



School Newsletter

Friday 23rd January 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



National Year of Reading 2026

The **National Year of Reading 2026** is a UK government initiative led with the National Literacy Trust, aiming to boost reading enjoyment and tackle declining literacy by engaging all ages through passions, with a major focus on school libraries to transform reading in education, support teachers, and build confident readers by making libraries central to the campaign's resources and activities. It emphasizes using schools as hubs for creative reading, providing teachers with tools, and ensuring school libraries are vital for fostering a love of reading for pleasure across the country.

[National Year of Reading 2026 | Go All In](#)

Work to create our new library begins shortly and is due to be completed by the end of February 2026.

If you would like to make a donation towards new books for the library you can do this via the School Gateway App.

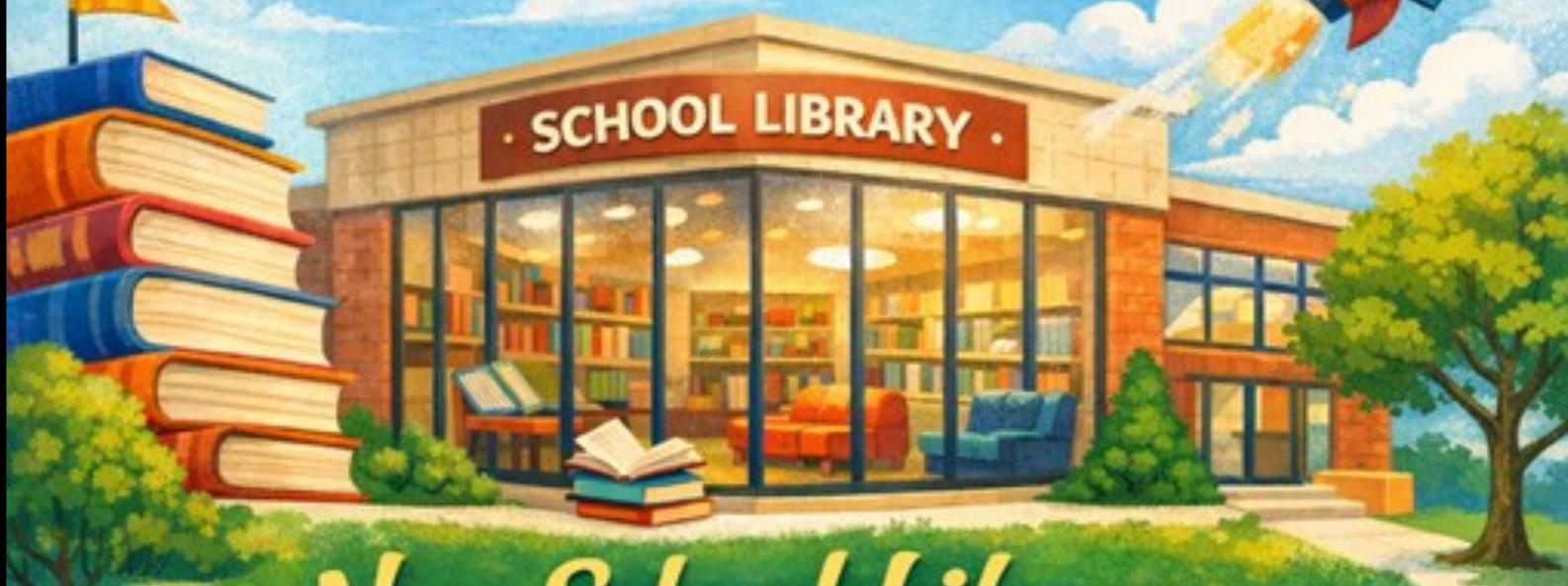
Books cost anywhere between £7.00 and £12.00 but any donation would be gratefully received. In return, the school will include a special insert inside each book for each donation made. Please amend the donation amount you wish to donate on the App.



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.

Celebrate the
National Year of
READING
2026



— New School Library —

Opening Soon!



— ★ Discover ★ Read ★ Explore ★ —



NATIONAL
SPACE
CENTRE

TWYCROSS ZOO
A CONSERVATION CHARITY



BLACK COUNTRY LIVING MUSEUM



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 have to be cancelled and money refunded to parents.

Toileting Training Workshop

Thursday 29th January | 1.30pm

St Giles' CE Primary School

“Every child is different - they learn to walk and talk at different times, and to be clean and dry at different times.

You know your child best, so don't feel that you have to start potty training just because other people are!”

– Eric's Guide to Potty Training

Free Virtual Workshop for Parents & Carers of Children aged 4-19 years

ONLINE WORKSHOP



Toilet Training Tips



Advice & Support



Physical Skills



Routines



Toileting Patterns



Common Challenges



Plus Additional Health Resources:



Health for Kids:
www.healthforkids.co.uk



Health for Teens:
www.healthforteens.co.uk



School Nursing Service:
www.walsallhealthcare.nhs.uk/our-services/



UNICEF RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS

**CLASS
CHARTER**



CLASS CHARTER PRESENTATIONS



UNICEF Class Charter Presentations In Church

Parents and Carers Welcome.

8.30am– Coffee/Tea 9.00am Start

1G—Friday 23rd January 2026

1S— Friday 30th January 2026

**Reception—Nursery am Friday 6th February
2026**

***Nursery pm 2.30pm (School Dining Hall)**

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

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





Online Safety Newsletter

January 2026

Instagram Teen Accounts - update

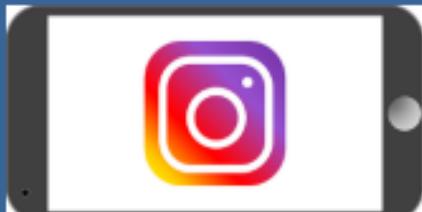
You must be over 13 years of age to set up an account. Instagram is used to post photos and videos as well as send direct messages, make voice/video calls, and send disappearing messages.

Teen accounts are automatically set up for users aged 13 – 17. Instagram have announced that teens will now see content similar to content that they would see in a PG-13 movie.

Instagram have also updated their policies around content to include "hiding or not recommending posts with strong language, certain risky stunts, and additional content that could encourage potentially harmful behaviors"

Finally, for parents who would like to apply more stringent settings, Instagram are also introducing a new, stricter setting called 'Limited Content.' This setting will mean your child is not able to see, leave, or receive comments under posts as well.

You can read about the updates here:
<https://about.instagram.com/blog/announcements/instagram-teen-content-safety-pg-13>



Playing games online

Does your child play games online? We have outlined some risks that you should consider:



Chatting to strangers / risk of inappropriate language

Some games will allow communication via text chat, direct messages or chatting. Some games do offer the ability to switch communication off and/or the option to restrict bad language, so make sure settings appropriate to your child are applied. If your child is playing online with strangers, then you need to be aware that there is a risk of grooming. Some games do allow you to restrict communication to 'friends only,' however you would need to monitor that their online friends are real life friends. It can be difficult to moderate online chat so ensure your child knows how to block and report other players.

Cyberbullying

It can be very easy online for children to behave in a way that they would not if they were face to face. Talk to your child about how they speak to others online and encourage them to talk to people online with respect. Other forms of cyberbullying whilst playing games could be excluding others, criticising the ability of other players and ganging up on others.

In app purchases

Many games include the option to purchase additional items/ subscriptions so ensure you do not have payment cards saved or set up restrictions/ a password to approve purchases.

What can I do?

- Set up parental controls** - as well as setting up appropriate parental controls through the game's settings, ensure you have set them up on the console/device your child is playing on.
- Check age ratings** - before buying the game, check that your child is old enough to play it. All games will either have a PEGI rating or be rated by the App Store/Google Play.
- Chat to your child regularly** about the risks above so that they are aware of what can happen online and remind them to always talk to you or a trusted adult if they have any concerns

Further information

CEOP provides further guidance and support regarding this topic:
<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming/>

Snapchat

Snapchat is a popular social media app used for messaging and sharing photos and videos. You must be 13+ to sign up. Users can send messages (snaps) to others that are only seen for a set time, and users can also upload snaps to stories, which disappear after 24 hours.

Key Concerns

There are potential risks such as:

- the risk of your child viewing content that is not appropriate for their age.
- location sharing (via Snap Map).
- cyberbullying.
- contact from strangers.
- excessive screen time – children may have a fear of missing out (FOMO) as well as pressure to maintain “streaks”.
- “disappearing” messages can lead to more risky behaviour and a “false sense of security.” These messages could be screenshot or another device used to take a photo, so they’re not actually deleted as the sender believes. The image could then be shared.
- in app purchases.



Parental Controls / Safety settings

Snapchat's Family Centre is a set of parental controls and includes tools such as allowing you to:

- see who your child is friends with.
- see who your child has sent messages (not the contents of conversations though), photos or videos to in the last week.
- view a list of group members for groups that your child has been active in.
- restrict content to limit access.
- report any accounts that you are concerned about.

You can learn more about Family Centre here:

<https://parents.snapchat.com/parental-controls?lang=en-GB>

If your child is using Snapchat, then make sure the appropriate privacy settings are set up, including who can see their location and who can contact them. Also ensure your child knows how to block and report other users if necessary:

<https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/7012343074580-How-do-I-change-my-privacy-settings-on-Snapchat>

More information

For more detailed advice and information:

- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/snapchat>
- <https://parents.snapchat.com/safeguards-for-teens>

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Family Smart Start

Family Smart Start is a free toolkit designed to help you and your child navigate the milestone of getting their first phone. The toolkit provides support on how to set up their new phone, how to talk to your child about digital safety and a template family agreement. Find out more here:

<https://familysmartstart.com/>

Cyber security

Cyber security is the process of protecting your information and data whilst online against scams and cyber-attacks. Cyber-attacks are the process of maliciously targeting individuals or organisations to disable networks or steal data for example.

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) have an area on their website with guidance to help protect you and your family. The guidance includes how to manage your digital footprint online, information about anti-virus software as well as top tips for staying online such as:

- Using a strong password
- Setting up 2step verification

You can find the resources here:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/advice-guidance/you-your-family>

The NCSC also provide advice on what you should do if you are the target of a scam or cyber-attack. Find out more here:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/respond-recover/you>

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/january-2026-primary/>

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.