



Wenlock's Weekly Round Up

'With God's love, we are lights for the world'

Friday 17th November 2023

This Terms Value is:

COMPASSION



Key dates

Monday 20th November	Parental Mental Health Awareness Workshop—Family Room 9am—10.30 am
Thursday 23rd November	Year 4 Aurora Class Swimming Lesson Year 3 & 4 Cinema Trip (more details to follow)
Thursday 30th November	Year 4 Aurora Class Swimming Lesson
Friday 1st December	Non Uniform Day—Donations of bottled items for Winter Wonderland Future Games Activity Day—more details to follow
Monday 4th December	Future Games Activity Day—more details to follow
Wednesday 6th December	Choir singing at Luton Airport (more details to follow)
Thursday 7th December	Year 4 Aurora Final Swimming Lesson Year 6 visit to QES—Panto
Friday 8th December	Non Uniform Day—Donations of Chocolate bars/boxes for Winter Wonderland
Tuesday 12th December	Girls football league Y3 Nativity in Church. Y3 families are invited to attend St Mary's @ 10am
Wednesday 13th December	Christmas jumper day (we love homemade) Christmas dinner day
Thursday 14th December	Y3 & 4 Believe and Achieve awards (invited families only) 9:15 am
Friday 15th December	Y5 & 6 Believe and Achieve awards (invited families only) 9:15 am Wenlock Winter Wonderland Fair 3.45—5.00 Hosted by Year 5—all invited
Tuesday 19th December	Last day of Autumn term
Wednesday 3rd January	Inset Day—School closed
Thursday 4th January	Start of Spring Term—Children return
Thursday 4th January	Year 4 Alina Swimming Lesson

Dear Families,

We have all been shocked and shaken by recent events in Israel and Gaza and by the rise in antisemitism and islamophobia in our communities in England and, more closely, in Luton. We are truly saddened that so many of you are directly or indirectly affected by this.

Our school needs to be a place where children can feel safe, be heard, and be able to discuss their feelings and concerns without fear or worry. Wenlock CE Academy is a community of learners and families who work together to resolve issues, recognise that we all share the same hopes and fears and encourage each other to see the humanity of each person in our midst. Our school's Christian values enable us to live together and to learn to discuss our differences respectfully. We are confident that these values will be lived and experienced by all members of the school community.

If you or your child have any concerns or are experiencing difficulties, please feel confident to approach us. We will do all we can to help, listen, and act as and where necessary. Our family worker (Mrs Warren) can refer you to support or advice you will find helpful.

I am very proud of our school, and a large part of that is because of the children and their families. We are a close and supportive community who have the best interests of everyone at heart. Whilst we are all affected by events locally and globally, we will work together to help our children feel safe, valued and confident.

Best wishes

Ms Burke
Head Teacher

PARENT INFORMATION

PE Days

Year group	PE Day	PE Day
Year 3 - Alpha	Tuesday	Friday
Year 3 - Omega	Tuesday	Thursday
Year 3 - Genesis	Tuesday	Thursday
Year 4 - Aurora	Tuesday	Thursday
Year 4 - Alina	Tuesday	Thursday
Year 4 - Vesper	Tuesday	Thursday
Year 5 - Lunar	Monday	Wednesday
Year 5 - Solar	Wednesday	Friday
Year 5 - Stellar	Wednesday	Thursday
Year 6 - Aviary	Wednesday	Friday
Year 6 - Arboreal	Monday	Wednesday
Year 6 - Aquarium	Wednesday	Thursday

Lost Property

We have a large number of uniform items in lost property that have no names on. This includes 7 coats and 9 blazers. As these items are not named, we have been unable to reunite them with their owner.

Please ensure that your child's name is written on all uniform and also coats.

Also, we kindly ask that you regularly check to see if your child has mistakenly take home uniform that belongs to another child.

Thank you

Christmas Shoebox Appeal

The school are continuing to take donated items for the Samaritan's Purse 'Operation Christmas Child' Project until Monday 20th November.

Any donations for this should be given to class teachers.

Support for this project would be very much appreciated.

Thank you

Dinner money

Please top up dinner money payments in advance of your child having school dinner. The cost for school dinner is as follows: £2.40 per day or £12.00 per week.

If you have a query relating to dinner money payment, you can contact the finance team on schooldinner@wenlockacademy.co.uk

Attendance

Well done to Arboreal who achieved the highest attendance last week at 97.24%

The attendance for the whole school was 93.35%

Our School target is 97%

Request for games

If anyone has any games (board games or similar) that are no longer needed, please would you consider donating them to the school? They will need to be complete and in their boxes. Our Family Worker, Miss Warren will be happy to make use of them in the family room. Please drop them off with her or at reception.

Thank you.

Children in Need Activities

It's been lovely to see the children dressed up in their pyjama's or 'spotty' clothes today and also enjoying the activities taking place around the school.

They've particularly enjoyed 'Hunt the Pudsey' picture quiz!

We still have money coming in, but the total raised for Children in Need so far stands at an amazing £218.05!

We will update you all on the final total in next weeks weekly round up.

Emailing the School Office

Please can we remind families that when emailing the school or leaving a message on the answerphone that you give your child's full name and their class and/or their teacher.

If you do not provide these details, it will lead to delays in answering or forwarding your queries.

You can report your child's absence by calling 01582 730624 and pressing option 1 or via email on attendance@wenlockacademy.co.uk



Wednesday 13th December

Turkey Christmas Lunch

Roast Turkey with Sticky Chipolata,
Roasties, Christmas Vegetable
Medley & Gravy

or

**Roasted Vegetable, Cranberry &
Cheese Puff Pastry**

with Roasties, Christmas
Vegetable Medley & Gravy
And

Christmas Pudding Rice Krispie Ball

or

White Chocolate Snowball Cookie

**FOOD
FESTIVAL**

By Aspens

Online Safety Update

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about **MICROTRANSACTIONS**

Microtransactions (often abbreviated as "MTX") are digital purchases made within an app or game to unlock extra features or additional content such as new levels. A popular sub-set of these are loot boxes, which contain a selection (usually random) of virtual items: from character skins to game-changing equipment like better weapons. Microtransactions (and loot boxes in particular) are now widespread in apps and games, but concerns persist that they normalise gambling and can foster addictive behaviours – especially among younger players.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GATEWAY TO GAMBLING?

Microtransactions have been criticised for promoting gambling-adjacent behaviour in children. Research has also suggested that exposure to the loot box system could affect the likelihood of a young person suffering gambling harms later in life: children who purchased or used loot boxes in the last 12 months were found to be more likely to have gambled during the same period, as well.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Microtransactions (and loot boxes especially) could lead to young people displaying compulsive behaviours. Loot boxes are designed to be addictive, and the sought-after prizes they contain are dispensed at random. This means that young gamers might not get what they want straight away, causing them to spend more money as well as additional time gaming.

PAYING TO WIN

In many popular games (the FIFA series being a notable example), microtransactions make it far easier to succeed – which is a concern because children can often find it difficult to keep track of their spending. Once a child starts making in-game purchases, they may continue buying to keep up with their friends and other players – sometimes without recognising the mounting real-world cost.

EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

DATA COLLECTION

To allow a young person to complete microtransactions, many app and game developers collect personal data such as their name, address, email, geolocation information, photos, payment details and so on. Even if this data remains secure (which is by no means guaranteed), there's always the chance that it will be used – and possibly sold on to third parties – for marketing purposes.

AFFECTING DAILY ROUTINE

Online games tend to revolve around repeated loops of activity that can affect purchasing decisions and potentially influence children's spending patterns. This could lead to your child not only handing over more money but also adjusting their daily routine to match the game's schedule – potentially impacting more important elements of their day, such as homework and family time.

SATELLITE SPENDING

If you've linked a payment method like a debit card or a PayPal account to your child's game or app, it's wise to keep a close eye on their microtransactions to ensure they aren't racking up a large bill. Letting a child have access to your card (if they're still too young to have their own) or other means of payment could also lead to them spending beyond the apps and games they normally use.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DO YOUR RESEARCH

It's important to have a serviceable idea of whether the games your child plays use the loot box system (even if it goes by a different name) or include the option of buying items, equipment and so forth. If so, it's crucial to help your child understand that this costs actual money, and that they shouldn't feel pressured into making any purchases.

CHAT ABOUT 'CHANCE'

It may help to explain to your child that many microtransactions involve an element of chance: they could pay money and still not get what they want in return. Emphasise that – while not usually costing much individually – these in-app and in-game purchases can soon add up. Talk to your child about how spending their money in a game or app means they have less to use in the real world.

(GIFT) CARDS ON THE TABLE

Investing in an in-game currency gift card can be a useful way of helping your child get to grips with budgeting. If you buy, say, a £10 V-bucks Fortnite gift card, monitor how long it takes them to spend it. When they come to you asking for more, you could make it the starting point for a conversation about how quickly that money went and how they could earn their next gift card.

STOP SPENDING AT SOURCE

You might decide that the wisest strategy is to remove the potential for spending money on microtransactions. If so, most games, apps and devices have options in their settings to help you manage what your child can spend – or to disable that function altogether, preventing them from buying additional items for their games or boosted functionality for certain apps.

WATCH FOR THE SIGNS

If you're worried that your child's passion for a particular game or app may tempt them into habitual spending on microtransactions, it's important to remember the indicators of addictive behaviour. Irritability, a lack of concentration and prioritising recreational screen time ahead of homework or mealtimes could all be signs that you need to have a conversation about a more balanced routine.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

This term we will be focussing in school on the value **COMPASSION**. We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together.

TALK TOGETHER about Compassion

Compassion is about 'standing in someone else's shoes' when they are having a hard time. In other words, trying to understand how they might be feeling and doing our best to try to help.

Talk together about:

- how we can show **compassion** and kindness to one another at home
- recognising when friends at school need us to listen and act with **compassion**
- stories in the news demonstrating how strangers show **compassion** in times of natural disasters
- how nations show **compassion** to other nations at times of disaster or need by sending money or volunteers to help



THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

Aesop



READ TOGETHER...

The good Samaritan

When someone asked Jesus the question, "Who is my neighbour?" he told a story that surprised everyone who heard it. The hero was from Samaria but those listening were mainly Jews. (Jews and Samaritans usually kept well away from each other.)

"A man set out on foot from Jerusalem to a town called Jericho", said Jesus. The crowd murmured and exchanged knowing glances. They knew this was a lonely, dangerous road, a favourite place for robbers to attack travellers. "As the man reached a rocky and desolate place, a gang of robbers leapt out and beat him. They took all that he had and left him bleeding and bruised. To the man's relief, he saw in the distance a priest from the temple. A priest is bound to help me, thought the man. He waited until the priest came a little closer and then called out, 'Thank goodness it is you. Please Sir, take me to safety.' But to his amazement the priest hurried past pretending not to see or hear him.

As the poor, injured man grew weaker and weaker in the burning midday sun, he once again heard footsteps. Looking up he saw a Levite, another of his own people. 'Please Sir, please help me', he called out. Surely this Levite would take pity on him, but to his horror the Levite just kept on walking.

The man had almost given up hope when he felt a gentle touch on his shoulder. A stranger, a Samaritan, had bent down beside him and was bandaging his wounds and giving him sips of water to drink. The Samaritan helped the man on to his own donkey and slowly, carefully took him all the way to an inn. There he paid the innkeeper to look after the man until he was well. The man never forgot the **compassion** and kindness of the Samaritan stranger."

"Who do you think was a good neighbour?" asked Jesus.

Bible story based on Luke 10:29-31



QUIZ The Stranger on the road was kind....

Change one letter in the word to answer the next clue.

- | | |
|---|------|
| The traveller was attacked as he walked along the | ROAD |
| Watching from the rocks was a small creature like a frog | ---- |
| The Samaritan ____ the innkeeper to look after the man | ---- |
| The Samaritan acted with courage. He was ____ | ---- |
| We sometimes talk about the ____ of friendship (rhymes with pond) | ---- |
| Wrap tightly with a bandage (rhymes with find) | ---- |
| The Samaritan in the story was | ---- |



FAMILY FOCUS

Random Acts of Kindness

Kindness is often appreciated most when it is offered at unexpected times.

Choose one week this term for your family to have "a random acts of kindness" week, and do something kind for someone each day. Try to do it without telling people it was you!



www.randomactsofkindness.org



HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE



Helping hands

As well as being kind and showing **compassion** in what we say, it is often what we *do* that other people remember.

Draw and cut out the shape of each person's hand in your family. Decorate it with all the random acts of kindness that they have shown. Mount the hands of each member of your family on some paper so they look fantastic and ready to be displayed.



FASCINATING FACTS

What a difference **compassion** and kindness can make!

Numerous charities help people who have been hurt, are ill or suffer through lack of resources. Below are just 3:

- **World Vision** encourages individuals and groups to 'Sponsor a Child' in an area of the world where food, health and education cannot be taken for granted. For just 75 pence a day the life of a child, in for example Uganda or Bolivia, can be transformed by providing help to grow food, source clean water, improve health services and pay for education.

www.worldvision.org.uk

- **Help for Heroes** was set up after many British soldiers returned from war zones in Iraq and Afghanistan. By giving to this charity the public show their **compassion** for the soldiers and their families and recognise the service they gave on behalf of us all.

www.helpforheroes.org.uk

- **Help the Hospices**. Sometimes when people become very ill they go to a hospice which will provide them with care and **compassion**. Often hospices are maintained by donations from people who admire and value their service or who have had a relative who has been helped by the hospice.

www.hospiceuk.org



World Vision

Building a better world for children

IN SUPPORT OF
HELP for HEROES

ITV11



HALL OF FAME

A famous bear with a spotty scarf



Pudsey Bear became a national mascot in 1985. He was designed by Joanna Ball and she named him after the small town in Yorkshire where she lived and went to school for many years, Pudsey.

When we see Pudsey Bear we immediately think of Children in Need. This charity has grown enormously since it began and raises millions of pounds every year. Thanks to people all over the country, children in the UK and across the world have come to know real kindness and **compassion**, made possible by generous donations to the charity. www.bbc.co.uk/childreninneed