



School Newsletter

Friday 12th September 2025

'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



Parental Meet and Greet Monday 15th September– 5.00pm

On Monday 15th September at 5pm you will have the opportunity to visit your child's Class Teacher. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to find out what your child/ren will be learning throughout the academic year.

Please do make a note of the time and date.

*3S Meet and Greet will take place on Wednesday 17th September at 5pm.

It was lovely to welcome Fr. Garrett to St Giles' CE Primary formally on Friday 5th September. We wish Fr. Garrett the very best of luck as he starts his ministry with us.

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

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



PARENT FINES FOR MISSING SCHOOL: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The fine for school absences across the country is **£80 (per parent/child) if paid within 21 days**, or **£160 if paid within 28 days**.

The local council can also decide to prosecute. If you're prosecuted and attend court because your child hasn't been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500.

What happens if my child misses school without a good reason?

If your child is absent and you haven't received advance permission from the headteacher to take your child out of school, the school and local council may take action.

Before that, your child's school and your local council are expected to support you to improve the child's attendance before any measures are put in place.

These measures can include:

- **Issue a fixed penalty notice, otherwise known as a 'fine'** – Walsall Council can give each parent a fine. If you do not pay the fine after 28 days you may be prosecuted for your child's absence from school.
- **Seek an Education Supervision Order from the family court** – if the council thinks you need support getting your child to go to school but you're not co-operating, they can apply to a court for an Education Supervision Order. A supervisor will be appointed to help you get your child into education. The local council can do this instead of, or as well as, prosecuting you.

Prosecute you – this means you have to go to court. You could get a fine, a community order or a jail sentence up to three months. The court could also give you a Parenting Order.

Please continue to support the school in securing good attendance.



Friday 26th September 2025
9.00am St Giles' Church– Parents/Carers
Welcome

Black Country Foodbank is a charity that supports local people in crisis with the provision of food and toiletries. We are forever grateful to the local communities, schools, business and faith groups who donate food, toiletries and funds to help us in our mission. As we continue to face rising food and energy bills, we are seeing more families who struggle to afford the basics, forced to turn to charities like ours to put food on the table for their children.

Every day, food banks across the UK meet this unprecedented challenge with care and compassion.

Donations to be collected on the gate before school.

BLACK COUNTRY
FOOD BANK
LOVE . CONNECT . INVEST



SHOPPING LIST

BLACK COUNTRY FOODBANK HELPS VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN CRISIS THROUGH THE PROVISION OF AN EMERGENCY FOOD AND TOILETRY PARCEL, WHILE A LONGER-TERM SOLUTION IS DEVELOPED

PLEASE SUPPORT US BY DONATING ITEMS FROM OUR SHOPPING LIST

- CARTONS OF UHT MILK
- TEA BAGS BOX OF 40'S
- SMALL JARS OF COFFEE
- CARTONS OF LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE
- CORDIAL/SQUASH
- TINNED POTATOES/MASH
- TINNED CHOPPED TOMATOES
- TINNED VEGETABLES
- TINNED FISH
- TINNED SOUP
- TINNED READY MEALS (MEATBALLS/MACARONI CHEESE/CHILLI)
- TINNED MEAT
- TINNED FRAY BENTOS PIES
- BREAKFAST CEREAL
- PASTA SAUCE
- SAVOURY RICE
- INSTANT NOODLES
- TINNED FRUIT
- TINNED CUSTARD/RICE PUDDING
- BARS OF SOAP
- SHOWER GEL
- TOILET ROLL
- ROLL ON DEODORANT
- SHAMPOO



PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO RECEIVE A WEEKLY REMINDER OF OUR SHORTAGES LIST ON YOUR SHOPPING DAY



GENEROSITY

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

This term we will be focussing in school on the value GENEROSITY. We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together.

TALK TOGETHER about Generosity

When we think about **generosity** we usually think about being **generous** with money or possessions. However, we can also be **generous** with our time, our gifts and our abilities.

Generous people often say that they receive much more than they give. Perhaps this is because when someone is **generous** to us, it makes us want to be **generous** in return. The opposite of being **generous** is being selfish. What kind of person would you prefer to have as a friend?

- How would you describe yourself on this scale?

Selfish Generous
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

- Where would other members of your family put you on the scale and what are their reasons?
- Who is the most **generous** person you know?



READ TOGETHER...

The Widow's Mite

Jesus had been teaching in the Temple. But now he sat down near the treasury and watched as the many visitors to the Temple passed by and dropped money into the collecting box to help with God's work.

The rich men dressed in fine robes threw in handfuls of coins as they passed, without a thought. But then a poor widow came by, paused, and placed just two mites (tiny coins) into the box.

Jesus called his disciples to him and told them what he had seen.

Then he said to them, "Let me tell you, this poor widow gave more than all those people who threw many coins into the treasury. The wealthy men gave just a small part of their riches which made no difference to them. But the widow gave all that she had."

You see, God is more interested in what is in the heart of the giver than the size of their gift.

Bible story based on Mark 12:41-44

A Mite in Jesus' time was a small brass coin worth 1/128th of a denarius. Typically a labourer was paid 1 denarius for a day's work.



In Britain, many years ago, a coin called a mite was in general use and worth half a farthing, a very tiny amount of money.

THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom

"God loves a cheerful giver"
2 Corinthians 9:7

New King James Version® of the Bible



QUIZ

Lost Letters

Which letters are missing from the alphabet? Arrange them to make a word from the story.



x z b d s h k f p j r q a w u y z j o s n v

☆ HALL OF FAME

A Generous Saint

Nicholas grew up long ago in a poor part of Turkey. His father earned just enough to provide for the needs of his family but many people in the town were extremely poor.

One day something extraordinary happened. A wealthy relative, who Nicholas barely knew, suddenly died and left him a vast fortune. Overnight Nicholas became rich, so rich that he felt very uncomfortable about having so much money when many of the townsfolk barely had enough to eat. But Nicholas knew that the families were proud and they would not want to accept money that they had not earned. He needed to find a way to help them in secret.

So in the dark of night, Nicholas crept through the town leaving parcels of food, clothing and money for the families most in need. He helped one family with three daughters several times. The father was so curious about the mysterious benefactor, that he was determined to stay awake and discover who was being so **generous**. As Nicholas quietly left his gift at the door of their tiny home the man leapt out and chased Nicholas until he finally caught up. Nicholas was embarrassed and begged the man not to give away his secret. The father promised. But he was so happy and grateful that he just couldn't help telling people, and soon the whole town knew about Nicholas' **generosity**.

Nicholas continued to live in the same town and he continued to be **generous** to every one in need. Every December he rewarded the children who had been good during the year by secretly delivering presents whilst they were asleep. To this day Nicholas is remembered in countries across the world when children receive gifts on December 5th, St Nicholas' Day.



HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE



The Generositree

The fruit of the generositree are blessings.

Think of something **generous** that you could do that would bless someone and make them happy. Then do it.

Design and make a colourful exotic looking fruit to represent the blessing and take it to school to hang on the Generositree.



FAMILY FOCUS

Secret St Nick

Each member of the family could decide on someone that they think deserves a special present. Find some pots for each person and begin to save a small amount each week.

When December comes buy presents that will make your special person smile or that they will find useful. Wrap the gifts as creatively as you can and write their name on a homemade label. Deliver in secret on 5th December, St Nicholas' Day.



FASCINATING FACTS

Leading the Pack

Lieutenant Baden-Powell was a brave soldier in the British Army and served in India and Africa. He was an expert in wilderness survival skills, like hunting, making fires and building rafts. To help new soldiers he wrote a small manual. A version of this became 'Scouting for Boys' and gave him the idea of setting up the Scouting movement.

Today, worldwide, millions of children and young people are Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Guides, Brownies or Rainbows.

- In the UK over 160,000 volunteers run Scouting and Guiding groups
- They **generously** give over 20 million hours of service each year
- Many parents also use their skills to help children to earn badges



St Stephen's Church

STAY N' PLAY

THURSDAYS
9.30AM-11.30AM

For parents, carers, babies and toddlers
Join us for play, music-time, coffee and chat!
Free sessions (including snack)

Term
Time
Only



PLAY

EXPLORE

ENJOY

FREE SESSIONS!

ALL ARE WELCOME

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ros (01902)737793

St Stephen's Church, Wolverhampton Street WV13 2PS



Online Safety Newsletter

Sept 2025

Coverstar

Coverstar say they are "the safe TikTok alternative." They state, "there is no specific age limitation...however, if you are under the age of 13, you must obtain parental consent." Users can post, comment and livestream.

Whilst Coverstar does not include private messaging, users can still interact via public comments. Coverstar does use moderation tools to scan all user-generated content. It is also important to be aware that Coverstar does allow in-app purchases ranging from £0.99 - £59.99.

If your child is using this app, ensure they know how to use the reporting tools. Bark provide a full review of Coverstar here, but they rate it as suitable for 10+:

<https://www.bark.us/app-reviews/apps/coverstar-app-review>.

Test your knowledge: Online Scams

Childnet have created a quiz for 9-13 year-olds that includes a range of potential online scams, as well as tips to help your child protect themselves online. Find out more here:

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/test-your-knowledge-about-online-scams-with-our-quiz-for-9-13-year-olds/>

Online Safety Act

What is the Online Safety Act?

The Online Safety Act 2023 is a set of laws introduced to protect children and adults online. Ofcom is the regulator for online safety in the UK, responsible for ensuring companies follow the new rules. As part of this role, Ofcom have designed the Children Codes of practice, which came into force in July

2025. The codes outline what all online services likely to be accessed by children must do to protect children online, for example:

- Enforce age limits.
- Protect children from accessing harmful or age-inappropriate content. This includes content relating to self-harm and eating disorders.
- Ensure users can easily report harmful content.

Ofcom has the power to enforce the rules as well as issue fines if companies fail to comply. You can find out more here:

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/protecting-children/new-rules-for-a-safer-generation-of-children-online>

How will it help to protect my child?

One of the main purposes of the Act is to protect children online. Ofcom has published information on how they are helping children to be safer online. The first link is a guide for parents, which also includes a section on what you can do as a parent. You can access this information here:

- <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/protecting-children/how-ofcom-is-helping-children-to-be-safer-online-a-guide-for-parents>
- <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/protecting-children/how-the-online-safety-act-will-help-to-protect-children>

Further information

Online Safety Act: explainer:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/online-safety-act-explainer/online-safety-act-explainer>



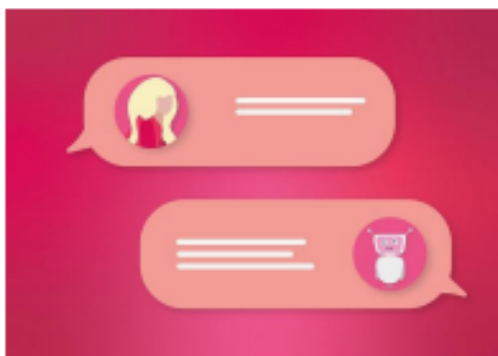
Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translate tool on our web version: <https://www.knowsleycitylearningcentres.org.uk/sept-2025/>

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

What is AI?

AI is when a computer/machine can learn and perform tasks like a human. Its popularity continues to grow, and examples include:

- **Search engines** such as Google now include an AI-generated overview as part of their results.
- **Virtual assistants** like Alexa, Meta AI and Siri.
- **Chatbots** such as ChatGPT and My AI from Snapchat.



Opportunities

AI can be an effective tool when used correctly, for instance:

- **Homework** – children can use AI to support and assist their learning.
- **Advice** – AI can be used to provide information and suggestions on a variety of topics.

Risks and concerns

- **Misinformation** – ensure your child understands that AI can sometimes provide incorrect or misleading information.
- **Privacy issues** – read any privacy policies before using.
- **Chat apps** – a simple search of “AI Chat” within the App store highlights the number of apps already available that are not suitable for children as many are rated as 17+.
- **Image manipulation** – there are AI tools that can be used to digitally remove clothes from photos, which clearly raises serious safeguarding and privacy concerns.
- **Deepfakes** – there are also AI tools that create realistic, fake videos that can be used to spread misinformation or cause harm.

How can I protect my child?

To help keep your child safe online, it is important to:

- Check age ratings of any apps or websites that your child accesses.
- Develop your child’s digital literacy by highlighting the risks of AI and showing them how important it is to verify what they see online.
- Set up appropriate parental controls on their devices/ broadband.
- Chat to your child regularly and ensure your child knows that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if anything concerns them.

Further information

- Overview: <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/by-activity/using-artificial-intelligence/what-is-ai-artificial-intelligence/>
- Should you worry if your child has an AI friend? <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/should-you-worry-if-your-child-has-ai-friend>

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Roblox: Grow a Garden

Roblox is a platform consisting of a collection of games. Grow a Garden is one of the latest games available on Roblox and is extremely popular. The game is labelled as ‘minimal’ for content maturity, which Roblox define as “may contain occasional mild violence, light unrealistic blood, and/or occasional mild fear.” Roblox believe that the game play is suitable for everyone. However, as the game is on Roblox, it is important to be aware of the following:

- **Chat** – strangers can interact with your child.
- **In-game purchases** – this game does include in-game purchases.
- **Screentime** – set limits for how long your child is playing.

A lot of the content on Roblox is user generated, which may mean not all games will be suitable for your child to view/play. If your child is playing Roblox, it is important to monitor what your child is accessing, ensure they know how to use any reporting tools and set up appropriate parental controls.

Further information

<https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/30428310121620-Parental-Controls-Overview>

Grooming online

Grooming is when somebody seeks to build a relationship with a child to exploit them or cause harm.

It is important that we teach our children how to recognise red flags. Childline have lots of useful information on their website, including where to get further support from:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/online-grooming/>

Internet safety risks for school-age children

There are 4 main kinds of internet safety risks for children.

Content Risks

Illegal, inappropriate, harmful, e.g. Fake news, deep fake images, racism, misogyny, self-harm, extremism, pornography.

Contact Risks

Bullying, grooming, sexual harassment, exploitation, influencing, 'end-to-end encryption.

Conduct Risks

Acting in ways that might hurt others or being victims of this behaviour—privacy, digital footprint, health and wellbeing, nudes and semi-nudes, copyright and live streaming.

Contract Risks

Contracts, membership agreements, or terms and conditions that they aren't aware of or don't understand. Online gambling, advertising, phishing scams, financial scams and micro-transactions.

Welcome to Walsall's SEND Local Offer

Find out about help available for children and young people (aged 0-25) with special educational needs and disabilities in Walsall. This is called the Local Offer.



Walsall SEND newsroom: Find out about all our latest news!



Parents and carers
Information for parents and carers of children with SEND



Children and young people
Information for children and young people with SEND



Professionals
Information for SEND professionals

Where to start

You know your child best, and you've noticed they find some things difficult. This could be talking, eating, or going to the toilet. If they're at school, they might find it harder to learn than their friends.

When you're new to SEND it can be hard to know how to find support. Our webpages are a good place to start.

You can also:

- find out as much as you can about your child's area of need
- look into joining local support groups - these can help you feel that you're not alone
- think about how you can stay organised - you'll probably have a lot of paperwork, appointments and meetings to keep track of

get in touch with SENDIASS for independent help and advice

What kind of support can you get for your child

Help with learning

If your child has SEND, their nursery, school or college must support them. This is in addition to the help that children without SEND will get.

Find out about:

help with learning

your Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo)

specialist support teams

education, health and care assessments and plans

Help with health

If you're worried about your child's mental or physical health, talk to your GP first.

We have some specialist support teams that can help, too.

Support for parents and carers

It's important that you look after yourself. It's easy to forget this when you're caring for children.

Welcome to Walsall's SEND Local Offer | Send

Sensory Strategies

Is your child on a waiting list to be seen by a paediatric health service?

Come and join us at Manor Farm Community Association for the first meeting of the Supported Waiting Network.

We have guest speakers to advise on a variety of monthly topics and many services who support with access to additional support for you and your child. Come and chat to other parents, find out what additional support is available across the partnership with our monthly themed support group.

For further advice or information,
telephone **01922 656463** or
email pals.officer@nhs.net



 9.30am-11.30am

 24 September 2025

 Manor Farm Community Association
King George Cres, Rushall, Walsall, WS4 1EU

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



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 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 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.