

Wenlock's Weekly Round-Up

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



KEY DATES

- **Wednesday 15th January** - Invited Children to attend Choir Rehearsal at Ursula Taylor
- **Monday 20th January** - SATS Parent Information Evening, 3.45pm, **please register on Arbor**
- **Thursday 23rd January** - Heritage Day, see poster below
- **Thursday 23rd January** - Big Lunch Day, children eat for free at school, book your child's meal through Arbor as normal (see poster)
- **Monday 3rd February to Friday 8th February** - Year 6 Mock SATS week
- **Tuesday 4th February** - Year 3 and 4 Movie Night, further information coming soon
- **Thursday 6th February** - Year 5 and 6 Movie Night, further information coming soon
- **Thursday 6th February** - Invited children to attend Chiltern Academy Dance Workshops
- **Tuesday 11th February** - Invited children to attend Young Voices at the O2
- **Monday 3rd March** - Wenlock Book Week, children can dress up as a favourite book character on Friday 7th March
- **Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th March** - Parents' Evening - whole school

This Terms Value is:
Perserverance

PARENT AND COMMUNITY GOVERNOR VACANCIES

There are vacancies for a Parent and Community Governor at the school.

Please email:
admin@wenlockacademy.co.uk



NEW SCHOOL COLLECTION POLICY

Over the last term we have listened to parental feedback and have decided to allow siblings that are in Year 9 and over to collect their brother or sister from Wenlock CE Academy. **Please give permission via Arbor.** Please be reminded that parents will take full responsibility for allowing their child under 18 to collect their younger child from Wenlock CE Academy.

STUDYBUGS

Please get the **free Studybugs app** for reporting your child's absence due to illness.

<https://studybugs.com>



Report sickness, receive guidance, help improve children's health.
See what illnesses are going around.
Secure system, all communications encrypted.

ATTENDANCE

Well done to Omega who achieved the highest attendance for the last week of term at 100%

The attendance for the whole school was 94.07%

Our School target is 97%





We are a Nut Free school for the safety of our children with nut allergies We would like to remind parents that most chocolate spread contains hazelnuts. Please can you remember to not put chocolate spread in the children's lunch boxes.

Electrical Recycling



We have an electrical recycling collection bin in the reception area of the school. Please see the poster below regarding which items can be recycled.

Uniform Exchange



Level Trust are always grateful for donations of pre-loved school uniform. There is a blue container in our school reception area which has details of uniform requested where items can be placed.
Thank-you!

Road Safety



To keep children safe, please ensure that children are taught how to cross the road safely, especially outside school and where there is heavy traffic.
A reminder that drivers must not stop on the yellow lines outside of the school.

Snacks



Many thanks for sending your children in with fruit and vegetables for snack times and for remembering not to send your children in with nut related products.

Grapes and cherry tomatoes should be sent cut into quarters length-ways to avoid choking.

PARENT INFORMATION

PE TIMETABLE

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

HOMEWORK GRIDS

Year 3, 4 and 5 homework grids for Spring term are live on the website and they can be found under Home Learning section. Year 6 homework has been sent home this week. This is due back to their class teacher on Tuesday.

Year 6 SATS Parents Information Evening

Do you have a child in Year 6?
Are you interested in finding out more about the
End of Key Stage 2 SATS Tests?

Our Year 6 team will be hosting an information evening where we will share what the tests are, how the week will run and how as a school we can work with you to support the children in the lead up to their tests.

PLEASE REGISTER ON
ARBOR

MONDAY 20TH JANUARY 2025
3.45PM IN THE SCHOOL HALL



Dinner Money

Please top up dinner money payments in advance of your child having school dinner.

The cost of school dinners is as follows:
£2.75 per day or £13.75 per week.

If you have a query relating to dinner money payment, you can contact the finance team on:

schooldinner@wenlockacademy.co.uk

Heritage Day

Thursday 23rd January 2025

Dress up!

Wear an outfit that represents your religious or cultural heritage.

A voluntary donation of £1 would be appreciated.



Bring in!

An item or object that signifies a religious festival or cultural event to discuss on the day.

Share!

A written recipe of a meal or dish that is important to your religion or heritage.





**FOOD
FESTIVAL**

By Aspens



**THE
BIG
SCHOOL
LUNCH**

Children Eat for Free

(Book a meal the normal way)

Cheesy Pizza
Or
Pepper Pizza
With

Homemade Spicy Wedges & Peas
Followed By
Iced Chocolate Sprinkle Sponge

**THURSDAY
23rd JANUARY**

Our Jacket Potato and Hot Tomato
Pasta is also available.

Aspens
🍷🍷🍷🍷



IT'S MEAL TIME

TICKETS

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO RETURN TO ROUTINE

Most of us look forward to the school holidays as an opportunity to slow down and relax, stay up later, sleep in and generally approach life in a more leisurely fashion. However, this does mean that returning to normal school-day routines can feel like an uphill battle. Here are some practical tips to ease that transition, reduce stress and set children up for success.

1 START SMALL AND EARLY

Begin reintroducing elements of the school routine a week before term starts. Gradually adjust bedtime, wake-up times and mealtimes to be more in line with school-day rhythms. Small changes can make a big difference in avoiding last-minute panic and helping children to readjust smoothly.

2 REVISIT THE SCHEDULE

Involve your child in mapping out their daily routine so they understand what's going to change. Visual tools like charts or calendars can help keeping to that schedule feel more engaging. When children understand and anticipate their personal timetable, they feel more secure and in control.

3 CREATE A SLEEP PLAN

Sleep can present one of the biggest challenges, as children can sometimes become night owls, prone to staying up late during the holidays. Limit screen time before bed and encourage winding-down activities like reading or listening to calming music. A restful night's sleep improves focus, mood and overall wellbeing, making mornings much smoother.

4 ENCOURAGE FRIENDSHIPS

Help your child to reconnect with school friends by organising playdates, catch-ups or arranging to go to after-school clubs. Re-establishing social bonds can make the return to school more exciting and less intimidating, allowing youngsters to focus on the positive aspects of the new term.

5 GRANT RESPONSIBILITY

Give children control over some aspects of the morning routine. Maybe they could be in charge of waking everyone up, serving breakfast or choosing the radio station that everyone listens to while getting ready. Something that gives them a sense of ownership over their morning schedule can help them view the task as one they've chosen to do, rather than being told to do it.

6 FOCUS ON NUTRITION

Make sure children are receiving balanced meals (with regular healthy snacks to boost energy and concentration), putting them in the best possible state to return to education. A nutritious breakfast is particularly crucial for a positive start to the day. Involve children in meal planning to make it enjoyable and collaborative.

7 COMMUNICATE OPENLY

Talk with your child about how they're feeling about returning to school: whether they're excited, anxious or a mix of both. Validating their emotions helps them feel supported and understood. Try asking them about the things they're looking forward to at school, such as seeing their friends again. Focusing on the positives can be useful for children struggling with change.

8 RECONNECT WITH LEARNING

Ease children back into a learning mindset by incorporating fun, educational activities into their home life. Reading a favourite book, playing games that involve maths or discussing an interesting topic can gently reawaken their focus and prime their minds to learn, which can have helpful impacts on their academic performance.

9 PREP TOGETHER

Turn preparation into a shared activity, to shoulder the responsibility together and provide support where needed. Pack school bags, lay out uniforms and plan lunch the night before. This not only reduces early morning stress but also gives children a sense of ownership over being ready for school.

10 BE PATIENT AND FLEXIBLE

Transitions take time, and every child adjusts differently: so, it's important to stay calm and supportive, especially if they're reacting adversely to the change in their daily life. Be ready to tweak routines as needed, and work with the child to make the return to education easier possible for them. Patience can go a long way to setting a positive tone for the new school year.

Meet Our Expert

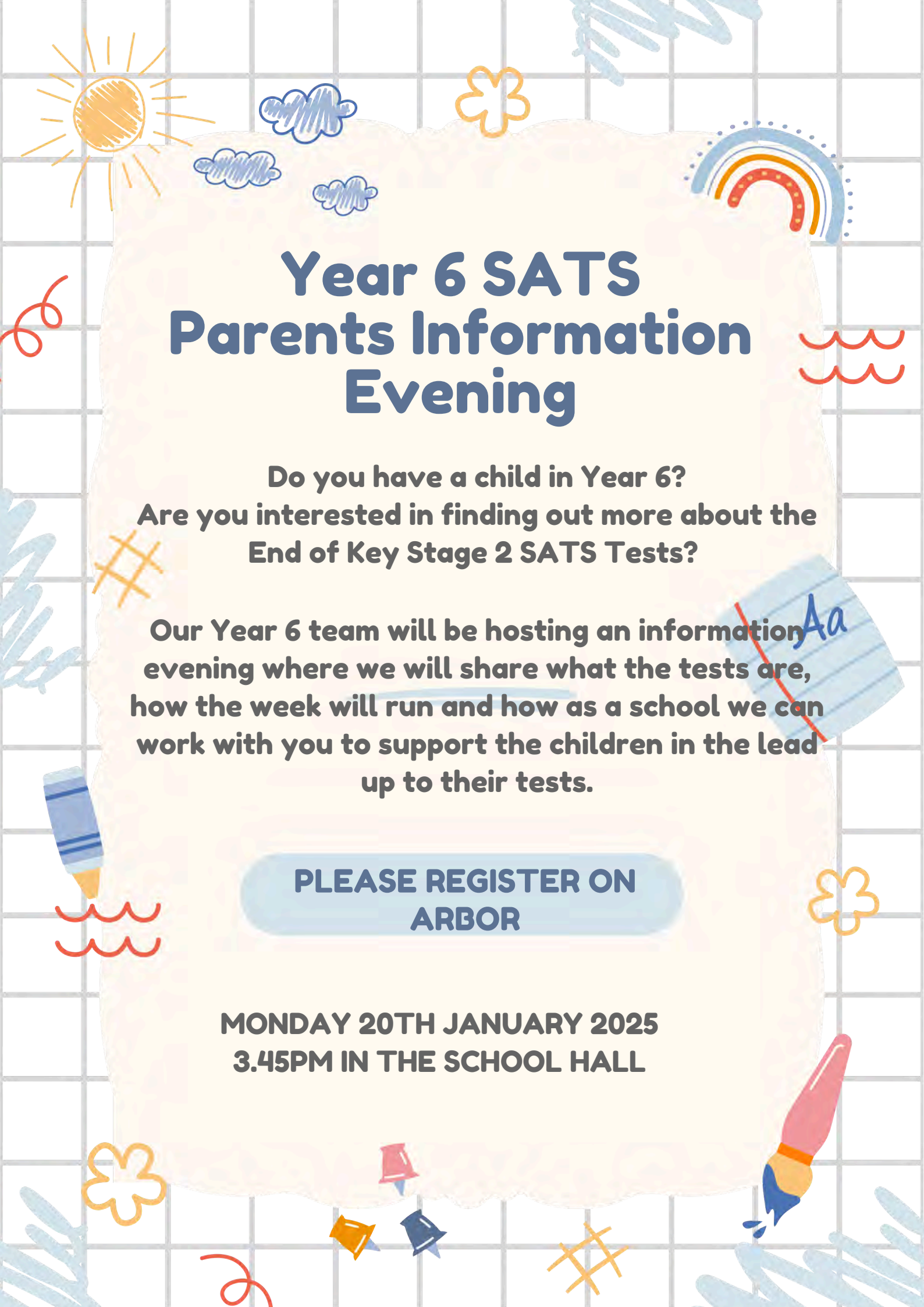
Becky Dawson is an education expert with a focus on mental health and wellbeing. Passionate about empowering adults who spend time with and care for young people, Becky specialises in creating practical strategies that promote wellbeing and resilience in children during life's transitions.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at:



Year 6 SATS Parents Information Evening

**Do you have a child in Year 6?
Are you interested in finding out more about the
End of Key Stage 2 SATS Tests?**

Our Year 6 team will be hosting an information evening where we will share what the tests are, how the week will run and how as a school we can work with you to support the children in the lead up to their tests.

**PLEASE REGISTER ON
ARBOR**

**MONDAY 20TH JANUARY 2025
3.45PM IN THE SCHOOL HALL**



ROLL UP! ROLL UP!

IT'S LUNCH TIME!

GOLDEN TICKET

CENSUS DAY! DATE:

16TH JANUARY

PRIZES TO BE WON!



JOKE

WHAT DID ONE
PLATE SAY TO THE
OTHER PLATE?

Lunch is on me.





**FOOD
FESTIVAL**

By Aspens

**ROLL UP!
ROLL UP!**

IT'S LUNCH TIME!

16TH JANUARY

Margherita Pizza
or
Mix Pepper Pizza
with
Homemade Wedges
Sweetcorn
And
Chocolate Ice Sponge

Our Jacket Potato & Hot Tomato Pasta is also
available



GOLDEN TICKET

GOLDEN TICKET



IT'S MEAL TIME

TICKETS

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about JUSTALK KIDS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

JusTalk Kids is a child's version of the JusTalk app – a highly popular social networking platform – designed for users up to 13 years of age, allowing them to video call, message and participate in group chats. While adults can link their own JusTalk account to their child's and make use of parental controls, it's important to understand the risks associated with the app.

SUBSCRIPTION FOR PREMIUM ACCESS

While JusTalk Kids is free, there's the option to subscribe to a kids' premium account or a premium family account. At a cost, this feature allows children to have access to more fun features such as games they can play with others in a call; exclusive stickers; a badge denoting them as a premium subscriber; and exclusive ringtones and themes.

RESISTANCE TO CONTROLS

JusTalk Kids endeavours to allow children the sense of having a chat-based app while allowing parents to set controls (within the app or from their own adult JusTalk account). The basis behind this is positive; however, some children are challenging their parents by refusing to use JusTalk Kids, preferring to use the adult version without any restrictions in place.

KNOWING THE PARENT PASSCODE

After downloading JusTalk Kids, parents can set a passcode which users must enter to add contacts. The parental controls help to manage which content can be viewed and who children can add as a contact: this then allows children to chat with friends in a controlled environment. However, prospective contacts don't have to know a specific username. In theory, someone could type in a random name and then add them as a friend.

POTENTIAL DATA LEAKS

JusTalk and JusTalk Kids claim to be secure and encrypted, going so far as to state that even the developers themselves won't access your data. However, a security lapse in 2022 highlighted that messages were not in fact encrypted – leading to concerns around the security of the app and the transparency of the development team.

CYBERBULLYING

Online chats can provide a sense of anonymity, leading some users to post things which they wouldn't normally say in person. Combined with the option of group chats, there's a risk that young people might join in with this kind of behaviour, escalating it further and potentially turning what should be a fun experience into something deeply negative.

TOO MUCH SCREENTIME

A report by the UK Parliament Education Committee highlighted a 52% increase in children's screen time between 2020 and 2022 – as well as finding that 25% of children used their smartphones in a manner consistent with screen addiction. Introducing children to social networking apps when they're too young can lead to bad digital habits and a reliance on technology from an early age.

Advice for Parents & Educators

JUSTIFY THE CONTROLS

If parents allow their child to use JusTalk Kids, they should explain that they're putting parental controls in place to make the app safer. Make sure the child knows not to put their full name on the account and doesn't use a photo of themselves as their profile picture. This type of open discussion will help to ensure that a child is aware of the app's potential risks and knows how to reduce them.

TALK ABOUT ONLINE FRIENDSHIPS

Young children could be excited to use this app. However, highlight that they must do so in a positive, respectful and responsible manner. While it can be easy to get caught up in a group chat, it's important to talk to others politely and call out any unpleasant behaviour. Discuss the importance of limiting their contacts to people they know in real life and use parental controls to enforce this.

DOS AND DON'TS OF SHARING

Some children might not understand the potential dangers of oversharing online. Set clear guidelines around what is and isn't safe to share on the internet, and discuss the concept of a digital footprint. Children need to understand that the things they say and share online can never be completely erased. Even if they delete it themselves, it can be saved and distributed by others.

ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Apps like JusTalk can sometimes lend themselves to bullying behaviours. Parents should monitor what their child is sending and receiving, check in with them regularly and encourage them to share their feelings (both positive and negative) at home. Remind them that they can block a contact if someone is treating them disrespectfully.

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.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/justalk-kids>



Girlguiding

Stockwood district



For ages 4 to 7

Rainbows welcomes all girls to come together to laugh, learn and have fun in a creative, safe space. It's a wonderful world of adventure, week after week, just for her.



Brownies is full of firsts: she can explore her creative side, get out into the great outdoors, learn how to look after herself, others and the world we live in.



For ages 7 to 10



For ages 10 to 14

Guides is a fun-filled space, she'll have one big adventure with friends, learn how to be herself, explore the things she loves and do stuff she's never done before!



For ages 14 to 18



Rangers is an open and relaxed space, where you can regularly meet up, go on trips at home and abroad, to help make a difference to the things you care about.

Find a group near you girlguiding.org.uk

Registered charity number: 306016

PERSEVERANCE

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

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

Talk Together about Perseverance

Teachers often say that perseverance is something that many children find difficult.

Very little that is really worthwhile in life can be achieved without perseverance. An athlete may train for years before they are ready to compete at the highest level. A musician must practice every day, sometimes for hours at a time, if they are to really master their instrument.

- How would each family member rate themselves on a scale of 1 - 10 at perseverance?
- Can you give an example of something you have achieved by determined perseverance?
- Is there a skill that you think you could improve with perseverance?



read Together ...

The Widow Who Never Gave Up

There was once a judge living in a town just like this one, said Jesus to the crowd of people who were listening to him and hanging on his every word.

This judge did not care much about God or justice. The crowd muttered to one another and smiled knowingly, they all knew judges like him! A poor widow, called Sarah, lived in the same town. She was being treated badly by her neighbour who was making her life very difficult indeed.

Sarah went to the judge to ask him to hear her case and give her justice.

At first the judge tried to ignore her. Silly old woman he thought. Why won't she leave me alone. Doesn't she realise that I have more important things to deal with?

But Sarah persevered. You are my only hope she told the judge. You must help me. Day after day she went to see him.

In the end, the judge was so exasperated that he thought to himself I will never get a minutes peace unless I help this old woman.

Finally he let her explain to him the problems that she was facing and agreed that Sarah's neighbour was indeed behaving very badly and must be made to stop at once. Sarah's perseverance paid off and eventually she got the justice she deserved.

So keep persevering and keep praying said Jesus to

the crowd.

Bible story based on Luke 18:1-8



R	X	W	U	E	E	G	D			U	J	k	O
O	S	M	E	L	B	O	R			P	N	F	F
C	N	E	I	G	H	B	O			U	R	R	W
F	E	C	I	T	S	U	J			k	R	A	B
P	N	C	Q	Y	N	V	P			H	E	T	S
P	E	R	S	E	V	E	R			A	N	C	E
B	H	O	P	E	S	P	A			P	Z	C	F
L	W	Y	A	D	S	A	E			T	L	H	V
L	M	R	U	S	U	F	R			E	I	E	H
B	G	A	W	T	Q	A	D			A	k	I	H
J	W	O	D	I	W	X	N			V	H	S	R
P	I	G	N	O	R	E	L			A	F	E	J

Think Together Words of Wisdom

"If at first you don't succeed try, try and try again."

W.E. Hickson



Ask each member of the family to write (on identical pieces of paper) a challenge that will require perseverance to complete. Fold the paper 4 times and place it in a bag with the others. Invite each person to place their hand into the bag (whilst looking the other way) and pick out a challenge which they have one week to complete. (Think carefully about the challenge you set and if possible make it a worthwhile and useful thing to do).



home-school challenge



Mosaics are one of the oldest ways to make art. People have been arranging tiny coloured pieces of glass or pottery for thousands of years to create beautiful designs. But the process is time consuming and needs lots of perseverance. This term's Home-School Challenge is to make a mosaic picture (no bigger than A3 – 29x42cm) using small pieces of coloured paper. The subject of your mosaic is up to you. It could be a pattern or a picture. All the pictures submitted will be displayed in our school Challenge Gallery.

☆ hall of FaMe

Prince George

Prince George, later to become king George VI, had always been shy and had developed a stammer, which meant he could not speak for very long without struggling to say the words he wanted to say.

His elder brother, Edward, was very different. He was confident, loved to be the centre of attention and was destined to become king of England. But soon after the coronation, king Edward announced that he was going to abdicate – to give up being king. His younger brother would now become king in his place. George was horrified! He felt sick with fright. Now he would be expected to deliver speeches and give radio broadcasts to millions! How would he be able to do this with his dreadful stammer? But George knew that it was his duty to serve his country.



He knew that he must overcome his fears and do his very best. He employed an Australian speech therapist to help him and with perseverance and great courage George was able to face the challenges ahead. When war was declared in 1939 king George gave a famous speech. He comforted and encouraged his people and won everyone's respect because they knew how brave he was being.



Fascinating Facts

Perseverance in the Natural World

Many birds show remarkable perseverance as they build their nests, piece by piece often in cold, wet and windy weather and at risk from predators.

The long-tailed tit is just one example. Weighing just 9g, this little bird takes 3 weeks or more to build a nest. The oval shaped nest is made from moss, cobwebs and hair, covered on the outside with lichen and lined with up to 2000 tiny feathers!

