School Newsletter

Friday 6th February 2026

'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

Safer Internet Day 2026 | Tuesday 10 February

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

saferinternetday.org.uk

Safer Internet Day 2026

Safer Internet Day 2026 will take place on the 10th of February 2026, with celebrations and learning based around the theme

'**Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI**'.

Everyone's talking about AI, and with many children and young people hearing about and using AI online, it's important they have the skills and confidence to make safe choices when they are using smart technology.

This Safer Internet Day we are exploring the impact of AI on all of our lives, looking at how AI can be used for good, and giving advice and guidance that empowers people to use AI safely and responsibly.

Our free educational resources will help schools and youth groups talk about this issue with young people of all ages, covering a range of issues from looking at voice assistants and chat-bots, to exploring some of the ethical considerations in responsible use of AI technology. We will also produce top tips and advice for parents, carers and grandparents covering how to talk about AI, helping them to use new technology in safe and responsible ways. Children will be taking part in special class assemblies to secure **Safer Internet Use** in and out of school.

RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS

unicef UNITED KINGDOM

SILVER – RIGHTS AWARE

Article 31 (leisure, play and culture) Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

Article 29 (goals of education) Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

Dear Parents,

Homework helps children to develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful lifelong learning. Homework also supports the development of independent learning skills and provides parents and carers with an opportunity to take part in their children's education. Research over several years has shown that homework can make an important contribution to the progress which pupils make in school. Government research has shown that there are enormous advantages in children spending periods of time (initially quite short) on different learning activities devised to support the work they are doing in school.

Most Home Learning is set through IXL. Please do click the link below to access a parental webinar for advice and tips.

https://zoom.us/clips/share/W_LRuOcnSFq6Yc5SKL6klQ

Website Resources- Homework

Knowsley City Learning Centres

Online Safety Newsletter February 2026

CBeebies Parenting and Apps

CBeebies Parenting is full of useful information from creative activities, recipes and information about the CBeebies apps.

CBeebies apps are free to download with no in-app purchases. Their apps include:

- Playtime Island - Fun Games for Kids App. This app includes 40 free games.
- CBeebies Learn - Early Years Learning App. This app includes games and videos and is based on the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum.
- Get Creative - Open-ended Creative Activities App. This app is free and includes lots of drawing and painting activities.
- Storytime - Reading Stories App. This app includes interactive story books.

You can find out more here:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/parenting

Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translate tool on our web version: https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/february-2026-primary/

Using AI to alter images

AI image generator and moderator tools are widely available and often used by children. Whilst these tools can be used for creative purposes, we need to ensure our children are aware of the appropriate way in which to use them and the circumstances when they should not be used, even if harm is not intended.

What are AI image generator and moderator tools?

It is when Artificial Intelligence is used to create or modify images, for example it could be used to swap faces, change expressions or for more sinister reasons, such as to remove clothes. These images are often very realistic and therefore difficult to see that they are fake.

Privacy concerns and consent

If your child is using these tools, they need to be aware of potential loss of privacy and the importance of consent. They should know that they should only use images of other people with consent.

What does my child need to know about using these tools?

- Children shouldn't use AI tools to manipulate images of school staff. Even if the child's intention is not malicious, children should not use AI tools to create or edit photos of teachers under any circumstances.
- Manipulation of images of friends or other children – if you are using images of other people, then consent **must** always be sought.
- The tools should not be used to create images that can embarrass or hurt others - this is a form of online bullying.
- Copyright issues – who owns the copyright? These images could be reused by others, which can affect their own digital footprint.

What should I do?

- Chat to your child if they are using these tools and ascertain the reason why. Ask them to show you the images that they have created.
- Check the age ratings of any apps/websites that your child is using and set up appropriate parental controls.
- Develop your child's digital literacy by teaching them to recognise online risks and to behave responsibly online

Further information

- https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-to-children-about-ai
- https://oursaferschools.co.uk/2025/02/18/understanding-image-consent-at-schools/

TikTok

You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok. TikTok is a social media platform for sharing and watching short video clips. If your child is using TikTok then make sure appropriate security / privacy settings are applied.

Account set up

It is important that your child enters their real date of birth as accounts are tailored by age e.g., Direct Messaging is disabled for accounts aged 13-15. In addition, advertisements are tailored by age. By default, accounts for people under 16 are set to private. You can read more about the other settings available, such as switching off comments and restricted mode here: https://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy/account-privacy-settings/privacy-and-safety-settings-for-users-under-age-18

Family Pairing

Family Pairing allows you to link your own account to your child's account. You can then set controls such as restricted mode or tailor your child's 'For You' feed by selecting keywords that TikTok will use to filter out posts. You can find out more here: https://support.tiktok.com/en/safety-hc/account-and-user-safety/family-pairing

What do I need to be aware of?

- **Inappropriate content and themes:** whilst against guidelines, explicit and inappropriate content can be found on this platform, for example nudity/sexual content and hate speech. Some of the songs available to lip sync to may contain inappropriate lyrics/themes.
- **Challenges:** We often see viral challenges on social media, some of which can be **risky/dangerous**. Sadly, there are reports that children have died whilst 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.
- **Stranger contact:** chat to your child about how people may not be who they say they are when online.

Refresh your feed

You can refresh your "For You" feed to update the content recommended: https://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy/account-privacy-settings/refresh-your-for-you-feed

Blocking and Reporting

Show your child how to use the safety features available.

Further information

- https://parentzone.org.uk/article/tiktok
- https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en/guardians-guide

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date released 01.02.26. The inclusion of any links does not imply any affiliation with or endorsement of the linked websites, documents, or videos, nor are we claiming any ownership or copyright in the content of the linked materials.

Balance screen time tips

Internet Matters have created simple tips to help you develop healthy online habits for your child. They also answer key questions such as "how much screentime is too much" and "is gaming bad for children." Access this information here:

https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/creating-a-balanced-digital-diet-with-screen-time-tips

7 Steps to Good Digital Parenting

The Family Online Safety Institute have created seven steps to assist you as a digital parent. Find out more here:

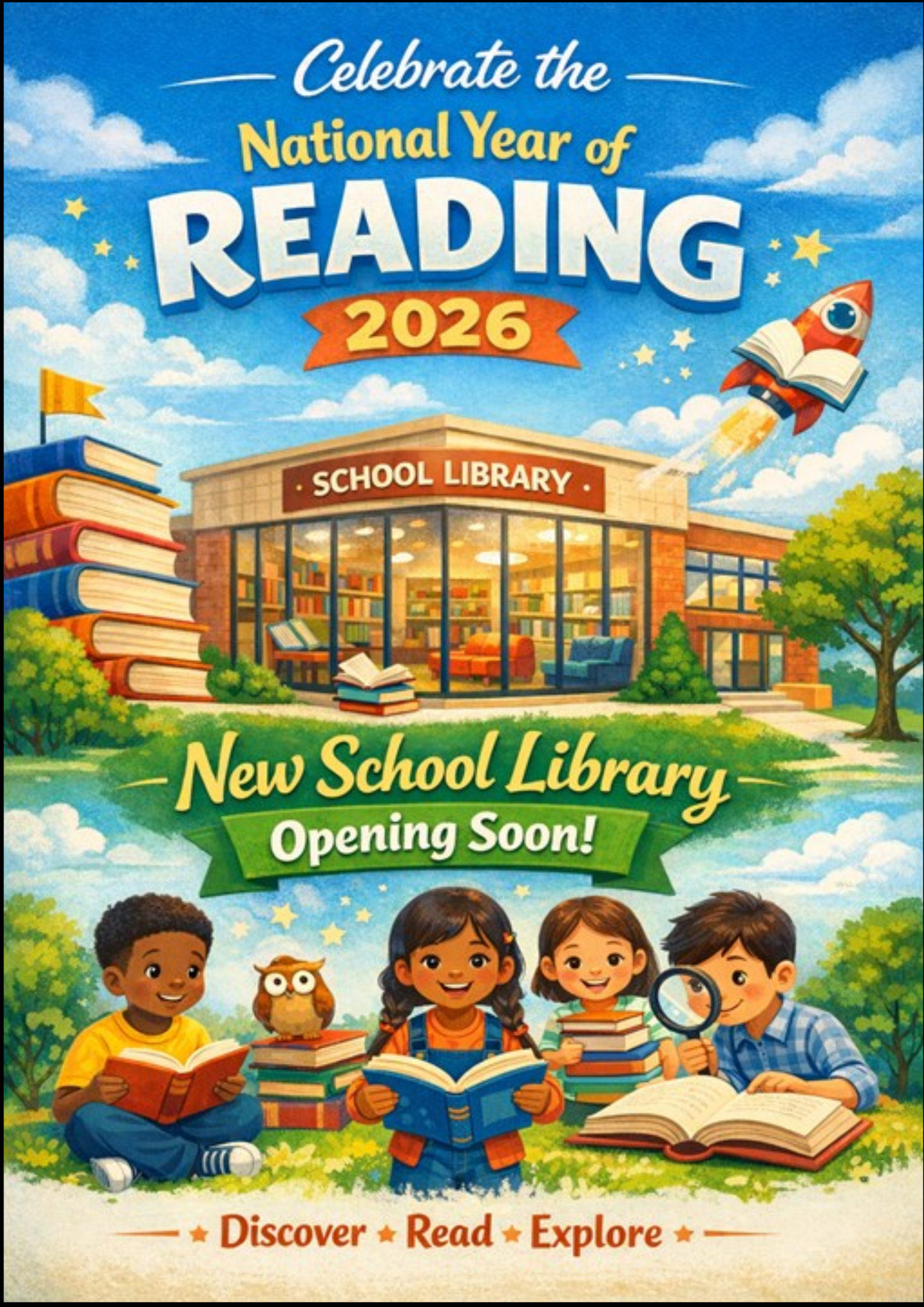
https://fosi.org/program/7-steps-to-good-digital-parenting/

Children's Commissioner launches new guide for parents and carers

The Children's Commissioner has released a new guide to help you in managing your child's digital life. The guide was written with direct involvement from children.

It includes advice on setting boundaries such as no devices in the bedroom and how to chat to your child. You can find the guide here:

https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/blog/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-childrens-commissioner-launches-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/


Celebrate the
National Year of
READING
2026
SCHOOL LIBRARY
New School Library
Opening Soon!
Discover ★ Read ★ Explore ★

School Trips

At St Giles' CE Primary we believe the benefits that school trips bring to your child's unique learning journey make them an essential part of any all-round education.

We strongly believe excursions can enhance the learning experience at every stage of education.

Let's take a look at how school trips help your child go further in school.

1. THEY TAKE YOUR CHILD OUT OF THEIR COMFORT ZONE

Experiences that take your child out of their comfort zone are essential for personal growth and developing an appetite for trying new things. Day trips enable our pupils to enjoy experiences that cannot be replicated in the classroom environment.

2. THEY CONTRIBUTE TO A WIDER WORLD PERSPECTIVE

With each school trip, your child ventures into undiscovered territory and as their life experience grows, so does their perspective on the world we live in.

3. THEY ARE A GREAT WAY TO LEARN AND REMEMBER INFORMATION

School trips transport education to a new and exciting location. A change to the routine of a school timetable, trips are always memorable and therefore make effective learning tools.

4. THEY MAKE A CLASSROOM TOPIC FEEL NEW AND EXCITING

A well-chosen trip has the power to breathe new life into a classroom topic. Activities and interactive tasks add an element of excitement to learning, which are especially effective in engaging visual or hands-on learners. Trips support and enhance the curriculum, whilst providing new perspectives and wider context for your child to think about.

5. THEY TEACH YOUR CHILD NEW SKILLS

Some lessons in life cannot be taught in class. Trips are an opportunity for your child to conquer learning challenges outside the classroom setting, where a different set of skills is required.

***Without parents making a financial contribution, trips, visits and wider experiences cannot go ahead. The school already subsidises trips to reduce costs to a maximum of £25. It is with deep regret that if trips are not supported financially they will be have to be cancelled and money refunded to parents.**

Department for Education

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.

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.

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™

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 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.