



Newsletter Friday 19th December 2025

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Information for Parents



The Christmas Fair was such a success we sold out early!! Thank you all very much for your support and a MASSIVE thank you to the Friends of WFS.

We have raised a total of £2435.73! We are expecting an additional £300 for Class Fundraising (Xmas cards etc) AMAZING!

What a lovely week we have had. Pathway 1 Stay and Play and The Lodge Stay and Play were fabulous and well attended. Some of Pathway 3 were invited to Baxter College to see their concert. Of all the other schools that were invited, WFS was the best, and they have already invited us back in the summer to watch their musical.

Father Christmas enjoyed himself so much at the Christmas Fair that he visited us again today!

James the chef and his team pulled out all the stops on Wednesday and cooked a record number of Christmas Dinners - it was delicious.

We say goodbye To Amy Scott, Amie Pugh and Emma Tolley this term. We wish them all the very best for the future and thank them for their time here.

One of our moms - Suzanne Pulley has been amazing again this year. She has managed to fundraise to give all the classes some chocolate gifts and Russell House party bags for their Christmas Party. We don't know how she does it, but we are truly grateful - thank you.



On behalf of all the staff (and Molly the dog)- thank you for all the cards and gifts you have given to us. We really don't expect anything, but we are always very thankful.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we will see you
6th January 2026.





Calendar Dates

Please find information and times of school events for 2026 at the end of the newsletter.



WyreForestSchool



For Early Years parents

You are invited to a session with the Speech and Language Therapy team on **Thursday 22nd January** between **9.30-11am** at **Russell House**.

Come and meet the team and have a hot or cold drink.

The focus of this session is around:

- Intensive interaction
- Objects of reference



There will also be time for you to chat with other parents about strategies to support communication.

Please don't forget to pre-book your child's dinner choices for next term through

MyChildAtSchool

Is my child too ill for school?



It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they're unwell.

For guidance on when a child should or should not attend school due to illness, the NHS provides helpful information at:



www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school.

If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone school on the first day of your child's absence and let us know the reason they are absent.



Government guidelines explain when children need to be kept off school for certain illnesses and when they can return. These rules help protect everyone's health and make sure children don't miss school unnecessarily.



Please enjoy articles this week from classes in Post 16 & The Lodge



6RH NEWSLETTER



6RH

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER
2025

Overview

6RH have been working on their independence skills. We have been practising our road safety when we walk to the spar. In ILS we have been looking at reading packets to find out what temperature and how long items need to go in the oven for.

We enjoyed the creative day we learnt about different jobs and careers. The pupils really enjoyed the talent show and were very confident. Thank you to all those that came and supported the Christmas fayre and thank you to all the pupils that volunteered everyone had a lovely time.

Enterprise

Blossom Tree Cafe - The pupils have been working hard as part of a team. They have been promoting specials.

Hot Toppings - Have been working hard with lots of staff orders. The Christmas specials have gone down well.

Dancing Leaves - Have been very busy preparing for the Christmas fayre

External Visits

Students from 6RH have been walking to the spar to get our shopping for ILS. We have been practicing our road safety skills.

External Visitors

Nova training visited 6RH and they completed team tasks, and listened to a talk about what Nova training have to offer as an life beyond school option.

Platform education came in to talk to us about train safety and jobs on the railway. We are now planning a train journey to put in practice what we have learnt.

Reminders

- Students who are part of the Ourway group on a Thursday need to bring suitable PE wear on a Thursday for Health.
- Those not eligible for free school meals need to bring £2.53 weekly for ILS.
- Coats are required for students going off site.
- We are back in school on Tuesday the 6th of January

6EK NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2
2025

Overview

As part of our Autumn 2 timetable, 6EK have completed their Independent Living Skills sessions by cooking baguettes with different fillings. They have completed home management tasks such as ironing, and putting items away correctly.

6EK welcomed parents and carers to the coffee morning and students were able to display the skills they have been developing through the café by serving refreshments.

The students enjoyed a creative industry theme day learning more about employment within the industry. They also learnt about photography equipment and set design. The day was finished with the talent show with singing and magic tricks. It was lovely to see them supporting each other.

Enterprise

Blossom Tree Café

The Monday group have been developing their employability skills, demonstrating adaptability following roof issues at the start of the term. They are growing in confidence when serving customers independently and carrying out kitchen tasks.

Hot Toppings

The Hot Toppings team have been serving their December specials, with the Pigs in Blankets baguette proving particularly popular among customers. It has been wonderful to see the team's hard work and developing routines support the smooth running of the enterprise.

Dancing Leaves

The Dancing Leaves group have been busy preparing crafts for their Coffee Morning pop-up shop and their stall at the Christmas Fayre. They have also been developing their digital skills by creating price lists and promotional posters for the events.

External Visits

Students from 6EK joined staff from the Kidderminster Police Station for their remembrance ceremony, where they laid a wreath as a mark of respect. All students participated in the two-minute silence and represented the school exceptionally well.

As part of their community access sessions, some students have also been visiting OurWay. During these visits, they have taken part in parachute activities, winter crafts, and a boxing session.

External Visitors

Nova Training visited 6EK, where students took part in team-building activities and listened to a presentation about the opportunities Nova Training can offer as a post-school pathway.

Abi Sinclair also spoke with the class about their EHCPs and supported them in completing activities focused on their personal likes and dislikes.

Additionally, Cat from KYDT welcomed the OurWay group to a Question and Answer session, during which students learned about the youth groups available in the local area.

Reminders

- Students who attend the OurWay group on Thursdays are required to bring suitable PE clothing for their Health session.
- Students who are not eligible for free school meals to bring £2.53 each week for ILS.
- Coats are essential for any students participating in off-site activities.
- Please note that school will be closed to students on Monday 5th January.

SAY CHEESE!

A SNAPSHOT OF AUTUMN 2 WITH 6EK.



6DW

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2 TERM

What We Learned

Independent Living Skills

In Independent Living Skills we have been continuing to shop to our budget. We have been trying different roles when shopping e.g. pushing the trolley, scanning and paying for items. This term we had our Christmas dinner. We all worked together to make the dinner, lay the table and clean up afterwards.

PSHE

In PSHE this term, we have been learning about how to stay safe online. We have learnt what information is ok to share with others and what information we should keep private!

RSE

In RSE this term, we have been looking at what 'private' and 'public' means and the difference. We have looked at public and private places and behaviours. We have thought carefully about how we can be respectful at home and in public.

Enterprise

Enterprise groups have been very busy this term. Dancing leaves have been crafting and preparing for the Christmas Fayre that took place on the 13th December. The new seasonal menu has been successful in Hot Toppings. Students are continuing to develop their independence, problem solving and communication skills.

Personal Development Day

On the 4th December we had a creative personal development day. We had the opportunity to learn about photography, jobs in the creative industry and had our very own sixth form talent show!

Upcoming Events

- Thursday 22nd January - Health and Social Care Personal Development Day
- Wednesday 4th February - Life Beyond School Event

6DW NEWSLETTER



6DW NEWSLETTER



6DW NEWSLETTER





THE LODGE



THIS HALF-TERM

This half-term the Lodge have worked very hard on their independence, communication and regulation skills. The students have been completing lots of jobs around school, and learning how to communicate to meet their sensory and behavioural needs. Well done Lodge and Merry Christmas!



JOBS



CLASS



UPDATES



Reminders:
Swimming remains on Tuesdays and Thursdays
Please continue to send waterproofs for regular outdoor and forest school sessions

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

THE STUDENTS HAVE WORKED REALLY HARD ON THEIR PHYSICAL SKILLS AND LEARNING TO MEET THEIR SENSORY NEEDS. WELL DONE!



The lodge have been working hard to explore physical activity in lots of different ways to help them keep regulated. Well done Lodge!

Everyone has been working hard on their communication skills. Good job everyone!





Stay and play



SO MUCH FUN WAS HAD!



CLASS PICTURES!





Communication and Interaction News and Information



Focus: The Festive Season

Here are some festive activities your child might enjoy

A Christmas Pack from Widgit

This pack contains Christmas activities. There is a symbolised version of the Christmas story and supporting activities including:

- Two fully differentiated colourful semantics sets,
- Multiple choice comprehension cards, word mats and symbolised Christmas counting cards.
- It also includes a range of games and activities such as jigsaws, dominoes and scavenger hunts which can be used over and over again for guaranteed Christmas fun. Just click on the link below.

<https://www.widgit.com/resources/seasonal/Christmas/index.htm>



Keeping to a routine

Many children have a strong need for routine. Christmas time can be difficult for some children because their routine might be different during this period of time. If schedule and routine is important to your child, you might want to:

- Keep a daily schedule and keep it the same as possible, including on Christmas Day.
- Keep a copy of the schedule with you so if anything changes, you can change the schedule so your child can see.
- We have a now and next board template on our WFS website which can be downloaded and used as simple schedule. Please click on the link [Wyre Forest Special School - Now & Next Board](#)



Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas from the Communication Team

Kind regards
Communication team



Widgit
CENTRE

Accreditation -
Specialist Level

**Speech and
Language UK**



08.12.25

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP NEW DEVICES FOR CHILDREN

At Christmas, millions of lucky children will be excitedly ripping the wrapping off new phones, tablets, computers or consoles. However, in the rush to let young ones enjoy their shiny gadgets, many parents neglect to set these devices up safely – increasing the chances of children going online and stumbling across adult content, making expensive downloads or installing unsuitable apps. A little time configuring the device properly can save a lot of anguish later. Here are our top tips to ensure that a dream gift on Christmas morning doesn't turn into a nightmare by New Year.

PASSCODES FOR IPHONE/IPAD

If your child's getting their own iPhone or iPad, you can set parental controls that make it difficult for them to access inappropriate content or download expensive apps. Once the device is set up, go to the Settings app and tap Screen Time, then select Use Screen Time Passcode and enter a passcode. Keep it to yourself so your child can't switch the protection off.

SCREEN TIME SETTINGS ON IPHONE/IPAD

Once you've set a Screen Time Passcode you can adjust various safety settings. You could, for example, only allow communication with people from the Contacts app, place restrictions on App Store purchases and apply age limits to movies, music and web content. There are many more protective options available within the Screen Time settings section.

FAMILY LINK FOR ANDROID

Parents can manage Android phones and tablets, as well as Google Chromebooks, through Google's Family Link app. This gives your child some independence (and their own Google account) but lets parents monitor which apps are being used, set limits on content and ensure that parental permission is required to install apps. Look for Family Link in the Google Play Store.

ADD A CHILD TO FAMILY LINK

The easiest way to add a child's device to Family Link is to set it up with its own Google account. It's a good idea to create this before they use their new phone, tablet or Chromebook. Once they're logged in, open the Family Link app on your phone, press '+' in the top right and add a new family member using their Google account details. Then follow the on-screen instructions.

FAMILY SHARING ON A MAC

Families using a Mac get similar screen time options to iPhone and iPad users. Again, if you're setting up a Mac for a child, make yourself the main admin and add them as a user. This is handled through Apple's Family Sharing service, which not only allows you to put controls on child accounts but share apps and other purchases with them too. Search 'family sharing' at <https://support.apple.com>.

PLAYSTATION PARENTAL CONTROLS

With parental controls for the PS3, you'll need a PlayStation Network account (as the 'family manager') and the child will need their own account, which they should sign in with on the console. This all needs to be set up in advance, so you might want to do it before the big day. Go to PlayStation.com and search 'family account' for instructions.

DISCUSS IT WITH YOUR CHILD

If you're planning to implement any kind of restriction or protection settings on your child's new device, we'd recommend having a discussion with your young one first about what these controls do, and what they are for. If you try to impose parental controls surreptitiously or with no advance warning, don't be surprised if your child tries to find a way around them.

SET AN ADMIN ON PCS

On Windows PCs and laptops, it's important not to let your child share a general user account or be the main admin on the device. If you're booting up a new family PC or a child's own device, set it up using your own account details and you'll become the admin by default. Then set up children with their own separate account: Settings > Accounts > Family & Other Users > Add Other User.

SET WINDOWS LIMITS

Once your child's account has been created, a parent admin can go back into the Family & Other Users menu and apply limits to it. These include restricting screen time, the type of games and apps that can be installed, web filters and more. Microsoft also includes reporting tools which, for example, can email you with a weekly summary of your child's activity on the device.

TREAT AN XBOX LIKE A PC

The same control settings you use for a PC can be used to apply parental controls on an Xbox. Again, once your child is signed into the Xbox with their own account, you can then monitor and regulate their activity from a PC or web browser. Microsoft's dashboard allows you to manage voice communication through the console, so you can limit who can contact your child, for example.

INSTALL XBOX FAMILY SETTINGS

If you don't have a PC, but your child does have an Xbox, it might be easier to use the Xbox Family Settings app for iPhone or Android. Here, you can restrict console screen time (particularly handy if the console is in a bedroom), restrict communication and monitor the types of game being played. There's also a feature where you can allocate spending money for games or in-game purchases.

STAY VIGILANT

It's important to remember that none of these methods is 100% foolproof. Nobody will ever invent flawless filters or parental controls – not least because what's unacceptable to some parents is perfectly acceptable to others. So although devices' parental controls will help to keep your child safe online, they work best side by side with good old-fashioned parental vigilance.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which? PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on Newsnight, Radio 5 live and ITV News at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly about internet safety issues.



NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

IMPORTANT DATES

Please note: all the dates/times below are subject to change.

Please can we remind all Parents & Carers to keep the school office updated with any change of details, i.e, telephone numbers, addresses, list of contacts. Thank you

January 2026	
6	TERM STARTS FOR PUPILS
22	Early Years Parent Support Group at Russell House – Speech & Language Therapy Session– 9.30 – 11 am
23	Chinese New Year

February 2026	
4	Parents' Evening
4	Life Beyond School event – 3.15 – 5.00pm
5	Early Years Stay and Play - Fairytales 1.30 – 2.30pm
6	Number Day – Non-uniform day – wear something with a number if possible
9 - 13	Mental Health week
11	Safer Internet Day
16 th -20 th	Half Term
23	PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL

March 2026	
3	Holi
6	World Book Day
13	Maths Day Mother's Day Gift Shop
17	Pathway 2 Easter Stay and Play – 10.30 – 11.30 – Ash, Poplar, Willow, Rowan, Hazel 1.30 – 2.30pm – Birch, Chestnut, Hawthorn, Maple, Cherry
20	Year 9 - DTP vaccines – more information to follow
20	World Down Syndrome Day
20	Early Years Parent Support Group at Russell House - SENDIASS (Sleep Support) – Information, Advice & Support Service– 1.30 – 2.30pm
24	Pathway 1 Easter Stay and Play 9.20am-10.20am – Cedar, Alder, Larch 10.30am-11.30am – Lime, Yew, Fir, Pine 1.30pm-2.30pm – Holly, Beech, Fig, Elm
25	Pathway 4 Parent Pop In – 1.40pm
26	Early Years Easter Egg hunt – 1.30-2.30pm
27	Autism Awareness Day
27	BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM
30 th -10 th	Half term

April 2026	
13	Inset day
14	PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL
17	Vaisakhi
20	Pathway 2 Reading Celebration – 10.30 – 11.30 – Ash, Poplar, Willow, Rowan, Hazel 1.30 – 2.30pm – Birch, Chestnut, Hawthorn, Maple, Cherry
21	Post 14 Coffee Morning – 9.30 – 10.20am
23	6 th Form Coffee Morning – 9.30- 10.20am

May 2026	
1	Vesak- Act of Kindness Day (Buddhism)
9	Spring Fair – 11.30am – 2.30pm
13	Pathway 4 Jobs Event – 1.25pm (pupils only, Year 7 upwards)
21	Early Years Teddy Bears Picnic – 1.30 – 2.30pm
22	BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM
25 th -29 th	Half term

June 2026	
1	PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL
3	Eid
4	Early Years Sports Day – 1.30 – 2.30pm
5	Y8 HPV vaccines – more information to follow
8	Pathway 2 Sports Day – 9.30 – 11.00am – Ash, Poplar, Willow, Rowan, Hazel 1.15 – 2.45pm – Birch, Chestnut, Hawthorn, Maple, Cherry
10	Pathway 1 Sports Day – 1.15 – 2.15pm Secondary Playground - Cedar, Alder, Larch, Holly, Elm 1.15 – 2.15pm – Primary Playground - Lime, Beech, Fir, Pine, Fig, Yew
12	PRIDE - 6 th Form
17	Pathway 3 & 4 Sports Day – more information to follow
19	Sparkle Day Father's Day Gift Shop
23	Post 14/16 Sports Day
26	Year 11 Leavers Party – 1.45pm

July 2026	
7	Pathway 2 End of Year Celebration – 10.30 – 11.30 – Ash, Poplar, Willow, Rowan, Hazel 1.30 – 2.30pm – Birch, Chestnut, Hawthorn, Maple, Cherry
8	Early Years End of Year Celebration – 1.30 – 2.30pm
9	Parents new to 6 th Form meeting – 9.30-10.30am
13	Pathway 1 End of Year Celebration and Summer Picnic – 1.15 – 2.30pm Secondary Playground – Cedar, Alder, Larch, Holly, Elm 1.15 – 2.30pm – Primary Playground – Lime, Beech, Fir, Pine, Fig, Yew
14	Post 14 End of Year Celebration – 1.30 - 2.30pm
15	Pathway 3 Celebration Assembly – 1.30pm
16	Pathway 4 End of Year Celebration - more information to follow
17	BREAK UP FOR SUMMER

