



# Wrockwardine Wood C of E Junior School

## 'Wrockers' Weekly

'Love, Laugh and Learn'

This Half Terms Value — Friendship

Friday 20th December 2024

I would like to thank everyone for all of their hard work this term. The Christmas performances in school and at church have been wonderful and it is a joy to hear the children sing with passion and enthusiasm. Mrs Leck has asked me to share with you that she is doing well and missing everyone. She would like to join me in wishing you all a lovely Christmas and New Year with your families. I look forward to seeing you in 2025.

Mrs Cartwright



### Dates for your Diary

**Monday 6th January**

PD Day—Staff Only

**Tuesday 7th January**

Children back to school normal day

**Thurs 23rd January**

Year 6 trip Walsall Art Gallery

**Thurs 30th January**

Year 4 trip Shrewsbury Art Gallery

**Thurs 6th February**

Year 3 trip Wolverhampton Art Gallery

**Standon Bowers**

Year 4  
7th-9th April 2025

Places are now all taken and we have a waiting list

### Friendship Badge Awards

"A true friend accepts who you are, but also helps you become who you should be"

Our Christian value this half term has been friendship and many of our children have worked incredibly hard to demonstrate this value with their peers and staff throughout the school. We asked each teacher to choose one child from their class who embodied and lived out the value of friendship. These



children were awarded with a friendship value badge and a certificate. The certificate contained a few words from their teacher about all that they had done over the half term to live out the value. Well done!

5B Awards	TA Award	Star of the Week		Headteacher Award
Shayla-Mai P	Max S	Lucas S	5B	Abbah D
Wade M		Thomas E	5H	
Abbie P		Jake T	6D	
Scarlett C		Pournami A S	6KS	
Bethany C		Haran B D	6S	
George C				

### Year 5 Church

Year 5 had a remarkable experience today (Thursday 19th December 2024) at

church. At first, they all looked nervous with swarms of butterflies in their stomachs, but then their swarms soon flew away as year 3s, year 4s and year 6s sing along too! But wait parents came too? Yes, that's right as not only did all the years come but parents soon rushed at the opportunity to support their child/children. Children spoke, announced poems, and of course sang songs. The parents (and staff/teachers too) shed a few tears of joy as they blew everyone away with their perfect pitched harmony. But their round of applause was well deserved as they filled many souls with the Christmasy spirit (even Mrs Cartwright) and worked incredibly hard to represent the school. By Esmee P in 5B



### Lunch time Top Table

Lunchtime supervisors nominated one child and their friend to sit on the top table at lunch time. These children were treated to having their lunch with one of the lunch staff, cans of pop, Christmas cake bars and Christmas glasses. The children had all shown outstanding conduct and attitudes at lunch time. Well done everyone!



### PE Timetable Spring 1

Please see the table below for the new days for PE. On PE days children may come to school wearing their PE kit (Black or navy shorts / joggers / leggings, a white T shirt and trainers). Further guidance on kits is available on our school website. [Uniform](#) | [Wrockwardine Wood Church of England Junior School](#)

Day	Indoor	Outdoor
Monday	5H and 5B	6S and 6KS
Tuesday	4T and 4C	3LB and 3B
Wednesday	6D and 6KS	4C and 4T
Thursday	3B and 3LB	6D
Friday	6S	5H and 5B

### Attendance

## **ATTENDANCE LEAGUE**

Week ending: 20.12.24

Whole School: 93.5%

Target 97%

Class	%	Target achieved	Dojos
3B	89	☹️	0
3LB	91	☹️	0
4T	99	☺️	3
4C	95	☹️	0
5B	94	☹️	0
5H	90	☹️	0
6S	95	☹️	0
6KS	93	☹️	0
6D	98	☺️	3

Be an Attendance **HERO**

**Here, Everyday, Ready, On Time**

### Fantastic Homework

Well done GG you have created a wonderful Christmas cam model with moving parts. The hinged front door for resetting the cams is brilliant. Well done!



### Year 3 and 4 Christmas performance

We performed our Christmas celebration on Monday for Year 2 who sat beautifully through our performance. The hardest part of our performance was learning all of our lines off by heart! We enjoyed learning the songs and it was easy because we used actions to help us remember the words! We practised our celebration as much as we could to make sure we all knew what to do and where to be without our teacher's help so we could impress our grown ups. Something that made me feel proud was standing up in front of the year 2s and the rest of our school to say something special about Christmas in Russia – I enjoyed learning about Christmas in some of the other countries too. In the afternoon, we performed to some of our grown ups and they even joined in with singing 'Wrockers 12 days of Christmas' – well some of them did!

In the evening, we performed to an even bigger audience who sang Feliz Navidad with us at the end, they even did some dancing!

We hope you are all feeling as festive as us!



### Fantastic Football Tournament

Our year 5/6 football team played in their quarter final match of the cup on Friday evening against Apley Wood School. The match was incredibly close with play going from end to end and after going 1-0 down, then an amazing goal from Luca, the full time score was 1-1. Penalties followed which we unfortunately lost but we are so proud of our team and the effort they put in. Thank you to Mr Yarnold for his help and well done boys!



### The Wrockwardine Wood CE Junior School "Living life in all its fullness" challenge.

This week's challenge is to:  
**Create a 2025 family wish list of things you would like to achieve in 2025.**

We would love to see your photos please email them to:  
a3129@telford.gov.uk or DoJo to your class teacher.



### Year 5 and 6 Christmas performance

On Tuesday, we (Year 5 and 6) performed an incredible celebration with the help of the fantastic Music Heroes (Gayle and Dave). We really enjoyed performing to our family and friends in the afternoon and it was wonderful to see the Infants who visited for our dress rehearsal. Along with the children from the Infants, it was really lovely to see some of our old teachers who we recognised.



Rudolph Relay We are delighted and very proud to share with you that our school has raised a total of **£1506.70** for such a wonderful cause: Severn Hospice. During our Christmas school fayre, our Severn Hospice stall was a great hit with parents and raised lots of money. In addition, throughout the school, last week, we took part in a Rudolph Relay where the children raised lots of money and had a great time completing laps on our school track. We have been truly blown away by the amount of donations made! Thank you to all the children for all their enthusiasm, compassion and hard work and also thank you so much for all your help and efforts too. We really do appreciate it.

Have a lovely Christmas and a very Happy New Year.



### Christmas Dinner

We would all like to say a huge thank you to our wonderful kitchen team for another amazing Christmas lunch this year. The food was amazing and they all worked incredibly hard from early in the morning to ensure over 280 children and staff were all fed!



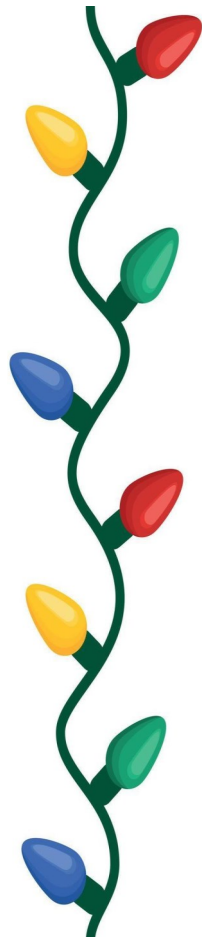
### Festive Library Opening!

We would like to say a huge thank you to all of the fantastic parents, grandparents and carers who came to support this event, it was so lovely to see you all! We hope you all enjoy the books you borrowed and we'll hold another opening in the Spring Term! Happy Christmas reading everyone!



### A Christmas Poem

Christmas, the time of sharing,  
As all the people out there caring,  
With Christmas dinner smells around,  
The streets are filled with not a sound,  
On that night, they know Santa Clause  
will come  
And know that they will have fun,  
You can't forget when it was created,  
As Mary and Joseph were elated  
  
Jesus the son of God was born in the  
stable that night  
As all the shepherds and kings held a  
fight  
When Christmas is over, you have  
loads of fun parties to go to  
That will stop you from feeling blue.  
By Lily -Rae Year 6



### Parent Visit to share children's work

On Wednesday, parents were invited into school at the end of the day to share their children's books and the products that they have made during this half term's focus on Design and Technology. It was a great opportunity to celebrate all of the children's hard work and achievements. Parents will have the opportunity to do this again next term to share their children's work in Art.

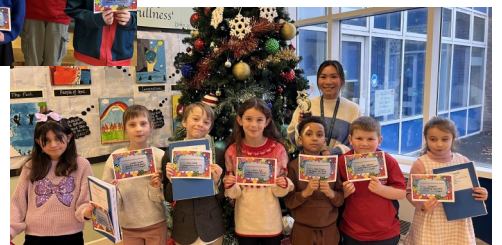
### Fantastic Homework

Two children were nominated from each class for their incredible homework this term. We had so many exciting projects completed at home including models, sewing, PowerPoints, information leaflets and online research. Well done. 4C and 6S also won the award for the most homework returned. Keep up the hard work everyone! I look forward to



seeing what you create next term during our art focus. Thank you to parents and carers

for supporting their children with weekly reading, times tables, spellings and the homework.



## Christmas Reading!

Finding time to read with your child over the festive period can be a struggle. Director of [The National Literacy Trust](#), Jonathan Douglas, shares five simple steps you can take to help your kids discover a love of stories at Christmas.

Between all the shopping, cooking, and festivities, it can be hard to find time to maintain your child's learning over the break. Plus, with all the excitement and time off school, children can have trouble focusing on anything other than Santa's arrival!



National Literacy Trust research shows that children who enjoy reading are more likely to do [better at school](#) and be [happier with their lives](#). Encouraging a love of reading in your child all year round is vital for giving them the best possible chance of success in school and in life – but how can we fit it in during the Christmas rush?

Here are some simple things you can do to keep your child's enjoyment of reading going over the Christmas break.

### **1. Read Christmas stories as a family**

There are a huge number of stories that you and your child can read together to get you in the festive spirit, whether they're [new releases or classic tales](#). Why not read a chapter or part of a story each night in the lead-up to Christmas, with family members taking turns to read? Splitting up a story like this creates cliffhangers that leave children wanting to hear more and establishes a reading routine that you're more likely to keep up.

### **2. Give books as gifts**

[Our research](#) shows that children who have a book of their own are much more likely to read above the level expected for their age than children who don't own a single book. Unwrapping a brand new book as a Christmas present can emphasise to children how special books are, and having a good selection of their own books to choose from will encourage them to read more in their free time.

### **3. Try audiobooks**

Audiobooks are a great way to help children access the incredible world of stories, particularly children who find reading difficult. They're also good entertainment for the whole family! There are so many brilliant children's audiobooks [available](#) – why not put one on in the car when you're out shopping with your child or on your way to visit family and friends over Christmas?

### **4. Switch off**

Try to resist the lure of all that great Christmas TV! Having dedicated story time with your child where you switch off all technology, like TVs and phones, means that you can all focus on the story without any distractions.

### **5. Don't stress!**

Christmas can be a stressful time as it is, so don't worry too much about whether you're doing the 'right' amount of reading with your child over the holidays. [Research shows](#) that reading with your child for just ten minutes a day is enough to make a difference, and it doesn't need to be ten minutes at once – little and often is just as beneficial.

Amidst the busy Christmas period, it can be easy to give in to the festive learning slump – but with these tips, you'll see that Christmas can actually be the perfect time to help your child fall in love with reading.

**Visit the National Literacy Trust's [Words for Life website](#) for more ideas and activities to get your child reading this Christmas.**

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

Snapchat is a photo- and video-sharing app which also allows users to chat with friends via text or audio. Users can share images and videos with specific friends, or through a 'story' (documenting the previous 24 hours) visible to their entire friend list. Snapchat usage rose during the pandemic, with many young people utilising it to connect with their peers. The app continues to develop features to engage an even larger audience and emulate current trends, rivaling platforms such as TikTok and Instagram.

## CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects on the app with people they know, they may still receive friend requests from strangers. Snapchat's links with apps such as Wink and Hoop have increased this possibility. Accepting a request means that children are then disclosing personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features. This could allow predators to gain their trust for sinister purposes.

## EXCESSIVE USE

There are many features that are attractive to users and keep them excited about the app. Snap streaks encourage users to send snaps daily. Spotlight Challenges give users the chance to obtain money and online fame, and the Spotlight feature's scroll of videos makes it easy for children to spend hours watching content.

## INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat are not suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's Discover function lets users swipe through snippets of news stories and trending articles that often include adult content. There is currently no way to turn off this feature.

## SEXTING

Sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature makes it easy for young people (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse. While these pictures do disappear – and the sender is notified if it has been screenshot first – users have found alternative methods to save images, such as taking pictures with a separate device.

## DAMAGE TO CONFIDENCE

Snapchat's filters and lenses are a popular way for users to enhance their 'selfie game'. Although many are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beauty' filters on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations and create feelings of inadequacy. Comparing themselves unfavourably against other Snapchat users could threaten a child's confidence or sense of self-worth.

## VISIBLE LOCATION

My Places lets users check in and search for popular spots nearby – such as restaurants, parks or shopping centres – and recommend them to their friends. The potential issue with a young person consistently checking into locations on Snapchat is that it allows other users in their friends list (even people they have only ever met online) to see where they currently are and where they regularly go.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add function helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this feature could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).



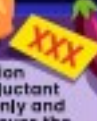
### CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

Snapchat has recently announced that it is rolling out a new safety feature: users will receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check Up' encourages users to delete connections with users they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.



### TALK ABOUT SEXTING

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it is important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sending, receiving or sharing explicit images, as well as the possible emotional impact. Emphasise that your child should never feel pressured into sexting – and that if they receive unwanted explicit images, they should tell a trusted adult straight away.



### CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

Talk to your child about what is and isn't wise to share on Snapchat (e.g. don't post explicit images or videos, or display identifiable details like their school uniform). Remind them that once something is online, the creator loses control over where it might end up – and who with. Additionally, Snapchat's 'Spotlight' feature has a #challenge like TikTok's: it's vital that your child understands the potentially harmful consequences of taking part in these challenges.



### KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Your child can send Snaps directly to friends, but Stories are visible to everyone they have added, unless they change the settings. If they use SnapMaps, their location is visible unless 'Ghost Mode' is enabled (again via settings). It's prudent to emphasise the importance of not adding people they don't know in real life. This is particularly important with the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchatters to see the places your child regularly visits and checks in: strangers, bullies and groomers could use this information to engage in conversation and arrange to meet in person.



### BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending explicit images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and choose report or block. There are options to state why they are reporting that user (annoying or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).



### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday