

Well done to our swimming team who represented our school valiantly against a number of Tamworth schools this week. All children came second in their races as well as a fantastic first place.



Well done to all of the children who dressed up for World Book Day. It was lovely to see children sharing their favourite books and hearing why they love them so much.

A Few Words from Mr Hancox

It is so lovely to see lighter mornings and evenings, which signals the start of Spring. There is so much to look forward to this term. Put a date in your diary for the PTA Easter Bingo EGGSTRAVAGANZA taking place on the 7th April, we look forward to seeing you all there.

We are very proud of one of our budding poets in Year 4. She has persevered with her art this year and was very excited to share her latest piece with the rest of the school. You saw it here first, Katherine could be the next Poet Laureate!

Galactic Galaxy

By Katherine Woodward

Far away in the galaxy
People live and some die
But we all will die some day
Maybe young, maybe old
But so we will
And when we do
We will see the galaxy

Where the skies are twisted with different colours

Stars scattered everywhere the eye can see

The wonder and imagination it brings

It is a true mystery to all.



Well done to all of the children who dressed up for World Book Day. It was lovely to see children sharing their favourite books and hearing why they love them so much.



Staffordshire Sounds Concert



We watched a wonderful concert from Staffordshire Sounds, who expertly demonstrated a range of instruments to us. We had a fantastic time getting to play new instruments under the excellent tutelage of Staffordshire Sounds.

Please find time to complete our survey about parent and guardian engagement and your overall confidence in the school's strategy. Our goal is to open up a communication channel where your voice is heard and organised in such a way that we can create the best learning environment for your child.

To complete the survey, please click here: <https://edurio.com/poll/SxNicb>

Surveys are completely anonymous and confidential, though the responses will be aggregated for the purpose of analysis.

What is happening in the next two weeks?

Monday 10th March

No Basketball Club

Well-being Club – 3.20pm – 4.20pm

Tuesday 11th March

KS1/KS2 Sports Club – Multi skills 3.20pm – 4.20pm

Progressive Sports / Rock Steady music

Wednesday 12th March

Gymnastics/Dance Club (KS1/2) – 3.20pm – 4.20pm

SATs Club – 3.20pm – 4.20pm

Rockit Music/ Woodwind tuition

Friday 14th March

Reception Forest Friday

Year 5/6 Parent Lunch

Monday 17th March

Basketball Club – 3.20pm – 4.20pm

Well-being Club – 3.20pm – 4.20pm

Tuesday 18th March

KS1/KS2 Sports Club – Multi skills 3.20pm – 4.20pm

Progressive Sports / Rock Steady music

Wednesday 19th March

Gymnastics/Dance Club (KS1/2) – 3.20pm – 4.20pm

SATs Club – 3.20pm – 4.20pm

Rockit Music/ Woodwind tuition

Friday 21st March

Year 1/2 Forest Friday

Year 3/4 Parent Lunch

What is going on in Spring Term

14 th March	Reception Forest Friday Year 5/6 Parent Lunch
21 st March	Year 1/2 Forest Friday - Year 3/4 Parent Lunch
28 th March	Year 3/4 Forest Friday – Year 1/2 Parent Lunch
31 st March	Mothers' Day – Afternoon Tea, Cake, Sandwich and crafts
31 st March	Bring in chocolates/alcohol (for Easter Bingo/Raffle)
4 th April	Year 5/6 Forest Friday - Reception Parent lunch
7 th April	Easter Day Year 3/4 Assembly (Parents)
7 th April	Easter Bingo/Raffle (after school)
8 th April	Rock Steady Concert
8 th April	Interhouse Sports Competition (Parents to come in and watch PE lessons)
10 th April	Easter Disco – (R, Y1, Y2) (Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6)
11 th April	Easter Menu Day
11 th April	Break up for the Easter Holiday

SEND Updates



Welcome to our February SEND and Inclusion newsletter. This newsletter we are sharing about the Occupational Therapist Service which is available to support children who struggle to complete everyday activities because of physical or sensory difficulties.

Please remember if you have any concerns or questions please contact me through SEND@Anker Moor.org or speak to the office and I can arrange a meeting or phone call.
Shirley-Anne Magill SENDCO

Spotlight on Occupational Therapy Service

The overall aim of the Children's Occupational Therapy (OT) service in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent is to help children who have either a physical disability, a motor coordination or sensory difficulty to do the things they want and need to do in life.

This helps them to:

- participate in their home life, school life, and in wider society
- become as independent as possible in childhood and adulthood
 - reach their full potential
 - achieve a good quality of life

You may have concerns about your child's ability to carry out a range of physical activities - these could include writing, self-care such as using cutlery, ride a bike or be able to use scissors.

Referrals can be made to the OT by a GP or your school SENDCO. Please speak to your class teacher if you have concerns. The Midlands Occupational Therapist Service also has a range of information on their website for activities you can do to support your child's needs such as the one below related to handwriting.

Developing a pincer and tripod grip

The use of a pincer grip helps establish a tripod pencil hold needed for maximum efficiency. You can help support your child if they are struggling to use a tripod grip when holding a pencil by some using some of these activities:

- Peg board or travel games - frustration, travel connect 4, battleships, mini pop up pirate.
- Clothes Pegs - sorting pompoms, making dinosaur or hedgehog spikes on a cut out.
 - Wind-up toys.
 - Tiddlywinks
 - Stamp pads & ink.
- Creative art - rip & stick, stickers, bendaroos.
- Sew, plait and weave - scoobie strings, hair braiding dolls.
- Threading & lacing - making jewellery, threading beads, cotton reels etc.
 - Use small chalks or writing tools to write, i.e. 2cm long pieces.
- Clay, dough or plasticine to pull small pieces of dough between thumb and index finger.

House Points

	House Points this half term!	House Points this year!
The Lions	140	2412
The Scorpions	166	2111
The Sharks	141	2138
The Crocodiles	133	2022

Attendance

Reception- 83.4%
Year 1/2 - 94.3%
Year 3/4 - 94.4%
Year 5/6 - 95.8%



Value Champions 'Eddie Enjoyment'

28th February
Rec - Maisy P
Y1/2 - Rebecca M
Y3/4 - Oscar K
Y5/6 - daisy L

7th March
Rec - Harrison A
Y1/2 - Theo W
Y3/4 - Oliver A
Y5/6 - Tyler S

TYPICAL PENCIL GRASP DEVELOPMENT FOR HANDWRITING



Respect



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM NEWSLETTER

Spring EDITION

Hello! Welcome to our spring edition of the Mental Health Support Teams in Schools' Newsletter, where we will be taking a look at what has been going on across our teams. We have also included a few mindfulness activities that we encourage you to try. We invite you to read along, and let us know your thoughts about how we can support you and your school.

INCLUDED IN THIS EDITION:

- What's been going on?
- Children's Mental Health Week
- Mindfulness puzzles and activities
- Calendar of Events
- Further Support

WHO ARE WE?

We are a Mental Health Support Team that work in schools, aiming to educate young people about mental health and wellbeing, as well as help young people with difficulties they may face and how these may affect your mental health.

WE CAN HELP WITH:

- Low mood
- Anxiety, worry, and panic
- Exam stress
- Sleep Difficulties
- Problem solving
- Coping strategies

WE OFFER:

- 1-1 sessions
- Drop in sessions
- Education around mental health and wellbeing
- Workshops
- Supporting staff at school to help you
- Working together with your parents/carers

Find us on social media



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

What can you do to engage in the upcoming awareness events for this season?



SANDBOX SNAPSHOT

Our digital hub 'Sandbox' is accessible to all young people in South Staffordshire. Every month you will find fresh new content that will help you on your mental health journey.

Head over to www.thesandbox.mindful.co.uk or scan the QR code to take a look at the free resources, information, live streams and services!



HOW CAN I ACCESS SUPPORT FROM MHST?

Please speak to a Teacher or the Senior Mental Health Lead in your school if you feel that you would benefit from some support from the Mental Health Support Team. They can discuss this with us and refer you into our service or work with us to guide you to the most appropriate type of support.

FURTHER SUPPORT

MPFT NHS
Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
24h Mental Health Access Team - urgent NHS mental health service who will provide support and advice over the phone.
☎ 0800 195 3002 (24/7)
<https://www.nhs.uk/urgent-mental-health/>

EMERGENCY
You can get advice from 111 or ask for an urgent appointment with the GP if you aren't able to speak to the urgent helpline, you need help urgently (but it's not an emergency) or you're not sure what to do.
☎ 111

EMERGENCY
In an emergency / risk to life (either your own or someone else's) and / or you do not feel you can keep yourself or someone else safe.
☎ 999 OR GO TO A&E

THE MIX
The Mix offers support for anything that's troubling you. They offer email support, one-to-one webchat service and free short-term counselling.
☎ 0800 808 4894 (4pm-10pm, 7 days a week)
<https://www.themix.org.uk/>

YOUNGMINDS
YoungMinds provides young people with tools to look after their mental health. Their website is full of advice and information on what to do if you're struggling with how you feel.
<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

SANDBOX
The Sandbox is an online mental health support service for Children and Young People in South Staffordshire. The Sandbox provides information, a space to discuss concerns with both professionals and peers and a library of internet delivered CBT exercises. They also offer one-to-one support through chat, text, phone or video consultation.
<https://www.thesandbox.mindful.co.uk/>

shout
85258
Shout 85258 is a free, confidential text messaging support service for anyone who is struggling to cope.
☎ 0800 808 4894 (4pm-10pm, 7 days a week)
<https://www.shout24.org/>

SAMARITANS
Samaritans provide emotional support to anyone in emotional distress or who is struggling to cope. They offer different ways of contact such as webchat, email and letters.
☎ 11633 (24/7)
<https://www.samaritans.org>

childline
Childline is a free, confidential helpline that can help with any issue no matter how big or small. They offer telephone support, one-to-one webchat and an email service.
☎ 08001 (24/7)
<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

Scan the QR code to share your feedback and ideas to help guide our future newsletter content.



Newsletter 11 - 7th March 2025

Fierte Multi-Academy Trust

Anker Moor Primary Academy

Rene Road, Bolehall, Tamworth. Staffordshire. B77 3NW

01827 213780. Email: office@ankermoor.org

Head of School: Mr Gareth Hancox

Executive HeadTeacher: Mr David Shakeshaft



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MARVEL RIVALS

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
12

ESRB advise nobody under the age of 13 should play

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Marvel Rivals launched in December 2024 and amassed a player count of nearly 150,000 in mere weeks. This player versus player (PvP) shooter packs in a host of recognisable comic-book characters, pitting two teams of six against each other. Despite the game's cartoonish nature, there are several potential risks for parents and educators to be aware of.

IN-GAME CHAT

Voice chat allows players to speak to teammates and opponents within the game, but in a competitive environment, some conversations can become unpleasant. Text chat is equally prominent among those playing on PC and will be shown on the side of the screen. Moderation on chats is relatively lax, so it's important to recognise that potentially inappropriate messages could arrive at any time.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

While Marvel Rivals is free, there is an in-game store, selling character skins from recognisable movies and comic-book titles. Each season also includes a £10 Battle Pass (much like those seen in Fortnite and Call of Duty), offering a series of exclusive cosmetic items. These passes don't expire – but they can't be purchased once the next season rolls around, creating a fear of missing out.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With such a huge player base, it's impossible to predict whom your child will be teaming up with or playing against. They're virtually certain to run into strangers through voice and text chat, for starters. Most of these people will just be ordinary gamers enjoying the action, but there is the risk of some users behaving inappropriately with younger players – either intentionally, or because they don't realise that they're speaking to a child.

VIOLENT CONTENT

There's no gore in Marvel Rivals, and the violence depicted is comparatively cartoonish – but the playable characters available vary between more traditional superheroes and supervillains, and figures like Black Widow and The Punisher, who use more realistic firearms. Given the game's nature as a shooter, this may make some parents and carers uncomfortable as some players will be firing these weapons at each other.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The game includes some innuendos and mature themes in the dialogue, which could expose youngsters to content unsuitable for their age, detracting from a safe and family-friendly gaming experience. As we mentioned previously, the content of the in-game chat could also be age-inappropriate, ranging from swearing to mature themes to potentially harmful content.

FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

The inclusion of iconic characters might make Marvel Rivals appear more approachable than other games in the genre, with recognisable heroes and villains like Spider-Man and Venom. This could lead to more interest from younger players, increasing the likelihood of children playing the game without properly understanding the risks.

Advice for Parents & Educators

FOLLOW ESRB RATINGS

The ESRB rating for Marvel Rivals says the game shouldn't be played by anyone under 13. Most children of that age will be able to appreciate the moral compass of the roster of characters (people can play as Hela, the Goddess of Death, for example), while also ensuring that the violence, however cartoonish, won't overwhelm them.



FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

The game's inclusion of fan-favourite characters like Iron Man and the Hulk, plus its increasing popularity, means that younger Marvel fans will likely be eager to see what the fuss is about. Since it's free, consider playing Marvel Rivals yourself to gauge how you feel about a child playing it. Alternatively, you could let them play against the game's AI in Practice Mode, until they're old enough to compete online.

MONITOR OR TURN OFF CHAT

Voice and text chat can both be adjusted within the in-game settings. If you're particularly concerned about exposing children and young people to them, however, you can disable both forms of chat in the game's settings. If a child wants to play alongside friends, remind them that they can use their console's party chat feature or host a call on a third-party service like Discord.



DISCONNECT PAYMENT OPTIONS

Parents should ensure that no payment options – such as debit cards – are linked to the game, to prevent unauthorised purchases and charges. Children can be tempted by enticing in-game offers without fully understanding the costs. Removing payment methods avoids impulsive in-game spending and instils a sense of financial awareness, teaching young people to be careful with their money.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor at the Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, he has been published on sites including iGN, TechRadar and plenty more.



The National College

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With more than two billion active users, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. The UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging, but for the time being, this controversial feature remains.

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency' - plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user they want to message. Therefore, if a child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that the child might be added to a group chat or community (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people they don't know.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allow news to be shared rapidly - whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "Forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original... and might not be entirely factual, either.

CHAT LOCK AND SECRET CODES

In 2023, WhatsApp introduced a feature that lets users keep their chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind their phone's passcode, fingerprint or face ID. There is an additional feature - 'Secret Code' - where users set a unique password for locked chats. Unfortunately, this creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of.

VIEW ONCE CONTENT

The ability to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate material or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't reopen them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this disappearing content - but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing protection of privacy.

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's Live Location feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child is safe while out, for example. However, anyone in a user's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location - potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution; get them to consider whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. You can give permission to My Contacts or My Contacts Except... Additionally, if a child needs to use Live Location, emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need - and then turn it off.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Check in with the child about how they're using WhatsApp, making sure they know you only have their safety at heart. If you spot a Locked Chats folder, you might want to talk about the sort of content they've stored in there, who they're talking to, and why they want to keep these chats hidden. Also, if children send any View Once content, it could be helpful to ask them why.

DISCUSS GROUP CHATS

Make children aware that there could be members of a group that they don't know well and that words can be misinterpreted. Encourage them to leave a good impression, to avoid joining in if conversations turn towards bullying, and to respond to such situations in an appropriate way. Make sure they know that it's OK to leave a group chat if it makes them uncomfortable - or for any reason, in fact.

THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy - and all too common - for content that a user posts to be shared more widely, even publicly on social media. Encourage children to consider how an impulsive message or forwarding might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

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.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College