include any online chat functionality. Conversely, however, this could also make playing FNaF quite an isolating experience – especially if your child is spending a lot of time investigating the game's spooky, shadowy environments alone in their room, for example.

IN-GAME SPENDING

FNaF doesn't foreground in-game purchasing as strongly as many other well-known games, but some titles in the series do offer additional content that promises to enhance the experience. Five Nights at Freddy's: Help Wanted, for instance, is complemented by a Halloween-themed expansion pack called 'Curse of Dreadbear' (costing £3.99), which unlocks new levels and mini-games.

Advice for Parents & Carers

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Five Nights at Freddy's doesn't have conventional parental controls. However, if you're concerned about the potential impacts of the game's themes and content, you can simply choose not to let your child play it. If they use an Android or iOS device for gaming, you can adjust Apple and Google's built-in parental controls to restrict your child's access to certain content.

TRY IT YOURSELF

Every child is different, of course, so it could be worth playing Five Nights at Freddy's yourself for a while to gauge how your young gamer might cope with the series' more frightening and disturbing aspects. If they're old enough, you could spend some time playing it together – after all, it usually only takes between two and ten minutes to complete a level.

LIMIT SPENDING

Unlike many popular titles, Five Nights at Freddy's doesn't bombard players with tempting in-game purchase offers. It's worth noting, however, that some instalments in the series do provide the option for players to spend real-world money. With that in mind, it's important to either keep a close eye on your child's expenditure or limit their access to digital payment options.

SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on Five Nights at Freddy's, or you're worried that the game's scary themes are taking a toll, watch out for warning signs. Young people may start to prioritise gaming over everyday essentials like schoolwork or sleep; irritability or a lack of concentration could also indicate that their gaming sessions are going on too long.

TALK ABOUT THE RISKS

Before you allow your child to play Five Nights at Freddy's, it's wise to have a conversation about the game so that they're aware of the potential risks. Ensure that your child understands that the series is purposely designed to be tense and unsettling, and that they should stop or take a break if the intensity of the gameplay is making them feel uncomfortable or putting them on edge.

Meet Our Expert

Cathy Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of Tech Radar, she is now a freelance technology journalist, author and podcaster.



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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.