



Weekly Newsletter

10th January 2025

Message from our Headteacher:

Welcome Back!

We hope all our children and families had a fantastic break and enjoyed time with loved ones. It has been a really positive start back to school this week, with children settling back into routines and enthusiastically embracing the new term.

This week, children will have brought home their curriculum information letters, giving you a glimpse into the exciting projects and topics they'll be exploring over the coming weeks. We encourage you to take a moment to discuss these with your children and share in their enthusiasm for what lies ahead.

A huge highlight of our first week back has been the **Year 4 Curriculum Showcase**, celebrating their incredible learning from last term. Thank you to all who joined us to recognise their hard work and achievements.

The showcase included:

Stunning Beowulf-inspired writing outcomes, full of rich vocabulary and creativity.

Bayeux-style tapestry drawings, showcasing their attention to detail and historical knowledge.
Viking purses, designed and sewn by the children.

It was wonderful to see such a diverse range of learning across the curriculum, with the children full of pride as they shared and discussed their work.



We are excited for another exciting term. Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Lowe

Merit Assembly

Congratulations to the following children who all received a certificate this week and were part of our assembly today:

Foundation 2: Avery & Isaiah

Year 1: Marley & Anaya

Year 2: Noah & Nathan P

Year 3: Giovanni & Gloria

Year 4: Nathan P

Year 5: Alfie & Adrian

Year 6: Jahleize & Adam



Writers of the Week

Foundation 2: Ndana

Year 1: Hania

Year 2: Elijah

Year 3: Ellabem

Year 4: Nia

Year 5: Logan

Year 6: Hibah



Attendance

Foundation 2: 96.3%

Year 1: 98.7%

Year 2: 93.3%

Year 3: 98.3%

Year 4: 97.3%

Year 5: 94.5%

Year 6: 94.3%

Well done to this week's class with the highest attendance:

Year 1

F1 Stars of the Week



Sadie, Eli, Gabriel & Isabella

In other news...



Enrichment Opportunities

Our children have enjoyed a range of enrichment opportunities this week.

- Y6 began our termly library visits with a trip to Dales Library for a Reading for Pleasure session.
- Flutes and Guitar Music sessions began this week for Y4 - 6 and this is led by Nottingham Music Hub.



Spring Term After School Clubs

Our Spring Term club letters will be sent home on Monday, giving children the opportunity to sign up for a variety of activities that nurture their individual talents and interests.

A huge thank you to our amazing Learning Support Assistants, whose creativity and dedication make these clubs possible.

Clubs will begin during the week commencing Monday 20th January, until Friday 14th March.



Attendance Celebration

We were delighted to celebrate attendance in our Medals Assembly at the end of last half term, with so many medals and certificates awarded for improved attendance.

Congratulations to Year 6 (best Upper Phase attendance) and Year 2 (best Lower Phase attendance), each earning a £75 book voucher for their classrooms. A special well done to Year 4, who achieved best attendance for Autumn 2 and will enjoy a breakfast treat with Mr Buckmaster next week.



Staff News

We're thrilled to share that Miss Parkinson is expecting a baby! We are all absolutely delighted for her, her partner Gabe, and their families as they prepare to welcome this wonderful new addition.

On behalf of everyone at Sneinton St. Stephen's, we send our warmest wishes and congratulations during this special time. We look forward to celebrating this journey with her in the coming months!



Diary Dates

Mon 13 Jan	Y1 Visit to St Stephen's Church
Tue 14 Jan	Y4 Attendance Breakfast
Wed 15 Jan	Y5 Mini Police sessions begin
Tue 21 Jan	Y1 visit to Sultania Mosque
Tue 21 Jan	Y4 visit to Dales Library
Thu 23 Jan	Shine Re-Starts
Tue 28 Jan	Church at School 3:15-4:00 pm School Hall – All Welcome
Wed 29 Jan	Y1 Visit to Green's Windmill
Tue 4 Feb	Y2 Visit Dales Library
Tue 11 Feb	Y1 Visit Dales Library
Wed 12 Feb	EYFS Healthy Eating Celebration

*Please continue to check the school calendar
on our Reach More Parents app.*

This will show you upcoming events related to your child.



Reminders



Breakfast Wraparound - Spaces available!

Our Breakfast Wraparound Provision runs from 7:45 to 8:35am and includes breakfast for just £4 per session.



For more information or to book a place, please speak to Mrs Shilcock at the School Office.



Milk Letters for KS1

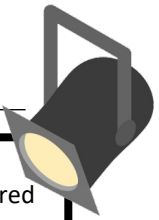
Milk letters have been sent home this week. Please ensure they are returned by **Fri 17 Jan**.



Punctuality Matters!

A reminder that school starts at 8:45am. Arriving late means children miss out on key learning, which is vital for their progress. Please make every effort to arrive on time and ensure a positive start to the day!

What have we been learning?



EYFS

F1 have been learning about the different parts of their body.

We have also been observing the signs of winter outside this week. We combined both of this learning and created some beautiful winter tree pictures using our fingers and paint.



Year 1

Year 1 had a brilliant first week back! We discovered an alien crash landing in our outdoor area!

We investigated the crash landing and looked for clues and found a book! We started to read Beegu and learnt more about her!



Year 3

The children in Year 3 have blown us away this week. They have been fully immersed in their new rainforest topic.

As a class they have learned a poem 'Roaming in the Rainforest' by Laurie Krebs and they were super creative, adding actions and expression to each word! We filmed it using the green screen and it has brought it to life.

The video can be found on class dojo for Year 3 families. We are going to record another one next week to continue to improve our oracy skills.



Year 5

Year 5 have travelled across the Atlantic this week to The Caribbean!

We have started to immerse ourselves through descriptive writing, practising our map reading skills and learned about the artist Ebony G. Patterson, who is from Jamaica.

We have also been learning about gravity and used Newton meters for the first time.



LUNCHTIME

WORLD

Week 2

Autumn Winter
2024-25:
9/9, 30/9, 21/10,
11/1, 2/12,
23/12, 13/1, 3/2

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY



Cheesy Tomato
Pizza Muffins

Chicken
Chimichangas

Roast Pork,
Roast Potatoes
and Gravy

Butter Chicken
Wholegrain Pilaf
Rice

Battered Fish
and Chips



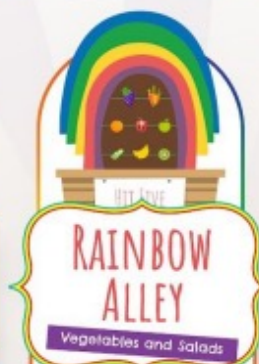
BBQ and
Sweetcorn
Pizza Slice

Veggie
Enchiladas

Cauliflower Cheese,
Crispy Onion Topping
& Roast Potatoes
(You don't have to have
the onions)!

Aloo Gobi
Cauliflower Potato
Curry

Cheese and
Tomato Toasted
Wrap with Chips



Wholegrain
Pasta Salad and
Green Salad

Rice and
Sweetcorn

Mixed Greens

Peas

Baked
Beans



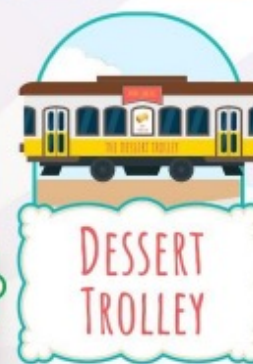
Beans,
Cheese or
Tuna Mayo

Beans,
Cheese or
Tuna Mayo

Beans,
Cheese or
Tuna Mayo

Beans,
Cheese or
Tuna Mayo

Beans,
Cheese or
Tuna Mayo



Toffee Apple
Sponge and
Custard

Chocolate
Sprinkle Iced
Cake

Raspberry
Coconut Jelly

Fresh Fruit
Salad

Anzac
Biscuits



School Dates 2024-25

Aug-24							Sep-24							Oct-24						
M		5	12	19	26		M		2	9	16	23	30	M		7	14	21	28	
T		6	13	20	27		T		3	10	17	24		T	1	8	15	22	29	
W		7	14	21	28		W		4	11	18	25		W	2	9	16	23	30	
T	1	8	15	22	29		T		5	12	19	26		T	3	10	17	24	31	
F	2	9	16	23	30		F		6	13	20	27		F	4	11	18	25		
S	3	10	17	24	31		S		7	14	21	28		S	5	12	19	26		
S	4	11	18	25			S	1	8	15	22	29		S	6	13	20	27		

Nov-24							Dec-24							Jan-25						
M		4	11	18	25		M		2	9	16	23	30	M		6	13	20	27	
T		5	12	19	26		T		3	10	17	24	31	T		7	14	21	28	
W		6	13	20	27		W		4	11	18	25		W	1	8	15	22	29	
T		7	14	21	28		T		5	12	19	26		T	2	9	16	23	30	
F	1	8	15	22	29		F		6	13	20	27		F	3	10	17	24	31	
S	2	9	16	23	30		S		7	14	21	28		S	4	11	18	25		
S	3	10	17	24			S	1	8	15	22	29		S	5	12	19	26		

Feb-25							Mar-25							Apr-25						
M		3	10	17	24		M		3	10	17	24	31	M		7	14	21	28	
T		4	11	18	25		T		4	11	18	25		T	1	8	15	22	29	
W		5	12	19	26		W		5	12	19	26		W	2	9	16	23	30	
T		6	13	20	27		T		6	13	20	27		T	3	10	17	24		
F		7	14	21	28		F		7	14	21	28		F	4	11	18	25		
S	1	8	15	22			S	1	8	15	22	29		S	5	12	19	26		
S	2	9	16	23			S	2	9	16	23	30		S	6	13	20	27		

May-25							Jun-25							Jul-25						
M		5	12	19	26		M		2	9	16	23	30	M		7	14	21	28	
T		6	13	20	27		T		3	10	17	24		T	1	8	15	22	29	
W		7	14	21	28		W		4	11	18	25		W	2	9	16	23	30	
T	1	8	15	22	29		T		5	12	19	26		T	3	10	17	24	31	
F	2	9	16	23	30		F		6	13	20	27		F	4	11	18	25		
S	3	10	17	24	31		S		7	14	21	28		S	5	12	19	26		
S	4	11	18	25			S	1	8	15	22	29		S	6	13	20	27		

-  Inset Days
-  Bank Holiday
-  School Holiday

- Half term 1 - 7 weeks 2 days
- Half term 2 - 7 weeks
- Half term 3 - 6 weeks
- Half term 4 - 6 weeks
- Half term 5 - 4 weeks 3 days
- Half term 6 - 8 weeks

Regular Community Events at School (open to all)



Family Breakfast 'Books and Breakfast'

Every Monday morning

School Hall 8:15 am – 8:45 am



Parent/Carer Tea and Coffee Drop-In

Every Friday morning (Starting 20 Sep)

Community Room 8:35 am – 9:30 am



Church at School, Led by St. Stephen's Church

Once a Month

School Hall 3:30 pm – 4:15 pm



Parent/Carer Prayer Group

2nd and 4th Monday of each month

Community Room 8:45 am – 9:15 am



For more information about these events or other ways to get involved at school, please speak to our Learning Mentor, Mrs Pruszek or our Headteacher, Mr Lowe.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Snapchat is a photo- and video-sharing app which also allows users to chat with friends via text or audio. Users can share images and videos with specific friends, or through a 'story' (documenting the previous 24 hours) visible to their entire friend list. Snapchat usage rose during the pandemic, with many young people utilising it to connect with their peers. The app continues to develop features to engage an even larger audience and emulate current trends, rivaling platforms such as TikTok and Instagram.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects on the app with people they know, they may still receive friend requests from strangers. Snapchat's links with apps such as Wink and Hoop have increased this possibility. Accepting a request means that children are then disclosing personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features. This could allow predators to gain their trust for sinister purposes.

EXCESSIVE USE

There are many features that are attractive to users and keep them excited about the app. Snap streaks encourage users to send snaps daily. Spotlight Challenges give users the chance to obtain money and online fame, and the Spotlight feature's scroll of videos makes it easy for children to spend hours watching content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat are not suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's Discover function lets users swipe through snippets of news stories and trending articles that often include adult content. There is currently no way to turn off this feature.

SEXTING

Sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature makes it easy for young people (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse. While these pictures do disappear – and the sender is notified if it has been screenshotted first – users have found alternative methods to save images, such as taking pictures with a separate device.

DAMAGE TO CONFIDENCE

Snapchat's filters and lenses are a popular way for users to enhance their 'selfie game'. Although many are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' filters on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations and create feelings of inadequacy. Comparing themselves unfavourably against other Snapchat users could threaten a child's confidence or sense of self-worth.

VISIBLE LOCATION

My Places lets users check in and search for popular spots nearby – such as restaurants, parks or shopping centres – and recommend them to their friends. The potential issue with a young person consistently checking into locations on Snapchat is that it allows other users in their friends list (even people they have only ever met online) to see where they currently are and where they regularly go.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add function helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this feature could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).

CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

Talk to your child about what is and isn't wise to share on Snapchat (e.g. don't post explicit images or videos, or display identifiable details like their school uniform). Remind them that once something is online, the creator loses control over where it might end up – and who with. Additionally, Snapchat's 'Spotlight' feature has a #challenge like TikTok's: it's vital that your child understands the potentially harmful consequences of taking part in these challenges.

CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

Snapchat has recently announced that it is rolling out a new safety feature: Users will receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check Up' encourages users to delete connections with users they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.

KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Your child can send Snaps directly to friends, but Stories are visible to everyone they have added, unless they change the settings. If they use SnapMaps, their location is visible unless 'Ghost Mode' is enabled (again via settings). It's prudent to emphasise the importance of not adding people they don't know in real life. This is particularly important with the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchatters to see the places your child regularly visits and checks in. Additionally, it's important to be cautious about Shared Stories as this allows people who are not on your contact list access to the post.

TALK ABOUT SEXTING

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it is important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sending, receiving or sharing explicit images, as well as the possible emotional impact. Emphasise that your child should never feel pressured into sexting – and that if they receive unwanted explicit images, they should tell a trusted adult straight away.

BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending explicit images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and choose report or block. There are options to state why they are reporting that user (annoying or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



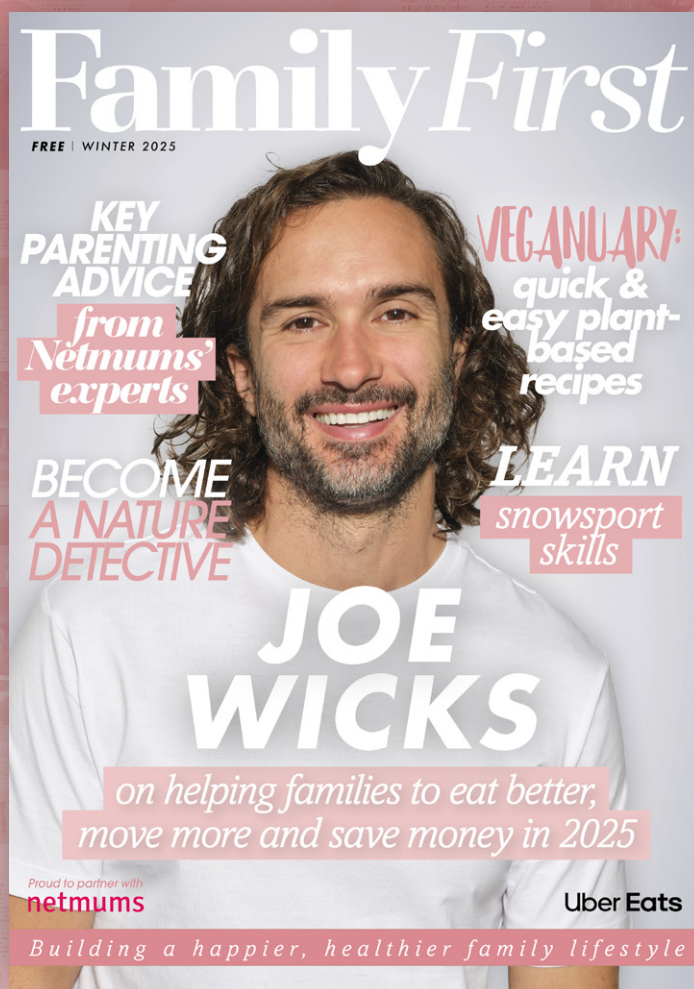
National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: Status of Mind Social media and young people's mental health | Life in Lines – Children's Commissioners Report | <https://support.snapchat.com/en-US/Help/verify-real-identity-on-snapchat> | <https://www.independent.co.uk/technology/snapchat-status-of-mind-report/news-2021-young-people-and-sexting-attitudes-and-behaviour-research-findings-from-the-united-kingdom-new-zealand-and-australia>

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