



**Executive Headteacher: Mrs J Fraser**

William Morris Primary School  
William Morris Way  
Tadpole Garden Village  
Swindon  
Wiltshire  
SN25 2PP

**Date: 12th January 2024**

# Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! We hope you had a lovely couple of weeks over Xmas. We have enjoyed hearing all about the activities the children enjoyed over their Christmas holidays.

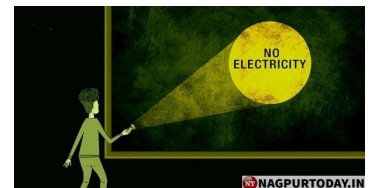
Welcome to all of the new children who have joined our nursery classes this term. We are very proud of how quickly they have settled and it's been lovely to see them making new friends and exploring their new learning environments.

Have a lovely weekend, Mrs Fraser, Headteacher



## **Power Cut**

Thank you for your understanding and patience during the power cut this week. We were pleased to keep the school open throughout the day and we appreciate the parents who responded to our request to collect children early from after school club. Those who have paid for the longer after school club session will have this charge credited back to your Parentpay account.



## **Parent Support Advisor Sessions**

The Lighthouse Team from the BKAT are offering 1-1 drop in sessions for parents on the first Thursday of every month at our school. These will run from 8:45—9:45am. Please contact the school office if you want to attend an upcoming sessions.

## **Upcoming Lighthouse Parent Sessions**

(open to all parents – parents can just attend – no need to book)

**Eating Well @ William Morris with Jacqui and Torz - 18/01/24 9:00am—10:30am**



## **Knowledge Organisers**

Please see the class pages on our school website for Maths and Topic knowledge organisers to support your child with their learning over this term.

## **Shed**

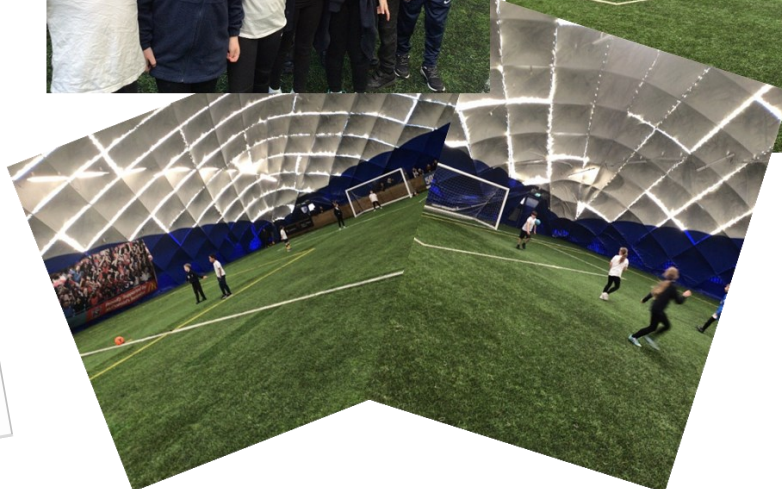
We are looking for some help putting together a new shed—please let the office know if you are able to help out one day after school, thank you.

## **School Council Update** (Mr Boothroyd)

During our Ofsted inspection the councillors had a meeting the inspectors and took them around the school, discussing our curriculum and the different opportunities they have at school. On 12<sup>th</sup> January we had a meeting to discuss the upcoming Safer Internet Day and how the councillors could support their peers. The children worked together to design a quiz that they will do with their class in order to gather information about their internet usage. Next week, the councillors will meet again with the results of their quiz and come up with a plan of how they would like to support their class with being safer on the internet.

# Football Festival

On Wednesday, eight of our year 4 children had the opportunity to represent our school at a non-competitive football festival. They were excellent ambassadors for our school, showed amazing character and resilience against some tough teams. It was great to see everyone supporting each other and taking on different positions during games to make sure everyone had a chance to try everything. I would like to say a huge well done to all of those who took part and thank them for representing William Morris in such a positive way. I would also like to thank all of the parents and carers who helped with transporting the children to and from the event, without such great support these events simply would not be able to happen, so thank you. We will be planning to hold more of these festivals both at William Morris and other Blue Kite schools so there will be more opportunities for others to represent our school in the future. (Mr O'Brien PE co-ordinator)





## Gold Book

Well done to all of the children who were in the Gold Book this week and last week — we are very proud of you and your achievements!







## Parents and Friends of William Morris Newsletter

### *This week's news...*

The school have invested in a new KS2 library and they would love to fill it with lots of books to inspire and encourage the children to read. The PTA are looking for donations of KS2 level books only. This is our first set taken into the school today.

If you have any books in good condition of this level that you would like to donate. Either bring them to the school or a PTA member can come and collect them from you.



**£390**  
raised for  
the OPAL  
scheme

### FUNDRAISING THERMOMETER! (From Sep 2023)



**TOTAL SO FAR: £1,340.72**

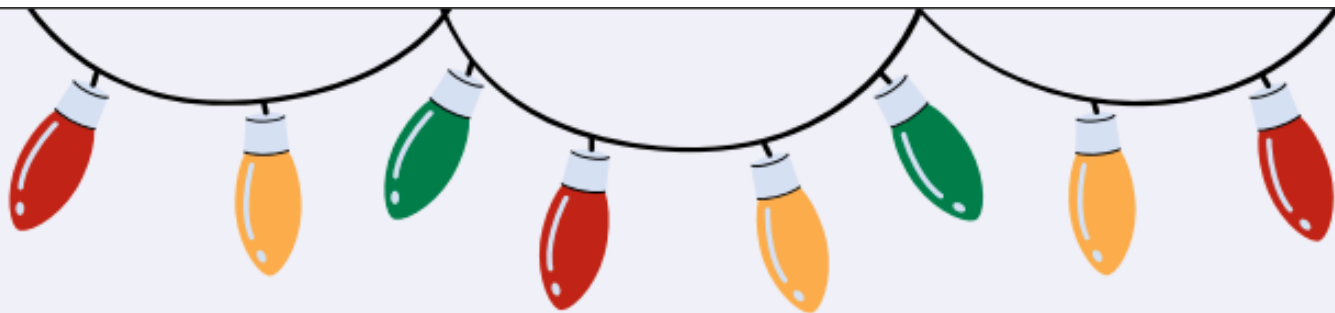
### Upcoming Events

Feb 1st - Glamorose Cake van  
Mar 3rd - TGV market stall  
Mar 7th - World book day event  
Mar 8th - Mother's Day event  
May 5th - TGV market stall  
Jul 7th - TGV market stall  
Other dates to be announced....

**We have  
had lots more  
uniform dropped  
to us which will be  
sorted and sale  
will be advertised**

As always, thank you so much for your support. All proceeds from our events go straight back to the school to provide equipment and resources.





 **Home Instead.**  
*To us, it's personal*

***Happy Christmas!***

***From Home Instead Swindon & Vale of White Horse***

**Thank You for Being Part of Be A  
Santa To A Senior 2023!**

Thank you so much for make a donation to our "Be A Santa To A Senior" Campaign 2023! Once again we have been overwhelmed with the way schools, organisations, businesses and individuals have donated gifts, cards and decorations to cheer an older person's day. We were able to make and give over 300 santa-grams and we've had lovely that seniors have been thrilled with their gifts and the cards and art works from the children.

Thank you for making this possible! xxx



**Home Instead Swindon**  
**01793 232 585**





*Thank You!*



A huge thank you to everyone who donated items to this year's  
Be A Santa To A Senior campaign!



Abbey Meads Primary School  
Shaw Ridge Primary School  
Eastrop Infants Highworth  
Uplands School Swindon  
The Cottage Nursery Watchfield  
The Well Church North Swindon  
Broad Hinton Primary School  
Oliver Tomkins Primary School  
Holy Family Primary Swindon  
Co-op Watchfield  
Waitrose Faringdon  
Stanford in the Vale Pre School



Swindon Academy  
The Elms Primary Faringdon  
William Morris Primary  
The Range Swindon  
Parkie Pals Shrivenham  
St. Hugh's Preparatory School  
Asda Orbital Shopping Centre  
Every Cloud Arts & Crafts  
Checkmore Limited & Denton Gibson Limited  
Freeholders of Shrivenham 100 Business Park  
And many more individuals.

*We wish you a Merry Christmas!*





William Morris Primary  
SCHOOL

**SWINDON  
MUSIC  
CO-OPERATIVE  
LTD**

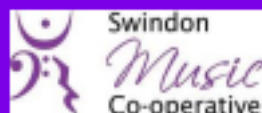
**1-1 INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC  
LESSONS AT SCHOOL**

PIANO, VOICE, GUITAR AND BRASS

For more information on instrumental lessons please  
contact us on 01793 781973 or email

[info@swindonmusiccoop.co.uk](mailto:info@swindonmusiccoop.co.uk)

[www.swindonmusiccoop.co.uk](http://www.swindonmusiccoop.co.uk)





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# School Diary

## January

15th Reception 2024 applications due in  
18th 9am Eating Well parenting session  
25th Governors meeting  
26th Class Reps meeting

## February

1st Glamorose cake van 3:00pm  
1st Basketball player visit  
6th Neil Griffiths to visit Y3  
9th TD INSET DAY—closed to children  
22nd Year 3 Explorer Dome  
26th—27th Y4 residential trip to Ufton Court

## March

3rd TGV PTA Market stall  
7th World book day  
8th PTA Mother's Day event  
14th Governors meeting  
14th Year 4 Junior Voice @ Wyvern  
15th Class Reps  
Week of 18th Parents Evening Consultations  
28th Break up for Easter holidays

### **TD INSET Days 2023-24**

- **Friday 9th February 2024**
- **Monday 1st July 2024**

**Please see 2023—2024 term dates on the school website. Please note that these are different to the SBC term dates.**

[New dates in red]



## Nursery—Daisy and Poppy Classes

### What have we been learning in Nursery?

Wow! What a busy time we have had since being back! We have met lots of new friends who joined us at the beginning of term and have loved exploring our classrooms.



We started the term by learning about our composer, **Yolanda Brown – ‘Something about that noise’**. We spent some time listening to the music and exploring how it made us feel. We then used our listening ears to move up and down to the music as it went high and low. We thoroughly enjoyed making our own instruments; shakers, guitars and rattles.

This week we started our topic of ‘People Who Help Us’. We were very lucky to have a visit from our local PC and PCSO. During the visit, we talked about the number we can call in an emergency, we learnt which animals help the police and we got to try the hats on. We then went outside and got to see the cars and hear the sirens and see the lights—it was very exciting!

We continue our topic next week looking at dentists and how they can help us.

### Reminders:

- Please ensure that all belongings are clearly marked with your child’s name.
- Please ensure that if your child is bringing a packed lunch that it does not contain items with nuts e.g. cereal bars or spreads.
- If your child attends 30hours they need to bring a **fruit or vegetable** snack every day and it needs to be taken out of lunch boxes and put in the **snack box** each morning.
- Please ensure all children have spare clothes including pants/knickers, trousers, socks and t-shirt. Our nursery supplies are running very low!

Thank you

The Nursery Team :)



## Nursery—Daisy and Poppy Classes

What have we been learning in Nursery?





## Nursery—Daisy and Poppy Classes

### What have we been learning in Nursery?





## Reception - Sunflower and Bellflower Classes

### **What have we been learning in Reception?**

Welcome back to Term 3 and what a busy and exciting time we have had!

Our first couple of days were spent exploring our musician in Reception; Camille Saint Saens. We listened to different pieces of music and talked about how it made us feel. We also created artwork based on the themes of his music - animals. This was then turned into a beautiful display outside our two classrooms. Next time you are in school you must have a look as it is fab!



In Literacy we have been reading the story of The Three Little Pigs and on the first Monday back, the children discovered a crime scene! There was hay, bricks and sticks everywhere and the children had to investigate what had happened. As you can imagine it was great fun!! From this the children have been producing some amazing writing, using the new sounds we have been learning in phonics.

In Maths we have been looking at number above 10 up to 15. The children have been fantastic at seeing the tens and ones in each number, they have absolutely blown us away. We have also been playing a board game all to do with The Three Little Pigs, this has been a big hit.

We have started a new dance unit in PE, the children have loved exploring the sea creatures theme and beginning to put sequences of movements together to create an original dance.

Please ensure all clothing is named, we know the children are growing and we are finding lots and lots of clothes unlabelled – this makes changing from PE clothes into school clothes a bit difficult.

Many thanks

EYFS team



*Super sea creatures*

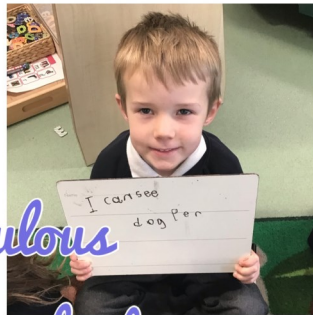
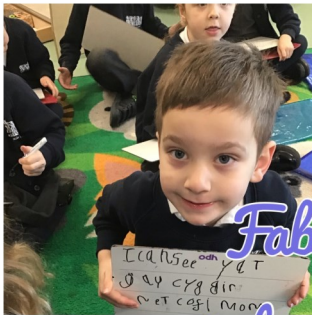


PIC•COLLAGE



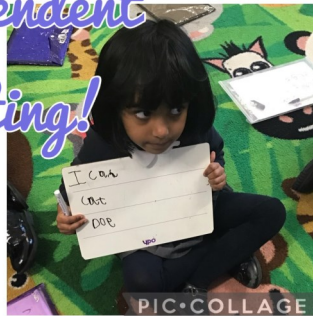
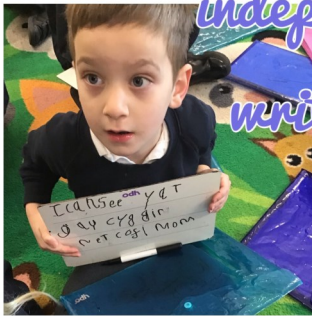
## Reception - Sunflower and Bellflower Classes

### What have we been learning in Reception?



*Fabulous*

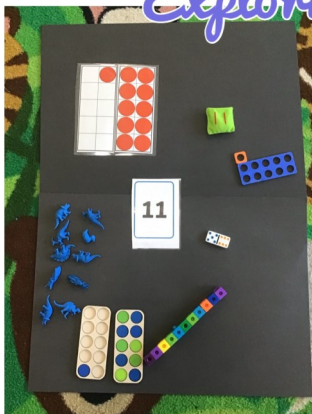
*independent writing!*



*The three little pigs investigation*



*Exploring eleven*





## Year 1 - Lily and Tulip Classes

### **What have we been learning in Year 1?**

Welcome Back! The energy is contagious as the children return to school after the festive holidays, eager to embark on new adventures.



This term, our budding musicians immersed themselves in the captivating world of music. From headbanging to "We Will Rock You" by Queen to experiencing the timeless compositions of Beethoven, our Year 1 maestros have been grooving and harmonizing their way through the classroom. They have also created some fantastic artwork for each musician to create some beautiful corridor displays.

In the spirit of growth, our Year 1 stars smoothly transitioned into more structured mornings. The adjustment to formal learning has been seamless, showcasing their resilience and eagerness to embrace challenges.

Our creative minds have embarked on the thrilling journey of crafting their Talk for Writing text, "Traction Man." The children have been immersed in the story this week ready to create their own next week.

This week in maths we have been discovering tens and ones. To help with this learning at home please try <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/learning-to-count/place-value-basketball>

Unfortunately over the Christmas break, our welly shed was broken in the windy weather leaving the wellies waterlogged. If you could kindly collect your child's wellies, so they can be washed/dried out at home. Thank you.

Year 1 team

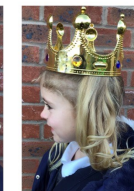
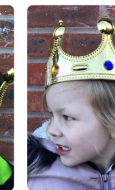
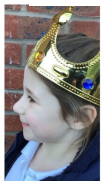
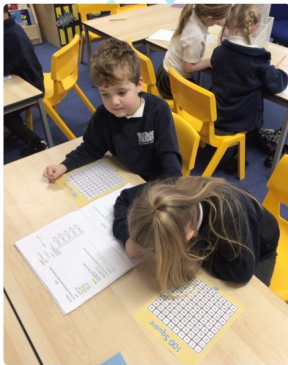
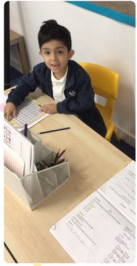




## Year 1 - Lily and Tulip Classes

### What have we been learning in Year 1?

Maths  
Counting forwards and backwards





## Year 2 - Clover and Willow Classes—What have we been learning in Year 2?



Year 2 have had a wonderfully busy start to the new year and have been working extremely hard.

In our lessons, we have been learning about:

**English** – In English we have begun our talk for writing module where we have practiced actions and drawn a story map for a fictional king called 'King Morris of Tadpole'. We are focusing on the skills of correctly using co-ordinating and subordinating conjunctions in our writing.

**Maths** – We have been looking at using arrays to complete multiplication problems and have developed our understanding that multiplication is commutative using arrays. We have been counting in 3's and made a human counting in 3s line in the corridor, which was fun!

**Science** – In Science we have started a new topic – 'Human survival'. We will learn about the basic needs of humans for survival, including the importance of exercise, nutrition and good hygiene. This week we have learnt about the stages and processes of the human life cycle namely, embryo, juvenile and adult.

**Topic**- We have begun our topic called 'Magnificent Monarchs' where we will be learning about the English and British monarchy from AD 871 to the present day. Using timelines, information about royal palaces, portraits and other historical sources, we will build up an understanding of the monarchs and then research six of the most significant sovereigns. To start, we have had great fun making our own crowns, creating timelines and painting self-portraits of ourselves as monarchs. We have even had a visit from 'Queen Miss Morgan' where we were able to ask her questions we had written.

**Art** – We have painted some art inspired by our terms composers, Tchaikovsky and Nina Simone, for our displays in the corridor. They look brilliant :)

**Forest School** – Our Forest school lessons take place on our school field and we have had a new tangle frame installed, a den building area, a wood chip path and large play mounds. Clover class had their first sessions of Forest school and they LOVED it! They had a great time exploring the school field and our new equipment. During their session they came up with their own Forest school name (which is something in nature that starts with the letter of their name). They then used these names to create a forest school medallion.

**PE** – In gymnastics the children are learning, exploring and developing basic gymnastic actions on the floor and using apparatus. This week they have performed gymnastic shapes and linked them together.

**DT** – We will be investigating, designing, and making castles. Please can you bring in any cardboard that we can use to make our castles.

**Music**- We are continuing to learn how to play the ukelele and our lessons are so much fun!

We all hope you had a lovely break over Christmas and would like to thank you again for your continued support.

The Year 2 Team





## Year 2 - Clover and Willow Classes—What have we been learning in Year 2?



### Year 3 - Honeysuckle and Rose Classes

#### **What have we been learning in Year 3?**

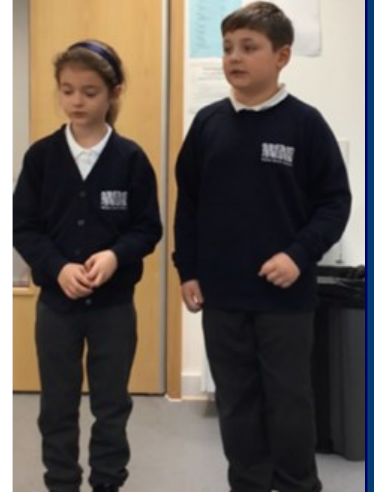
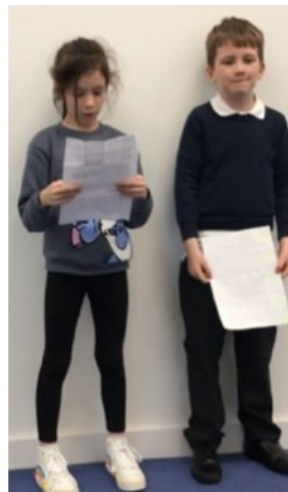
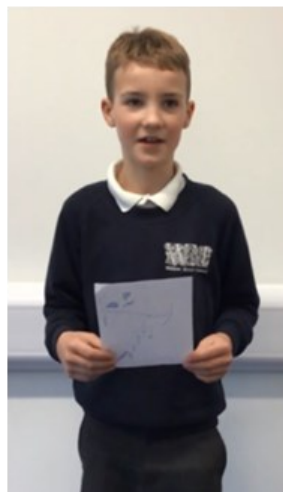
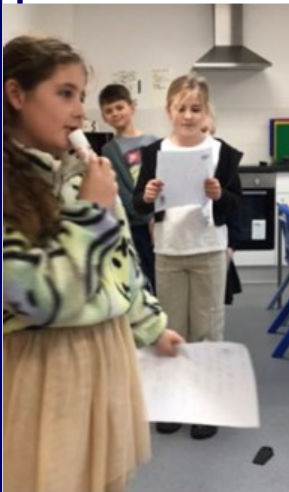


We are back and busy in Year 3, with lots of learning in our new topic. We started the term learning about 2 musicians—Adele and Joseph Bologne.

We then launched into our new topic: Flow. We have already learnt so much new knowledge about rivers and the water cycle! Please ask us to share this with you at home.

Last week we had a fantastic day as news reporters. We learnt all about water pollution; the types, the causes and the impact on us and the environment. Did you know, our local river Ray recently had a water pollution outbreak? We researched this in teams and then recorded our own news broadcast on the topic to inform the rest of our class. We each took important roles of either the producer, Thames water employee, wildlife expert, local resident, or the presenter. We have looked lots at the river Ray on google maps so I am sure Year 3 could direct you to where it flows through Tadpole, and would love to walk to go and see it in real life!

We also all seem very excited about our new science topic, forces and magnets this term. We have lots of exciting investigations coming up this term to explore a range of magnets and experiment finding magnetic materials. We look forward to sharing more in our next newsletter.





## Year 4 - Apple and Blackberry Classes

### **What have we been learning in Year 4?**



Welcome back to Term 3! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas break.

We kicked off Term 3 by focusing on two composers, Beyonce and Edvard Greig. We listened to famous pieces by both composers and completed art work to go along with them. For Beyonce, we designed album covers and learnt a dance routine to one of her famous songs. For Edvard Greig, we created interpretive pieces of art based on his music.

To begin our new topic and English unit on the Anglo Saxons and Vikings, the children recreated an Anglo Saxon banquet and story-telling session. The children heard a shortened version of the epic tale Beowulf. They have also learnt actions for this and it will be our model text for English. Please feel free to practise the model text at home.

In Science, the children disassembled plugs to learn about the components and parts of a plug, as well as their uses and purposes in relation to our topic on Electricity.



During our PE, we will be starting Yoga and Tag Rugby so please ensure that PE kits are back in school as soon as possible.



Thank you for your continued support,  
Year 4 Team.





## Year 4 - Apple and Blackberry Classes

### What have we been learning in Year 4?





# Neurodiversity Home 101:

## Mealtimes with ND children

Do-IT>

Mealtimes can be a time of tension if children won't sit for long, won't eat a range of foods or there is limited communication.



### Ideas to Help:

- ✓ Try to be realistic about how long your child can sit still (around child's age x 2 = minutes sitting at a table e.g. 5 years x 2 = 10 minutes sitting). It's better for the child to sit well for 10 minutes and be praised for this, and then gradually building up the time they can stay rather than running around during the whole meal and disrupting this for everyone else as well.
- ✓ Call your child to the table only when the food is being served.
- ✓ Allow your child to get up and move around between the main meal and dessert if they become restless.
- ✓ Switch off the television to allow your child to concentrate on mealtimes. Eat with them so they can enjoy being with you.
- ✓ Try to involve your child in the conversation or they may lose concentration. Ideas, for example, could be to have a family quiz, asking each child to tell a joke, or discuss their favourite TV programme, film or computer game they are playing.
- ✓ Build on what your child likes to eat introducing other textures and flavours.





# Top Tips for... MANAGING SCREEN TIME

According to the latest stats, people aged between 8 and 17 spend four hours on digital devices during an average day. Obviously, a new year is ideal for fresh starts and renewed efforts – so lots of families are trying to cut down their combined screen time right now, creating more moments to connect with each other and relying less on gadgets to have fun. Our top tips on reducing screen time are for everyone, so you can get your whole family involved in turning over a new leaf this year!

Buy Milk

## GET OUT AND ABOUT

If the weather's decent, spend some time in the garden or go for a walk. Even a stroll to the local shop would do: the main thing is getting some fresh air and a break from your screen.

## TRY A TIMED TRIAL

When you're taking a screen break to do a different activity or a chore, turn it into a game by setting yourself a timer. Can you complete your task before the alarm goes off?

## GO DIGITAL DETOX

Challenge yourself and your family to take time off from screens, finding other things to do. You could start off with half a day, then build up to a full day or even an entire weekend.

## LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your family see you successfully managing your own screen time. You'll be showing them the way, and it might stop some of those grumbles when you do want to go online.

## AGREE TECH-FREE ZONES

Nominate some spots at home where devices aren't allowed. Anywhere your family gathers together, like at the table or in the living room, could become a 'no phone zone'.

## HOLD A SCREEN TIME AMNESTY

As a family, agree specific windows when it's OK to use devices. This should help everyone to balance time on phones or gaming with enjoying quality moments together.

## BE MINDFUL OF TIME

Stay aware of how long you've been on your device for. Controlling how much time you spend in potentially stressful areas of the Internet – like social media platforms – can also boost your wellbeing.

## 'PARK' PHONES OVERNIGHT

Set up an overnight charging station for everyone's devices – preferably away from bedrooms. That means less temptation for late-night scrolling.

## SWITCH ON DND

Research shows that micro-distractions like message alerts and push notifications can chip away at our concentration levels. Put devices on 'do not disturb' until you're less busy.

## TAKE A FAMILY TECH BREAK

Set aside certain times when the whole family puts their gadgets away and enjoys an activity together: playing a board game, going for a walk or just having a chat.

## SOCIALISE WITHOUT SCREENS

When you're with friends, try not to automatically involve phones, TVs or other tech. Having company can be loads more fun if your attention isn't being split.

## WIND DOWN PROPERLY

Try staying off phones, consoles, tablets and so on just before you go to sleep. Reading or just getting comfy in bed for a while can give you a much more restful night.

## Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



DEVICE BOX

The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

@natonlinesafety

/NationalOnlineSafety

@nationalonlinesafety

@national\_online\_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 03.01.2023





# MULTI-SPORTS CAMP

## FEBRUARY HALF TERM



Fun-filled days with a wide variety of activities including: football, handball, gymnastics, dodgeball, multi-skill games and many more!

AGES: 5-11 years

TIME: 8.30am – 3.10pm

VENUE: Ruskin Junior School (SN2 7NG)

**Tuesday**  
**13th Feb**

**Weds**  
**14th Feb**

**Thurs**  
**15th Feb**

**Fri**  
**16th Feb**

**1 DAY: £15 2 DAYS: £28 3 DAYS: £37 4 DAYS: £48**

Visit [sjrsports.org](http://sjrsports.org) to book a place



For more information email: [sjrsports@hotmail.com](mailto:sjrsports@hotmail.com)

**Make a difference, foster with Swindon.**

# **Could you change a child's life?**

**There are currently over 300  
children and young people in our care.**

**We need a variety of foster carers,  
from all backgrounds, to provide a  
safe home and support to local children  
and young people who need it.**

**If you live within 20 miles of Swindon,  
have a spare room and think  
you could help, visit  
[swindon.gov.uk/fostering](http://swindon.gov.uk/fostering)  
or call us for a  
friendly chat on  
**07917 503447.****



**SWINDON**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL