



School Newsletter

Friday 13th 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

British Science Week 2026

This week, children through school have taken part in a range of science based learning as part of British Science Week 2026. Events have included taking part in Webinars through the National Farmers Union including The BIG Farming QUESTION Show! Year 4 and Year 6 explored hospital medical equipment to investigate their bodies with Medical Mavericks.

Key Stage 1 were invited to join on Thursday the 12th March for the BIG Farming QUESTION Show and explored four curious questions- sent in by pupils:

- How do you train a sheepdog?
 - What do all the buttons in your tractor do?
 - When a cow poos, where does it go?
 - How do farmers care for the wildlife on their farm?
- How does Science turn Fields into Feasts?

Today, Key Stage 2 were invited to spend the day exploring how farmers, scientists and chefs work together to transform fields into the feasts to celebrate Eid al Fitr, while uncovering the science behind every ingredient.

At 11am, they joined Farmer Muhsen to learn about the importance of sharing food at this special celebration. Then watched the team create a delicious savoury dish for the following week's Eid feast, discovering the food science, farming innovation and cultural traditions that bring it to life. In the lesson, children learnt about the exciting science behind date production in the UK; meeting the animals on the farm and understanding their relationship with their habitats and we'll even investigate moon movement and its importance in Islam.

At 2pm, we joined Chef Rooji, for a delicious dive into sweet science as we create the second dish for our Eid feast. We'll learn how sugar is grown and processed in the UK; we'll meet some beekeepers and explore the importance of bees for plant reproduction and in Islam and we'll meet some fabulous Jersey cows to discover the science of milk production and changes of state.



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.

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**



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ST STEPHEN'S

Mothering Sunday



SUNDAY 15TH MARCH
4-5.30PM

crafts . snacks . songs . games

All are welcome!

For more details, contact Revd Ros (01902) 737793

A festive Easter-themed poster for a community library event. At the top, a pair of large, pink and white bunny ears protrudes from a white rectangular area. The background is a vibrant teal, decorated with a border of white daisies, pink tulips, and colorful Easter eggs (blue, yellow, pink, orange) with various patterns like polka dots and stripes. Small gold stars are scattered throughout. The text is centered on the white rectangle.

Willenhall Community Library

EASTER

CRAFT

THURSDAY **2**nd APRIL

11.00am - 12.00pm

AGE 4+ £1 PER CHILD

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Willenhall Library, Walsall Street, Willenhall, WV13 2EX

Email: 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 and follow us on Facebook

Walsall-
Familiesintheknow



Poetry Recitals

9.00am In Church Each Friday!

Friday 27th February – 6S

Friday 6th March – 6G

Friday 13th March – 5S

Friday 20th March – 5G

Friday 27th March – 4S

Friday 17th April – 4G

Friday 24th April – 3S

Friday 1st May – 3G

Friday 8th May – 2S

Friday 15th May – 2G

Friday 5th June – 1S

Friday 12th June – 1G

Friday 19th June – NAM/RS

Friday 26th 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](#)



Online Safety Newsletter

March 2026

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

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>

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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.

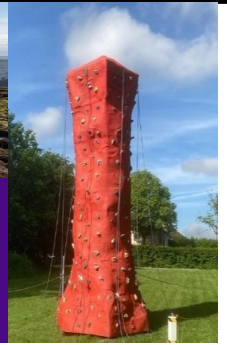
Contract Risks

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  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 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.