

Date: 20th September 2024

Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a busy fortnight and you will see from the photos that the children have enjoyed a wealth of exciting hands-on learning experiences. Thank you to everyone who came to support our Macmillan coffee morning and afternoon and thank you for all of the lovely cake donations. Well done to all of the Year 3 children who confidently hosted the event while applying their fantastic Maths skills while handling the money.

We are really looking forward to welcoming Neil Griffiths back to our school next week to run a reading workshop for parents. We look forward to seeing you then if you can make it.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Fraser, Headteacher

Olivia's Achievement

Congratulations to Olivia who ran one mile every day in August (31 miles all together) and raised an amazing £452 for Young Lives vs Cancer! It was hard work, but she was motivated and pushed herself every day - Well done Olivia!

Harvest

We will be supporting the Swindon Food Collective (Swindon's Food Bank) for our harvest festival this year. We would be really grateful for any donations that are listed below. Please can these be brought to school during the week commencing **30th September**. Thank you.

HARVEST DONATIONS 2024

WHAT WE DON'T NEED: We do not need pasta, cereals and shower gel.

WHAT WE DO NEED: Regular sized Tins, Jars, Bottles, Cartons or Packets of the following:

Potatoes; Meat; Fish; Tomatoes; Soup; Vegetables; Fruit; Puddings; Pasta Sauce; Small Jars of Coffee; Tea (40 bags); Small Bags of Sugar (500g); Biscuits; 1L Bottles of Squash; Washing Up Liquid; Toothpaste; Laundry Pods; 2 in 1 Shampoo & Conditioner; Male and Female Deodorants



Amazon Wishlist

As we continue to develop our libraries and classroom reading areas, we welcome any donations of new or good quality second hand books from our Amazon Wishlist. If you would like to donate a book, please use this link. All donations are very gratefully received.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/18VDWRUWR05HH?ref=wl_share



Free Courses for Parents

Please see the pages at the end of this letter for more information about courses for parents to develop maths skills and using spreadsheets/ excel.

PMG Delivery Dates

Please see this table below for the PMG school uniform delivery dates.



<u>Term</u>	<u>Order By</u>	<u>Delivery to school</u>
1	Thursday 10th October	Tuesday 22nd October
2	Thursday 5th December	Tuesday 17th December
3	Thursday 3rd February	Tuesday 11th February
4	Thursday 20th March	Tuesday 2nd April
5	Thursday 8th May	Tuesday 20th May
6	Thursday 3rd July	Tuesday 15th July

Lego Sets Wanted

The nurture nest is looking for complete Lego sets to run a Lego Club Intervention. Any pre-loved unwanted sets will be gratefully received. Thank you.



Free School Meals

Please see the flyers on the pages below for more information about eligibility and other benefits associated with free school meals.



PE uniform

Children should be bringing a PE kit to change into for PE lessons. It is important in terms of hygiene and independent changing is also part of our life skills curriculum.

As a update to our PE uniform, we have also now added **navy skort / navy shorts**, which maybe more comfortable for some of the children.

Please see our PE kit on our school website:

<https://www.williammorrisprimary.co.uk/school-uniform>

Home learning policy

Please find attached our home learning policy on our school website:

https://www.williammorrisprimary.co.uk/files/ugd/64c1c7_098feb9f80344d3b8f331271d5cddb15.pdf

Gold Book

Well done to all of the children who were in the Gold Book this week — we are very proud of you and your achievements!





Parents and Friends of William Morris Newsletter

This week's news...

Upcoming Events

October 7th Parents and Friends
of William Morris AGM
November 22nd Bag2School
December 4th Pantomime
December 13th Cake Van

Welcome back!

We hope you all had a great summer and that the children are settling back into school. We have some exciting things coming up this year why not come and find out more at the AGM.

Preloved Uniform

We now have an email address for the preloved uniform for any enquires.

preloved.at.williammorris@gmail.com

If you have any donations please use our donation bin which is opposite the bike shed.



Parents and Friends
of William Morris

AGM meeting

MONDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2024

7:45PM

THE STRAWBERRY THIEF

Come and find out what we have been up to and what we plan to do this year!

As always, thank you so much for your support. All proceeds from our events go straight back to the school to provide equipment and resources.



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Identifying and supporting young carers at William Morris Primary School

Dear parent(s)/guardian(s),

At William Morris Primary School, we are aware that some of our pupils are young carers. A young carer is someone under 18 who is caring unpaid for a family member or friend who is ill, frail, disabled or has mental health or addiction problems. They often take on practical and/or emotional caring responsibilities that would normally be expected of an adult. Research suggests there are at least 700,000 young carers in the UK but many do not realise they are a young carer.

We know that young carers may need a little extra support to enjoy and do well at school. At William Morris, we are committed to ensuring that all pupils who are young carers are identified, and supported effectively. As such, Mrs Weston will be running a Young Carers group one afternoon each fortnight.

As William Morris's Young Carers' Lead I have responsibility for ensuring all young carers are able to enjoy school and make good progress. If you think your child might be a young carer, or could be affected by any of the issues we've highlighted, please let me know by filling in the online form below.

<https://forms.office.com/e/b1sgeaRmme>

If you any questions, please contact me via send@williammorris.bluekitetrust.org or on 01793 299022 to speak to me directly.

Any information that is given to us will be treated sensitively and no information will be shared without your knowledge.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Day

SEND Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Lots of updates this week!

Firstly, thank you to those parents who attended the SEND online drop-ins this week. As always, it is useful to hear how your children are getting on, as well as updates from over the summer holidays.

We started our first Young Carers group this week and the children came up with a fantastic list of activities they want to do going forwards. This group will run once a fortnight, and some of our Year 5 young carers have been tasked with designing a logo for the group as we have some very talented artists attending!

Our next SEN parent working party will be the 3rd of October at 9am – every parent of children with SEN is welcome to come and help to look at our next steps for supporting children with SEN (and there will be pastries and coffee!)

Following on from some feedback from the SEND service team, I have updated [William Morris's SEND information report](#). This is a one-stop guide to SEND at our school. If you can, please take a moment to look over the guide and read the relevant pages (it is definitely best read with a cup of tea and a biscuit as it is 31 pages!) as it was very much a labour of love to make a document more user friendly and detailed.

I have also updated our SEND information page on the website (<https://www.williammorrisprimary.co.uk/send>) and added in some pages with advice on mental health and well-being (<https://www.williammorrisprimary.co.uk/mental-health-and-wellbeing>), on which there are resources for both children and adults.

At William Morris, every teacher is a teacher of SEND and so every single member of our staff is there to help all of our children, including those with SEND, thrive at school. However, we do have some wonderfully dedicated SEN TAs whose roles are focussed on supporting our children with SEND and, as we have several new staff working as part of our team, I would like to introduce you to the wonderful adults who help some of our children with SEND around the school.



Hi I'm Mrs Weston and I do a bit of everything! I lead the nest with Mrs Smith, I run ELSA sessions, young carers group, cover PPA as well as nurture breakfast.

I have three kids, two cats and like to go swimming (when I have any spare time!) I like watching football and support Everton!



Hello I'm Mrs Smith and I help lead the Nurture Nest with Mrs Weston. I too run ELSA sessions and cover PPA, as well as helping with Nurture Breakfast and running Quiet Lunch.

I have two children and one dog. I am very athletic and like my sports! I love going camping.



Hello I'm Melissa. I am a TA in Year 4 in the morning and in the afternoon I am currently running SEN interventions some of our wonderful SEN children.

I have 4 children that keep me very busy. I love spending time with my friends (especially Mrs Weston) and family.



My name is Mrs Shopland and I work in the Nurture Nest in the morning and support children doing interventions and extra-curricular activities in the afternoon. I love seeing the children progress and smile.

In my spare time I study criminology and psychology. I am a mum and love socialising with my friends.



Hi I'm Miss Thomas and I'm a SEND TA who works in the nurture nest in the morning, and a general class TA in the afternoon.

I like spending time with my children, going on adventures, going to the gym and snuggling up in the evening with a bar of galaxy!



Hello I am Mrs Williams and I work in Year 5, supporting children with SEND.

My favourite thing to do is spend time with my family or chilling with my neighbours (when I have time!) I love cooking and baking too.



My name is Miss Davis and I support children with additional needs in both Reception classes during the mornings.

In my free time, I love spending time with my family and friends and my favourite food to eat is pizza!



Hello I'm Miss Sugden and I am a SEN TA supporting children in Reception in the mornings.

I am a mum and in my spare time I like to spend time with my family and make great memories.



Hello I'm Miss Pettigrew and I am a TA supporting some of our wonderful and enthusiastic children with SEND in the afternoons. I love that every day is different, which keeps me on my toes!

I am very down to earth and my friends say I have a fantastic sense of humour.

Nurture nest would still love more resources. If you have any of the following at home that is no longer used or played with, we would appreciate donations of the following:

- ◆ Any spare crafty bits (paper, glue, unused craft sets, textiles)
- ◆ Role play outfits or toys – Doctors kits, dolls, prams, tills, play food, builders sets, barbies, animals and cuddly toys
- ◆ Old shirts for aprons

Yours,
Mrs Day (SENDCo)

LIGHTHOUSE DROP IN

Lighthouse is the Early Intervention Team working within all Blue Kite Academy Trust schools. Lighthouse holds drop-in sessions at our school once a month - you will meet one of the team to have a short, informal, 1-1 chat about anything causing worry or stress in your home. This could be around behaviour, sleep, struggling to manage emotions/anxiety or concerns around finance, cost of living or similar. Drop in sessions give you the chance to get some advice from the experienced team. They can support you to take those next steps or signpost you to services who can also help. Lighthouse are a friendly team with lots of knowledge to share so please book in to see them if you feel they could help.

Please speak to a member of staff if you have any further questions. Book in via the school office. You can also follow us on Instagram @Lighthouse_bluekitetrust





SWINDON
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Your School Nurse

You have access to a School Nurse at any time if you have health concerns

Your school nurse can support:

- **Physical, Emotional and Mental Health**
- **Healthy Relationships**
- **Sexual Health**
- **Routine, including sleep**
- **Development**
- **School Transition**
- **Healthy Lifestyles**
- **Continence issues**
- **Immunisations**
- **Dental hygiene**
- **General hygiene issues**
- **Access to specialist services**
- **Healthy Eating**
- **Exam Stress**

The school nurse service is: -

- **Confidential**
- **Non-Judgemental**
- **Run by Specialist Nurses**

How do I contact a School Nurse?

- **Ask a teacher at school**
- **Contact by phone – 01793 465452**
- **Contact by email**
SNN@swindon.gov.uk
SNS@swindon.gov.uk



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School Diary

September

Thurs 26th Sept Year 3 trip to Oxenwood
Thurs 26th Sept Local Governing Body 6pm
Week 30th Sept Harvest Donations

October

ADHD Awareness month
Tues 1st Oct Reception - Phonics Parent Meeting 9am
Thurs 3rd Oct National Poetry Day
Tues 8th Oct Parents' evening 2-8pm
Wed 9th Oct Year 1 trip to Westonbirt
Thurs 10th Oct Individual school photos
Fri 11th Oct Mental Health Day - Wear something yellow
Friday 18th October Class Reps
Wed 23rd Oct Open House – 2pm – 3pm
Last Day of Term

November

Mon 4th Nov First Day of Term 2
Mon 11th Nov Anti-Bullying Week
Fri 15th Nov Children in Need
Mon 18th Nov Road Safety Week
Thurs 28th November Local Governing Body 6pm

[New dates in red]

December

Wed 4th Dec Whole School Pantomime in school
Fri 6th Dec Class Reps
Thurs 12th Dec Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch
Fri 13th Dec Open House – 2pm – 3pm
Fri 20th Dec Last Day of Term

INSET TD DAYS—school closed to children:

6th Jan 2025

24th Feb 2025

4th July 2025

Nursery - Poppy and Daisy Classes

What have we been learning in Nursery?



Wow – what a busy couple of weeks we have had in nursery! The children are settling well and we are developing routines for coming in, having lunch and learning each other’s names. We are so proud of everyone!

A few reminders, please:

- Could all clothes/snack pots and bags etc be named
- Could children bring a coat to school as the weather get colder we will still be outside every day
- Remember that we change library books every Wednesday
- Sign up for ILD (Interactive Learning Diary) so we can share our learning experiences.
- Please bring in a family photo for us to keep on display as part of our topic
- Please do not bring popcorn for snack, it is a choking hazard. Grapes must also be cut up for children before they bring them in as a snack.

Thanks for all your support, we will be sharing our lovely work in class on ILD and through the school newsletter.

from the Nursery Team



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Nursery - Poppy and Daisy Classes





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Nursery - Poppy and Daisy Classes



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Reception - Sunflower and Bellflower Classes

What have we been learning in Reception?



We have been so proud of all the children; they have continued to settle into school life and have been super stars at learning all the new routines.

We have started our Little Wandle Letters and Sounds lessons and this week we have learnt 4 new sounds - s,a,t,p. We will be sending a home learning sheet via email each week so you can practise learning these with your child.

In Maths we have been learning lots of number songs including 5 Currant Buns, 5 Little Monkeys and 5 Little Speckled Frogs. We had so much fun bringing these to life!

Thanks to all the parents who have sent in wellies and waterproofs, if you have not yet done so, please can you send some in as soon as possible. We want all children to access outside provision even when the weather turns wetter and colder. Separate waterproof trousers and tops are much easier for children to put on independently.

We know how much there is to think about when your child starts school, here are a few reminders from us.

- You should now have your ILD (Interactive Learning Diary) login, please let us know if you have any problems logging in. If your child was at William Morris Nursery their login details should still be the same.
- Please make sure that **everything** is named, including shoes, wellies and waterproofs.
- Please do not put your child's water bottle in their book bag as if it leaks it can ruin our reading books which are costly to replace.
- Please send your child with a coat every day, we use waterproofs and wellies for play in our outdoor area, they do not wear their waterproofs at lunchtime on the playground.

Thanks for your continued support, we look forward to seeing you all at the phonics meeting next week.

Mrs Stratford, Miss Gosling and Mrs Cantillon



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Reception—Bellflower and Sunflower Classes





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Reception—Bellflower and Sunflower Classes





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Reception—Bellflower and Sunflower Classes



Playing and Exploring

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Year 1 - Lily and Tulip Classes

What have we been learning in Year 1?



Wow, what a busy first two weeks we have had in Year one! It was lovely to see so many of you at our 'Year One Welcome Meeting' You have been emailed all the information that was shared with you.

English: We started our talk for writing to retell the story of Little Red Riding Hood. We have acted the story out using actions and created our own story maps. This week we have using adjectives to describe the wolf and the forest.

Maths: We have been counting up to 30 and started using number lines. We have been practising estimating using a blank number line and comparing two numbers and deciding which one is greater and fewer.

Topic: We have created 'living Art' using a selection of natural materials and arranged these on a photo frame. We have also planted bulbs in our outdoor area which we look forward to watching grow during our time in year 1.

Science: We have learnt how an apple tree changes over time and have ordered photographs of an apple tree in Winter, Sumer, Spring and Autumn. We have also been identifying and classifying wildflowers.

PE: We have been doing dance. We have started to learn a woodland dance, where we pretended to move like different animals whilst moving and counting to the beat of 8.

Computing: We have started with an online safety topic. All the children have used iPad to log in to purple mash using their individual log ins. Each child's log in details are inside their reading record, so they can practice logging in at home.

We are starting to look forward to our trip to Westonbirt on Wednesday 9th September! Thank you to the parent volunteers, we could not go without your help!

Music: We have started a unit of work called 'My musical heartbeat' We have been finding the pulse and the beat of music and have begun to play the glockenspiels! We have found the notes 'C' and 'D' and practiced playing these notes and with 'bouncy beaters'.

As we are now getting into the swing of our new routines, phonics sounds to practice at home have been sent home today.

Reminders:

- Please read with your child at home and write in their reading record.
- Please remember to put the reading books and library books in bookbags everyday.



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Year 1 - Lily and Tulip Classes



Aim: to learn what animals live in the woodlands and what homes they have.

We created dens in our classroom for woodland animals.

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Let's get creative!

PIC•COLLAGE

Year 1 - Lily and Tulip Classes



Year 2 - Clover and Willow Classes

What have we been learning in Year 2?



We have had a brilliant start to the term and we're excited to share what has been happening in Year 2 and give you a glimpse of what your children have been learning.

Messy Day: Last week, we had our Messy Day! The children had an amazing time exploring different textures, materials, and activities that encouraged creativity and imagination. From painting to playing with foam and gloop, Messy Day was a fantastic way for the children to engage in playful learning.

Science: The children have been learning all about materials and their properties. They've been exploring a range of different materials—such as wood, plastic, metal, and fabric—and discussing how they feel, what they're used for, and why certain materials are better suited to specific tasks.

English: In English, the children have been working on understanding what makes a good set of instructions. We've discussed what makes instructions clear and easy to follow. We have learnt about the structure and key features such as time connectives and imperative verbs. We have also begun learning our model text of 'How to Make a Worm Pie' using Talk for Writing.

Maths: In Maths, we've been focusing on place value and using practical activities to deepen the children's understanding. By working with dienes, the children have been representing 2-digit numbers using tens and ones, helping them understand the structure of numbers. We have also applied our understanding of place value when placing and estimating numbers on a number line. The children had lots of fun creating their own number lines on the playground.

PE: The children have been participating in team-building activities designed to enhance their social and cooperative skills. Through a variety of fun, active games, they've been learning the importance of working together, communicating, and supporting one another to achieve a common goal. These activities not only build physical fitness but also help the children develop important life skills such as problem-solving and teamwork.

A few notices from us:

- **Reading Books:** Children will receive their new reading book on a Friday so please ensure your child has their book with them so that we are able to hand out their next book ready for the weekend.
- **Old T-shirts:** Thank you to the parents who have already kindly donated old t-shirts for us to use during Art lesson to protect the children's uniform. We would still appreciate any donations as you pack away your summer wardrobe. Our topic of 'Muck, Mess and Mixtures' will certainly continue to live up to its name!
- It was lovely to see so many of you at Meet the Teacher this week, the presentation will be emailed out.

Please do come and speak to us if you have any questions.

We hope you have a lovely weekend,

Miss Morgan and Miss Presdee



William Morris Primary

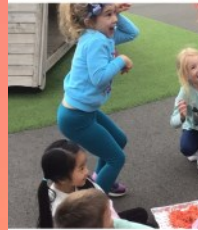
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Year 2 - Clover and Willow Classes



"WHAT YOU DO"



Our worm pies ready to bake in the sun 🍌🍌

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READY TO EAT...YUMMY! 🍌



All things messy!

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Year 2 - Clover and Willow Classes



Painting



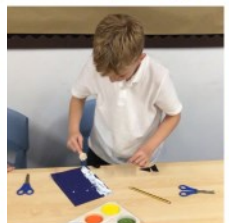
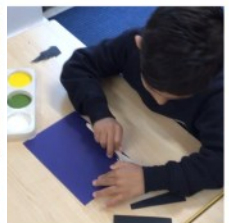
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BUBBLE PAINTING



PIC-COLLAGE



MAKING PATTERNS USING PAINT



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Year 2 - Clover and Willow Classes



GLOOP, FOAM AND WATER! 💧



Year 3 - Honeysuckle and Rose Classes

What have we been learning in Year 3?



Wow! What a crazy few weeks it has been settling into year 3. We've had a great time washing mammoths, baking, learning about Macmillan and how much of a difference volunteering makes all alongside our normal everyday learning! The children have been amazing, and have really tackled the step up in expectations well. By the time you are reading this, our coffee morning would have whizzed past, so thank you to all who could come and for the donations which we received for the event.

In Maths, we have been working on place value as this underpins the children's understanding of number. We have been working on the value of each digit in a three-digit number and working on how to write numerals as words. If you wish to help or further support your child at home, asking them to tell the value of a digit in a three-digit number, for example, the 4 in 245 is forty, this will really benefit their understanding of number.

Our topic this term is 'Tribal Tales' and is based on the Stone age up through to the Iron age. We launched our topic with a session where we thought about early humans survived and how they would gather the things they needed to live. We also washed a Woolly Mammoth as part of our writing topic which will focus on instructions.

Just a few reminders for this term:

- Our PE days are Tuesday and Thursday. PE kits can be kept in school for the duration of term.
- Books will be changed on Tuesdays and Thursday so please ask the children to let us know they need to change their book on these days.
- Reading for pleasure books will be changed once a week on Thursdays for Rose and Friday for Honeysuckle.

Thank you to all of those who joined us for the 'Meet the Teacher' this week. If you weren't able to make it or still have further questions, please don't hesitate to grab a member of the Year 3 team.

Many thanks, Year 3 Team



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Year 3 - Honeysuckle and Rose Classes



MacMillan coffee.
Morning baking

Year 4 - Apple and Blackberry Classes

What have we been learning in Year 4?



Wow, what a fantastic couple of weeks we have had in Year 4!

In English, we have been looking at warning tales, identifying the features such as a warning, setting description and problem that the main character learns from. After learning our model text, we have focussed on upleveling our creative writing using fronted adverbials and pathetic fallacy; describing the weather to match the mood of the story.

Starting the year with our Place Value unit in maths, we have been building on our prior knowledge and learning the value of each digit in a 4-digit number. We know if we secure our understanding of this, it will help with calculations and methods used later in the year. We have also looked at plotting 4-digit numbers on a number line and writing the number in words as well as numerals.

After an incredible hook day on the first Friday back, we have enjoyed learning more about our I am Warrior topic! We know more about who the Celts are and why they built their settlements on hill-forts. We designed some great hillforts ourselves, carefully considering features to make a strong defence.

Finally, we also linked our D.T to our topic, as we designed and made our very own ancient coins. We compared and sketch a Celtic and Roman coin and then drew up our own designs, thinking about figures, patterns and Roman numerals we could use. We then had great fun making these designs using clay and carving skills!

Have a wonderful weekend,

The Year 4 Team



Year 4 - Apple and Blackberry Classes





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Year 4 - Apple and Blackberry Classes



Year 5 - Thistle and Acorn Classes

What have we been learning in Year 5?



Pharaohs:

In Acorn and Thistle classes, we have been continuing our fascinating exploration of Pharaohs. After Mrs. Lambert's and Miss Naylor's engaging sketch on mummification, the children have become incredibly enthusiastic about our new topic! We would also like to extend a big thank you to those who have shared additional work and Egyptian artefacts with us. Your contributions have greatly enriched our learning experience and made this topic even more exciting for the children.

National Fitness Day:

On Wednesday, 18th September, the children were greeted with a surprise when they arrived in their classrooms – there were no chairs! They had to stand for the *entire* morning, which led to a mix of laughter and a few playful groans. Despite the challenge, they all persevered and managed to complete their work standing up, as well as their daily mile!

Science:

This week in Science, the children have been exploring forces and mechanisms, with a special focus on understanding the difference between weight and mass using Newton meters. A force meter is a tool that measures an object's mass in grams (g) or kilograms (kg), and its weight in Newtons (N). The children had great fun using the Newton meters to measure the weight of various classroom objects, and they also sharpened their graphing skills by plotting the results!

In year 5 we will be setting weekly home learning, handed out on a Friday, to be returned on a Thursday.

Children should agree a time to complete their home learning with parents which suits the family. We suggest allocating about ½ an hour a week.

Children are responsible for their own home learning. As part of our Life Skills curriculum, children have their new home learning diary where they should be writing their home learning and organising their time to complete it. This should not be adult led, as we really want children to take responsibility for their home learning.

Home learning for Y5:

- Reading x5 a week – expected for all children
- Weekly Maths/SPAG home learning - this short home learning activity should be completed by all children
- Maths knowledge organisers on website

Year 5 Thistle and Acorn Classes



National Fitness Day

Y5



Homelearning

In year 5 we will be setting weekly home learning, handed out on a Friday, to be returned on a Thursday.

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Home learning for Y5:

- Reading x5 a week – expected for all children
- Weekly Maths/SPAG home learning - this short home learning activity should be completed by all children
- Maths knowledge organisers on website
- Topic knowledge organisers on website – if children are interested in their topic and would like to do any extra home learning, we would love to see it! This is optional.

We would like everyone to complete home learning, but will be more flexible this term, as children begin home learning.

After half term, there will be an optional home learning lunchtime club. If children are not completing their home learning at home, they will be expected to complete it at lunchtime club with support from school staff.



William Morris Primary

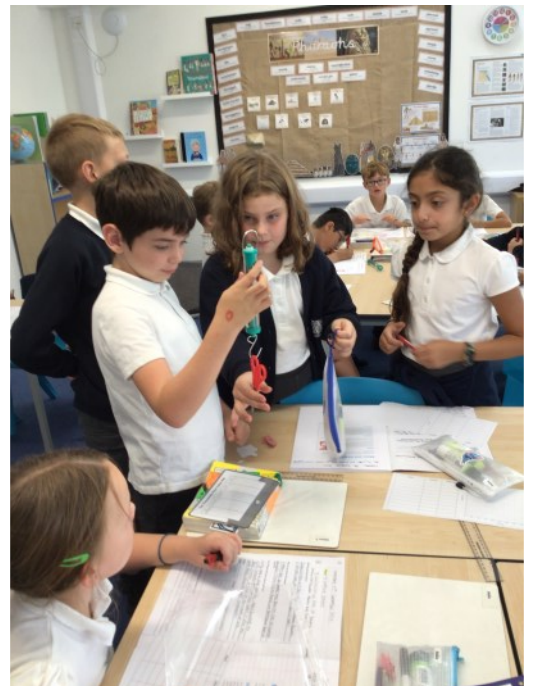
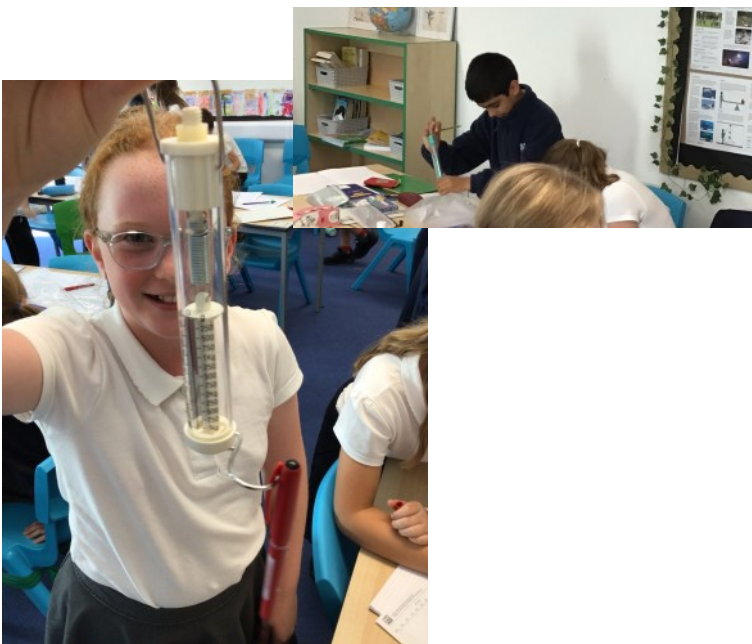
Executive Headteacher: Mrs J Fraser

William Morris Primary School
William Morris Way
Tadpole Garden Village
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN25 2PP

Year 5 Thistle and Acorn Classes



Science



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING AND REVIEWING PARENTAL CONTROLS

Phones and computers are essential parts of children's lives, but with unfettered internet access comes a multitude of risks. While not foolproof, parental controls can help with this; filtering out inappropriate content, limiting the ability to spend real money, capping screen time and generally making devices safer for young people.

1 KNOW THE TYPES

While parental control software can apply to an entire device, it also pays to know about options on individual apps and websites. TikTok, for example, has Restricted Mode for limiting unsuitable videos, while Snapchat lets you keep an eye on who a child has been talking to. Check the settings of any new app young users want and review your options.

2 COVER ALL DEVICES

Knowing what parental controls cover is crucial, as remaining unaware can run the risk of 'blind spots' in the device's safety measures. Controls on a phone will apply whenever a child's on that device, for instance – but you'll want to ensure that parental controls are set up across any laptops, tablets and potentially other phones, too. Remember, buying a new device may require you to set everything up again.

3 DON'T NEGLECT SHARED TECH

While children often have their own devices, if you have a shared family computer or tablet, for example, you'll need to make sure that's not a weak point in your safety measures. Parental controls for your router, that cover everything connected to your Wi-Fi, are one option – or you can just be thorough with each device and online account. Just ensure that unprotected laptops, phones and tablets are password locked.

4 CONSIDER TIME CONTROLS

Even safe internet content can be harmful if it's viewed in excess. Not only are certain apps addictive enough to distract from other duties, but late-night usage can badly disrupt sleep, which is vital for adolescent brain development. Most parental controls offer some kind of time limit – either blocking access at certain hours or capping the number of minutes it can be used per day – so be sure to consider these.

5 BLOCK APP SPENDING

Seemingly free apps can sometimes include microtransactions; purchases that can be made using real money. While plenty of developers implement these fairly, some companies attempt to manipulate children into paying for additional features or content, which can soon add up to hundreds of pounds if a child gets carried away. Thankfully, iOS and Android's settings allow you to block in-app purchases, preventing any huge bills.

6 NO CONTROLS ARE PERFECT

Parental controls can be very useful, but they're far from infallible. Some unpleasant content can and unfortunately will slip through the net, so remember that setting up these measures isn't a substitute for taking an active interest in young people's digital lives. Talk to them, and make sure they're aware of the risks of the internet as well as its benefits.

7 MIND THE GAPS

There'll undoubtedly be some gaps in parental controls, no matter how thorough you intend to be. For example, if you use router-level parental controls, bear in mind that these won't cover WiFi outside the home. For that reason, it's important to keep an open dialogue with children about the many unpalatable aspects of social media and the web.

8 KEEP THINGS SECURE

Some children can react poorly to parental controls and feel tempted to circumvent them. It's important to ensure that the passwords to these settings remain unknown to children, otherwise they can easily modify the restrictions without you knowing. Similarly, make sure your phone isn't left unlocked and unattended.

9 REVIEW CONTROLS REGULARLY

Parental controls shouldn't be a 'set and forget' deal. Not only can parental summaries provide you with a frequent overview of a child's digital life – to let you spot any warning signs – but companies often add new features, and some of these may be useful to enable (or disable). Regularly checking in ensures that if a child has found a way to wiggle out of the controls, you'll be the first to know.

10 KNOW WHEN TO LET UP

The parental controls you install on a computer for a seven-year-old probably wouldn't be appropriate for a child of 16 – and as young people approach adulthood, bubble wrapping the internet can do more harm than good. Consider relaxing parental controls as children get older, so they can learn to manage the risks of the internet themselves, without so many training wheels.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist and the former deputy editor of technology and internet culture website Alpr. Now freelance, he has contributed articles to publications including the New Statesman, CNET, the Evening Standard, Wired, Rock Paper Shotgun, Gizmodo, Pocket Gamer, Stuff, T3, PC Pro, Macworld, TechRadar and Trusted Reviews.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Helping your child understand their emotions and behaviour

We can behave differently for both extrinsic and intrinsic reasons. Looking for patterns can be like detective work to explore the reasons for anger, withdrawal or an impulsive response.



Ideas to Help:

- ✓ Look for signs of stress build-up and provide encouragement or reduced workload to alleviate pressure and avoid temper outburst.
- ✓ Look for what has happened before the difficulties especially if this is a common occurrence e.g. a difficulty with classwork; playing sport; been in the playground; a specific day.
- ✓ Investigate any inappropriate behaviour by reflecting on why your child is acting so.
 - Is the task too hard or too easy?
 - Is the task too long?
 - Is the work suitably differentiated?
 - Does your child understand what is expected?
 - Has your child understood the instructions or were they too long?
- ✓ Be specific when asking your child to stop a particular behaviour - address your child by name, when they hear, 'stop that', they may not know what behaviour they are to stop.
- ✓ Your child should be informed of exactly why you are not pleased or displeased. Keep praise and disapproval short.
- ✓ Look for and praise pro-social behaviours
- ✓ Encourage a problem-solving approach, so that your child can learn through interaction and can jointly work out what do next time.
- ✓ Conflict situations can rapidly escalate and early intervention can help to defuse this.
- ✓ Encourage your child to notice when he/she needs to take a break or to walk away for a breather (with the agreement of the teacher).
- ✓ Ignore minor inappropriate behaviour, such as low level mumbling, comments and ongoing questioning.





Swindon and Gloucestershire Mind · Follow

1d · 🌐


📌 Exciting update!

We're pleased to share that you can now access support anytime, day or night, by calling NHS 111 and selecting option 2 for mental health assistance. This new, simple phone line is here to provide vital support for people of all ages. Whether you're struggling yourself or worried about someone you love, compassionate professionals are ready to guide you to the help you need.

At [Swindon and Gloucestershire Mind](#), we're heartened by this step toward making mental health care more accessible. We know the NHS is facing challenges, and this doesn't solve the issue of long waiting lists, but it's a positive move forward.

Together, we can ensure that everyone gets the care they need, exactly when they need it. 💙

[#MentalHealthSupport](#)
[#SwindonandGloucestershireMind](#) [#NHS111](#)
[#Swindon](#) [#Gloucestershire](#) [#MentalHealth](#)

 **mind** Swindon and Gloucestershire

Breaking news!

**New NHS 24-hour
mental health
hotline introduced.**



**Just call 111 to be connected to local
mental health trained handlers who
can organise an assessment, a crisis
team or highlight local support.**

**SKILLS
FOR LIFE
MULTIPLY**



Here to help you feel confident with maths as a parent!

The Multiply programme offers eligible adults *free* courses that focus on practical maths skills, having fun with numbers and building confidence with maths so that you can help your child to learn.

What opportunities are available in Swindon?

We have small sized classes and courses that help you:

- Build your confidence and feel less stressed when you do maths.
- Support your child with maths courses.
- Develop your maths skills so that you can progress into a new role or gain the level two maths qualification.
- Understand your money with practical solutions to budgeting and cost saving.

What next?

If you want to find out more about the Multiply opportunities that are available in Swindon or want to sign up for future updates please **email multiply@swindon.gov.uk** or ask at the school reception.

PARENT'S SPREADSHEET / EXCEL SKILLS

Are you a parent at a Swindon school? Then you can learn about Spreadsheets / Excel for free.



Fully Funded :

Cost : **£0**

You will Learn :

- Creating a Budget
- Calculations and Formulas
- Charts and Graphs
- Understand your Bills
- Design and Printing
- Ask the Trainer for Help

TRAINING WILL BE:



3 x 2 Hour Sessions



Runs Every Month



Online Zoom with a live tutor



01684 298932



ask@skillsladder.co.uk



SKILLS LADDER
REAL TRAINING - REAL RESULTS



Scan QR for WhatsApp

For more information
call, email or WhatsApp



Department
for Education

www.skillsladder.co.uk

**SKILLS
FOR LIFE**
MULTIPLY

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Have you ever wondered if your child is entitled to a free school meal? This summer, we are inviting all parents to complete an online free school meals application form for **each** child.

Did you know it is free, quick and easy to apply?

Many parents don't realise that if their child qualifies for a **benefits-related** free school meal, this also opens up other opportunities to receive help and support during the holiday period as well as further funding for their school!

Please read on to find out more!



Funded by
UK Government



Is your child in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2?

YES!

Your child will be automatically entitled to receive a free school meal. This is called the "universal free school meal."

NO!

Your child is **not** automatically entitled to receive a free school meal.

...but could they be entitled to more?

Parents whose children are in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and already receive the "universal free school meal" **should also apply for "benefits-related free school meals."** Find further information via the link below.

To benefit from a free school meal, pupil premium and more, you must apply using the below link.

DON'T DELAY - APPLY TODAY!

To check your eligibility and apply please visit:

<https://www.swindon.gov.uk>

Search free school meals in the search bar.

Free School Meals



If you're eligible, your child will retain their eligibility until the end of their current phase of education, even if your circumstances change.

If your child is currently attending a Swindon school or is moving to one from a different area, please apply.

SBC complete free school meal checking for the majority of schools in Swindon. To find out more and to apply, please visit:

https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20032/schools_and_education/408/free_school_meals

To apply please click the link below:

[Free School Meals Application](#)

Pupil Premium Funding

Pupil premium funding is additional funding provided to schools to support eligible pupils to ensure they benefit from the same opportunities as their peers.

Schools have the flexibility to use this money in any way that they see fit to provide additional support both in and out of the classroom for your child. Some examples include:

- Funding or part-funding school trips
- Wellbeing support
- Extra tuition (e.g. learning a musical instrument)
- Additional support in the classroom

This is why it is really important to apply for **benefits-related** free school meals even if your child is receiving "universal free school meals", which is non-means tested.

It is also vital to reapply at the end of each phase of your child's schooling (e.g. at the end of Primary school) and for each individual child in your family.



Other Benefits



Credit: Revolution Performing Arts



Funded by
UK Government

When applying for **benefits-related** free school meals, in addition to receiving this and pupil premium funding for your child's school, you also unlock the following opportunities for your child.

HAF programme - The HAF programme runs during some school holiday periods and provides funded activities for 4 hours per day and this includes a nutritious meal.

Food vouchers - Eligible families will receive food vouchers during the school holidays.

If, upon application, your child is eligible for free school meals, you will be sent HAF vouchers, there is no need to apply.

Please visit your school office for further information.

