



# School Newsletter

## Friday 20th March 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**



## Willenhall Train Station

Now that Willenhall Train Station has opened, please do admire the artwork which welcomes passengers into the town when visiting. Graffiti Art was created by Jack Sankson (local artist) in conjunction with Year 4 pupils and it looks fantastic! Artwork reflects the town's history and economic potential!



**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.

## **School Uniform /PE Day Reminders**

Thank you for ensuring children attend school looking smart in their school uniforms. As a reminder, it is essential that children attend wearing school shoes and not boots, particularly now as we are hopefully over the winter weather.

On PE Days– please ensure your child attends wearing the agreed kit:

- 1) White Polo Shirt under the school jumper/  
cardigan**
- 2) Black Shorts /Black Jogging Bottoms**
- 3) Trainers**

Support as always is much appreciated.





# BOOKMARK DESIGN COMPETITION

**Who can enter:**

**Category 1: KS1**

**Category 2: KS2**

**Your Challenge:**

Design a colourful bookmark that encourages people to read.

Include drawings and a short reading slogan.

**Bookmark Size: 15 cm × 5 cm**

**Prizes:**

Winning bookmarks will be printed for the school library!

**Winners to choose a book from the Book Vending Machine.**

**16th April, 2026**

Be creative. Be colourful.

Inspire others to read.



# schoolcloud

## Parents Evening

**Parental Consultations will be taking place on Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th March.**

**4.00pm-7.00pm.**

**3S Consultations will take place on Wednesday 25th March and Thursday 26th March.**


**\*Note 2G consultations took place on Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th February.**

**THE BOOKING SYSTEM NOW OPEN  
PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAILS FOR THE  
INVITATION**



**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.

A festive Easter-themed poster for a craft event. At the top, a white bunny head with pink-tipped ears is visible. The background is a vibrant teal color, decorated with a border of white daisies, pink tulips, and various colorful Easter eggs (blue, yellow, pink, orange) with different patterns like polka dots and stripes. The text is centered on a white rectangular area.

Willenhall Community Library

**EASTER**

**CRAFT**

**THURSDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> APRIL**

**11.00am - 12.00pm**

**AGE 4+ £1 PER CHILD**

**BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

Willenhall Library, Walsall Street, Willenhall, WV13 2EX

Email: [willenhalllibrary@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:willenhalllibrary@walsall.gov.uk)

Phone: 01902 650771

# IMPORTANT REMINDER: BRING YOUR BOOK BAG!



Our school has invested thousands of pounds into providing quality reading books for the children.

To help us keep these books in great condition:



Please ensure your child attends school with a book bag.



Please do NOT place water bottles inside book bags.

Water bottles are causing books to become water damaged beyond repair, and we want every child to enjoy these wonderful reading resources.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Together we can protect our books and foster a love of reading!



## NATIONAL YEAR OF READING GO ALL IN

**SOHAN KAILEY IS  
COMING BACK TO  
ST GILES' C.E.**

**PRIMARY**

**ALL DAY  
VAISAKHI  
DISCO**



**THURSDAY  
26TH MARCH**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME  
TO COME DRESSED  
TO PARTY!**

**TRAINERS  
ESSENTIAL!**



# Things to do

Free family fun is available at Family Hubs.

Insert call to action



Walsall Council



Walsall  
Family Hubs

Supporting families to live happier lives



Funded by  
UK Government



**Best Start in Life Family Hubs** offer a welcoming space where all families can access advice and support from a range of services for all families in Walsall.

The Hubs support families from pregnancy to childcare right through to starting school, get advice and support for your child's development.

We offer lots of FREE activities such as; stay & plays, antenatal, feeding, birth registration, baby massage, baby sensory, developmental checks, volunteering midwife appointments, baby clinics, dads groups, parenting and so much more.....

More information about the Hubs, and what they offer, can be found on the Family Hubs website: <https://www.walsallfamilyhubs.co.uk/>

Email: [Familyhubs@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:Familyhubs@walsall.gov.uk) and follow us on Facebook

Walsall-  
Familiesintheknow



# Poetry Recitals

9.00am In Church Each Friday!

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February – 6S

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March – 6G

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March – 5S

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March – 5G

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March – 4S

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April – 4G

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April – 3S

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May – 3G


Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May – 2S

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May – 2G

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June – 1S

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June – 1G

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June – NAM/RS



Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June – RG/NPM  
(2pm St Giles Church)



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](https://zoom.us/join/https://zoom.us/clips/share/W_LRuOcnSFq6Yc5SKL6klQ)

[Website Resources- Homework](#)



## YouTube Safety Update: New Parental Controls

YouTube have published their latest update on how parents can support their child on YouTube. YouTube will now allow parents to set the amount of time viewing Shorts – this can even be set to zero. YouTube Shorts are short videos, usually less than 60 seconds long, which when continuously watched, can lead to excessive screentime. Furthermore, parents will also be able to set bedtime and 'take a break' reminders. You can find out more here:

<https://blog.youtube/news-and-events/updates-youtube-supervised-accounts-teens/>

If you would like to find out more about supervised accounts on YouTube, then this article explains the different settings available:

[https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/10315420?hl=en-GB&ref\\_topic=15279060&sjid=15225282118002181205-EU](https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/10315420?hl=en-GB&ref_topic=15279060&sjid=15225282118002181205-EU)

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/march-2026/>

## Mobile phones: do you know the risks?

We know that children having access to a smartphone can expose children to risks including:

- Viewing inappropriate content
- Excessive screen time/use, which in turn can affect their mental health and sleep pattern.
- Contact from inappropriate people/grooming
- Cyberbullying
- Spending money on in-app purchases/scams

### What effects do mobile phones have on children's mental health?

Compass discuss the research around this important topic, outlining the positive and negative effects that mobile phones have:

<https://compass-uk.org/services/compass-changing-lives/online-resources/what-effects-do-mobile-phones-have-on-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health/>

### EE Online Safety Hub

EE has published age guidance for smartphone usage to improve children's digital wellbeing. In summary, they recommend that children under 11 should use non-smart devices, for children aged 11-13, they advise that if a smartphone is used, then parental controls should be enabled and access to social media restricted. Finally, for 13-16-year-olds they still recommend that parental controls are implemented and appropriate restrictions set up.

You can read the full guidance here:

<https://ee.co.uk/internet-online-safety>

### Could you delay when your child is given a smartphone with Smartphone Free Childhood?

The premise behind this movement is that all parents/carers of a class all agree not to give their children smartphones (therefore the level of peer pressure is reduced) for a set time or until a specific age:

<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/>

### What device?

When you think it is the right time for your child to have a phone, then 'Which?' provide an overview of some options available:

<https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/mobile-phones/article/buying-a-first-mobile-phone-best-dumb-phones-and-smartphones-for-kids-aA03C3Y8aTzr>

# Virtual Private Networks

A Virtual Private Network (VPN) helps make your connection between a device and the internet more secure and can help protect personal information and add privacy. However, whilst a VPN has benefits, it is important that you are aware that if your child is using a VPN, they may be able to get round Wi-Fi restrictions, access blocked or restricted websites and bypass parental controls. It may also mean that their browsing history is hidden.

The NSPCC provides a helpful overview of VPNs, plus top tips and conversation starters here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/vpns-and-online-safety/>

# Social Media Algorithms

## What is an Algorithm?

Algorithms influence what we see on social media platforms and predict what type of content we are most likely to interact with, thereby keeping us online for longer. The algorithm uses information such as who you follow, what you have searched for and what you have watched, liked or shared to determine what it thinks most interests you. It will then show you this content more, for example, in the explore tab on Instagram.



## What do I need to know?

Whilst there are benefits to algorithms, for example it means we tend to see content that does interest us, unfortunately there are negatives as well. They can lead to increased screentime as we continue to see things that interest us. Secondly, it can lead to users being shown large amounts of inappropriate content which can for example, exacerbate negative body image or heighten access to misogyny content. It can also lead to 'echo chambers' where you are only seeing content that relates to your opinion rather than seeing a balanced viewpoint.

## Further information

- <https://cybersmarties.com/behind-the-screen-how-algorithms-shape-what-kids-see-online/>
- The BBC discuss algorithms in this article about doomscrolling: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zwnk3qt>

*Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date released 01.03.26. 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.*

# Five Nights at Freddy's

Five Nights at Freddy's is a horror game designed to frighten players with jump scares or creepy characters. It can be accessed from several places, for example on an Xbox (PEGI rating of 12) and on the App store (age rating of 13+). There is merchandise available, which may suggest that it is child friendly. We would recommend that you preview the game first to ascertain its suitability for your child. You can view Bark's review here:

<https://www.bark.us/content-review/five-nights-at-freddys-review/>

# Screen time and online harms

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health have created a page that brings together key resources on screen time. Find out more here:

<https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/screen-time-online-harms-resources-members>

# New government campaign: Is your child influenced by toxic content?

The Government have launched a new campaign providing guidance to parents on safety settings, conversation prompts and advice for tackling misinformation and harmful content. It also includes a quiz to help you and your child spot misleading or unreliable information online. You can find out more here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/is-your-child-influenced-by-toxic-content-new-government-campaign-supports-parents-to-talk-about-harmful-online-content>

## **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.

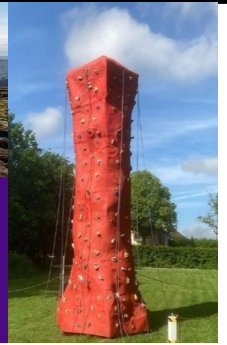
### **Contract Risks**

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.



NATIONAL  
SPACE  
CENTRE

TWYXCROSS ZOO  
A CONSERVATION CHARITY



BLACK COUNTRY LIVING MUSEUM

Cadbury  
WORLD

## 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
2. THEY CONTRIBUTE TO A WIDER WORLD PERSPECTIVE
3. THEY ARE A GREAT WAY TO LEARN AND REMEMBER INFORMATION
4. THEY MAKE A CLASSROOM TOPIC FEEL NEW AND EXCITING
5. THEY TEACH YOUR CHILD NEW SKILLS

**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.**

## **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.**

## 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](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.**