



# NEWSLETTER

Website: [www.wrockwardinewoodinfants.taw.org.uk](http://www.wrockwardinewoodinfants.taw.org.uk)

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## Let's celebrate!

Here are the amazing children who have gone the 'extra mile' this week to meet our school expectations.

Our expectations are:

- 1) **We are kind to one another**
- 2) **We work hard together**
- 3) **We are honest with each other**

To celebrate their achievements the children have had the opportunity to wear one of our special T shirts for the day. This is what each T shirt says:

- 1) **It's cool to be kind**
- 2) **I worked wonders**
- 3) **I did the right thing**

We are so proud of the children we hope you are too!



## Best Attendance



Chicks 1	96.02%
Chicks 2	94.05%
Wrens	95.69%
Robins	96.30%
Swifts	97.41%
Swallows	95.69%

This week's attendance cup winners

**Swifts**

Well done and thank you to parents for ensuring your child attends school everyday!

## PUNCTUALITY

IF ANY OF THESE SOUND FAMILIAR THEN IT'S TIME TO FIX YOUR TIMEKEEPING!

My alarm clock exploded and I slept through it.

I was abducted by aliens - look I've got a note to prove it!

I'm fairly sure school starts at 10:00 - maybe I'm early?

The bus driver got off at the stop before mine.

# 5

minutes late per day,  
every day of the week adds up to 3 days of lost school time.

10 minutes = 6.5 days lost per school year

15 minutes = 10 days lost per school year

20 minutes = 13 days lost per school year

30 minutes = 19 days lost per school year

### WHAT TO DO THE NIGHT BEFORE

- Get everything you need for school ready.
- Set your alarm with plenty of time to spare.
- If you bring your lunch to school - make it now.
- Turn off electronic devices 30mins before sleep.
- If you use your phone before bed download a blue light filter app to look after your eyes.
- Remember that people aged 11 - 16 need 8 - 10 hours of sleep!

### WHAT TO DO IN THE MORNING

- Get out of bed as soon as your alarm goes off.
- Have a shower first thing - it will wake you up!
- Have a nutritional, but quick, breakfast. Fruit, toast and healthy cereals are perfect and will give you enough energy to last to lunch time.
- Keep an eye on the clock and don't waste time.
- If you wait for friends, don't wait if they are late.
- If you're late - don't make excuses - we've heard them all before and honesty works much better!

## Important Reminders

To report your child's absence call the school office on 01952 387860 before 8:40am. Should you require to collect your child early from school for an appointment could you please bring an appointment card or letter into the school office.



In order to keep your child safe if we have not been notified in advance of any change in collection arrangements we will not allow your child to leave without contacting you first.



When dropping off and collecting children we ask parents to park with consideration for local residents, other road users and most importantly for children's safety. We ask parents not to access the school car park when collecting or dropping off children at anytime. Parking is available at Oakengates Leisure Centre.



Children should must not use the adventure playground before or after school. Parents are responsible for children's safety before and After school.



A reminder that adults and children must dismount from all wheeled vehicles at the school gate, so that everyone remains safe. Scooters and bikes can be left in the racks provided.



## Dates for your diary

Date	Event
1 Feb	Y2 People of the past -dress up day
8 Jan –19 Feb	RSPB Big School Bird Watch
24 Jan	KS1 Tennis Festival
5 Feb	Childrens' Mental Health Week
6 Feb	Safer Internet Day
10 Feb	Chinese new year 'the year of the dragon'
12 –16 Feb	February Half Term
13 Feb	Shrove Tuesday
14 Feb	Saint Valentines Day
19 Feb	Start of 2nd Half Spring Term
1 March	Saint David's Day
4 March	Incredible Eggs –duckling eggs arrival
7 March	World Book Day
7 March	Year 1 Visit Exotic Zoo
10 March	Mothering Sunday
11 –15 March	Parent Teacher Consultations
11-15 March	British Science Week Theme: Time
11-15 March	Big Walk and Wheel Week
14 March	KS1 Football Festival
15 March	Comic Relief
17 March	St Patrick's Day

## Safety Squad

This week the safety squad have worked in their classes to help the children learn the NSPCC PANTS rule. Each classroom now has a PANTS Rule poster and they have watched the PANTASAURUS video. For more information please visit the NSPCC website: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>



What are the PANTS rules?	
Privates are private	✔
Always remember your body belongs to you	✔
No means no	✔
Talk about secrets that upset you	✔
Speak up, someone can help	✔



## RSPB Big Schools Birdwatch

Over the next few weeks, as part Of our learning in science children are taking part in the Big Schools Birdwatch. They will be identifying and counting which birds visit our school grounds.



You could be scientists at home too by taking part in the Big Garden Birdwatch, the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Visit <https://www.rspb.org.uk/> for more details. Across the UK, over half a million people took part in Big Garden Birdwatch 2023, counting a whopping 9.1 million birds. House Sparrows took the top spot, but counts of these chirpy birds are down by 57% compared to the first Birdwatch in 1979.

# Other Useful Information



Telford Children's Autism Hub



SEND Support & Play For Early Years Families

Our group supports parents and carers within Telford & Wrekin, whose child has special educational needs and/or a disability, including parents whose children have a diagnosis of Autism

**Come and join us for our fortnightly group!**

1st Monday of the month, 9:15am to 10:45am @ our Family Zone, Hazledine House.

3rd Monday of the month, 9:15am to 10:15am @Dobbies Soft Play, Donnington (booking essential to secure your free play)

\*\*\*Term time only & excluding Bank Holidays\*\*\*

Telford SENDIASS and Telford Childrens Autism Hub 4EYF offers you:

- A safe play area for children where parents can relax and have a chat.
- Guest speakers form relevant organisations to talk the support they can provide.
- A non-judgmental environment for the children to play, socialise and be themselves.
- An understanding environment filled with support, friendship & advice.



To register for our Early Years SEND Support group please call 01952 260062 or email [childrensautism@tandwcv.org.uk](mailto:childrensautism@tandwcv.org.uk)

A project of Telford & Wrekin CVS  
Suite 12 to 15 Hazledine House, Central Square  
Telford Centre, Telford, TF3 4JL



The Children's Bowel & Bladder Charity

ERIC – the children's bowel and bladder charity are hosting online parent/carer workshops over the next month via webinars.

Follow the link for more information  
[Potty training: how to start & best age to potty train - ERIC](#)



**Some topics include:**

- ◆ How to tackle potty and toilet avoidance
- ◆ How to help your child relax for toilet sits
- ◆ How to go about toilet training when your child has additional needs
- ◆ How to manage your child's bedwetting

## The Nest School Readiness Drop-in Session

A member of the School Readiness Health Visiting Team will be available on Tuesday 30 January at drop off times. (8.45am and 12.15pm) in the Nest.

The health visitor will be able to give advice, support, and signpost to resources on toileting, behaviour, sleep, fussy eating and dental health. By identifying development concerns early, support, targeted interventions and early referrals can be put in place to ensure your child is equipped and ready for school.

Please let us know if you can make it by clicking on the link below.

<https://forms.office.com/e/AaFBxEHU2w>



January 2024

## **Neighbourhood notice**

Dear Resident(s),

Police, Telford & Wrekin Borough Council and Trench & Wrockwardine Wood Parish Council are receiving on going complaints of parking issues outside Wrockwardine Wood Infant School and Nursery, Church Rd, Wrockwardine Wood, Telford TF2 7AH.

Primarily complaints are about inappropriate parking on double yellow lines and/or the white chevron areas near the priority sharing chicane which causes a visibility obstruction for other drivers and parents and children when crossing the road compromising road safety for all.

Some vehicles use the Blue Badge Scheme when parking in this area.

### **Parking Guidance (Including Blue Badge Holders).**

Blue Badge Holders can still be ticketed on double yellow lines without loading restrictions. Where blue badge parking is causing a traffic hold-up they can still be ticketed – the instances highlighted below can still attract a PCN.

Holders must practice safe and responsible parking.

The Blue Badge is not a licence to park anywhere. If you park where it would cause an obstruction or danger to other road users, you could be fined or receive a Penalty Charge Notice or have your vehicle removed.

Do not park where it would endanger, inconvenience, or obstruct pedestrians or other road users. Examples of dangerous or obstructive parking include the following, although there are others:

- school entrances, bus stops, on a bend, or near the brow of a hill or hump bridge
- parking opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space
- where it would make the road narrow, such as by a traffic island or roadworks.
- where it would hold up traffic, such as in narrow stretches of road or blocking vehicle entrances.
- where emergency vehicles stop or go in and out, such as hospital entrances.
- where the kerb has been lowered or the road raised to help wheelchair users
- on a pavement, unless signs permit it.

Your assistance is much appreciated. Thank you.

Kind regards, the Donnington, Trench & Wrockwardine Wood Safer Neighbourhood Team.



[www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk)

 [westmerciapolice](https://www.facebook.com/westmerciapolice)  [@WMerciaPolice](https://twitter.com/WMerciaPolice)  [@westmerciapolice](https://www.instagram.com/westmerciapolice)

# Health Information

## Health Protection Advice Measles

Cases of measles are increasing in the UK, including in the West Midlands, and it's likely that there will be cases in Telford in the near future.

Measles can have serious and sometimes fatal consequences, so make sure your children are up to date with MMR vaccinations, and ask your GP about catch-up jabs if needed. The MMR vaccine is highly effective at protecting against measles.

If you are concerned that your child has measles, please call your GP in the first instance, to reduce the risk of passing the disease to others in the waiting room.

More information on measles can be found and information on the MMR vaccine can be found by following the links below.

[Measles - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)  
[MMR \(measles, mumps and rubella\) vaccine - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

## Is my child too ill for school?

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

There are government guidelines for schools and nurseries about managing infectious diseases. These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't.

If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery each day your child is absent unless the school or nursery agrees a different arrangement. You must let the school or nursery know that your child won't be in and give them the reason.

If your child is well enough to go to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, let the school office know.

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

## Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin Dental Advice Line

Do you have an urgent dental problem or need dental advice?



Are you looking for an NHS dentist for routine care?

Monday to Friday  
0800-2100

**01743 237916**

Shropshire Community Health   
NHS Trust

## Telford Public Health Nursing Service



**Healthy you, Healthy Future**

**Telephone Number 0333 358 3328**

**Text 07520 619 053**

**School nurse 07520 619 051**

**Follow on twitter**

**@ShropPHNurse Open 9am-4.30pm**  
excluding bank holidays

# Our Learning this week

## Reception

The Reception children have been on a Winter Walk in the school grounds looking for signs of Winter. It was very cold so we dressed in our coats, woolly hats, scarves, gloves and wellington boots.

We spotted bare branches on trees, frost on the ground, holly bushes, evergreen trees, icy spider webs and even a Robin in a tree.



## Year 1

This week the children took part in a 'Toys in Time' workshop. They had a brilliant experience of exploring toys that were over 100 years old and comparing them to toys we play with today.

They also learnt about what a curator does!



## Year 2

This week in computing we programmed robots with an algorithm and learnt how the algorithm is run as a code on a robot.



## The Nest

This week in nursery the children have been learning about the story 'The Three Little Pigs'. The children explored a range of materials to make their own houses for the three little pigs.



# What parents & carers need to know about...

# AMAZON ALEXA

Alexa is an artificial intelligence (AI) software assistant created by Amazon in 2014 through which smartphone, tablet and smart device users can issue voice commands and ask questions in a range of languages by issuing the 'wake' or activation word Alexa. It can be accessed in several ways and is integrated into a growing number of 'smart' products including speakers, phones and clocks. Once viewed as expensive gimmicks, Alexa is now one of the most used voice assistants in the world.

## Privacy concerns

By their nature, AI voice assistants involve the collection of large amounts of data. How this is stored and the uses to which it is put has aroused growing concern. Experts also worry about who has access to voice recordings, which in 2019 the company admitted sometimes included employees of Amazon and its commercial partners. There is also the more general anxiety that internet voice assistants might record private conversations and not only commands or questions.

## Age-inappropriate content

Using Alexa as a speaker to play your favourite songs is one of the most popular uses for the device. However, without any parental controls in place, Alexa won't filter the lyrics so it's possible that children could hear something they shouldn't. Similarly, Alexa isn't always able to identify who or what age the person is who is issuing a voice command so if children ask a question which might not be age-appropriate, the chances are they're likely to get an age-inappropriate answer.



## Insecure devices

The devices and their background services are another worry, which can have software vulnerabilities that make them insecure in complex ways. In 2020, for instance, researchers discovered that the services to which Echo products connect were insecure, potentially allowing hackers to access personal information such as voice conversations. In 2017, researchers were able to directly hack an Amazon Echo to send audio to attackers. Amazon has a good record of fixing security problems when they are discovered but it is never possible to find every problem.

## Changing Tech Relationships

In a 2019 report published by the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation, concerns were raised on the disruptive effect that voice assistants and smart speakers, such as Alexa, were having on the way that children interact with technology. From building sentiment and forming relationships which could encourage them to overshare personal details, to a fear of consuming content driven by commercial algorithms and an inability to assess reliability, how Alexa operates could considerably change children's relationship with technology in both the short and long term.



## Safety Tips

### Check privacy settings

It's possible to delete Alexa's recordings either entirely, or for a given period, with the instruction "Alexa, delete everything I said." Alternatively, set up the Alexa account privacy settings for that account to delete recordings every three or 18 months. Existing recordings made using the Alexa app can be deleted via Settings > Alexa Privacy > Review Voice History. A final tweak is to turn off the setting that allows Amazon to use voice recordings to improve Amazon services.

### Control voice input

If privacy is paramount, one idea is to locate Echo devices in only one room, rather than having several throughout the home. In addition, Alexa can be activated only when it is needed by manually turning off the microphone on Echo devices between use. Users can tell when Alexa is in listening mode as an indicator light should appear or an audible tone should sound.

### Set pin code

Amazon account users can order items from the company using a voice command, for example "Alexa, buy some toilet paper." To counter accidental use or misuse and avoid racking up big bills, this can either be disabled or protected with a PIN code (it should be noted that this is an audible PIN however, so is not as secure as a typed code).

### Look out for 'Skills' apps

A big appeal of Alexa is that thousands of companies have created apps, which Amazon calls 'skills', that add useful capabilities, often integrations with other products or services. These are installed by asking Alexa to 'open/play/start' the skill. For example, a travel skill might be installed to check and automate checking train times and hotel bookings. However, it's important to remember that each of these might have a different privacy policy. A cautious approach is to install as few as possible, de-installing ones no longer in use.

### Talk about technology

As more and more homes install voice assistants and smart speakers such as Alexa, it's a good idea to talk to children about safe use of technology. Talk to them about what Alexa can be used for, how useful it can be and how to use it properly. Use it together to begin with and discuss any concerns they might have. Always make sure that children know to never share any personal or sensitive information and that if they need to talk about anything, they should always speak to a trusted adult.

## Meet our expert

John E. Dunn has edited and written for numerous computer and technology magazines since the early 1990s, most recently Which Computing, The Register, Forbes.com, Techworld, Computerworld and Naked Security. He is a specialist in online cybersecurity and cybercrime and their growing effect on education, young people and the public.

