

Headteacher's Roundup

As the spring term draws to a close, it's wonderful to reflect on the many exciting learning experiences that have taken place across the school.

World Book Day was a fantastic celebration of reading across our school. Children and staff came dressed as their favourite book characters and took part in fun reading activities. It was great to see everyone excited about books, sharing stories, and discovering new authors. All children were excited to take home at least two books to add to their own reading collections.

Our youngest learners in Nursery and Reception have been exploring the local area on their nature walks, discovering signs of spring and learning about the world around them. Their curiosity and enthusiasm was a joy to see.

Year 1 and Year 2 enjoyed a fascinating visit from the Animal Man, meeting a range of animals up close and learning about their habitats and characteristics.

Year 3 took part in a religious education visit to St Michael's Church, where they learned about the church's history, architecture, and the role it plays in the local community. The visit supported their classroom learning and deepened their understanding of different faiths and traditions.

Year 4 enjoyed being curious in the kitchen and investigating the role different ingredients play in a recipe for making bread. There were some very interesting results!

Year 5 had an inspiring trip to the Thinktank Museum, exploring science and technology through hands-on exhibits and interactive displays.

Year 6 visited Safeside, where they took part in practical workshops about safety and responsibilities in everyday life. The experience helped them develop important life skills as they prepare for their transition to secondary school.

Our after-school clubs have continued to thrive this term, with pupils taking part in chess, dance, table tennis, football and sports. It has been fantastic to see so many children developing new skills, teamwork, and confidence beyond the classroom.

Thank you for your continued support throughout this busy and rewarding term. Wishing all families a restful and enjoyable Easter break.

Mrs S McMahon
S. McMahon
Headteacher

Reminders

All children should be in school for 8.30am



Term Dates

SUMMER 1 TERM 2026

Monday 13th April 26

- Friday 22nd May 26

~ HALF-TERM ~ Monday 25th May 26 -
Friday 29th May

SUMMER 2 TERM 2026

Monday 1st June 26 -

Friday 17th July 26

~ SUMMER HOLIDAY ~





Diary Dates

Friday 27th March	Break up at 3pm for Easter Holidays	
Monday 13th April	Children return to school	
Thursday 16th April	Reception Place Offer Day for September 2026	
Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday Monday - School closed	
Thursday 7th May	Polling Day - School closed to all students	
Friday 22nd May	Break up at 3pm for May Half-Term	
Tuesday 2nd June	Year 6 Religious Visit to the Central Mosque	Children must wear their uniform to school
Thursday 11th June	Year 2 visit to Selly Park	Children must wear their uniform to school
Friday 26th June	Teacher Training Day	School closed to all pupils
Tuesday 30th June	Year 1 visit to Kenilworth Castle	Children must wear their uniform to school
Friday 17th July	Break up at 3pm for Summer Holidays	





Safeguarding

For school holiday support in Birmingham, parents can contact:

Children's Advice Support Service:

Provides support and advice regarding children's welfare. They are available during the week and also have an emergency out-of-hours service.

- Monday to Thursday: 8:45 am to 5:15 pm
- Friday: 8:45 am to 4:15 pm
- Emergency out-of-hours: 0121 675 4806

NSPCC:

Offers a helpline for child protection and welfare concerns.

- 0800 800 5000

Domestic Violence Support:

Birmingham City Council provides support for domestic violence situations.

- 0121 303 0368 or 0121 303 0369

Gateway Family Services:

Offers early help services.

- 0121 456 7821
- email: earlyhelpedgbaston@gatewayfs.org

Parenting Support

At Severne we know that parenting can be both rewarding and challenging, and you don't have to navigate it alone. Our pastoral team is always here to offer guidance, a listening ear and practical support whenever you need it.

Whether you're looking for advice, help with routines, or someone to talk things through, please reach out. We're here to work together to ensure every child and family feels supported.

For local Parenting and Family support near you, please visit:

- [Birmingham Family Hubs | Welcome to Family Hubs | Birmingham City Council](#)
- [Home - Home-Start Birmingham](#)
- [Birmingham Children's Trust Homepage](#)

Please download the My Child At School App

Respect ● Succeed ● Celebrate



Attendance Matters

Good attendance is vital to every child’s learning, progress and wellbeing, and we are grateful to all families who support this daily.

Recently, we have noticed a pattern of increased absences on Mondays and Fridays, which can quickly add up and significantly affect pupils learning.

Birmingham City Council’s attendance guidance highlights that regular absence has a direct negative impact on attainment, with pupils who miss more school achieving lower outcomes compared to their peers who attend consistently. We kindly ask parents and carers to help ensure children attend every day so they can benefit fully from all learning opportunities and remain on track in every aspect of their development.

Attendance (Academic Year)	Equals this many days absent	Equals this many weeks absent (approx.)	Equals this many lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	60 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	120 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	180 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	240 lessons
70%	57 days	12 weeks	360 lessons

Increase in Unauthorised Absences

Since the start of the academic year, we have issued **9 penalty notices** for unauthorised absences, resulting in **£800.00** in fines in line with Birmingham City Council's attendance procedures. Under the local authority process, a penalty notice may be issued when a child has unauthorised absence from school, including term-time leave that has not been agreed.

The fine is £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days, rising to £160 if paid within 28 days. Continued unauthorised absence may lead to further legal action.

We ask all families to work with us to reduce unauthorised absences and to follow the correct procedures when requesting leave.



What time does school start?

School starts at 8:30am.

Parents/carers should arrive at school at 8:25am so that once the doors are open at 8:30am, children can make their way into their classroom, enjoy the breakfast snack that is being offered and prepare themselves for the day ahead.

This is a really important part of the school day and allows children to settle, join their class friends and make the most of every moment.

Being late results in children having to enter a classroom when everybody else is settled and learning has already begun- this often causes distress and worry.

PLEASE HELP YOUR CHILD BY GETTING THEM TO SCHOOL ON TIME AT 8:30AM EVERY DAY.

Reporting Absence

If a child is unwell and unable to attend school, it is the responsibility of parents /carers to inform the school before 8:30am. Notification can be made by phone call **0121 706 2743** or email **enquiry@severne.bham.sch.uk** to the school office. Early communication ensures accurate attendance records and helps staff account for all students' safety and wellbeing.

Uniform Hub

Every Wednesday between 8:15am and 8:30am, 'The Elsie Carter Room' will be opened to all Parents/Carers, please come along if you require uniform for your children as we have all sizes. **There is no cost for this uniform.** Please pop over and use this facility. We have lots of **new** uniform in many sizes available.

Please download the My Child At School App

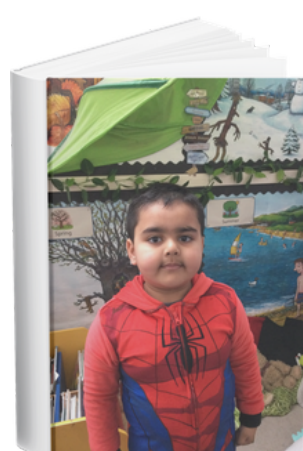
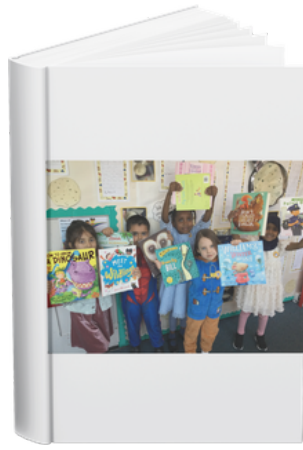
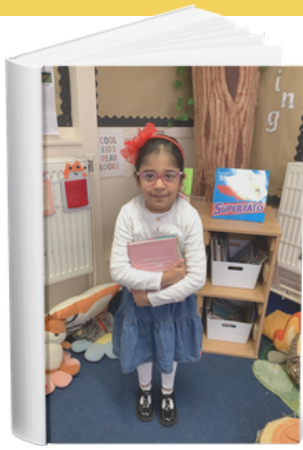
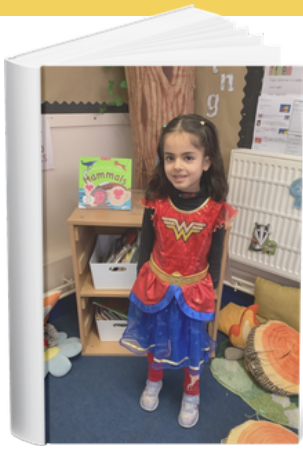
Respect ● Succeed ● Celebrate

World Book Day Celebration

On Thursday 5th March, children filled the school with excitement as they celebrated World Book Day dressed as their favourite storybook characters. The classrooms buzzed with laughter and imagination as students swapped books, and joined in storytelling sessions. From colourful costumes to creative reading corners, the day was a joyful reminder of how stories can spark curiosity and bring everyone together through the magic of reading.

As part of our celebrations, all children went home with their World Book Day book, as well as two other books they were able to choose from a huge donation from the Children's Book Project. We are thrilled that we sent over 992 books home for children to build their own book collection at home. Watch this space for more books coming home throughout the year!





Please like our Facebook Page to keep up to date with what's going on in school

facebook.com/SevernePrimary



Animal Man Visit

Year 1 and 2 had an exciting visit from the Animal Man this term! The children were thrilled to meet a fascinating selection of rainforest creatures, including a giant millipede, snails, a tree frog, a colourful chameleon, a royal python and South American guinea pigs. It was a wonderful hands-on experience that brought their rainforest learning to life and sparked lots of curiosity and excitement!



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

WhatsApp is a free messaging app owned by Meta, allowing users to send text and voice messages, share multimedia, make video calls, and chat in groups. With end-to-end encryption, only the sender and receiver can view messages. This may offer privacy, but it also comes with risks that parents and educators need to be aware of.

GROUP CHAT PRESSURES



Group chats enable multiple users to message in the same space, but this can also make it easier for young people to feel excluded or overwhelmed. Negative comments can escalate quickly, and young people may feel pressure to respond or stay engaged even when the conversation is uncomfortable or upsetting.

SCAMS TARGETING YOUNG USERS



Scammers are increasingly using WhatsApp to trick users into sharing personal information. Common scams include fraudsters posing as family members in an emergency or tricking users into revealing security codes. These can lead to identity theft or access to private conversations.

DISAPPEARING AND HIDDEN MESSAGES



WhatsApp offers features like disappearing messages and 'Chat Lock', which can give users a false sense of security. While intended to protect privacy, they can be used by young users to hide inappropriate conversations or content, making it harder for adults to spot potential issues.

EXPOSURE THROUGH CHANNELS



'Channels' are an optional feature that allows users to follow updates from public figures or organisations; however, there is no way to block this feature or filter its content by age. Young users may encounter adult or distressing content, including misinformation and harmful ideologies.

UNWANTED CONTACT AND LOCATION SHARING



WhatsApp users can share their live location, and if not managed carefully, this can allow others – even those in mutual groups – to track someone's whereabouts. Also, without the right privacy settings, young users may be contacted by strangers.

COMMERCIAL AND AI CONTENT



WhatsApp now includes ads in the 'Updates' feed and has introduced an AI assistant – Meta AI – across the app, which cannot be removed. These additions raise concerns about targeting, privacy, AI use, and the type of content children and young people might interact with.

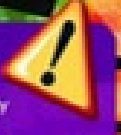
Advice for Parents & Educators

REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER



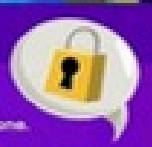
Help young users check who can see their profile photo, status, and location. Activate the 'Silence Unknown Callers' setting and set group chat invitations to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...' for added safety.

TEACH HOW TO SPOT SCAMS



Encourage caution around unusual and unexpected messages, especially if they involve money or codes. Help young users understand the signs of scams and what to do if they receive a suspicious message. Enable two-step verification to add an extra layer of protection.

BE OPEN ABOUT HIDDEN CHATS



Discuss why children and young people might use features like disappearing messages or 'Chat Lock'. Encourage them to share if something made them uncomfortable, even if the messages are gone. Let them know that privacy should not mean secrecy.

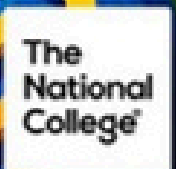
TALK ABOUT ADVERTISING AND AI

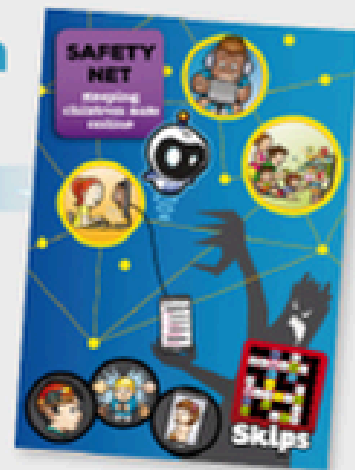


Explain that WhatsApp now includes ads and AI tools. Discuss the difference between genuine and sponsored content, and the potential for AI to share inaccurate or age-inappropriate responses. Encourage young users to think critically before trusting or interacting with these features.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Butherford 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 texting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.





When Something Goes Wrong Online — A Simple Action Plan for Parents

1. Stay Calm First

If your child tells you something worrying:

- Thank them for telling you
- Avoid blaming or panicking
- Reassure them: "We'll deal with this together."

2. Keep the Evidence

- Take screenshots (include usernames and dates)
- Save messages
- Keep profile links



3. Use Official Reporting Routes


Grooming or exploitation – CEOP: www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre

Illegal images – Internet Watch Foundation: www.iwf.org.uk/report

Nude images shared (under 18s) – Report Remove: www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove

If in immediate danger, call 999.

4. If You Feel Overwhelmed - Use Structured Support

You can use free ChatGPT to help structure next steps.  ChatGPT

Free access: <https://chat.openai.com> Example prompts:

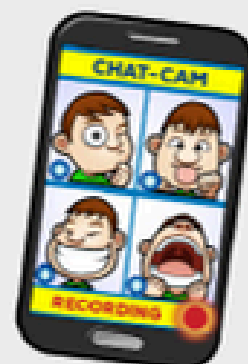
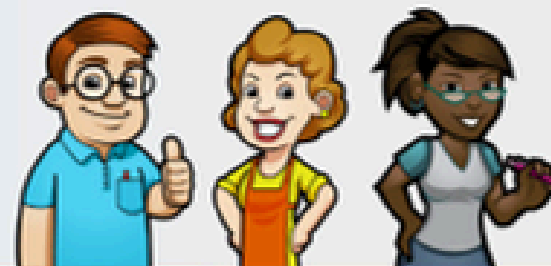
- My child received inappropriate messages. What steps should I take in the UK?
- How do I report online grooming?
- What should I say to my child after cyberbullying?

Important: ChatGPT is a support tool and does NOT replace official reporting or police action.

5. Ongoing Protection at Home

- Keep regular, calm conversations
- Review privacy settings together
- Monitor gaming contacts
- Encourage early disclosure

Children will make mistakes online, just as they do offline.
Trust and communication protect them more than punishment.



scan the QR code with your phone's camera for Parent Guides on how to help keep your children safe online

Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: info@skipssed.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with



Please label uniforms



Severne Primary School Uniform Policy



Uniform is **compulsory** including PE uniform. It's smart, comfortable and practical. It can be bought from most supermarkets.

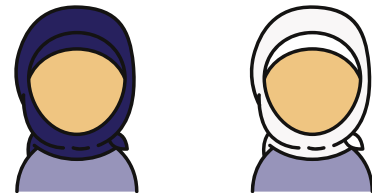


Boys - Navy blue sweatshirt, white shirt or polo shirt and grey trousers. For the summer months, grey school uniform shorts are acceptable.

Girls - Navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan, white shirt or polo shirt and grey skirt. Girls may also choose to wear grey trousers. Dark blue check gingham dresses may be worn during the summer months.



Shoes - Must be black school shoes or trainers
(All items should be plain without logos or decorations.)



If headscarves are worn, they should be plain blue or white which are in keeping with uniform colours.

PE

- plain (no logos) pale blue T-shirt or polo shirt
- Plain navy blue school shorts
- Plain (no logos) navy blue joggers/jogging suit for colder days



All children must have appropriate footwear and socks, it is recommended that younger children should have plain black Velcro fastening pumps or black trainers for easy access.

SWIMMING

Boys: trunks must be swimming trunks and not summer shorts.

Girls: swimsuits must be one-piece suits and not 2-piece bikinis.

Please note: full body swimsuits (burqini) are permitted swimwear alternatively; lycra leggings and leotard can be used. Swimming caps are advisable but not essential.

All swimwear to be navy blue or black if possible.

JEWELLERY

Jewellery is **NOT** permitted in school. Children are allowed to wear stud earrings only, there should be **NO** loops or drop earrings. This is to ensure the safety of our children in the playground.



PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) EASTER HOLIDAYS 2026

moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free



ANGUS STEAKHOUSE

Kids under 8 eat FREE daily, 12pm to 5pm

ASDA

Kids eat for £1 daily, with no adult spend

ASK ITALIAN

2 Kids eat free from 27th March - 19th April 2026

BELLA ITALIA

Children eat free Sunday - Thursday

BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE

2 Kids Eat Free Breakfast with one paying adult

BILLS

Kids eat free Mon 30th March - Fri 10th April

BREWDOG

Kids eat free 28th March - 12th April 2026

CAFE ROUGE

Kids Eat FREE 12-4pm every day of the week

COCONUT TREE

Kids eat free Mon 30th March - Sun 19th April

CHIQUITO

Kids eat free during all school holidays

DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES

Kids eat for £1 with an adult breakfast or lunch

FARMHOUSE INNS

Kids eat FREE weekdays 30th March - 17th April

FRANKIE & BENNY'S

Kids eat FREE daily from 30th March - 17th April

FUTURE INNS

Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal

GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS

Kids under 10 eat FREE all day, every day

IKEA

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

LAS IGUANAS

Kids under 12 eat FREE with 'My Las Iguanas' App

MORRISONS

Kids Eat FREE all day, every day with a £5 spend

MARCO PIERRE WHITE

Kids under 12 Eat FREE daily with an adult spend

PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM

Kids eat FREE with every £4 spend all day

PIZZA HUT

Kids Eat Free Every Day after 3pm

PREMIER INN

2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast

PRETO

Kids up to age 10 eat free with 1 paying adult

PUREZZA

Kids under 10 get free pizza with every adult meal

SA BRAINS PUBS

Kids eat for £1 on Wednesdays

SUBWAY

Kids eat Free from the 6th - 13th April

SIZZLING PUBS

Kids eat for £1, Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm

TABLE TABLE

2 Kids Eat free breakfast daily with 1 paying adult

TGI FRIDAYS

Kids Eat Free with any adult meal (Via App)

THE REAL GREEK

Kids under 12 eat FREE Sundays with £10 spend

TRAVELODGE

2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast

TURTLE BAY

Kids eat free with every £15 adult spend

WHITBREAD INNS

2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast

YO! SUSHI

Kids eat free all day (weekdays) in school holidays