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TEMPLE HERDEWYKE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter

12th December 2025

In this week's newsletter:

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From Mr Hibbert

Christmas Productions

I would like to open this weeks newsletter with a big well done to all the children involved in both the Nursery singalong, and the School production. It created an amazing Christmassy feeling around the whole school community - and is one of my absolute highlights of the whole school year. One of our school missions is for children to work as part of a team, believe in themselves and be confident to face challenges; and it was fantastic seeing the children show the self belief and confidence when appearing on stage. I would like to also use this as an opportunity again to show my thanks to parents in supporting the children learn the songs and lines as well as ensuring children are in school - not always at their usual time, to perform. Also I'd like to again thank the staff who all worked so hard in putting both productions together - a special mention needs to go to Naomi and Miss Loveday for their roles in leading both of these productions - the shows they put together were really high-quality, 'christmassy', magical and special.

A Big Thank You to Our PTA!

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) for their support and dedication during this festive season. The PTA has been so valuable in raising funds and adding the special sparkle to our school. They have worked so hard this Christmas period in organising various events, and those who attended the Extravaganza would all agree it not only brought joy to our students but also fostered a strong sense of community which is so important. I know it is busy in the festive period, and often these events feel like another financial pressure over an already demanding Christmas period, I can reassure you that in January there is a quiet period from the PTA, and that all PTA events are optional, we are ensuring this is clarified on posters and when we are communicating events with children.
I cannot emphasis how important the extra sparkle they add into the life in the school. I know children really enjoyed this added magic when attending the Pantomime which was heavily funded by the PTA. In January we will have 2 new areas of the school - a DT area and a library. These funds will be spend on not only reducing the cost of school trips, but we plan to be spending buying resources for both areas; cooking resources and ovens for our DT area - so that children can have more cooking, engineering and design technology within the curriculum; as well as shelving, comfy cushions and new books for the library to make it a magical place and further bring the love of reading into our school.

Support during the Christmas Period

As mentioned above, we know this time of year can be demanding on budgets. For those children registered with the school for Pupil Premium, 2 different letters have gone out offering support - household support fund letters - (offering HUGG supermarket vouchers - £140 per house, plus £70 for each child,) as well as winter HAF letters (offering 4 sessions of free childcare and food over the winter period.) Please check your inboxes and Spam folder if you haven't received this. If you believe your child is entitled to Pupil Premium please contact the school office, not only does it provide additional financial support and free school meals, but give extra finances to support your children within school (criteria can be found here: Pupil premium: overview - GOV.UK.)
Warwickshire has more information on their website around other support - including possible support for Heating, Food and Benefits you may be entitled to here: Managing money and debt – Warwickshire County Council

Finally I would like to promote a scheme happening in Woodford Halse (about 10 minutes away) called the Community Food Larder, which has lots of end of shelf life products - including lots of fruit, vegetables and bread. Every Tuesday, for £5 or £10 donation, you are given a number of points to spend in the shop - a typical £10 shop in the Larder provides with the equivalent of £50 worth of produce based on supermarket prices. More information can be found on their website: What to expect | Food for Thought or Facebook page.

Finally, the school can make referrals to Kineton Food bank, please contact Mrs Bartlett in the office over dojo or email. This will be treated with confidentiality.

Navigating Mobile Phone and Technology Use

Every year our biggest number of bullying and safeguarding concerns comes down to mobile phones.
Since September concerns have included:
• Speaking to strangers online,
• Sending nasty messages that could be considered bullying,
• Using inappropriate language aimed at other children,
• Searching and viewing inappropriate content,
• Sharing inappropriate content over messaging services with other children,

• Messaging late at night - sometimes well beyond midnight, affecting sleep and mental well-being.

We come closer to Christmas, and inevitably many parents will feel the pressure from children to buy smartphones. It is a problem and an issue that no other generation of parent has needed to navigate. Use of Mobile phones constantly causes problems for families and young people - especially when they are not monitored. I know many parents regret the day mobile phones and tablets took hold of their children. There is a big movement, now also supported by Children's author Oliver Jeffers, to have a smartphone free childhood, which is one I agree with from both an internet safety point of view, and recognising the addiction and mental health impacts smartphones have upon young people - his illustration around this really emphasises this. There are now many primary schools setting up contracts with parents saying they won't buy their child a smartphone whilst at Primary school - however I feel this is a decision for parents, and not my place to request or enforce. I do however, know it is important as a parent to listen to and seek advice, please find below the best advice I have stolen from a range of organisations over the past few years.

Set limits, enforce limits and have a no phones in bedrooms at night rule.
Phones should be kept out of bedrooms overnight. This helps ensure children get proper rest and aren’t exposed to late-night messaging or online activity. There are apps which can do this - and block content and set limits when they can not use the device at all.

Talk About Their Digital Lives
Just as you ask about their day at school, make time to talk about what’s happening online. Ask about what they are playing, who they’re chatting with, what platforms they’re using, and how they feel about their digital interactions. This teaches children to speak to you if something happens which they are not happy with - just like they would do if it doesn't happen on a screen.

Check In Together
If your child is using messaging services, sit with them weekly and look through messages together. This isn’t about invading privacy—it’s about teaching responsibility and awareness.

Speak about the “Gran Test”
Encourage children to think before they send a message: Encourage them to think 'Would I be comfortable showing this message to my grandma/favourite teacher/headteacher?' If the answer is no, it’s probably best not to send it.

We appreciate your support in helping children navigate the digital world safely and kindly.

Oliver Jeffers

There is always someone that can

HELP

Parents and Carers - During the Christmas holidays the Safeguarding team want to remind you that support is available

Warwickshire family information service

Looking for some help and advice? Try visiting Warwickshire FIS website for lots of free advice and guidance available to all Warwickshire residents
Website - www.warwickshire.gov.uk

Family support helpline and face to face consultations

Family support workers are available across Warwickshire to listen, support and offer advice and guidance to families and professionals.
To speak to a family support worker over the telephone, call 01926 414144 option 1, then option 2, Monday to Friday between 9am - 4pm
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/children-families/service-changes-children-families/2

Warwickshire Refuge

If you are experiencing domestic abuse of any kind in Warwickshire, Refuge's regional Domestic Violence and Abuse Service can support you and your children to keep safe.
Call Refuge's Domestic Violence and Abuse Service Warwickshire Helpline on 0800 408 1552 (Monday-Friday 8:30am-8:30pm) to speak to one of our support workers.
www.refuge.org.uk

Worried about your mental health?

Wellbeing for Warwickshire is 'joined-up' support service for adult mental health that can meet a number of needs in a way, and a time and a place, that suits people best. For ease of use, the service has a single phone number **0800 616171** and a single website address **www.wellbeingforwarwickshire.org.uk** and these are available for Warwickshire residents 24/7, 365 days a year.

Worried a child is at risk of significant harm?

If you have concerns that a child is suffering ANY form of neglect, abuse or cruelty, contact Family Connect immediately on 01926 414144.
Lines are open from: Monday to Thursday: 8.30am - 5.30pm Friday: 8.30am - 5pm
Out of hours
If you have an emergency outside of usual office hours, please contact the emergency duty team immediately on 01926 886922.
Emergency contact
If you think that a child is at immediate risk, contact the police immediately on 999.

Stowe Valley

There is always someone that can
HELP
During the Christmas holidays the Safeguarding team want to remind you that support is available
Childline
You can talk to us about anything. No problem is too big or too small.
Telephone 0800 1111
Runaway Helpline
If you are thinking about running away, if you have already run away, or if you have been away and come back.You can also contact the Helpline if you are worried that someone else is going to run away or if they are being treated badly or abused.
Telephone 116 000 www.runawayhelpline.org.uk
Samaritans
24hr service offering emotional support.
Telephone 116 123 Email jo@samaritans.org
Look Ahead
Works with vulnerable people throughout the UK, those with learning difficulties, mental health, young people and the homeless.
Telephone 0333 010 4600 www.lookahead.org.uk/
Stay safe young minds
If you feel overwhelmed, or like you want to hurt yourself, support is available for you to talk things through. You deserve help as soon as you need it.
Telephone 0800 068 4141 Text 85258
Kooth
Safe, anonymous online community and counselling for young people
Kooth.com
Stowe Valley

SENCO

Mental Health in Schools Team

Tips For Wellness

Sleep

Our bodies need sleep and rest to help us function every day. When we are sleeping, it gives our brain and body time to repair and regenerate, re-energise and improve our motivation. We also need sleep to be able to process information, problem solve, learn new things and concentrate (you might notice you find it particularly difficult to focus at school after a bad night's sleep!) Sleep also benefits our mental wellbeing, by helping us to regulate our emotions and mood.

It is important to find time for our brain to completely 'switch off' and rest, to take some time out of our busy day to stop, take a break and do something that promotes our wellbeing!

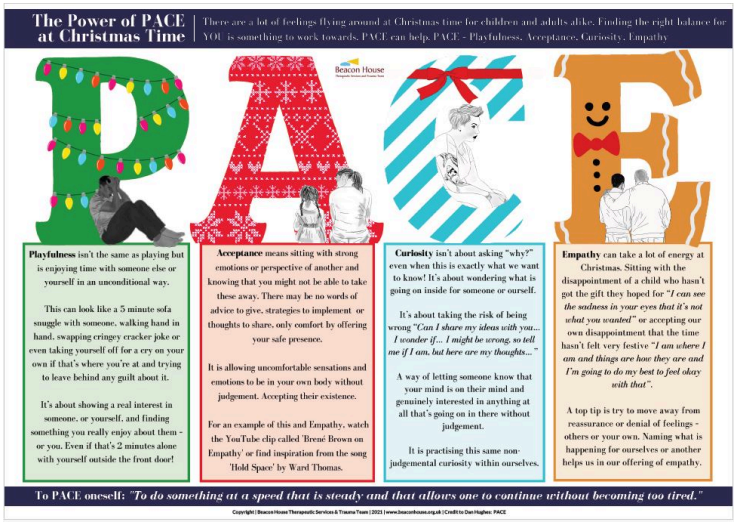
Our tips for improving sleep:

1. **Maintain a regular sleep schedule** – this includes going to bed around the same time every night, as well as waking up at a similar time every morning (even on weekends!) Sleeping in later than normal can disrupt the body's circadian rhythm, which can lead to more tiredness.
2. **Create a calming environment** - dim the lights an hour before bed. Keep the room dark, if possible, try using an eye mask or black out blinds. A cool bedroom and slight drop in body temperature can help us to go to sleep.
3. **Reduce electronics** – using electrical devices before bedtime is one of the main reasons we have sleep difficulties. The light exposure on the screens can trick our brain into thinking it is still daytime, which stops our body from being able to wind down and feel tired! Turn devices on night mode or leave outside your bedroom to limit temptation.
4. **Minimise daytime naps** – napping during the day can make it harder to fall asleep at night, they also break up sleep (which means lower quality sleep and fewer benefits).
5. **Complete homework after school** – getting stuck into homework tasks before bed can delay tiredness, as our brains are busy trying to concentrate! Try to do activities that relax you before bed, to help you switch off from schoolwork.
6. **Spend time relaxing** – you may want to have a shower or run a warm bath, listen to calming music, read a book, journal or keep a diary from the day, stretch, meditate, or spend time with a pet.
7. Scan the QR code for more helpful information and **sleep tips!**

In Coventry and Warwickshire, for any urgent mental health concerns, contact the Children and Young People's Mental Health Crisis support available 24/7, by calling NHS 111. Alternatively, call 999 or visit A&E in an emergency, for example if medical attention is required.

MHST are available to support you and your school throughout the school year including term time and school holidays.

Please contact your school's Mental Health Lead for information and advice.



Safeguarding

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

Working together to keep our young people safe

Primary | December 2025

Stowe Valley
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST
SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION

In this issue:

- New devices, new apps
- New devices, safe starts

As Christmas approaches, many families are planning to surprise their children with a new phone, tablet, or gaming device under the tree. It's an exciting time - new technology opens doors to creativity, learning and connection. But it also brings a fresh set of questions about what apps and online spaces children might explore.

With so many options available, it's natural to wonder which apps are suitable for children and how to ensure they have positive experiences online. To help families navigate these decisions, here is a closer look at some of the most concerning apps and platforms.

Reddit

What is it?
Reddit is an extensive online discussion platform with 'Subreddits' on various topics.
What are the risks?
It features unmoderated or explicit content, including adult themes and misinformation. Users can privately chat with others through comments or direct messages.

Kik

What it is?
A messaging app that allows users to send texts, photos and videos without linking to a phone number - only a username is needed.
What are the risks?
Kik has minimal age verification and a reputation for anonymous interactions. Children can be contacted by strangers and messages can't easily be monitored.

Telegram

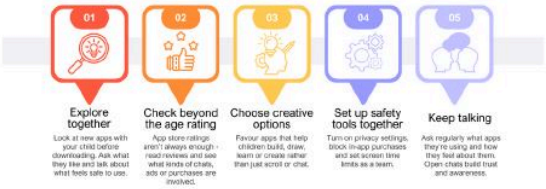
What it is?
A messaging service known for encrypted chats and large group channels, often used for community discussions or file sharing.
What are the risks?
Telegram's 'secret chats' and disappearing messages make it difficult for parents to supervise activity. Some public groups share mature or illegal content.

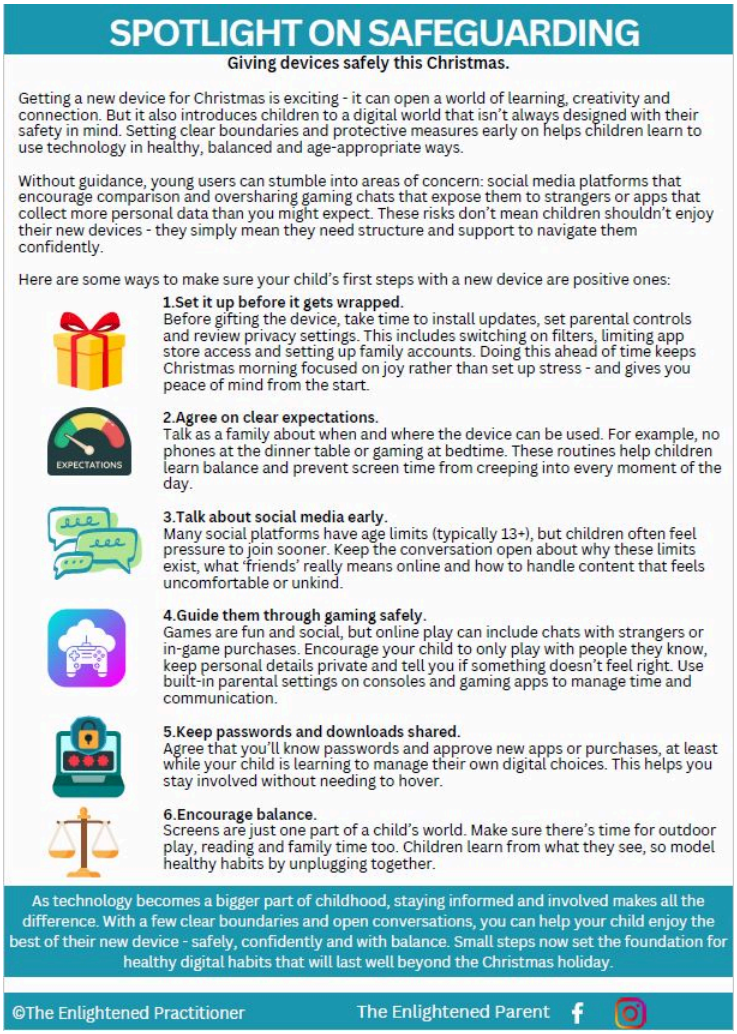
Vault apps

What they are?
Apps designed to hide photos, videos or other apps behind a disguised icon or password. Some look like calculators or utilities.
What are the risks?
Used to conceal messages or content. If you notice one installed, it's worth having an open conversation rather than assuming wrongdoing - curiosity often drives their use.

Before your child dives into their new device, it's worth taking a moment to explore which apps are right for them. Here are a few simple ways to make sure the apps they use are age-appropriate and child-friendly.

How to choose child friendly apps:





Temple Job Vacancies

We currently have the following 2 job vacancies within school, with another vacancy also going live next week.

- Midday Supervisor — 7.5 hours a week
- Teaching Assistant TA1 - 15 hours a week

Please visit stowevalleymat.com/vacancies for more information.
Stowe Valley Multi Academy Trust | SAMpeople Recruit

From the office

ParentPay, lunches, and wraparound care

Please ensure if you require school dinners for this term that they are all booked in.

To ensure our kitchen can plan ahead, please book your child's lunches in advance, before Thursday of the week before.

The same goes for Breakfast Club and After School Clubs.

Early After School Club ends at 4.30pm, and if you are late to pick up, your child will automatically be booked onto Late Club at a charge of £5.

Late After School Club ends at 5.30pm.

Studybugs

Please ensure you have downloaded and registered for the Studybugs app.

We use Studybugs to report your child's absence due to illness efficiently and securely.
If you haven't already, please register for Studybugs and use it to let us know when your child is unable to attend school. It's quick, easy, and automatically reminds you to keep us posted. By using Studybugs, you'll also be helping the NHS and other public health organizations improve children's health.

Get the app or register now

Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

Have you recently checked your eligibility for free school meals? If not, it might be worth your while. Even if your child already receives universal free school meals, you might qualify for free holiday activities and food. This could also bring in additional funding for the school.

Please use the following link.
Free School Meals and Pupil Premium information

School Uniform

Please ensure that the school's main colour for uniform of Royal Blue is adhered to.

Whilst there is no obligation to purchase school uniform with a logo, we do have a range of items available from Zeno Sportswear should you wish to choose this option. All the essentials, such as polo shirts and t-shirts are available as well as waterproof forest school suits, skorts, hats, PE hoodies and bags.

The link for the uniform shop is here: Zenosportswear

Our uniform and kit list can be found here: Uniform and Kit List

STUDYBUGS

Useful Links

Internet Safety Guides
Group Chats
Screen Time
Toddler Screen Time
Age Ratings
Horror Games
Supporting Mental Health and Online Safety
Warwickshire School Admissions - Primary School Places
Warwickshire School Admissions - Secondary School Places

Warwickshire Cost of Living Website: Warwickshire services are working together to help people find the information they need to manage increased household costs. This is a difficult time for many people and finding direct support can be hard.
National and local links to services are listed on this page as well as information on related topics. Cost of Living

Healthy Start: If you are pregnant, or have a child under four, you may be eligible for a healthy start card to help buy food and milk. Once activated, the card is regularly topped up with money to enable you to buy certain types of milk, infant formula, fruit, vegetables, and vitamins. You can apply online through the Healthy Start website: Get help to buy food and milk (Healthy Start)

Household Support Fund: Warwickshire County Council's Local Welfare Scheme aims to support vulnerable Warwickshire residents most in need of financial support with food, energy and water bills. For more information please contact:
Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme - 01926 359182 or 0800 4081448
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme

For information about wider support from the council and other services, go to:
https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/costofliving

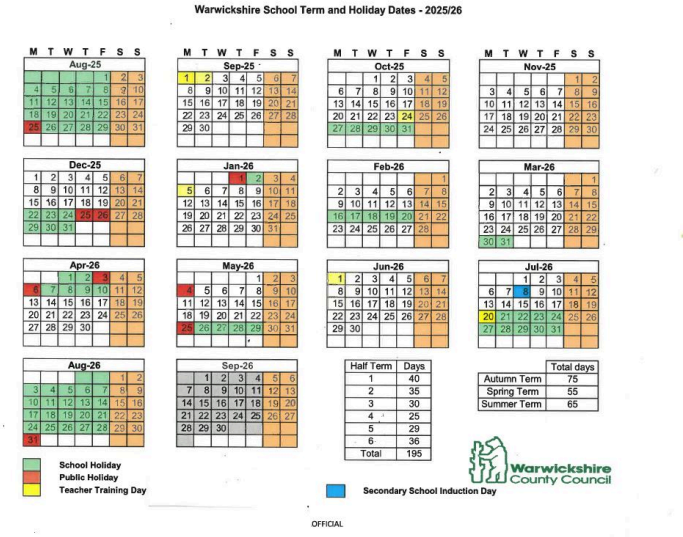
Free School Meals and Pupil Premium information

Free School Meals

Important Dates

16th December - *Nursery Christmas Party 2pm - 3pm*
17th December - *Christmas Jumper Day*
17th December - *Christmas Dinner Day*
18th December - *Christingle Assembly 1.30pm*
19th December - *Last day of Autumn term - Merry Christmas!*
22nd December - 2nd January - *Christmas Holidays*
5th January - *School Closed - Teacher Training Day*
6th January - *School reopens - Spring Term*
8th January - *Young Voices 2026*
9th - 12th February - *Scholastic Book Fair - 3.15pm every day*
16th February - 20th February - *Half Term*
23rd February - *School reopens*
23rd - 27th February *- Year 5 & 6 Dol-y-Moch Residential*
27th March - *Last day of term*
30th March - 10th April - *Easter Holidays*
13th April - *School reopens - Summer Term*

2025 / 2026 Term Dates



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