



# School Newsletter

## Friday 18th July

*'You must love one another as I have loved you.'* John 13 v 34.

Working together with love we will provide a happy and nurturing environment where all will, **'learn to love and love to learn'**, making outstanding progress through an enriched and creative curriculum. Through our strong Christian ethos we will celebrate and embrace the richness of our community.

**Learn to Love - Love to Learn**

*'You must love one another as I have loved you.'* John 13 v 34



Here comes the summer...

On behalf of all at St Giles' CE Primary, I wish you all a well deserved break over the next six weeks. Children have worked incredibly hard over the year, and we are all so proud of the progress they have made and their individual achievements.

Have a wonderful break and I look forward to welcoming you back to St Giles' CE Primary on Tuesday 2nd September.

**WE ARE A UNICEF GOLD  
RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL**

**Children's rights are learned, understood  
and lived in this school.**





## Summer Reading Challenge– Willenhall Library

The Reading Agency is delighted to announce the theme for the 2025 [Summer Reading Challenge](#): **Story Garden – Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors**. This exciting new theme will inspire children to tap into a world of imagination through reading, exploring the magical connection between storytelling and nature.

The annual Summer Reading Challenge is delivered in partnership with public libraries across the UK, and it's free for children to take part. Throughout the summer, children joining 'Story Garden' can discover new books, participate in free activities at their local library, and explore the link between reading and the great outdoors, where nature and imagination come together.

This year's Summer Reading Challenge features artwork from award-winning illustrator **Dapo Adeola**, whose stunning illustrations will bring the Story Garden theme to life; creating an enchanting world where children can find magical creatures, plants and flowers to inspire their next reading adventure.

Recent research shows that children's enjoyment and engagement in reading is in decline, despite research from the OECD showing that reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – more important than either parents' educational background or household income. The Summer Reading Challenge supports children to get excited about reading throughout the summer, helping to maintain their reading at a time when engagement can often dip.

### **The impact of the Challenge is clear:**

- 95% of participants continue reading at least once a week after taking part
- 70% report increased reading confidence



**FREE**

# REEDSWOOD PARK POND DIPPING

Join Froglife at **Reedswood Park** for some family-friendly freshwater fun!

We will be running 2  
**FREE** pond dipping  
sessions, investigating  
the creatures that live  
in the small pond.

**FRIDAY THE 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

**Meeting place:** Norfolk

New Road Entrance.

Reedswood Park, Walsall,

WS2 8YE

**Session 1:** 1:00pm to  
1:45pm

**Session 2:** 2:00 to 2:45pm

Please book your free space through  
eventbrite or contact Elsbeth for more  
information.

**Eventbrite link:**

<https://tinyurl.com/ReedswoodPond3>

Please only book onto either  
session 1 or session 2.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**  
[elsbeth.leighton@froglife.org](mailto:elsbeth.leighton@froglife.org)  
07904 669542

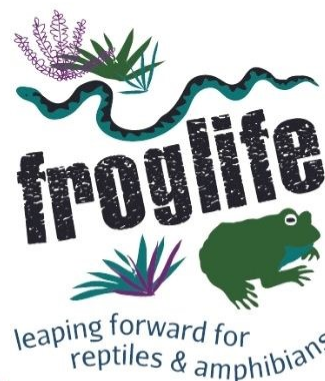
[HTTPS://WWW.FROGLIFE.ORG/COALFACE-TO-WILDSpace-MIDLANDS/](https://www.froglife.org/coalface-to-wildspace-midlands/)



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# Online Safety Newsletter

July 2025

## ZEPETO

ZEPETO has an age rating of over 13. Users create their own avatars and can design rooms. ZEPETO is a social networking app and therefore users can chat with others. Due to the communication option, there are the usual risks, such as your child seeing inappropriate content or online bullying. In-App purchases are also available on this platform.

Parental controls are not available, but a user can change some settings within privacy and content settings, for example to change who can direct message you.

ZEPETO have published a Guardian's guide here:

<https://support.zepeto.me/hc/en-us/articles/900005874946-ZEPETO-Guardian-s-Guide>

## Sprunki

Is your child playing Sprunki? If they are, there are several versions of this game, so it is important to check which version they are playing and to then check its suitability for your child. For example, one version states:

**"WARNING: This game contains disturbing images and scenes of explicit violence and gore".**

Find out more here:

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/key-topics/esafety-guide/sprunki>

## Nintendo Switch 2

The Nintendo Switch 2 was released last month and has a new communication feature that you should be aware of.



### GameChat – NEW

GameChat is included within a Nintendo Switch Online membership and allows up to 12 people to chat while playing games. Players can share their screen, even if they are playing different games, chat with the built-in microphone and as the Nintendo Switch 2 allows cameras to be connected (sold separately), even video chat. If your child is using this feature, then ensure they know how to report other users.

You can find out more here: <https://www.nintendo.com/en-gb/Hardware/Nintendo-Switch-2/GameChat/Nintendo-Switch-2-GameChat-2785625.html>

### Parental Controls

There is a free Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app that can be linked with your Nintendo Switch to monitor what your child is playing. The app creates a report so you can see which video games your child is playing and for how long. It also allows you to set which games your child can play, based on the PEGI age rating and restricts your child from sending or receiving messages from other users. GameChat settings can also be adjusted. Children under the age of 15 can only use GameChat if allowed by you through the app. They can then only use GameChat with people that you approve. Find out more here: <https://www.nintendo.com/en-gb/Support/Nintendo-Switch-2/How-to-Set-Up-Adjust-or-Remove-Parental-Controls-on-Nintendo-Switch-2-2843839.html>

### Check age ratings

PEGI provides age classifications for video games. PEGI considers the age suitability of a game, not the level of difficulty. It is important to note that PEGI do not take into consideration user generated content within games (such as on Roblox) and chat facilities within games. <https://pegi.info/>

### Further information

<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming/>

Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translate tool on our web version: <https://www.knowsleycitylearningcentres.org.uk/primary-july-2025/>

# Online Challenges

According to Ofcom's latest Children's Media Use and Attitudes report "funny videos or those showing pranks or challenges continue to be the most popular type of VSP (video-sharing platforms) content for children, watched by 68% of 3-17-year-olds who watch videos." [source - <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/media-use-and-attitudes/media-habits-children/children-and-parents-media-use-and-attitudes-report-2025>]

If your child is watching this type of content, then you need to chat to them regularly, particularly about online challenges and the risks that they can pose. **There are challenges online that are risky/dangerous.** Sadly, there are reports that children have died as a consequence of attempting online challenges.

Children may not yet have developed the skills and ability to critically analyse that what they see online is not always safe for them to replicate. Make sure your child knows that they should talk to you (or another trusted adult) if they are thinking about trying something that they have seen online.

If your child has not heard about an online challenge, then do not draw attention to it as this may lead to them searching for it out of curiosity, so just talk about challenges in a general sense. Furthermore, reassure your child that challenges that suggest that terrible things will happen if they do not complete the tasks are not real.

The following link will provide you with further information as well as content to help you talk to your child:  
<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/online-challenges-guide/>



## Is your child moving to Secondary school?

Is your child moving to Secondary school this September? Internet Matters have outlined a number of tools and resources, including a Transition Parent Guide to help support you:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/moving-to-secondary-school-online-safety-guide/>

### Conversation Starter

Are you struggling to start a conversation with your child about online safety? Why not try discussing this scenario with them. What would they do and how would you help them?

*Amira and her classmates have a WhatsApp group. One evening, Amira notices that some group members are sharing unkind jokes and memes about another student, Leo, who isn't part of the group. The messages start as playful but quickly turn mean-spirited. Amira feels uncomfortable but isn't sure what to do. So, what should Amira do?*

First, Amira should **not join in** with the mean messages. Then, although difficult, she could **speak up** in the group by saying something kind like: "Let's not be mean. This isn't fair to Leo." Finally, she should **tell a trusted adult**.

Discuss how group chats should be fun for *everyone*, not a place to hurt others. Emphasise that being part of a group chat means we all have a responsibility to keep it respectful. If you see something that doesn't feel right, like Amira did, it's okay to speak up or talk to a trusted adult. Remind your child that they won't be punished if they tell you something like this.

Remember, even if Leo doesn't see the messages, **it's still wrong to be unkind**. Real legends lift each other up — they don't tear others down.

## Omegle (and similar platforms)

Whilst the original Omegle no longer exists, there is now Ome.tv, other Omegle copycat sites as well as other sites with a similar concept. **We cannot stress enough that these sites should not be accessed by children due to the potential content and language used, which can be explicit.** As an example, Ome.tv connects you randomly to **other people via video chat** from across the world. Ome.tv does state that it **should only be used by adults**.

You can find out more information about Chat apps, including 'randomised chat forums' here:  
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/chat-apps/>



# GET READY FOR A SUMMER OF FUN!

## Walsall's Summer Adventure Passport

6 weeks of fun activities for  
0-5 year olds to learn and play.

Collect your passport from your  
nearest library or Family Hub.

Full programme at: [www.walsallfamilyhubs.co.uk](http://www.walsallfamilyhubs.co.uk)

Walsall's Family Hubs are launching an exciting programme taking place this summer that will support children ages 0 – 5 to have opportunities to participate in free activities with their parents that encourage skills associated with being more school ready.

The Summer Learning Passport is a special booklet filled with a variety of activities and challenges for your child to complete over the summer.

These activities are designed to be both enjoyable and educational, covering a range of subjects including developing independence, playing and socialising, eating and drinking, speaking, listening and understanding, reading, writing, and fostering a love for learning.

**Families can collect their passports from their local Family Hub or library from Friday 11 July, and start to plan which activities across Walsall they would like to attend.**



the  
Locksmith's  
House

part of

**BLACK COUNTRY  
LIVING  
MUSEUM**



# HANDS-ON HERITAGE AT THE LOCKSMITH'S HOUSE

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July

10am till 12:30pm or 12:45 till 3:15pm

**SEE**

sparks fly

**MEET**

historic characters

**PLAY**

traditional games



Come and explore the historic Locksmith's House in Willenhall, once part of the lock making industry in Britain. You will see sparks fly as you watch locks being forged in the workshop, walk around the Hodson's family house and take part in some traditional street games.

## PART OF WALSALL HAF

To book your place, go to the website below and find it on the portal.

To register your child or to find out more email [wr4c@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:wr4c@walsall.gov.uk)



## WALSALL RIGHT 4 CHILDREN HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME



[bclm.com](http://bclm.com) | Locksmith's House, 54 New Road, Willenhall, WV13 2DA | [haf.walsall.gov.uk](http://haf.walsall.gov.uk)



## **Term Dates**

### **2025/26 academic year**

#### **Autumn term 2025**

- Term starts: Monday 1 September 2025
- Half term holiday: Monday 27 October 2025 to Friday 31 October 2025

**Term ends: Friday 19 December 2025**

#### **Spring term 2026**

- Term starts: Monday 5 January 2026
- Half term holiday: Monday 16 February 2026 to Friday 20 February 2026

**Term ends: Friday 27 March 2026**

#### **Summer term 2026**

- Term starts: Monday 13 April 2026
- Half term holiday: Monday 25 May 2026 to Friday 29 May 2026

**Term ends: Monday 20 July 2026**

### **Non-Pupil Days**

**INSET 1 Monday 1st September 2025**

**INSET 2 Wednesday 1st October 2025**

**INSET 3 Wednesday 28th January 2026**

**INSET 4 Wednesday 24th June 2026**

**INSET 5 Monday 20th July 2026**

**NSPCC**  TM  
**HELPLINE**  
**0808 800 5000**  
**help@nspcc.org.uk**

**If you have any concerns about a child, trust your instincts and contact the NSPCC Helpline. Our specialist team will listen, advise and take any action needed.**

An estimated 1 in 20 children have experienced sexual abuse. And child sexual abuse is under-reported by adults. It's time for that to change.

It's never too soon to talk to us. And what you share could make a life-changing difference to a child.

You can contact the NSPCC Helpline by calling 0808 800 5000, emailing [help@NSPCC.org.uk](mailto:help@NSPCC.org.uk) or completing our report abuse online form.

Due to an increase in demand across our service, our voice Helpline is currently available 11am–5pm Monday to Friday. You can still email [help@NSPCC.org.uk](mailto:help@NSPCC.org.uk) or complete our report abuse online form at any time for free. You don't have to say who you are.

**If you think a child is in immediate danger, please call the police on 999 straight away.**