



The Rosary School May Newsletter



May has been a busy month at the Rosary School as we proudly honoured the Virgin Mary, a very special figure in our Catholic faith and an important role model within our school community. May is traditionally dedicated to Mary, reminding us of her love, kindness, faith, and devotion to God. Throughout the month, pupils have reflected on Mary's example through prayer, worship, and acts of kindness.

May has also been a very busy month across the school, particularly for our Year 6 pupils who worked incredibly hard during their SATs. We are extremely proud of the resilience, determination, and positive attitude shown by all the children. Throughout this time, classes have continued to dedicate prayers to Mary, asking for her guidance, peace, and strength during times of challenge and celebration alike.

As we continue through the school year, we carry Mary's example with us by showing compassion, patience, and care for one another every day.

Our Catholic Faith - May the month of Mary



During the month of May, we honour the Virgin Mary in a very special way. As a school dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary, this is an important time for us to reflect on Mary's faith, love, and trust in God.

We think especially about Mary's perfect "yes" to God and how we are called to follow her example in our own lives by saying "yes" to God through our actions, choices, and kindness to others.

We began the month with a beautiful May procession to honour Mary. Children brought flowers as a sign of love and devotion, creating a prayerful and joyful celebration together as a school community. It was a wonderful way to start this special month.

As part of our celebrations, we also shared our prayers and flowers with residents at a local care home. This thoughtful visit brought smiles to many faces and helped us spread joy and kindness beyond our school community.

Throughout May, we continue to look to Mary as a guide and example of faith, love, and service to others.



Sunday Gospel



In the evening, the disciples were gathered in a room. They had locked the doors because they were afraid of the people who had crucified Jesus. Jesus came and stood among them. “Peace be with you,” he said to them. He showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord. “Peace be with you,” Jesus said to them again. “As the Father has sent me, so I now send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them. “Receive the Holy Spirit,” he said to them. “If you forgive the sins of anyone, then they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

his story reminds us that even when we feel worried or afraid, Jesus is always with us, bringing peace, hope, and courage. We are also called to share kindness, forgiveness, and peace with everyone around us.

“The extraordinary outpouring of Pentecost continues. The Holy Spirit transforms us and wants to transform the world.” Pope Francis

Parking

We would like to remind all parents and carers about the importance of safe and considerate driving and parking around the school.

We have recently noticed an increase in vehicles stopping in the middle of the road to drop off or pick up children. This has led to some children running across the road between cars, which is extremely dangerous and creates a real risk of a serious accident.

In addition, there have been instances of cars parking on the pavement. This not only obstructs access but also makes it very difficult—and unsafe—for families with pushchairs or young children to pass. There have already been incidents, and we are concerned for everyone’s safety.

Please be aware that the police have been informed and may monitor the area.

We kindly ask all members of our community to park responsibly. The community car park by the mosque is available and provides a safer alternative—please make use of it wherever possible.

Let's work together to keep all our children, families, and neighbours safe. Please take a moment to think about your actions and look out for every member of our community.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Tesco

Our application to the Tesco Stronger Starts Grants Programme has been successful, and our project – **EYFS Little Explorers Garden** – has been selected to go forward to a public vote in Tesco stores.

Voting will take place **from Tuesday 28th April until the end of July 2026**, and the outcome will determine how much funding we receive:

- 1st place: up to £1,500
- 2nd place: up to £1,000
- 3rd place: £500

This funding will make a huge difference in helping us create an exciting outdoor learning space for our youngest children.

How you can help:

If you visit any of the following Tesco stores, please take a moment to vote for our project using the blue tokens provided at checkout:

- Castle Bromwich Express (B34 7EH)
- Green Lane Castle Bromwich Express (B36 0BX)
- Erdington Six Ways Express (B23 7NR)
- Birmingham Hodge Hill Superstore (B36 8DT)

We would also really appreciate it if you could ask wider family, friends, and the wider community to support us by voting.

The more votes we receive, the more funding we can secure for our children.

Year 5 Grammar Tests

Registration is now open for parents of current Year 5 pupils who would like their child to sit the entrance test for a place at any of the grammar schools in Birmingham/West Midlands (entry to Year 7 in September 2027).

Registration can be made online by visiting the website below.

The closing date for registering is 4pm on 26th June 2026.

The test will take place on 12th September 2026.

www.westmidlandsgrammarschools.co.uk

Year 4 Multiplication Checks.

The **Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)** is a short online test for children in **Year 4** in England. It helps schools check whether pupils know their multiplication tables fluently and can recall facts quickly.

What is the Multiplication Tables Check?

Children answer **25 multiplication questions** on a computer or tablet.

- Questions cover times tables up to **12 × 12**
- Children have **6 seconds** to answer each question
- The test usually takes less than **5 minutes**
- There is a practice area before the check begins.

The check is designed to be low-pressure and helps identify children who may need extra support with multiplication facts.

Why is it important?

Knowing times tables fluently helps children with:

- division
- fractions
- problem solving
- mental maths
- confidence in maths lessons.

Quick recall of multiplication facts supports learning across the whole maths curriculum.

When does it take place?

The check takes place during a national assessment window in **June** each year while children are in Year 4.

How can parents help at home?

Short, regular practice is most effective. Helpful ideas include:

- practising little and often (5–10 minutes daily)
- chanting or singing times tables
- using flashcards
- asking quick-fire questions during daily routines
- practising division facts linked to multiplication
- playing times-table games online or offline.

Focus on helping children feel confident rather than pressured.

Useful tables to practise

Children should know all multiplication facts up to:

- 2, 5 and 10 times tables
- 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12 times tables.

Particular focus is often needed for:

- 6s, 7s, 8s and 12s.

Tips to support confidence

- Praise effort and progress
- Keep practice fun and positive
- Encourage accuracy first, then speed
- Use real-life examples such as shopping, cooking and sports scores
- Avoid comparing children with others.

Useful official information

- [UK Government – Multiplication Tables Check Information for Parents](#)
- [National Curriculum Mathematics Guidance](#)

RRSA



unicef



Mental Health Awareness Week occurs every year in May and is an ideal time for us all to think about mental health, tackle stigma, and discuss how we can create school environments that protect our mental wellbeing.

The week is based around a different theme each year, and previous themes have included nature, kindness, and body image. This year the theme was 'Action', highlighting the importance of not only being aware of mental health but also taking steps to improve our own mental health and that of others. It is incredibly important to have conversations about mental health and the everyday things that can affect it.

In school we consider mental health as part of our everyday teaching. We use our Zones of Regulation posters to help us recognise our different emotions and the strategies that can help us move into the 'Green for Go' zone. We teach the children:

- That it is usual and ok to have times when you might feel sad or worried
- There different ways to look after your mental health
- The importance of a trusted adult to speak with about your feelings.
- The importance of regular exercise.
- Why a healthy diet is important.
- Spending relaxation and fun time with friends and or family helps mental health.
- Taking part in hobbies or activities that you enjoy is important.
- Being involved in activities to help others makes us feel happier.
- Limiting screen time or access to other online platforms is good for our mental health.
- Health care – being able to see a doctor, nurse or counsellor if you need to. is ok.
- Being able to enjoy all your rights is really important.

This links to **Article 24: The Right to Health, Water, Food and Environment.**





Our Learning

LEARNING
IS
FUN

Nursery

What a fantastic month of May, Nursery has had! We began with a very special May procession to our prayer garden, where we offered flowers to Mary and said prayers to thank her.

We have also welcomed lots of new friends, who have all settled in beautifully.

This month, we started our new topic, *People Who Help Us*. The children have had so much fun learning about different roles, especially the emergency services. They have enjoyed rescuing cats and putting out fires as firefighters, checking teeth and learning how to keep them clean, and following rules while helping others as police officers. The children loved taking on the roles of doctors and nurses, caring for others and helping everyone feel better.

Our favourite role of all was being vets! The children took great care of the animals—feeding them, giving them cuddles, and making sure they were healthy and happy.

During Multicultural Week, we took a special trip to church, which was the first visit for some of our newest children. We explored the church together, said a special prayer to Mary, and talked about all the things we have been learning. We also prepared to celebrate Pentecost and loved learning about being filled with the Holy Spirit, just like the disciples.

We are now looking forward to our final half term together as we prepare for graduation and say goodbye to friends moving on to Reception.







Reception

Reception have had a very busy month!

This week, the children have been immersed in lots of exciting learning across the curriculum! In English, we have been reading *The Highway Rat*. The children wrote captivating character descriptions, using fantastic vocabulary and imaginative ideas to describe the characters from the story. They also enjoyed making caves and role-playing parts of the story, bringing the characters and events to life through drama and creativity.

As part of our learning, we also thought about healthy choices and made healthy lunchboxes for the Highway Rat. The children prepared tasty wraps and colourful fruit skewers, learning about the importance of a balanced diet while developing their chopping and food preparation skills.

In RE, we have been learning about Pentecost and how the Holy Spirit is our friend and helper. We talked about how the Holy Spirit helps us to be brave and strong to spread the good news of God. The children shared some thoughtful ideas about how they can show kindness and courage in their everyday lives.

In Geography and Art, we have been learning about Africa and exploring traditional African clothing. The children looked carefully at the beautiful patterns and colours used in different designs. Inspired by this, they created their own repeating patterns and printed their designs using a range of painting tools, producing some wonderfully creative artwork!





Year 1

Year 1 have had an exciting May with a visit to the Black Country Living Museum where they discovered what life was like for people in Birmingham 100 years ago. In history we have been looking at living memory and how life changes through the years and so the Black Country Living Museum allowed us to see first hand how people in the past lived their lives.

We visited the many shops to see how people lived and worked and the type of jobs people had and how they differ to those today such as the pharmacist back before people had free healthcare. We also learned that many children had to work to help their families instead of going to school.



At the end of the day, we spent a lesson in a school in 1920 and compared it to our own. We learned that you were not allowed to be left-handed and that one child in the family would be sent to school and then have to go home and teach the rest of their brothers and sisters what they had learnt that day.

We are glad we didn't go to school 100 years ago!

Year 2

This month, Year 2 have been learning about mass, capacity, and temperature. The children have particularly enjoyed reading and comparing different scales. It would be beneficial for them to continue these conversations at home in real-life contexts — for example, measuring ingredients while cooking, checking temperatures on thermometers, or

comparing the capacity of different containers. These everyday experiences help to reinforce their understanding and build confidence in using maths practically.

In English lessons, we have been creating diary entries based on the story of Matilda. The children have worked hard to include the key features of a diary entry, such as writing in the first person, expressing thoughts and feelings, and organising events in chronological order. They have produced some fantastic diary entries and should be very proud of their efforts.

Over the last two weeks, as part of Multicultural Week, the children have also drafted their own non-chronological reports based on Islam. The children have loved exploring facts about Islam and have included lots of interesting information in their writing, especially focusing on the Five Pillars of Islam. They have worked hard to organise their ideas clearly and use factual language to inform the reader.

As part of their learning, Year 2 have explored the importance of kindness, community, and helping others. The children have planned their own “good deed” and decided to organise a food collection to support people experiencing homelessness.

On Tuesday 19th May, we were very privileged to have Sandra from [HSBC UK](#) come in and talk to us about “Where does our money come from?” The children discussed why it is important to have jobs and how we should spend money on essentials before non-essential items. We also thought about why saving money is important and the different ways we can keep our money safe. Thank you, Sandra, for such an interesting and informative session!



Year 2 Messages



Reminder – please ensure that children bring their homework and reading books into school on Fridays. Homework books will then be handed back out on Mondays. We have noticed that many children are regularly forgetting to bring in their homework and reading books each week, so we would really appreciate your support with this at home.

YEAR 2 FOOD COLLECTION 🌟

Helping the Homeless in Our Community

💛 As part of our **Good Deed Project**, Year 2 are collecting food donations to help people experiencing homelessness. **We would love donations of:**

🥫 Tinned food

🍝 Pasta & rice

🍌 Cereal

🍪 Biscuits & snacks

📅 **Please bring any donations in by: Friday 22nd May 2026**

Thank you for your support.

Year 3

In Science, Year 3 have been busy exploring the fascinating world of forces. We have been learning all about gravity and how it affects the movement of objects. The children carried out exciting investigations using ramps to observe how objects move and to understand the effects of gravity in action. They enjoyed making predictions, testing ideas, and discussing their results like real scientists!





Alongside our Science learning, the children have also been enthusiastically preparing for the writing competition. Working collaboratively, they have been creating their own imaginative books, sharing ideas and encouraging one another throughout the process. We are very proud of their creativity, teamwork, and hard work.



In English, we have been diving into the story of Jemmy Button as part of our return narratives, using it as inspiration for our own writing. We are placing a strong focus on ambitious vocabulary, and the children have been challenged to include rich phrases such as *lapping waves*, *turbulent tides*, and *vessel* to bring their work to life.

Year 4

Year 4 have been very busy this month and have enjoyed lots of exciting learning opportunities across the curriculum. The children began the month with a special prayer service dedicated to the Virgin Mary, giving thanks and reflecting prayerfully together as a class community.

In History, Year 4 have been fascinated by their topic on Ancient Egypt, learning about Egyptian life, pharaohs, and famous historical discoveries. The children also took part in a wonderful drama workshop, which brought their learning to life and helped them explore the topic in a fun and interactive way.

Alongside this, the children have been creating beautiful Ancient Egyptian-inspired artwork and have shown great creativity and enthusiasm throughout their learning. Well done, Year 4, for another fantastic month!

Year 4 have had an engaging and creative month exploring the fascinating world of Ancient Egypt. The children have shown great curiosity while learning about daily life, beliefs, and achievements from this remarkable period in history.

A particular highlight has been their hands-on experience making papyrus, where they discovered how early Egyptians created their own writing material. This activity helped bring history to life and gave pupils a deeper appreciation of how people recorded information thousands of years ago.

The class also thoroughly enjoyed learning to write in hieroglyphics, practising symbols and creating their own messages. This sparked lots of enthusiasm and creativity, with children taking pride in decoding and producing their own pieces of writing.

Overall, Year 4 have shown excellent engagement and curiosity, developing both their historical understanding and creative skills.







Year 5

This half term, we have been learning about Living things and their habitats. As part of this, we have been exploring and comparing the life cycles of mammals, amphibians, insects and birds in Science. The children have been fascinated by the similarities and differences between each group, developing their understanding of how living things grow and change over time.

In English, we used *Cosmic* by Frank Cottrell Boyce as a writing stimulus. We focused particularly on the chapter where Liam attempts to buy a car at a dealership, which sparked great discussion about his character and the unusual situation he finds himself in.

Inspired by this, the children have produced some great writing, imagining how Liam and his passenger, Florida, might be feeling during this moment and the thoughts that could be running through their minds.

sentence stacking:

Looking out of the narrow window, I saw a beautiful rainbow lighting up the sky and it was pulling the forest like a rope.



"Should I put some fuel in?" I wondered.



We glanced at one another, nodded and then started straight ahead. "Maybe we should stop at the next service station," suggested Florida.

Sp beautiful beautiful beautiful

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Looking out of the narrow window, I saw a beautiful rainbow lighting up the sky and it was pulling the forest like a rope.

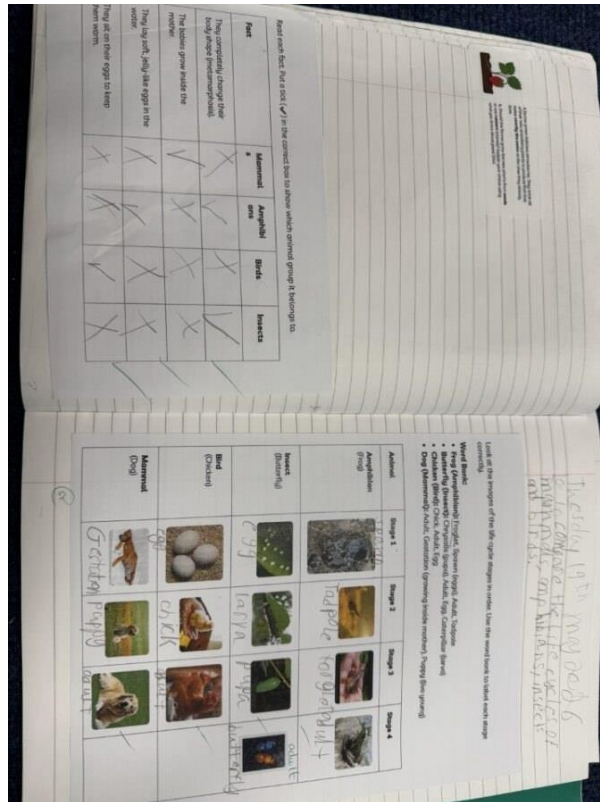


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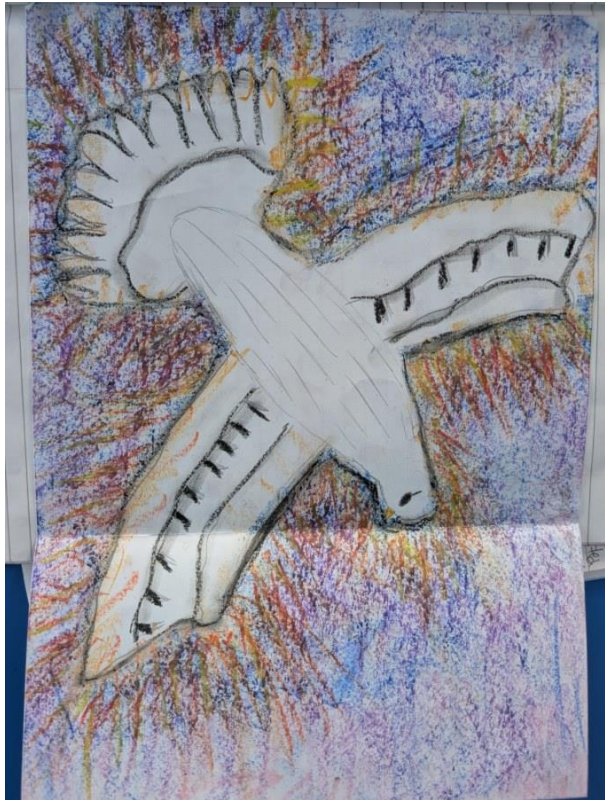


Year 6

Year 6 have been learning about the feast of Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit. As part of their work, the pupils explored the symbols of wind, breath and fire, discussing what these represent in the Christian faith. They then created their own imaginative artwork to represent the Holy Spirit, using colour, movement and symbolism to reflect the power and presence of Pentecost.







Year 6 Notices

Well- done SATS is over

Ms Sharp and Mr Dowling are very proud of all of year 6. They applied themselves well in the recent SATS tests. They focused, worked hard and the best thing is they are all done and dusted. We look forward to the results.

Year 6 Leavers

The Rosary journey for this year 6 is drawing to an end. We are starting to reflect on our time at The Rosary – for some they have been with us since Nursery! In art they are expressing their memories. They have started to make clay models for their memory boxes. If you have a spare shoe box please send it in!

Don't forget:

Afternoon Tea

Parents you are invited, Thursday 9th July to join the children in their 'Afternoon Tea' Party at 2pm.

Pupils will create the afternoon tea which will be served. They will also be able to wear their own clothes – a chance to wear their favoured outfits. It will be an opportunity to celebrate the pupils at the Rosary.

Year 6 Graduation

The Graduation will take place on Thursday 16th July at 2.30pm in the school hall. All are welcome to join.

Talkboost

This week, our Talk Boost group worked incredibly hard to uplevel their writing skills. The children showed fantastic creativity, determination, and confidence as they developed their ideas and improved their final pieces of work.

Well done to all the children for producing such beautiful final pieces of writing. We are very proud of the progress they have made and the enthusiasm they have shown throughout the week. Keep up the excellent work!



The boy the information and also the
the boy a party that party
the was of the data that party
boy costume and she was dressed
for the party she went to the
with loads and into the forest
the girl was gone out and told
the boy that he didn't go
the boy heard the news she
was devastated and couldn't believe
it. Her boy was also upset because
she was so happy for her
suddenly he had said that she
will never be better and both of them
will have a sleepover together.

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School Book Fair

FREE BOOKS
for our school!

COME TO OUR BOOK FAIR

AND FIND YOUR NEXT FAVOURITE READ!

DOG MAN
BIG JIM BELIEVES
DAVE PILKEX

DIARY of a Wimpy Kid
PARTYPOOPER
Jeff Kinney

POKÉMON
MEGA EVOLUTION HANDBOOK

Capibara Kingdom
Cora
Emma Young

The Scarecrows' Wedding
JULIA DONALDSON - AYEL SCHEFFLER

TOM GATES
PESKY PETS AND PARTIES
Liz Pichon

DATE: TIME:

LOCATION:

GO ALL IN.
National Year of Reading 2020

We are delighted to announce that we have organised a Book Fair for 8th - 15th June. The fair will be held in the school hall during breakfast club and after school. Please come along and have a look at the books on offer.

Discover books from **£2.99**

MORE NEW BOOKS YOU'LL LOVE!

All books subject to availability.

DISCOVER MORE BOOKS ONLINE!

www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/bookcases

Payment at our Book Fair

Please check with your school for the best way to pay for your books

- You may pay by card at the Fair via card reader machines if your school has one or by using the online payment link at www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay and simply selecting your school from the drop down menu.
- Pre-paid gift vouchers are available in **£5, £10, £15, £20** and **£25**. Go to www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gifts-vouchers to buy vouchers for your child before the Fair.
- If you can't attend the Fair in person, your child can order books via a Wish List - please ask your school for details.

HELP EARN FREE BOOKS

Scholastic is one of the largest providers of free books to schools via our Reward scheme which helps to ensure that as many children as possible have access to books that support reading for pleasure. Every time you buy from the Book Fair, you help to make a difference by supporting literacy in your child's setting. Last year, with your help, we gave over **£5.3M** worth of free books to schools nationwide, which stocked school libraries and classrooms.

Year of Reading

In this Year of Reading we continue to inspire a love of books and storytelling across the school. Throughout the year, children have enjoyed exploring a wide range of texts, sharing favourite stories, and developing their confidence and enjoyment in reading.

Classes have taken part in exciting reading activities, book discussions, and opportunities to read together, helping to build imagination, vocabulary, and a lifelong love of reading. It has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm shown by the children as they recommend books to one another and celebrate new authors and genres.

We are extremely proud of the progress the children are making and thank families for continuing to support reading at home. Together, we are helping every child grow into a confident and enthusiastic reader.

MAY & JUNE 2026

MORE AT [AUTHORFY.COM](https://authorfy.com)

A free children's book newsletter by **authorfy.**

BOOKDROP



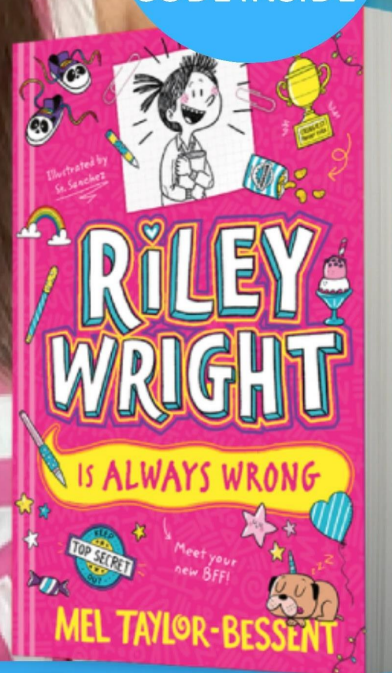
Featuring

MEL TAYLOR- BESSENT

ILLUSTRATIONS © SR SANCHEZ 2026



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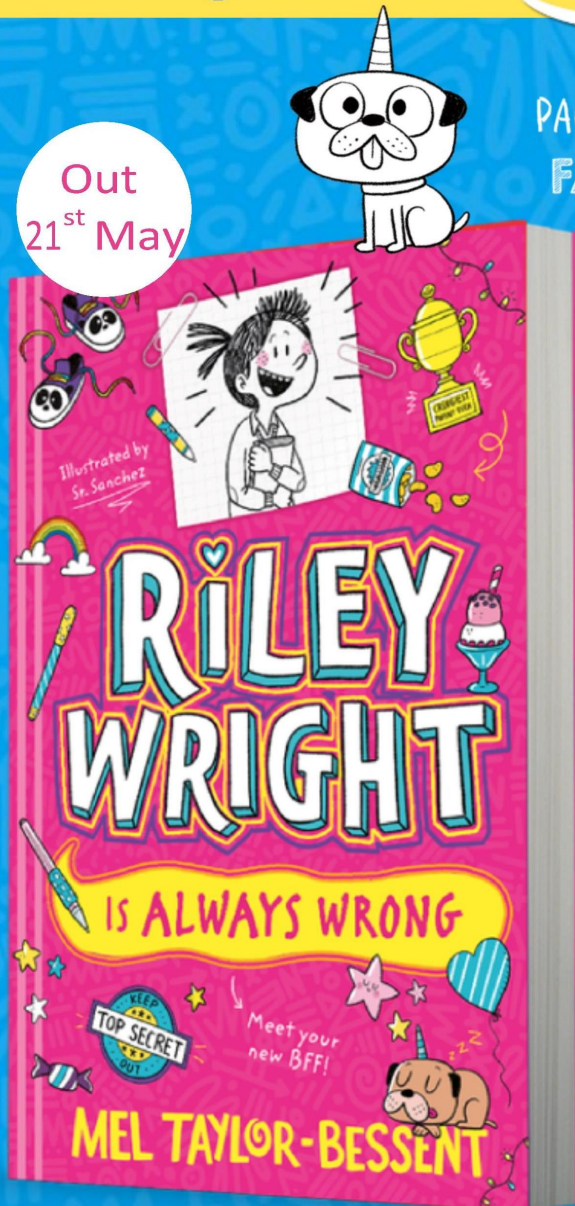
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to get 10% of

Enter the code before 11:59 on
21st May 2026 to get 10% off on
the bookshop.org website

[CLICK HERE TO
PRE-ORDER](#)

Out
21st May



PACKED WITH FAMILY, FRIENDS,
FAILS AND FAIRY LIGHTS ...
MEET YOUR NEW BFF,
RILEY WRIGHT!

My own discount
code? SO COOL!





Riley Wright is starting at Heverton Junior School with one awkward disadvantage: her MAJORLY embarrassing, cringe-worthy dad is the new head teacher! Riley has to figure out how to fit in, find a talent for the talent show, look out for her unpredictable new BFF Emmie and face down super mean girl Harper. As someone who gets a lot of stuff wrong, when will Riley finally get something RIGHT?



What inspired you to write RILEY WRIGHT?

I love diary-style books and when I realised a lot of them were for ages 9 or 10+, I thought how cool it would be to write something that 7 and 8 year olds would love too. The name 'Riley Wright' came to me on holiday last year, and once I knew she was going to be clumsy and forgetful and funny, the story came quite quickly.



Who is your favourite character?

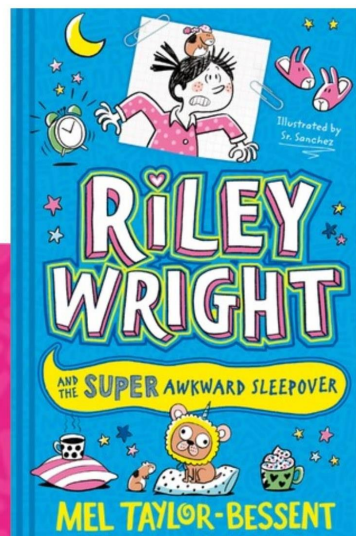
I obviously love Riley. She always tries hard and wants to do her best, but she struggles to fit in and always manages to do something wrong. She's a bit like a female Wimpy Kid in that way.

But I also love her BFF, Emmie. She's quirky, confident, loud and not afraid to be herself.



How many Riley Wright books have you written?

So far, I've written 3! Book 2 – RILEY WRIGHT AND THE SUPER AWKWARD SLEEPOVER will be out in November. **Here's the cover!**



Click here to watch Mel's video

illustrations (c) Sr Sanchez 2024

AN EXTRACT FROM RILEY WRIGHT IS ALWAYS WRONG

THE LAST THURSDAY OF THE HOLIDAYS

I'M NOT BEING FUNNY, but have you ever seen your head teacher take the bins out as soon as the sun comes up, in their tatty, too-small dressing gown and ugly superhero slippers? It's like seeing a giraffe skateboard into school. WEIRD ON EVERY LEVEL!!!!

It's even worse when your head teacher has overpowering coffee breath, chants a cheery, 'Good moooooorning, neighbour!' like they're permanently stuck on school-assembly mode – and they're . . . your dad.

I know, right?
CRINGE.

Click here to read more!



DON'T GET ME WRONG, Dad's all right sometimes.



- He buys me ALL the notebooks and pens I want. All I have to do is mention the words 'new school project' and he races to his laptop like there's a flash sale at BoringShirtsAndTies.com and orders me anything with a twenty per cent off sticker. A girl can never have enough notebooks and pens, right!?
- Dad also works a lot. So I get way more TV time than he knows about.
- And at weekends, he makes the tastiest tomato pasta with three different cheeses and not a vegetable in sight. Result!

2

But don't be fooled by my dad's love of dairy and a big online discount. When it comes to being a totally embarrassing, forever-annoying parent, he's the MASTER.

Just yesterday, he charged around the supermarket pretending the shopping trolley was a racing car. Every time he vroomed down an aisle or screeched round a corner, strangers would point and snigger or pull their phone out to film him, and I wanted the ground



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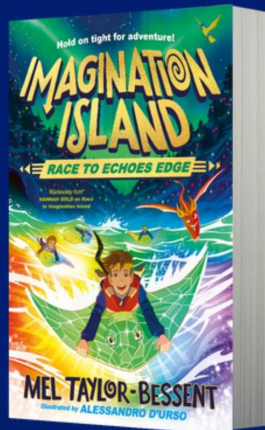


CHECK OUT MEL'S OTHER BOOKS...

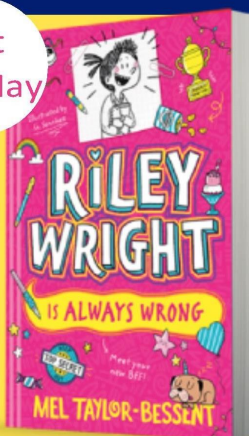
Meet the Carrolls – the funniest and most festive family in the world!



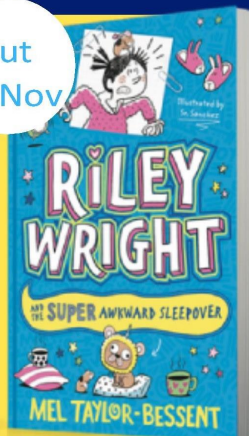
Find adventure, danger and laughs galore on Imagination Island – an island that comes to life when children use their imagination!



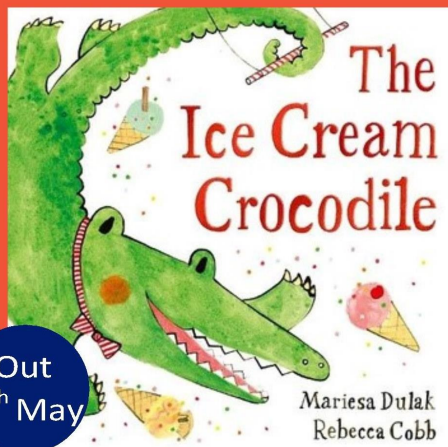
Out
21st May



Out
5th Nov



NEW CHILDREN'S BOOKS: Picture Books & Early Readers



Out
7th May

Mariesa Dulak
Rebecca Cobb

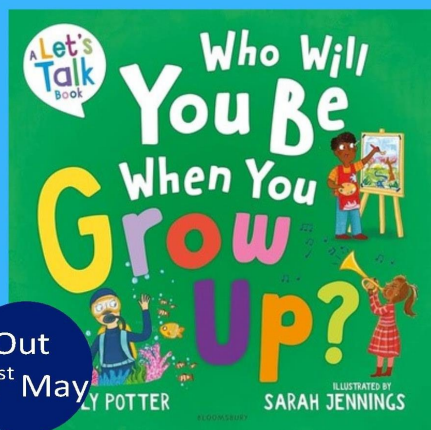
A fabulously winning story about a crocodile who will not be sidelined, from the extraordinary team behind 'There's a Tiger on the Train'.



Out
7th May

LU FRASER & SARAH WARBURTON

This heartwarming new picture book, from the bestselling creators of 'Mavis the Bravest', reassures us there is always a way to make room for us all.



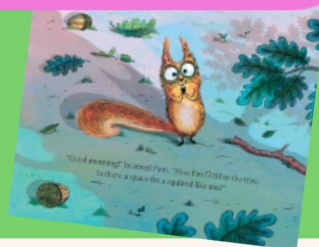
Out
21st May

J.K. POTTER
ILLUSTRATED BY SARAH JENNINGS

From bestselling early years author, this book invites children to imagine the type of person they will be in the future. Perfect for starting conversations about hopes, values and aspirations.



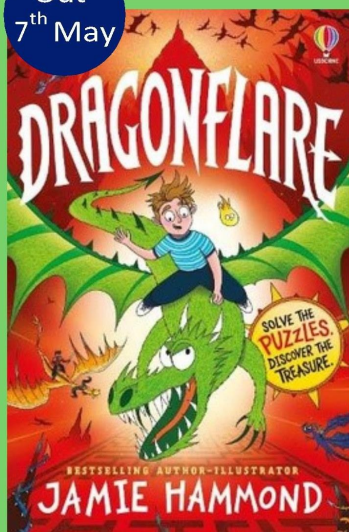
[CLICK HERE TO
READ EXTRACTS
FROM THESE BOOKS](#)



NEW CHILDREN'S BOOKS:

Middle Grade: ages 7+

Out
7th May



Solve the puzzles to find the gold in this thrilling and funny interactive dragon-riding adventure from the bestselling author-illustrator of 'Grumpfort'.

Packed with epic illustrations and fun puzzles

'A fiery, five-star adventure' – Jennifer Bell, author of Magicalia

Do you have what it takes to become a dragon rider?

[CLICK HERETO READ EXTRACT](#)

Out
14th May



Join football's freestyle phenomenon and record-breaking social media superstar Ben Nuttall for step-by-step guides to freestyle skills of all levels.

Want to learn new freestyle skills for your next game?

Or just have a laugh trying a new sport?

This is the book for you!

[CLICK HERETO READ EXTRACT](#)

Out
4th June



An original retelling of the classic Greek myth of 'Jason and the Argonauts' for young readers with a fresh and funny twist.

Laugh-out-loud funny

Fast-paced & packed with surprises & jokes

For fans of 'Who Let the Gods Out' and 'Loki'

[CLICK HERETO READ EXTRACT](#)

NEW CHILDREN'S BOOKS:

Middle Grade: ages 9+



Jacq is the daughter of giant hunters. Corman is a young giant on his first trip above ground. Two stories, two lives and two worlds collide.

'Skandar' meets 'The BFG'

A powerful, cinematic adventure

Folklore, fantasy and adventure combine in the BIGGEST debut of the year.

[CLICK HERETO READ EXTRACT](#)



Alex is part-minotaur. You read that right – part-boy, part-bull. Instead of just battling with spots the size of Mars and the looming school musical, he also has to worry about horns and hairy toes!

A hilarious, heartwarming twist on Greek mythology

Perfect for anyone who has ever felt a little bit different

[CLICK HERETO READ EXTRACT](#)



When Christopher is unexpectedly woken by a miniature dragon chewing on his face, his heart leaps for joy. For months he's dreamed of returning to the Archipelago - the secret islands where all the creatures of myth live.

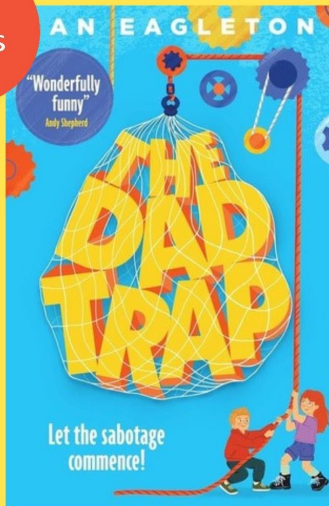
For fans of Philip Pullman, Percy Jackson and Skandar.

Book 2 in the No.1 Sunday Times bestselling series

[WATCH AUTHOR VIDEO & READ EXTRACT](#)

BOOK REVIEWS & RECOMMENDATIONS

For ages 9+

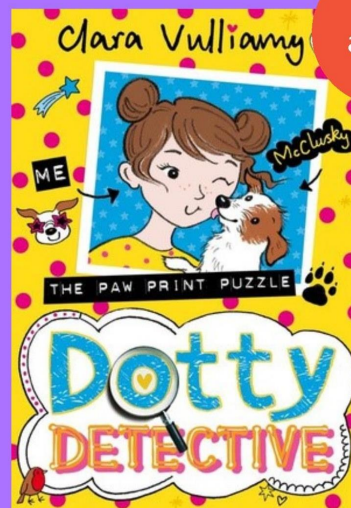


'The Dad Trap' is hilariously funny and has characters you will wish you could meet. William lives with his dad. It's just the two of them and he couldn't be happier! Their lives are bound by routine, involving grilled cheese sandwiches and murder mysteries aplenty. All is going perfectly until Ross and Florence come into their lives. Florence is a new girl at school who William has to share a desk with, and Ross is her dad. When the dads start becoming more than old friends, Florence and William unite in a bid to set a trap and break up their dads.



Primary School Teacher Mrs Vardy
[@escape_to_the_reading_corner](#) on Instagram

For ages 7+



Dot is a clever, kind character who loves dogs. In this story, her family visit their favourite farm. At the farm, there is a black and white bunny that Dot's sibling twins adore. After a few days, the fruit at home starts disappearing and the twins start acting suspiciously. Dot has to work quickly to solve the case before it ruins her mum's birthday afternoon tea. The book is engaging and interesting. It includes funny phrases in it - an example would be 'we barked up the wrong tree' when solving a mystery about an animal.



Delilah, age 9

Reading for Pleasure

Tips from the Open University team

Making time to read together

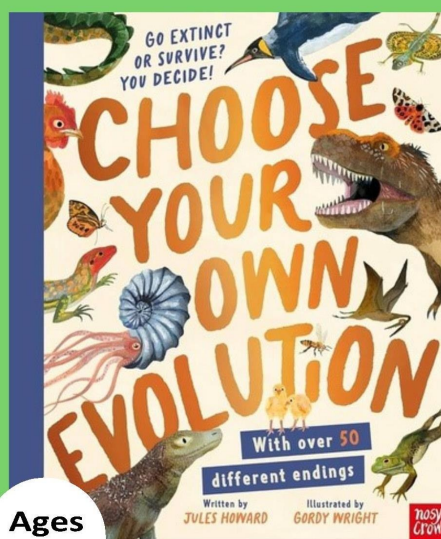
Family reading time looks different in every home. What matters is sharing the moment together.

- Dip into poetry. Repeat favourite lines and enjoy the sound of language.
- Browse magazines & newspapers. Share something interesting or surprising.
- Feed curiosity with non-fiction. Talk about new ideas together.
- Listen to audiobooks together, at home or on the move.

For other, simple ways to support reading at home, download the poster below by [clicking here](#).



The Reading for Pleasure team recommend...



Ages 7+

Vibrant illustrations

Invites fast-paced enjoyment

A great stimulus for book chat

JUMP

into someone else's story this June!

Stories build connection with ourselves, others and the world



BOOST your
empathy skills

WATCH
favourite
authors

TAKE the
Empathy
Challenge

DISCOVER
brilliant
reading
ideas

SHARE stories at a Big Lunch

Join us at empathylab.uk

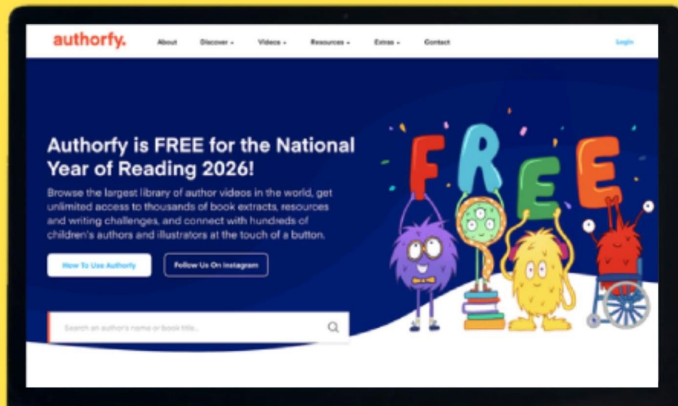


Empathy
Lab

BOOKDROP is brought to you by

authorfy.
a world of author videos & book resources

The world's largest online library of author videos, resources & book extracts

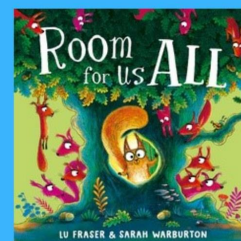
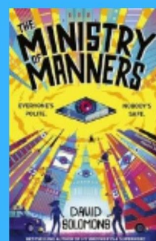
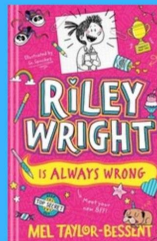
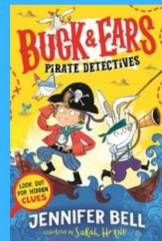
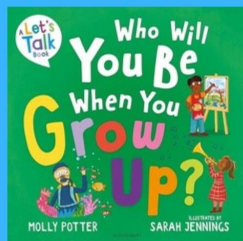
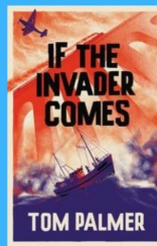
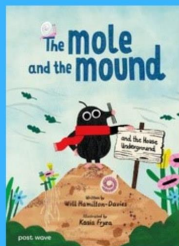


Proud to support
The National Year
of Reading 2026.

**GO
ALL
IN.**

CLICK TO BROWSE
AUTHORFY.COM

May Books of the Month on Authorfy





WRITE FOR FUN!
WITH MEL TAYLOR-BESSENT



MEL TAYLOR-BESSENT'S TOP TIPS FOR WRITING



CREATE CHARACTERS YOU CARE FOR

Give your characters strengths and weaknesses to make them feel real.



CREATE A COSY WRITING ENVIRONMENT

Relax with a blanket, a snack, fluffy socks or colourful pens as you write.



WRITE WITH YOUR EARS

Listening to music can help transport you into a setting and feel your way through a scene.



WRITE WITH A FRIEND

Writing with a friend means twice the ideas, twice the imagination and twice the fun.



PUSH THE PRESSURE AWAY

Don't worry about trying to get everything perfect straight away. Write a messy draft first.



PLAY A GAME

Go to Mel's Write for Fun YouTube account and play a fun writing game.



ADD MORE PROBLEMS

Stuck halfway through a story? Add another problem to make it more exciting, dramatic and tense.



WRITE ABOUT SOMETHING YOU ENJOY

Whether it's football, magic fairies or mutant zombies, if you enjoy what you're writing about, we'll always enjoy reading it.



NO SUCH THING AS A 'WRONG' IDEA

Your writing can be exciting, scary, magical, weird, surprising or simple. Think of one idea and see where it takes you.



WRITE LIKE AN AUTHOR

You might not be a published author, but you ARE an author. All you need to be an author is an imagination!



CHECK OUT MEL'S BOOKS!



F
FANTASY

LEARN HOW TO WRITE LIKE AN AUTHOR WITH MEL'S WRITE FOR FUN YOUTUBE CHANNEL!

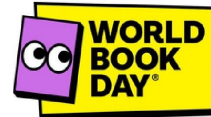


BOOKDROP!

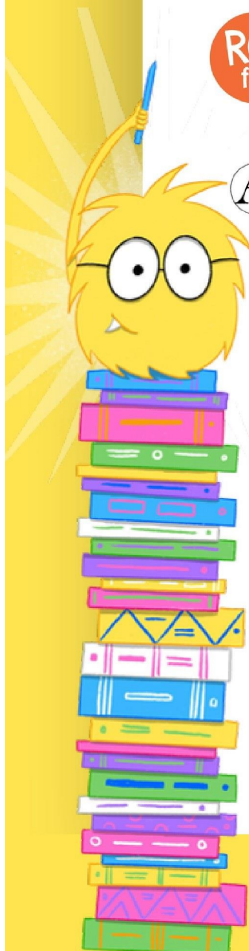
In partnership with the UK's publishing industry...



Change your story



Penguin Random House CHILDREN'S



Year 1 Phonics - What Parents Need to Know

Parents of Year 1 pupils will soon hear about the Phonics Screening Check, a short assessment designed to measure children's early reading skills. The check will take place during the week beginning Monday 8 June 2026 and is a standard part of the national curriculum in England.

The assessment focuses on phonics — the method children use to read by connecting sounds (phonemes) with letters or groups of letters (graphemes). During the check, each child is asked to read 40 words aloud to their teacher. These include a mix of real words and “pseudo-words” (sometimes called nonsense words), which are used to ensure children are relying on their decoding skills rather than memory.

The check is carried out one-to-one in a relaxed, familiar setting and usually takes just 5–10 minutes. The Class Teachers who know the children well administer the test, helping to keep the experience as comfortable as possible.

Results are used to identify how well children are progressing in phonics. There is a national benchmark, but it's important to remember that this is not a pass-or-fail exam. If a child does not meet the expected standard, they will receive additional support and have another opportunity to take the check in Year 2.

There is no need for formal preparation. However, regular reading at home, practicing letter sounds and building confidence with unfamiliar words can all be helpful. Making reading enjoyable through stories, games and shared reading time remains the most effective support.

As parents if you have any further concerns or questions please see the class teacher or Mrs. Rajbhai our Phonics Lead. The Phonics Screening Check is simply one way to ensure every child gets the help they need to become a confident reader.

Sporting News

The Rosary football team recently took part in the annual ESPSFA SEND Football Festival, playing four games against Hillstone, Paget, St Bernadette's and Timberley schools. The team played really well winning one game, drawing two and losing just the one. Well done to

Yousuf, our top scorer! However every single boy should be incredibly proud of their effort and performance.



Attendance



As a school we believe in the importance of attendance and work closely with Birmingham LA and parents to ensure that all children are in school every day. Research has shown that absence disrupts the education of the individual pupil and the whole class. Children who do not attend regularly:

- do not achieve well in exams
- find it difficult to maintain friendships
- are more likely to become involved in crime
- miss out on opportunities in further education and the world of work?

We have recently had a number of families contact us about leave in term time. As you already know a 2013 amendment to The Education (Pupil Registration) Regulations 2006, means that Head Teachers may no longer authorise leave during term time except where the circumstances are exceptional. This is in accordance with Birmingham Local Authority's 'Leave in Term Time Guidance.' If families choose to take leave in term time they may be subject to legal procedures.

A letter has been sent out explaining attendance procedures and I would ask that you read it carefully and consider the implications if you chose to take children out of school during term time. We are aware that families have been fined by Birmingham LA and this can be a significant amount of money and we do not want to see our families in this situation. Birmingham has informed us that they have issued a fine of over £1400 to a family for taking children out of school for a holiday. Birmingham have also informed us that taking unauthorised leave on more than one occasion can lead to court action.

Attendance Data for May

Nursery	91%
Rec D	96%
Rec F	93%
Year 1C	97%
Year 1R	97%
Year 2H	98%
Year 2G	93%
Year 3D	93%
Year 3S	98%
Year 4W	95%
Year 4O	95%
Year 5M	96%
Year 5L	96%

Year 6D 96%

Year 6S 96%

Well done to all our families for supporting with our drive to improve attendance. A special mention to 3S as their attendance has improved from 93% to 98% in May. Well done and keep up the hard work.

Punctuality

Attendance & Punctuality – Every Minute Counts

Being on time for school is extremely important. Learning begins as soon as children arrive, and even small amounts of lateness can quickly add up to lost learning time. For example, just 5 minutes late each day can result in several days of missed learning across the year. We want every child to have the best possible start to their day and not miss valuable learning opportunities.

Our school offers a **Breakfast Club from 8:15am**, providing a calm and positive start to the morning. School gates open at **8:30am**, and all children should be in school and ready for **registration by 8:45am**.

Arriving on time helps children to:

Settle into their learning calmly

Build good routines and habits

Feel confident and ready for the day ahead

Avoid missing important teaching at the start of lessons

Children who attend regularly and arrive on time are more likely to achieve well, build strong friendships, and feel part of the school community.

We appreciate your support in ensuring your child arrives at school on time every day.

For further information about attendance and how it is supported across the city, please visit:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20014/schools_and_learning/1502/school_attendance_advice_for_parents

E-safety tips from Mr Yasir



Each month we look at the latest guidance and support for parents navigating a digital world. This month's topic is linked to mental health week and screen time.

NHS Guidance by Age

Under 2 years

- Avoid screen time where possible, except for video calls with family and friends.
- Babies learn best through face-to-face interaction, play and communication.

Ages 2–5 years

- Aim for no more than **1 hour a day** of screen time.
- Prioritise active play, stories, singing and conversation.

Ages 5–11 years

There is no strict NHS hourly limit, but children should have a **healthy balance** between:

- sleep
- schoolwork
- physical activity
- hobbies
- family time
- offline play and friendships.

The NHS recommends:

- at least **60 minutes of physical activity every day**
- regular breaks from sitting and screens
- enough sleep for age and development
- avoiding screens before bedtime.

Healthy Screen Habits for Families

Parents can support healthy minds by helping children develop positive digital habits:

- Keep mealtimes screen-free
- Avoid screens during the hour before bed
- Keep phones, tablets and gaming devices out of bedrooms overnight
- Turn off background TV when not watching
- Encourage outdoor play and face-to-face socialising
- Watch or play together and talk about online content
- Choose age-appropriate, educational and slower-paced content
- Model healthy screen habits as adults.

Supporting Healthy Minds

Children aged 5–11 still learn best through real-world experiences. Important activities include:

- reading together
- imaginative play
- sports and outdoor activity
- talking about feelings
- creative hobbies
- time with friends and family.

These experiences help build:

- confidence
- resilience
- emotional regulation
- communication skills
- attention and learning.

Signs Screen Time May Be Affecting Wellbeing

Parents may notice:

- trouble sleeping
- irritability or anxiety

- difficulty concentrating
- less interest in hobbies or outdoor play
- social withdrawal
- emotional outbursts when devices are removed
- tiredness from late-night device use.

Helpful Tips for 5–11 Year Olds

- Create a family screen-time routine
- Use parental controls and privacy settings
- Agree on clear rules for gaming and online videos
- Encourage regular movement breaks during homework or gaming
- Talk openly about online safety and kindness
- Balance screen activities with offline interests.

Key Message

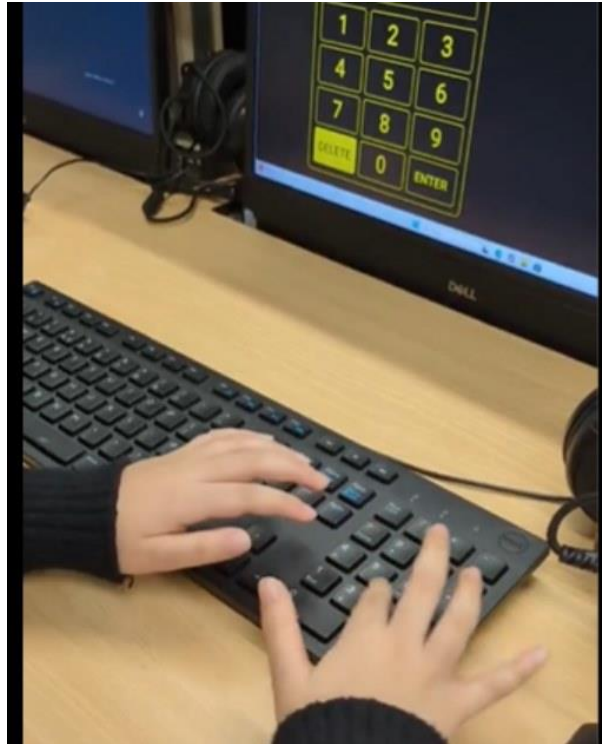
The NHS encourages families to focus on **balance, routine and connection**, rather than trying to remove screens completely. Positive relationships, sleep, movement and shared family time are the strongest foundations for healthy minds.

Useful NHS resources:

- [NHS Start for Life](#)
- [NHS Better Health – Every Mind Matters](#)

Times Tables Rockstars





Top Ten

1. Omeo Meek
2. Tyler Baird
3. Ash Slim
4. Bluebell Rush
5. Chino Raines
6. Strike Sulton
7. Hayley Vickrey
8. Jojo Jean
9. Jacob Delp
10. Jordan Bracht

Dates for the diary

Dates for Your Diary - Summer Term			
Monday 12 th April	INSET	Wednesday 17 th June	Et Haggadah working with Year 6
Tuesday 13 th April	Children return to school	Wednesday 24 th June	Year 6 trip to Arrow Valley Country Park
Wednesday 14 th April	Year 2 and 4 Football match @ Hillstone Primary	Thursday 25 th June	Transition workshops for Year 6 and for COMPASS
Thursday 15 th April	Athletics competition at Blingley TC	Wednesday 7 th July	Year 6 visit to Leamouth Museum
Friday 16 th April	Coffee evening - WHF (Years 6-6 form)	Thursday 21 st July	Year 6 Football Tournament
Monday 20 th April	Whole School Mass for Easter	Thursday 31 st July	Year 6 Leavers Assembly
Tuesday 21 st April	Parent Workshop - Ramadan @ 45mins	Friday 1 st Aug	Year 6 Leavers Mass
Wednesday 22 nd April	Year 5 Mass		School closes for Summer break
Thursday 23 rd April	COMPASS assembly for children		Whole school re-opens
Friday 24 th April	WHF Prayer workshops for Y3 and 4 (Online Safety)		
Saturday 25 th April	Year 3 Mass		
Monday 29 th April	Good Shepherd Mass		
Tuesday 30 th April	Mid-Procession		
Wednesday 3 rd May	Bank Holiday		
Thursday 4 th May	Year 2 Assembly		
Friday 5 th May	Reception Prayer Service		
Saturday 6 th May	Year 4 Prayer Service		
Sunday 7 th May	Nursery Prayer Service		
Monday 11 th May	Year 6 Q&A, Grammar and Spelling		
Tuesday 12 th May	Year 3 Prayer Service		
Wednesday 13 th May	Year 5 Q&A Headstart		
Thursday 14 th May	WHF Workshops for Year 1 and Reception		
Friday 15 th May	Year 6 Q&A Maths (Paper 1 and 2)		
Saturday 16 th May	Year 2 Prayer Service		
Sunday 17 th May	Year 5 Q&A Maths (Paper 3)		
Monday 18 th May	X22 Mass (Repeat of the Ascension)		
Tuesday 19 th May	Year 1 Prayer Service		
Wednesday 20 th May	Year 4 Prayer Service		
Thursday 21 st May	Year 3 Prayer Service		
Friday 22 nd May	Year 1 Q&A to the Black Country Museum		
Saturday 23 rd May	Year 6 Q&A Maths (Paper 2 and 3)		
Sunday 24 th May	Year 2 Mass		
Monday 28 th May	Et Haggadah working with Year 2		
Tuesday 29 th May	Year 3 Assembly		
Wednesday 31 st May	Year 1 Assembly		
Thursday 1 st June	Break up for half term		
Friday 2 nd June	School re-opens after half term		
Saturday 3 rd June	Parent workshop led by Beacon School Support		
Sunday 4 th June	WHF Prayer workshops with Year 3 and 6		
Monday 5 th June	Religious Week		
Tuesday 6 th June	Year 2 visit to Birmingham		
Wednesday 7 th June	Year 3 visit to Birmingham		
Thursday 8 th June	Year 4 visit to Birmingham		
Friday 9 th June	Year 5 visit to Birmingham		
Saturday 10 th June	Year 6 visit to Birmingham		
Sunday 11 th June	SDCHAC Sports Day (selected pupils)		

School Notices

Earrings

Can I please remind parents that children are only permitted to wear a small gold stud to school and these need to be removed for PE, in line with our Health and Safety policy. Thank you to all the parents who support school with this policy.

Contact Details

If any of your details have changed recently can we please ask that you contact the school office. This could be a change of address, or a change of phone number or perhaps a change in emergency contact details. We will then update our school records accordingly. If you wish to change the names of people on the pick-up list please contact the school office.

School Website

Please refer to the website to find out information about the school and events that are taking place in school. It is possible to sync the school calendar to your mobile phone.

Parking Arrangements

We have been fortunate to have secured arrangements to use the Mosque car park. The carpark will be open for parents to use from 8.30am until 9.15am each morning and from 2.45pm until 3.45pm every afternoon except Friday. Can we once again stress the importance of using this facility rather than parking on pavements, blocking gates and using the corner of roads. **DO NOT USE THE CHURCH CARPARK FOR PARKING.**

Once again we have a number of cars that are being parked in such a way that may endanger the lives of children including double parking. The police have issued a number of tickets to drivers and will continue to monitor parking and driving on Bridge Road. If you see anyone parking or driving dangerously you can take a picture and share on the website below.

<https://nextbase.co.uk/national-dash-cam-safety-portal/>

This can be used to prosecute drivers.

Free School Meals

If you feel your child is entitled to free school meals please contact Mrs Mahmood and she will do an online search. This will enable families to access HAF events free of charge during the holidays.

Play Equipment

Can I please remind parents that the play equipment is not for use at the end of the day especially by young children. Please keep your children with you and don't allow them to use as we do not have adults to supervise and there is a risk of accidents happening.

Early Help Offer

Please remember to visit our Early Help Offer on the school webpage where you will find information about the support we can offer as a school. If at any point you need additional support please see myself, Mrs Banks or any member of our pastoral team.

<https://www.rosaryrc.bham.sch.uk/early-help-offer/>

Safeguarding

If you have any concerns about a child please contact a member of our safeguarding team. Information can be found on our webpage.

<https://www.rosaryrc.bham.sch.uk/safeguarding/>

My Family Coach

There are times when we all need help with parenting. My Family Coach is a free online service with lots of videos and advice on how to support children at each stage of their development. Please take some time to view the resources available to support with the many challenges of parenting. <https://www.myfamilycoach.com/>

Community Notices

Free Communication and Autism Team Parent carer workshop for parent carers who would like to increase their understanding of sensory differences and ways to support their child.

Communication and Autism Team

Parent Carer Workshops - Wyndcliffe Primary School

We would like to invite you to a CAT Parent carer workshop for parent carers who would like to increase their understanding of autism and ways to support their child.

Workshops will be held over five weeks with the following themes:

- 24th February 9.15-10.45am - Language and Communication
- 3rd March 9.15-10.45am - Sensory Differences
- 10th March 9.15-10.45am - Emotional Regulation
- 17th March 9.15-10.45am - Sleep
- 24th March - 9.15-10.45am - Confidence and Independence in Everyday Life

Sessions will take place at:
Wyndcliffe Primary School (Beeches Site)
Little Green Lane, Birmingham, B9 5BG
Parent carers from all Birmingham schools are welcome to come along.



NHS
Birmingham
Community Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

ChatHealth



Do you know where I can get some health advice?

The School Health Support Service can help students with all kind of things like...

Relationships, mental health, alcohol, bullying, self-harm, smoking, drugs and healthy eating

Text the School Nurse for confidential advice and support on **07480635485**

We do not usually inform your parents, teachers or anyone else if you contact the school nurse. We might inform someone if we were concerned about your safety, but we would usually speak to you first. Your messages are stored and can be seen by other healthcare staff who follow the same confidentiality rules. We aim to reply to you within one working day and you should get an immediate bounce-back to confirm we received your text. Texts will not be seen outside of normal working hours. If you need help before you hear back from us, contact a member of school staff or your doctor. Our text number does not receive voice calls or MMS picture messages. We support messaging from UK mobile numbers only (which does not include messages sent from landlines, international mobile numbers and some 'number masking' mobile apps). Prevent the school nurse from sending messages to you by texting **STOP** to our number. Please respect your school's mobile phone policy. Messages are charged at your usual rate.

norton hall
children & family centre

After school and holiday activities for 4-16 year olds

Football club
Martial arts
After school club
Holiday care and Holiday play scheme

After school and holiday activities

f @NortonHallCFC
i @NortonHallCFC
@NortonHallCFC

QR CODE
NORTONHALLCFC

Football club Boys & girls 8-12 years
Come train and be part of a team
Tuesdays 6pm to 7.30pm
£3 per session



Martial arts 5-16 years
Help your child with their coordination, respect, concentration, behaviour, fitness and direction
Fridays 4.30pm to 5.30pm
£4 per session



Holiday care 4-14 years
Week days 8.45am to 5.15pm
Full day care, breakfast, evening snack. Packed lunch required.



After school club 4-14 years
Monday to Thursday 3pm to 6pm
Play opportunities, collections from local schools, snack included.
£48 weekly (£46 for siblings)
£14 daily (£13 for siblings)
We accept college/university finance places



Holiday play scheme 4-14 years
Week days 10am to 3pm
A range of activities including sports, creative arts, cooking, team games, workshops, off site activities, outings. Packed lunch required.

Youth groups
Boys and Girls youth groups

Contact Reece Keye or Rico Gardner-Blake... **0121 328 3043**

Norton Hall Children & Family Centre, Ralph Road, Salfley, Birmingham B8 1NA
Norton Hall Children & Family Centre is a registered charity (no. 1112752) and a company limited by guarantee registered in England (no. 9688396)

Communication and Autism Team

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