

Newsletter Friday 4th April 2025

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Information for Parents



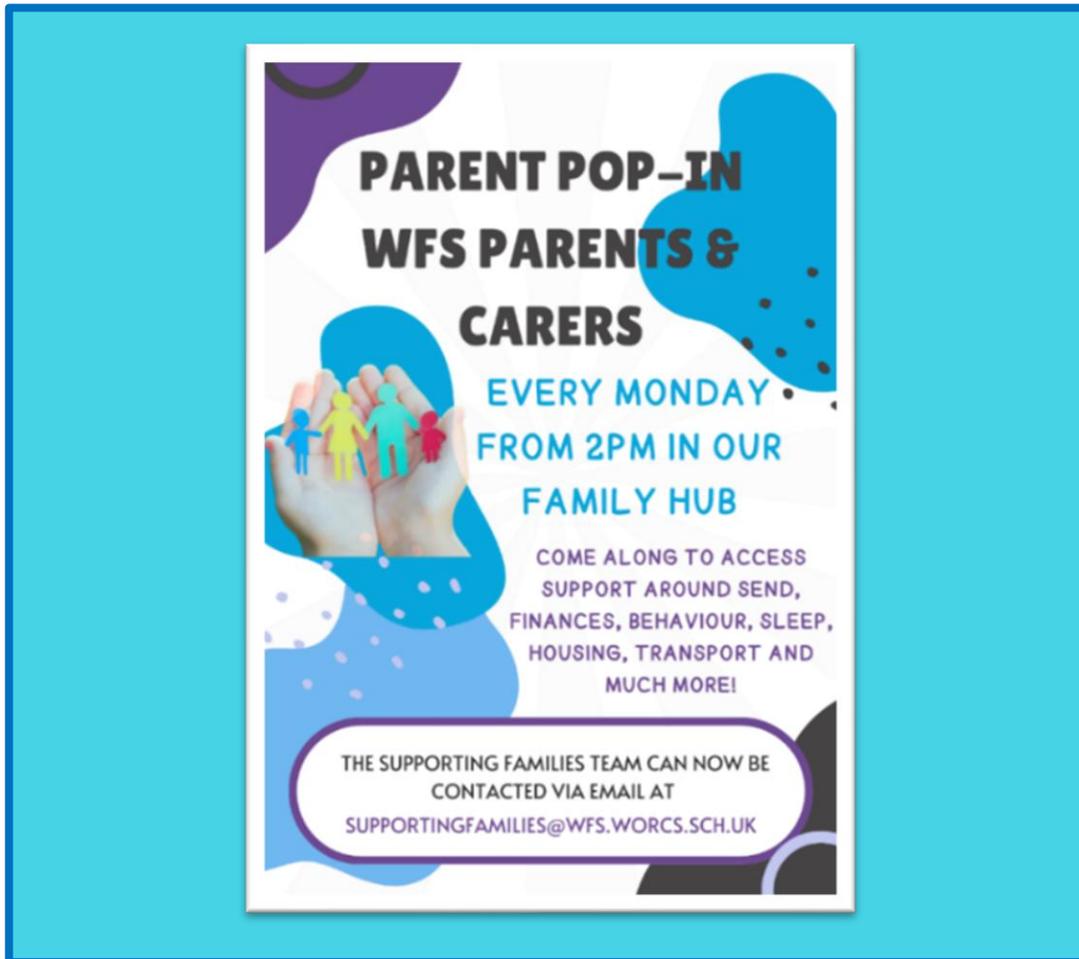
It has been a difficult week for our school community.

We have had lovely stay and plays, celebrated my 50th birthday and celebrated Autism Awareness Day but on the 2nd April we received some shocking and upsetting news.

It saddens me greatly that I have to announce the sudden and unexpected death of our kind, loving and caring colleague Carole Horton. Carole had been in school working on Tuesday, so to receive the news on Wednesday morning was difficult for us all to process.

Carole had devoted her life to her family and caring for children with SEN. She worked at The Alexander Patterson School, then Blakebrook and with us at Wyre Forest School. She always checked in on everyone and delighted in the small steps of progress our children achieve. We miss her and can only imagine what her family are currently going through, and I know you will want to join our WFS Family in sending them love and prayers.

Eligible parents/carers will receive their Free School Meal voucher by **email** on Wednesday 9th April.



Calendar Dates

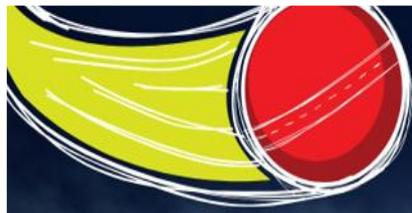
Please find information and times of school events on the MyChildAtSchool (MCAS) App.

Please enjoy articles this week from classes in Post 14

11P visit Kidderminster Hospital



For Our Community lesson, 11P visited Kidderminster Hospital. We spoke about the different departments and the work that the hospital staff do to help people in the Wyre Forest area.



11P plays

CRICKET



IN OUR PE LESSONS
WORCSTERSHIRE CRICKET HAVE
BEEN TEACHING THE CLASS HOW
TO PLAY CRICKET. WEVE BEEN
TAUGHT BATTING, BOWLING AND
FIELDING SKILLS.



Independent living skills

11P have continued this term to work on budgeting when planning their meals and sitting together to eat a meal. Harry and Callum have been working hard on setting a table and washing and drying up. It would be great if students could practice at home.



Reading for pleasure



11P made themselves a relaxing reading area in the classroom. They have been independently choosing books suitable for their age and interest and will often discuss/recommend books with their friends.



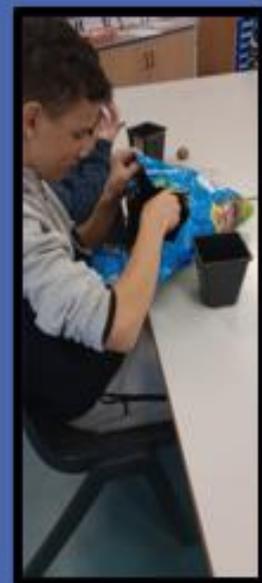
Working together in a group.

OCR Accreditation.



As part of their accreditation, 11P worked together to plant potatoes. They started by chitting the potatoes, once the sprouts appeared the group planted one each into a pot. As they are working on a group work task, each pupil chose a job and identified ground rules.

We are hoping our potatoes grow so we can use them in our cooking lessons.



10SD News



10SD

This term 10SD have been combining using facilities in our community with cooking simple meals. Each week, the group has chosen what they want to cook, sourced recipes and then shopped on the Thursday before cooking on the Friday, sometimes we walked to Sainsburys. We've made wraps, baked potatoes, Pizza, pasta meals. We have learnt to use the claw and bridge techniques when cutting or chopping and what can and can not go into a microwave. The groups independence is growing and their confidence to find and interact with staff at Sainsbury's has been amazing!

Our Enterprise project is an Easter based one, and we are selling our Cookie and Egg combo presents on the last friday of term! Get your orders in quick!! The group have been painting the (fake) eggs, designed posters to advertise and will be cooking up the cookies this week in readiness for next week!

The group are making good progress across the board and we are all very proud of their efforts!!



11H



NEWSLETTER

SPRING
TERM

LOCAL PARK SURVEY

11H have completed a survey on 4 local parks for Wyre Forest county council. This involved trying out equipment, making suggestions on how the park and accessibility could be improved and which parts need updating and giving suggestions of how the park could become more inclusive to all. Pupils of 11H have come up with some fantastic suggestions and are excited to see if any are taken on board and used.



Community/Careers

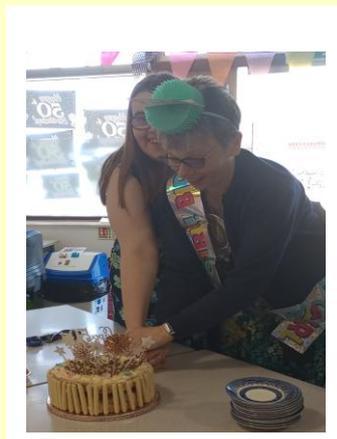
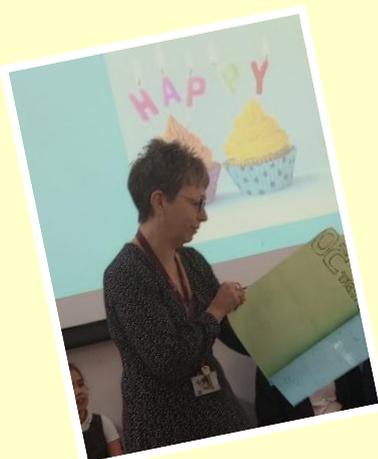
VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering this term we have fed cows, dug up bushes and replanted in an area they are trying to encourage natural growth and we even searched for treasure in an area where we found pottery pieces and other interesting items.





Bec's 50th Birthday Celebrations





Communication and Interaction News and Information



Welcome back,

In this section we have lots of information on visual resources you can access for Spring/Easter from Widgit.com.

There can be lots of activities happening over Easter which can make some children feel anxious, this is because they are used to their routine and will find change a little difficult to manage.

One way to help prepare a child for and young person with change and to understand what is happening is to use a visual planner.

Widgit.com have produced a fabulous visual weekly Easter planner to help you plan activities for your family.

The days are visually represented and split into morning and afternoon. Add your own, photos, symbols and text.



Weekly Easter Holiday visual planner

[Widgit Symbol Resources](#) | [Easter Holiday Planner](#)

Here are some other great resources on Widgit.com for Spring/Easter:

- Spring pack with lots of games, stories and activities
- [Widgit Symbol Resources](#) | [Spring Pack](#)
- A simple easy to follow picture recipe for Easter biscuits
- [Easter Biscuits](#) | [Widgit](#)
- Create your own Easter card using this template which is available to customise and colour. Also provided are a range of Easter themed templates to cut out and decorate. When complete, the templates can be added to your Easter cards and decorations.
- [Easter Cards](#) | [Widgit](#)



Hope you have lots and lots of fun!!!

Kind regards
Communication team



Widgit
CENTRE



24.03.25

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

ANIME

Anime, which originates from Japan, is currently one of the most popular sources of entertainment in the world. This style of animation goes back to the mid 20th century, with a broad audience ranging from children to adults. Known for its epic stories, anime often crosses over with video games and other avenues of pop culture via adaptations or spin-offs – such as *Cyberpunk: Edgerunners*, an anime web series based on the popular video game, *Cyberpunk 2077*. The most common intersect, however, is manga: a form of graphic novel from which most anime is adapted.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some people assume that anime is safe for children purely because it's animation. However, a large amount is actually geared towards adults, often featuring swearing, graphic violence and nudity. Many anime series follow dark storylines, such as *Cyberpunk: Edgerunners*, which has swiftly become known for its extreme gore, sexual content and disturbing depictions of mental health conditions.

COMMON CROSSOVERS

It's easy for children to get drawn into anime through its many crossovers into video games, such as *Fortnite* and *Call of Duty*, while anime art styles are often used for other products, due to its popularity. Titles like the RPG *Genshin Impact* may look quite cute and accessible, but its loot-box mechanics can introduce young players to behaviours that have much in common with gambling.

DECEPTIVE APPEARANCE

It's easy to mistake anime graphics for a sign of harmless, child-friendly content. This style (big eyes, colourful hair and cute voices), however, can disguise some extremely adult themes. *Yandere Simulator*, for example, strongly resembles a child's game at face value, thanks to its art style, but in reality it features incredibly dark themes such as murder, kidnapping and torture.

ROBLOX REPRODUCTIONS

There are hundreds of user-created Roblox games which take their inspiration from anime and manga. While many of these titles will be perfectly age appropriate, there are some that prefer to focus on the storylines of adult and horror anime. *Death Note*, for example (based on the manga and anime series of the same name) would probably be extremely disturbing to most younger players.

MATURE MANGA

The majority of anime is adapted from manga: a form of Japanese comic book. Manga usually features an age rating on the back cover, and it's worth bearing in mind that just because it's a comic, that doesn't mean it's suitable for youngsters. In fact, most popular manga leans heavily towards darker subject matter, which is unquestionably aimed at an adult audience.

ADULT THEMES

Hentai is a type of manga, anime and video game which revolves around characters engaging in explicit sexual encounters. While anime of this kind is usually only found on pornography sites, some gaming platforms – such as Steam – do allow the sale of these titles (referred to as "H-Games" in the community) and even feature them on the front of their store page when sales are on.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DO YOUR RESEARCH

Despite all the problematic content, there's still a lot of anime out there which is completely child friendly. *Pokémon* and *One Piece* are all long-running anime shows which have family-friendly stories and content. Make sure you check for age ratings and content warnings on streaming platforms when deciding if a particular anime series is suitable for your child.

WATCH WITH YOUR CHILD

Anime covers a multitude of topics, so it's easy to find something that the whole family can enjoy. Anime shows typically involve action and adventure, superheroes, romance, comedy and much more. Watching this content alongside your child isn't only a way to spend quality time together – it will also help you to spot quite quickly if there's potential for any difficult topics to arise in the show.

IT'S NOT JUST TV

Anime is most often in the format of a TV series, but it is also presented as films. Studio Ghibli is often referred to as 'the Japanese Disney' due to the quality and number of films they produce. Most of their movies are fine for children, though they often feature more mature subject matter than western animation: *Grave of the Fireflies*, for instance, is set in Japan during the Second World War.

CHECK GAMES' FEATURES

Often, crossovers with video games simply involve using anime characters as 'skins' to modify the appearance of characters while playing (as in *Fortnite*, for example). If your child's interested in an anime-inspired game that you're unfamiliar with, however, look online at the game's features and for any content warnings to gain a clearer idea of what your child might be exposed to.

Meet Our Expert

David becomes an expert specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and AR/VR. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as *Fortnite*, *Apex Legends*, *Roblox*, *Borderlands* and *Minecraft*. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://archive.org/details/cognitivelife0003unes/page/n5/mode/2up> | <https://www.nationalonlinesafety.com/parents/parents-13-18>
<https://www.nationalonlinesafety.com/media/1014/media/1014-01-01-2023>



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Russell House News



Here at Russell House, we engage in many wonderful activities, as highlighted in our newsletter. However, what you may not always see are the essential independent skills we develop every day. Our students work on valuable life skills such as money management, personal hygiene, communication, cooking, and cleaning. This week, we would like to showcase the daily efforts our students put into building their independence.



