

World Book Day

Pupils across the school had a wonderful time celebrating World Book Day on Thursday. Many children arrived dressed as their favourite book characters and, throughout the day, classes enjoyed a variety of book-themed lessons. With the National Year of Reading taking place this year, the day was a fantastic opportunity to further celebrate the joy of books and encourage a lifelong love of reading.

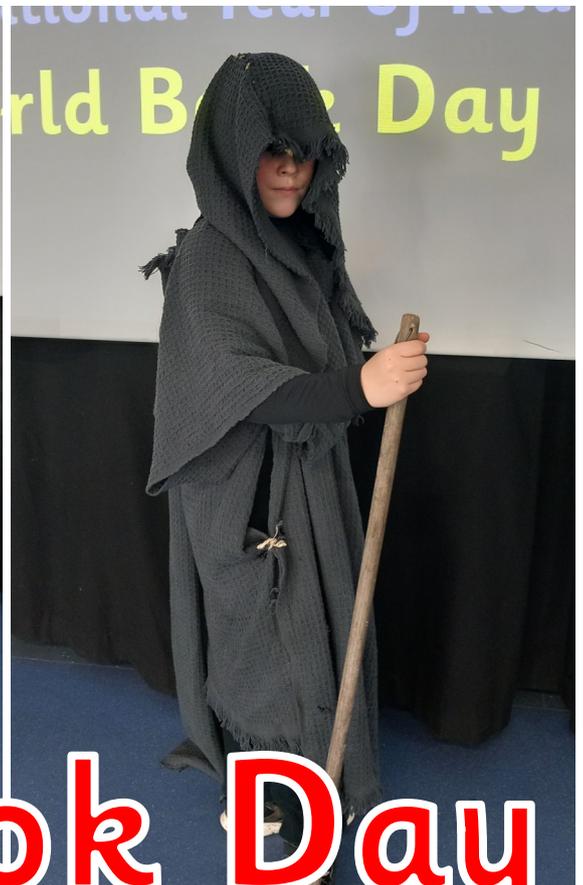
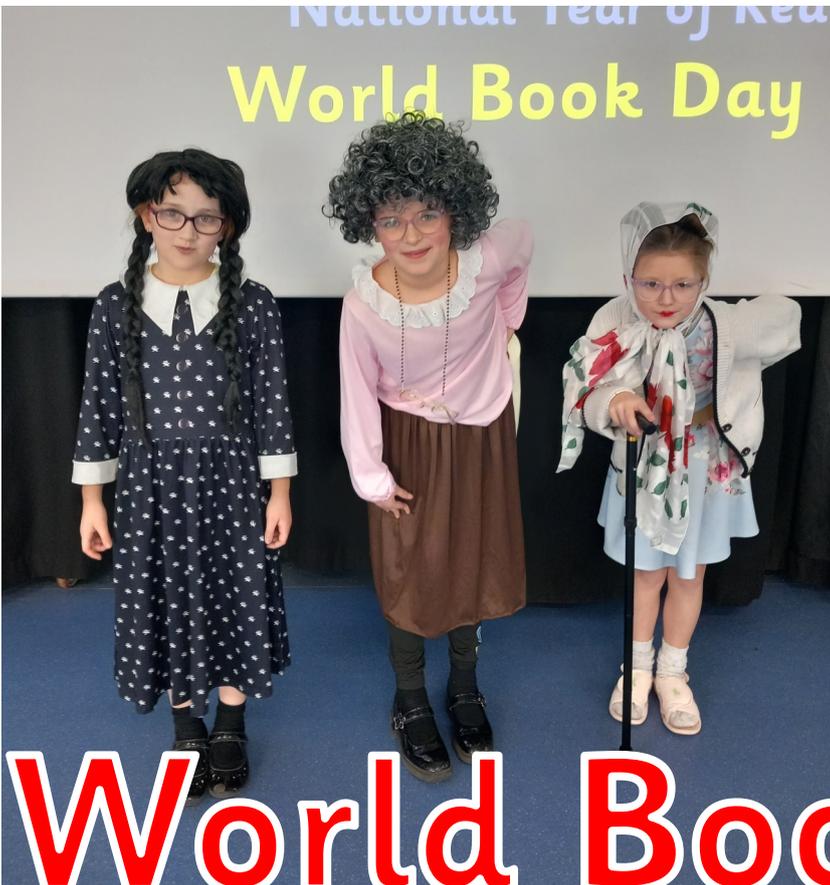
During the week, we also welcomed two visiting authors into school to inspire our young readers. You can find more information about these special visits and the activities that took place in this week's newsletter.



Convention on the Rights of the Child
Article 29: Goals of Education



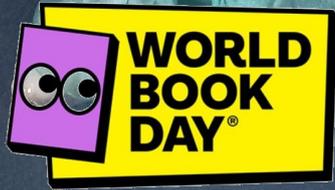
National Year of Reading
World Book Day



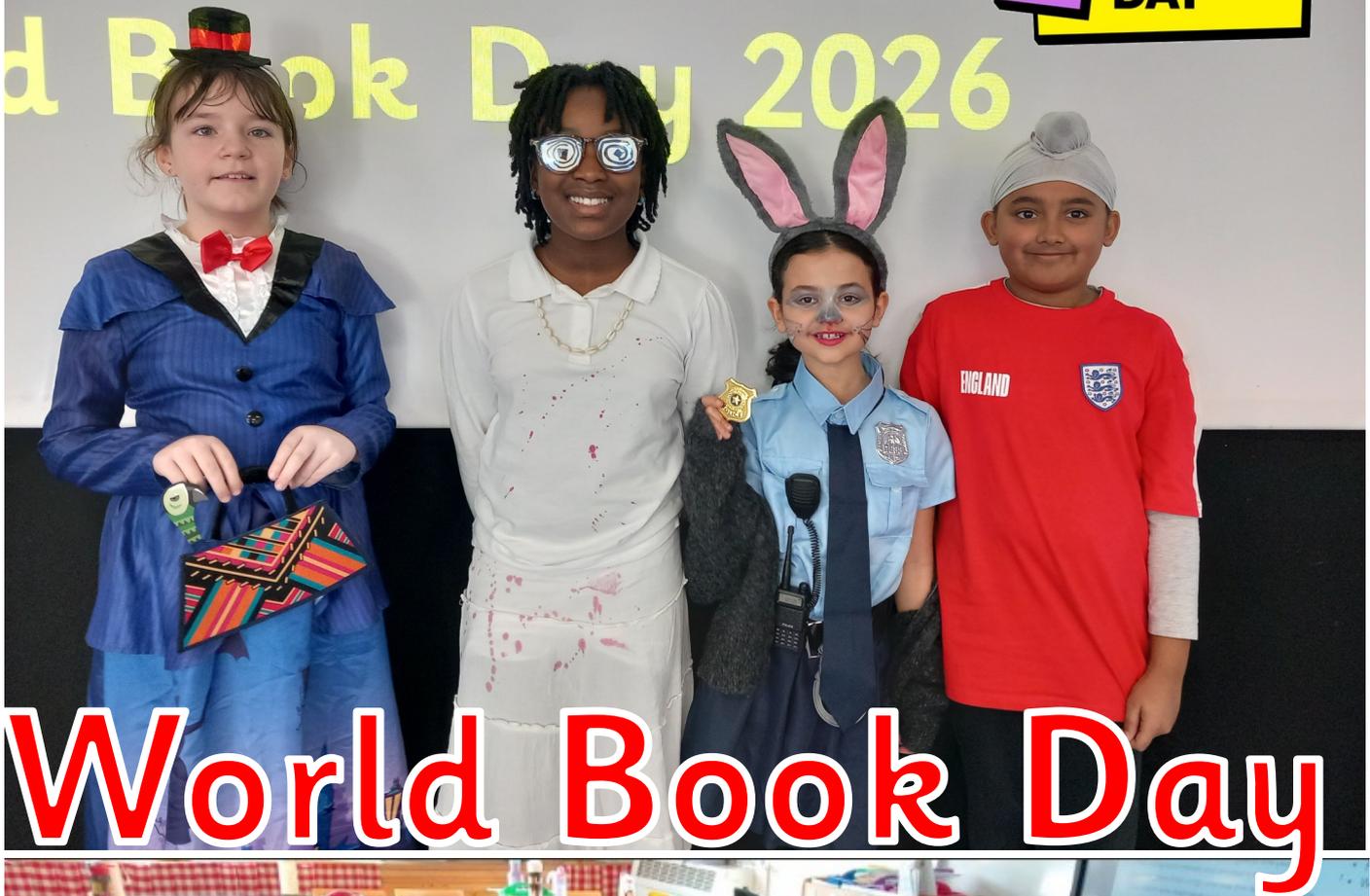
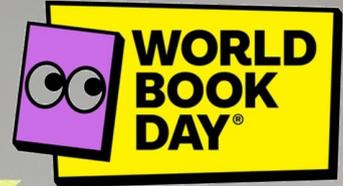
World Book Day



Here are some of the fantastic, book character costumes worn by pupils. Well done to you all.



International Year of Reading
World Book Day 2026



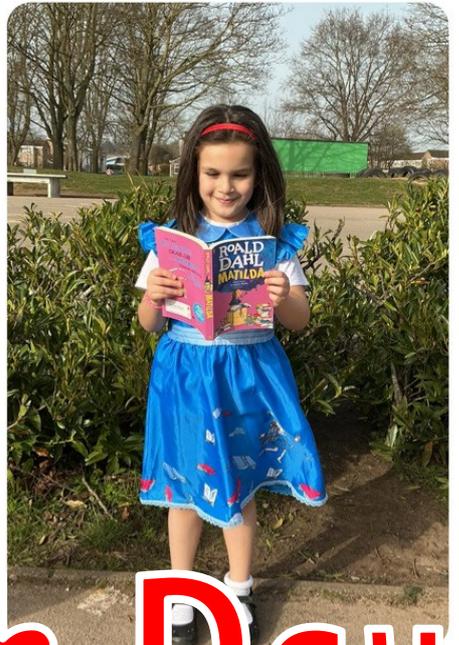
World Book Day



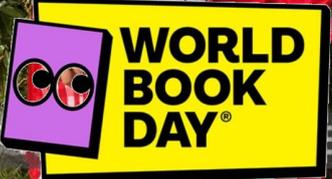


World Book Day





World Book Day





Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 really enjoyed meeting author and story teller, Cat Weatheril, on Tuesday. Cat read some of her own stories and re-told some traditional tales with the help of the children. There were lots of opportunities to join in, as you can see from these photographs of “The Enormous Turnip.”



WE HAD A SPECIAL VISITOR THIS WEEK - AUTHOR, CAT WEATHERILL!

SHE CAME TO TELL US ABOUT THE BOOKS SHE HAS WRITTEN AND TELL US SOME MAGICAL STORIES.



World Book Day

WE GOT THE CHANCE TO JOIN IN WITH THE RHYMING IN HER BOOK 'BIG BLUE SHARK' AND ASK HER SOME QUESTIONS!

World Book Day



Pupils in Key Stage Two also had the opportunity to meet a real-life author and illustrator, Steve Smallman. Steve shared his love of drawing and demonstrated how simple sketchbook doodles can become the starting point for a story.

Afterwards, he helped the pupils create a collaborative story, drawing the characters that the children described. Steve also shared some of his own picture books with the pupils, giving them an insight into his work and the creative process behind it.





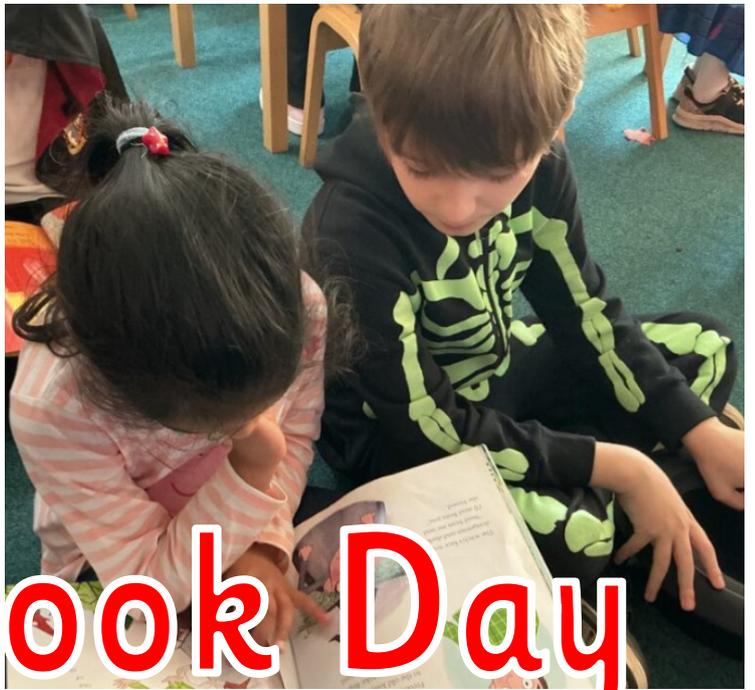
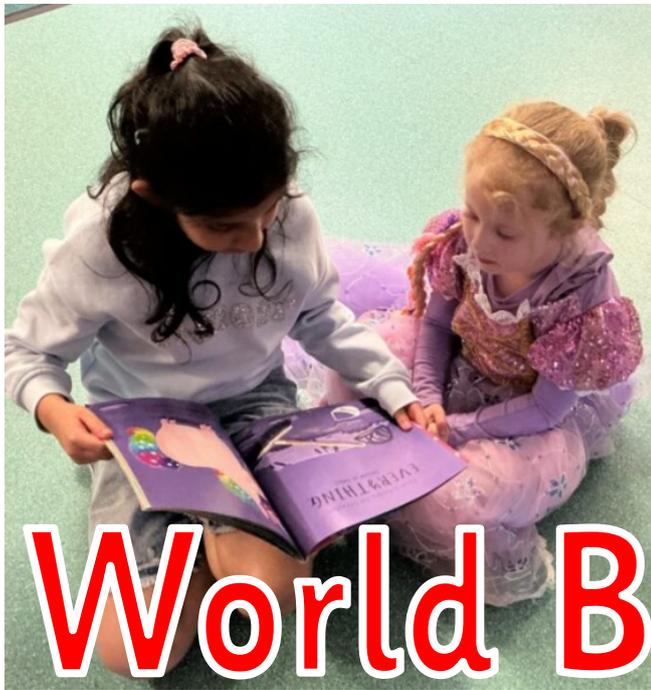
As part of our World Book Day celebrations, pupils were asked to think about favourite poems for homelearning. We saw some lovely responses featuring nursery rhymes, classic verse and even rid-



All of Me

My hands are for clapping,
 My arms hug tight,
 My fingers can snap,
 Or can turn on the light,
 My legs are for jumping,
 My eyes help me see,
 This is my body,
 And I love all of me!

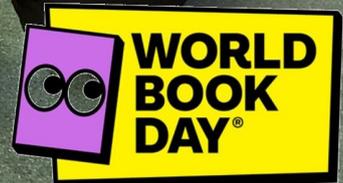
This poem was chosen by Isla.



World Book Day



As part of our celebrations, Y5 read stories to Y1. This was a lovely way to share a book.

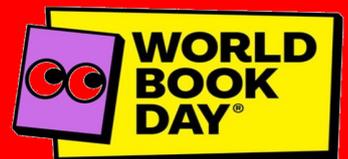




World Book Day



Lots of children enjoyed time in the library as part of World Book Day. Here are Y5 Kittiwakes reading for pleasure with a book of their choice.



Lean on Me!



**Convention on the Rights of the Child
Article 31: Leisure, Play and Culture**



Year Four are continuing to work with Motionhouse on the Wider World dance project. This week, the children explored how dancers can work together to create lifts and pyramids, focusing on balance, control and teamwork.

Pupils learned how to support one another safely while forming different group shapes and structures. They experimented with levels, positioning and timing to build strong, stable poses and expressive formations. The activity encouraged pupils to communicate clearly with their teammates, listen to one another's ideas and build trust within their groups.

Well done everyone, for the excellent work!



Lean on Me!





Convention on the Rights of the Child
Article 29: Goals of Education



Y2 Swallows presented a lovely assembly last week based on learning stimulated by the book, "Greta and the Giants." Pupils shared information about the importance of caring for our environment, something lots of children feel passionate about. Well done, Swallows!



Our RSC Ambassadors travelled to Stratford this week to work with the Royal Shakespeare Company Learning Team. Pupils explored *King Lear* in preparation for the school's Shakespeare Week in April, and also discovered how Sydenham students can contribute to a special playmaking exhibition



RSC Ambassadors



Convention on the Rights of the Child
Article 31: Leisure, Play and Culture





Holi Celebration

On Wednesday, pupils in the Rainbows group enjoyed celebrating **Holi** by safely throwing coloured powders and watching the bright colours fill the air. The activity was great fun and encouraged laughter, teamwork, and shared celebration. Holi is an important Hindu festival that celebrates the arrival of spring, the triumph of good over evil, and the spirit of friendship and forgiveness.



Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 14: Freedom of Thought, Belief and Religion



Convention on the Rights of the Child
Article 29: Goals of Education

In Art, Year 1 discussed the concepts of foreground and background by exploring a range of paintings. They then created their own artwork inspired by the Great Fire of London. The children used chalk to create fiery backgrounds before drawing the silhouette of a skyline. They carefully cut out their silhouettes and assembled their pieces to complete their artwork

WANTED!



The firebird is made of molten lead, firewood and stray embers. It sang, whistled and leapt over London roosting in the rooftops. The rooftops blaze with its bright red breasts as it

By Zoey

WANTED!



The firebird is made of smoke the heart and fish. It is flying over London with its spiky glowing wings. It is a pest burning houses with flames.

By Ella

WANTED!



The firebird is made of heat and fire. It is flying over London with its glowing wings. It is a pest because

By Ivy

WANTED!



The firebird is made of heat and fire. It is flying over London with its glowing wings. It is a pest because

By Sanaya

Fire Dragons

Here are some lovely pieces of writing from Y1 pupils who were challenged in their English lessons to create a "wanted" poster for a missing fire dragon. Pupils had to use descriptive language and some even managed to include a simile. The children finished their posters by carefully drawing a picture of their fire dragon. What lovely work!



Convention on the Rights of the Child
Article 29: Goals of Education



Cancer Research UK

FUNDRAISER

A group of staff from Sydenham Primary School are coming together to raise money for Cancer Research UK. Over the past few years, several of our wonderful colleagues have been personally affected by cancer and we want to show our love and support for them.

Among the many personal stories that have touched our school community are:

Liz Murphy, our much-loved retired Music Teacher, who has bravely battled breast cancer and our caring Teaching Assistant **Mrs Speight (Chloë)**, who sadly lost her dear dad, Kit Summerfield to cancer just over a year ago. We also fondly remember our dear colleague **Claire Moss**, who sadly passed away in 2024.

Additionally, we want to recognise there are several other colleagues who wish to remain anonymous but who have also been affected in varying ways by this cruel disease.

We are working and training hard behind the scenes to raise as much money as possible for this important cause and most importantly, to show our incredibly brave and resilient colleagues just how much we care.

Please see the following page for details of some of our fundraising events and information on how to donate.



Cancer Research UK

FUNDRAISER



On 18th April, a team of staff will be travelling to Eryri National Park in North Wales to climb Mt. Snowdon. This is a tough physical challenge and they are already hard at work, training in their spare time. Please support us by donating via the QR code.

During the week 13-17th April, the children will be taking part in a sponsored run around the school field, with:

- YR, 1 and 2 running 1 mile
- Y3 and 4 completing 1.5 miles
- Y5 and 6 tackling a 2 mile run

If all children participate, then we hope to run a grand total of 600 miles in one day - that's far enough to climb up Mt. Snowdon and back 60 times! Please support us by sponsoring your child via ParentPay.

During this week we will also be having a cake sale at school. All donations of cakes are gratefully received (no nuts please). Further details will be sent out nearer the time.





Mental Health in Schools Team Tips For Wellness



Dimensions tool



Free online personalised self-care information & support for adults and children in Coventry & Warwickshire

Nutrition

Nutrition refers to the nutrients in food and how our body uses them to stay strong and healthy. There are lots of positive benefits for our **physical health**, nutrition is also really important for our **mental health!**

Our brain works hard taking care of our thoughts, movements, breathing, heartbeat and senses (even when we are sleeping!), so we must fuel our brain with nutritious foods to help us function. This can help us to think clearly, increase our energy levels and support concentration. What we eat also affects our mood too!

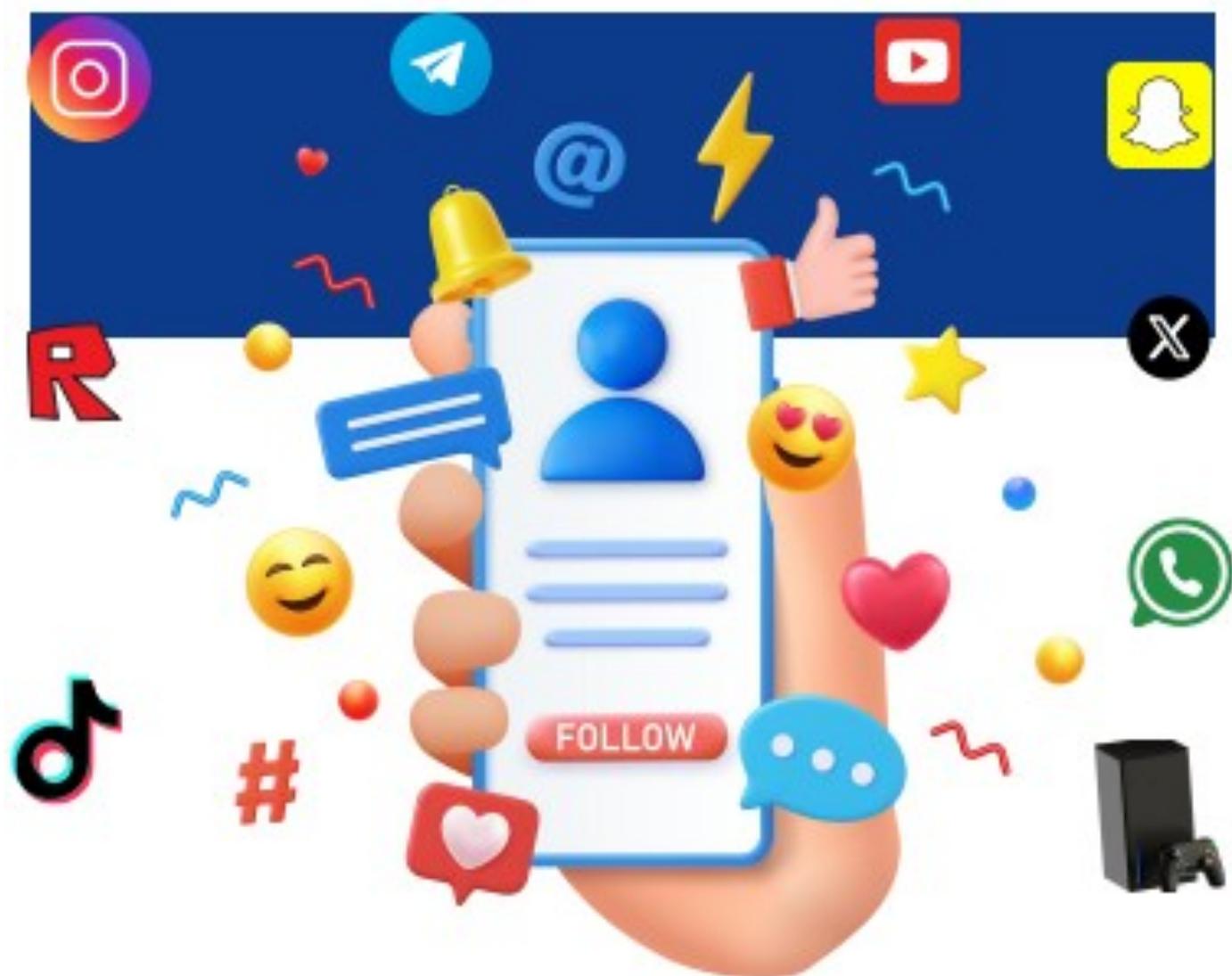
Our tips:

1. **Get involved in the cooking**– Can you help your parent/carer to prepare dinner? This can be a fun way to spend time with others and learn a new skill.
2. **Make it fun**- There are lots of different ways different foods can be prepared. You could try experimenting putting different food together to see what you like and don't like.
3. **Try something new**- When was the last time you tried a new food? It can be exciting to find out what food we like and don't like. Also, our tastes can change as we grow and develop. See if you can set yourself a challenge to try a new food this week.
4. **Keep Hydrated**- Dehydration could lead to headaches, difficulty focusing and may impact sleep. Try to ensure you are regularly drinking water, it can be useful to bring a bottle of water to school every day to remind you to stay hydrated!

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

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

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



SAFELINE PARENT WORKSHOP

INTERNET SAFETY

Date: 19th March 2026

Time 5pm-6pm

Location: Join Zoom meeting ID 765 294 7590

This workshop highlights the sexual abuse risk online; provides key knowledge around apps our children use and support available. If you would like to attend, please confirm by emailing PEI@safeline.org.uk. Please reference the school your child attends.

EASTER SERVICES

St Mary's Church
LEAMINGTON SPA

Maundy Thursday 2nd April 7pm (church)

Holy Communion, food & foot washing (optional)

Good Friday 3rd April

10.30am Good Friday activity morning (church)

Family activities and refreshments

2pm (lower hall) Taizé style service

Quiet and reflective

Easter Sunday Celebration incl. Holy Communion

5th April 10.30am all age (church) & 6pm (lower hall)

Followed by refreshments and hot cross buns

St Mary's Church
LEAMINGTON SPA

Encountering God Rooted in Christ Transforming Lives

Good Friday activity morning

Bring your family along for crafts,
activities, a short service and
refreshments

Under 11s need to be
accompanied by an adult

Friday 3rd April
St Mary's Church
10.30am-12pm



Disney

&

present
SIX
THE MUSICAL



DANCE WORKSHOP

£25

(per session)

DAY

8th April

£40

(full day)

Disney 10am-1pm (ages 6+)

Six 2:30-5:30 (ages 9+)

The SYDNI Centre

Cottage Square, Sydenham

Leamington Spa,

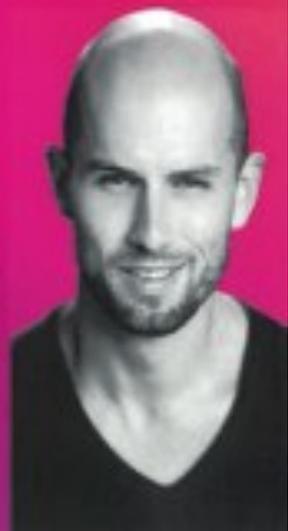
Warwickshire, CV31 IPT



Hosted by BGT's Bethan Marshall
and West End's Tobias James

contact: 0770 200 3040

tobias_james@hotmail.co.uk



Diary Dates

Monday 9th March	Y2 trip to the National Space Centre.
Tuesday 10th March	YR Goldfinches class assembly at 10.15am. Parents/carers of pupils in this class are warmly invited to attend.
Friday 13th March	Y4 trip to Jephson Gardens.
Monday 16th March	Spring Term assessment week.
Monday 19th March	St Mary's Church leading assembly.
Tuesday 17th March	YR Robins class assembly at 10.15am. Parents/carers of pupils in this class are warmly invited to attend.
Friday 20th March	Rock Steady concert at 2.15pm.
Friday 20th March	YR Eid party.
Tuesday 24th March	Y3 Herons class assembly at 9.05am. Parents/carers of pupils in this class are warmly invited to attend.
Friday 27th March	MUFT (non-uniform) day—please make a donation to School Fund via Parent Pay if your child chooses to wear their own choice of clothes.
School closed for the Easter holidays from Monday 30th March—Friday 10th April. Pupils return to school for the Summer Term on Monday 13th April	

Diary Dates



Sydenham Superstars



YR and Key Stage One



Key Stage Two