

Wenlock's Weekly Round-Up

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



KEY DATES

- **Monday 20th January** - SATS Parent Information Evening, 3.45pm, **please register on Arbor**
- **Wednesday 22nd January** - MHST Coffee Morning Workshop, 9am in the Serenity Room
- **Thursday 23rd January** - Heritage Day, wear an outfit that represents your religious or cultural heritage, (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 below)
- **Monday 27th January** - Year 4 Parent Information Evening, Multiplication Tables Check, from 3:45 to 4:15pm
- **Wednesday 29th January** - MHST Coffee Morning Workshop, 9am in the Serenity Room
- **Monday 3rd February to Friday 8th February** - Year 6 Mock SATS week
- **Tuesday 4th February** - Year 3 and 4 Movie Night, 3.45 - 5.15pm, £3.50 includes drink and snack, BOOK VIA ARBOR
- **Thursday 6th February** - Year 5 and 6 Movie Night, 3.45 - 5.15pm, £3.50 includes drink and snack, BOOK VIA ARBOR
- **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

STUDYBUGS

To date, only 51% of Wenlock Parents have signed up to Studybugs. By Easter we would like the take up to be 75%. Please download the free Study Bugs app if you have not already done so.



ATTENDANCE

Well done to Alpha who achieved the highest attendance for the last week of term at 97.22%

The attendance for the whole school was 93.57%

Our School target is 97%



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, if you are interested. We would be delighted to answer any questions you may have.

MHST COFFEE MORNING WORKSHOP

The Luton CAMHS Mental Health support team will be holding coffee mornings on the **22nd January and the 29th January at 9am in the Serenity Room at Wenlock CE Academy.**

This is a two part workshop on **Anxiety, ADHD, ASC and Anxiety**. All parents are very welcome to attend.



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.

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.



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

MHST Coffee Morning Workshop

22nd Jan and 29th Jan 9am

The 4 A's.
Anxiety, ADHD,
ASC and Anxiety
2 part workshop

Who are MHST:

We are a team within CAMHS that is designated to work with schools, and colleges within Luton. We aim to improve early access into CAMHS for children experiencing mild to moderate mental health needs.



Luton NHS
mental health and wellbeing service
provided by ELFT

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**

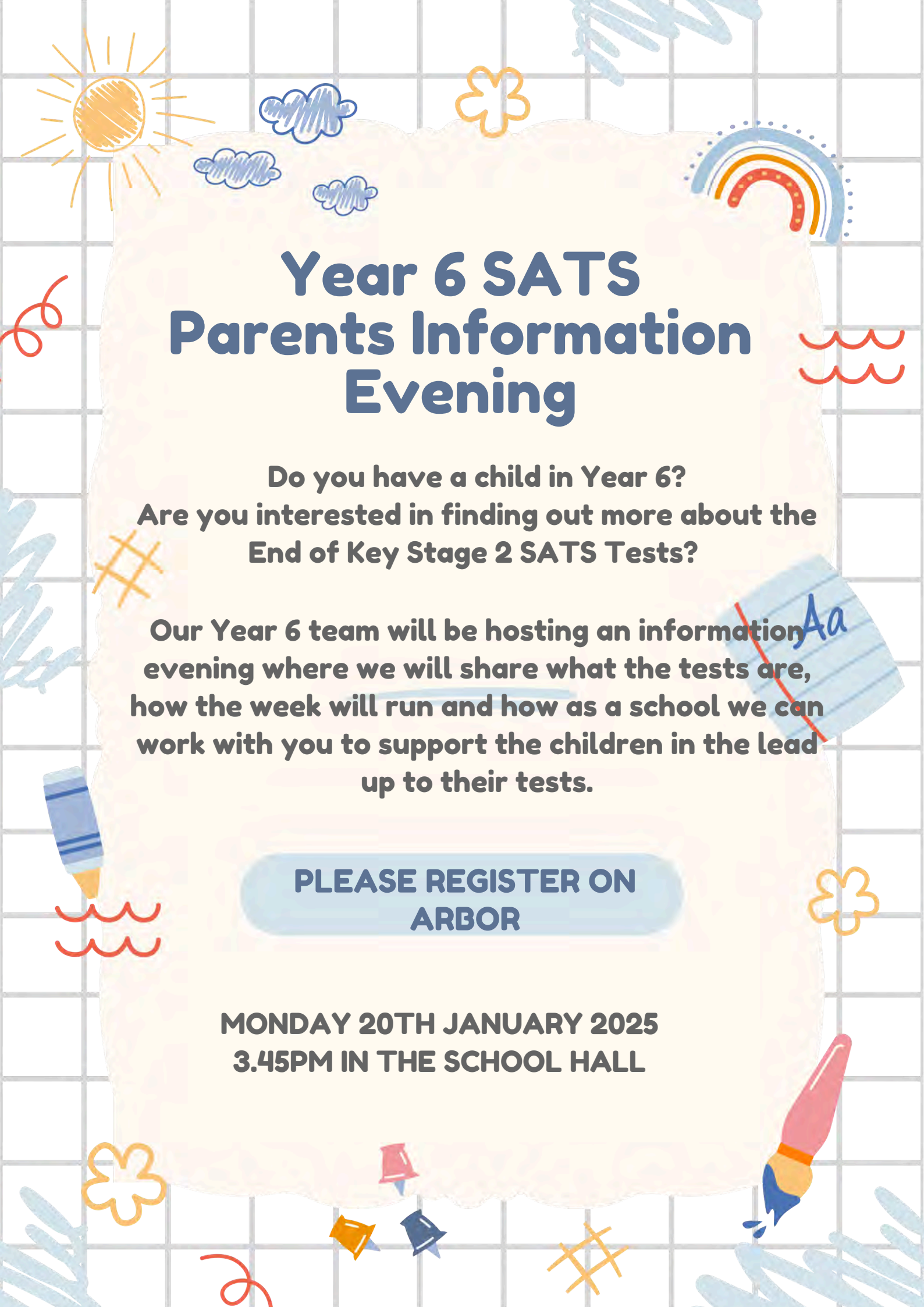
Our Jacket Potato and Hot Tomato
Pasta is also available.

Aspens
🍷🍷🍷🍷



IT'S MEAL TIME

TICKETS



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**



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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TIKTOK



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

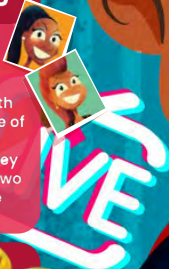
Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where youngsters "were most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT



While TikTok's Following feed only displays videos from familiar creators, For You is a collection based on a user's previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the app could potentially show something unsuitable. If children then engage with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount inevitably slips through.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES



According to Ofcom, most online harms for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous stunts for boys. Both are prevalent on TikTok. One extreme example of the latter was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

IN-APP SPENDING



TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99, while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.9 billion in user spending in 2023. TikTok's policy is that under-18s can't make in-app purchases, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birth date.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS



With more than 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables anyone to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more frivolous than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 12 to 15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source – so you should be wary of misogynistic, racist or conspiracy-themed material shaping how they see the world.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young brains. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the app: that's twice as much as in 2020. Excessive use can interfere with young people's sleep patterns – often leading to irritability – and distract them from other, healthier activities. The instantly skippable nature of bite-size videos may also impact children's ability to maintain focus.

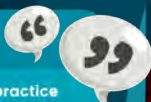
Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING



Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen-time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS



If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure that they don't share any identifying personal information, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/tiktok-2025>

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).



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.



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.



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!

