



St. Werburgh's C.E. Primary School



Newsletter

9th October 2026

Our growing PTA

It was wonderful to see so many people at the PTA meeting on Wednesday. Lots of events for the autumn term are planned. If you were unable to attend the meeting, but would like to be part of the team, please let the school office know.

Our amazing PTA make a huge difference to every child in school. They provide many of the 'nice' things for the children, including, educational visits, special resources, gifts and prizes and of course...ice-cream!



Follow us on **Facebook & Instagram** –
St. Werburgh's C E Primary



Love to learn, Love God, Love one another.

Dates for your diary

If there are any items on the diary which you would like clarification about, please contact us.

Wednesday 14th October – Hello Yellow Day
Thursday 15th October – St Lydia's Trip to the National Space Centre
Monday 19th October – Academy Photography in school
Tuesday 20th October – Parents Consultation Evening
Monday 26th – Friday 30th October – Half Term

Monday 2nd November – Return to school
Friday 6th November – Non-uniform day for PTA
Thursday 19th November – Year 6 Parliament Visit
Friday 20th November – Children in Need Day
Friday 27th November – Non-uniform for PTA

Friday 4th December – PTA Christmas Fayre
Wednesday 16th December – Christmas Dinner
Thursday 17th December – Whole school visit to the pantomime
Friday 18th December – School closes for Christmas

Monday 4th January – INSET Day
Tuesday 5th January – Return to school

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Harvest Festival

With Harvest time upon us again, we would like to invite you to a very special Praise and Celebration on **Friday 16th October**. In addition to our usual awards, the Worship Council will guide us through how the school have celebrated Harvest Time!

If you or your family do need the support of the food bank, do not hesitate to get in contact with us for support and guidance.



Welcome to Vicar Garry Higgs

We would like to welcome Vicar Garry Higgs to our school and parish community. Last week Mr Casey and Miss Ainsworth went to his licencing service to welcome him on behalf of the school community. We look forward to working with Vicar Garry in the coming term.



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Hello Yellow Day

Next Wednesday (14th) we will be marking 'Children's Mental Health Day' in school. The children are encouraged to wear an item of clothing which is yellow. This could be yellow socks, a yellow headband, etc.

During the day our Wellbeing Champions will be leading activities across the school. These activities will address the importance of caring for their mental health.



Department for Education

Staffordshire County Council

HOLIDAY
ACTIVITIES
AND
FOOD



HAF fun this half term

Holiday Activities and Food is funded for children and young people aged 5-16 who get targeted free school meals. Paid places also available.

SCAN ME!



Bookings open on Monday 5 October at 4pm

staffordshire.gov.uk/haf

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This week's Superstars

(Week ending 2nd & 9th October)

Our Stars of the Week:

Alfie C, Hazel P, Olivia, Erryn, Tobi, Jax, Sam H,
Fox, Teigan, Leo,

Work of the week:

Harvey, Evie, Ezra, Archie E, Ezra, Teddy, Archie T,
Iona, Tommy, Emily, Isobella,

Dojo Champions:

Oakley, Vega, Bonnie, Sienna, Jenson, Scarlett R,
Sam H, Charley W, Sam S, Tommy,

Leading by example Award:

Alfie C

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Class Email Addresses

If you need to contact your child's class teacher, please contact them using the below email address.

St. Francis' Class (Miss Ainsworth)

Stfrancis@tmpf.staffs.sch.uk

St. Christopher's Class (Mrs Steventon)

Stchristopher@tmpf.staffs.sch.uk

St. Lydia's Class (Mrs Bloor)

Stlydia@tmpf.staffs.sch.uk

St. Jude's Class (Mr Tweed)

Stjude@tmpf.staffs.sch.uk

St. Nicholas' Class (Mr Casey)

Stnicholas@tmpf.staffs.sch.uk



All queries regarding attendance or arbor please contact the school office as normal.

office@st-Werburghs.staffs.sch.uk

All queries regarding wellbeing please contact Mrs Eyre..

wellbeingstw@tmpf.staffs.sch.uk

Important Note

TMPF are very proud of our team members who work hard for the good of all of our pupils. To support our team's workload and wellbeing, there is no expectation of team members to respond to external work-related emails outside of school hours (8.00am-4.30pm), or on non-school days including weekends or school holidays. We will always endeavour to reply to an email within three working days of being read. If you have not received a reply by the fourth day, we politely request that you contact the school office. If the issue is urgent and/or of a safeguarding nature, please telephone the school office 01538 702355 (opt.1). **If you believe that a child is in immediate danger, please contact 999.** Issues received during the holidays will be dealt with when school reopens. Thank you for your understanding and support of your school.

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At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

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 2018 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, setup 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.

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 30.09.2020

Reminders



Trainers

Please note children should only be wearing trainers for PE sessions, they need to have black school shoes the rest of the time (even if they have PE that day).

Name your child's clothing

Please ensure all your child's clothing is clearly labelled with their name (even if it is pre-loved).

Macmillan Coffee Morning

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Macmillan Coffee Morning on 25th September.

We raised a huge £140.00, thank you!



WORLD'S BIGGEST
**COFFEE
MORNING**
MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT



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