

# NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another very positive and purposeful week at Star Academy Sandyford. I am incredibly proud of how all pupils have approached assessment week, showing focus, resilience and determination. Our Year 6 pupils are now only a few weeks away from their KS2 SATs and have been working exceptionally hard—please continue to support by ensuring attendance at booster sessions, as these are making a real difference.

It has also been an incredibly busy and enriching week in school. Thank you to all parents and carers who attended our Special Ladies event—it was a lovely opportunity to come together and celebrate our community. We were also delighted to welcome the Fire Brigade into school to talk about fire safety, which the children found both engaging and informative. Thank you to those who joined us for our STEM Science afternoons as part of Science Week—it was fantastic to see such enthusiasm for learning. We have also marked International Women’s Day, recognising and celebrating the achievements of women across the world.

On 20th March, we will be recognising both Eid and Oral Health Day. To all of our families celebrating Eid, we wish you a joyful and peaceful time with your loved ones.

Finally, a huge thank you to all of our staff for their continued dedication and hard work.

Kind regards,

Mrs Bloor



## Diary Dates



Event	Date
Y4,5,6 Play with Clay	16.03.26
Y2 Lower Drayton Farm	17.03.26
Coffee Morning 8:30-9:30	19.03.26
Eid competition entries	19.03.26
<b>Inset Day (School Closed)</b>	<b>20.03.26</b>
Easter competition entries	23.03.26
Walk with Easter Bunny	23.03.26
Y3,Y4,Y5 St Josephs Church	23.03.26
Chocolate Bingo 2:40-3:10	24.03.26
Canal & River Safety Talks	24.03.26
Y1/Y2 Easter Bonnet 8:50	24.03.26
Y3 Multicultural Exhibition	25.03.26
Y1,Y2,Y4 St Josephs Church	25.03.26
Behaviour Treat 2:00-3:10	25.03.26
Easter Assembly 8:50-9:15	26.03.26
Care Home Visit (invite only)	27.03.26
Last day of Spring Term	27.03.26

## EASTER HALF TERM HOLIDAY

**30th March - 10th April**

Coffee Morning 8:30-9:30	16.04.26
Story Time 2:55-3:10	16.04.26
School Photo Day	17.04.26
Y5 Bikeability	20.04.26
Y5 Bikeability	21.04.26
Y5 Bikeability	22.04.26
Y5 Bikeability	23.04.26
Y3 & Y4 Practice Walks	27.04.26
Coffee Morning 8:30-9:30	30.04.26
Y4 Trip Grosvenor Museum	05.05.26
Coffee Morning 8:30-9:30	14.05.26
Y2 Trip Warwick Castle	18.05.26
Y1 Trip Wolseley Gardens	19.05.26
Y5 Trip Emma Bridgwater	20.05.26
Story Time 2:55-3:10	21.05.26
Coffee Morning 8:30-9:30	28.05.26

## Attendance



As an Academy, we are aiming for 97% attendance every week. Please see below for the attendance for each class this week (w/e 13.03.26).

100%	★						
99%							
98%		★	★	★	★	★	★
97%							
96%							
95%							
94%							
93%							
92%							
91%							
90%							
89%							
88%							
	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Whole school

**WOW just WOW!!!**

**Weekly attendance - every class is in the green zone.**

**A huge well done to Year 1 for 100% attendance - that is amazing.**

**All classes have been rewarded with extra play.**

**#AttendanceMatters**

# Safeguarding

## This weeks focus:



Do you talk to your children about road safety? Can they cross the road safely? Are you confident that they are safe when they are out in the community or on the way to and from school?

### Road Safety

**STOP**  
Always stop before crossing. Make sure it is clear before moving from the pavement.  
If there is a crossing nearby, see it, even if it means walking a little further to get to it.

**LOOK**  
Make sure you can see clearly in both directions.  
Look for cars approaching - also make sure you look for motorbikes and bicycles. You should be visible and before crossing.

**LISTEN**  
Listen out for traffic.  
Sometimes you can hear vehicles before you see them.

**THINK**  
Be very aware.  
- do it right  
- if you see a car or a bus driver will have the chance of seeing you.  
If you are sure it is clear and safe you should cross. If you are unsure - wait!

When crossing, look out for trucks and vehicles, try and find the safest route to where you are going. Look out for unexpected crossing points.

At a traffic light crossing, press the button and wait for the green man to light up and listen to speak.

At a zebra crossing wait until the traffic has both directions has stopped, see this cross.

When crossing with a friend crossing first, offer about follow their instructions, and remember to say thank you.

# Safeguarding



## Suggested Apps and Games For 7-11 YEARS



### Learning



#### MAGIC PIANO BY SMILE

While Magic Piano doesn't strictly teach you how to play the piano, it does teach hand-eye coordination and can help spark creativity in young minds. Users can play along to a variety of popular songs on a range of difficulty levels in an attempt to get through the song with as few mistakes as possible, increasing difficulty and reaction times. Free on iOS & Android, the game does contain some ads and in-app purchases, so be sure to check these out before letting younger players unleash their musical skills. Magic Piano is PEGI 3 rated but requires slightly more nimble hands to master so older kids will get the most from this.



#### AZOOMEE

Azoomee houses over 1,000 games, videos and activities for kids of all ages to play, have fun and most importantly, develop their key skills in. The app is award winning, BAFTA nominated, supported by the NSPCC (according to the description on their app page) and comes with a suite of parental controls built in. As well as educational games, activities and kid's favourite TV shows, the app also has a built-in chat feature where they can talk to their friends safely. A nice little touch is that if you buy a subscription to Azoomee for unlimited premium content for £4.99 a month, a portion of the money raised goes towards supporting the NSPCC. The app is available on iOS, Android and Amazon.



#### POLY BRIDGE

While Poly Bridge could be easily enjoyed solely as a game, it's actually an incredibly clever way to learn critical thinking and engineering skills in a kid friendly way. It's set in a colourful, cartoony world and has extremely simple gameplay. In Poly Bridge, it's your task to get cars, buses, trucks, boats and more safely to their destination by designing bridges that are safe and practical. How those bridges are created is entirely up to you. With over 100 levels, a sandbox mode and almost infinite playability, Poly Bridge is available on PC, Android, iOS and Nintendo Switch at various price points, so be sure to check which is the best option for you.



#### CROSSWORD PUZZLES (WUBU APPS LTD)

Crossword puzzles might not immediately seem like a learning game for younger kids, but they're incredibly effective at building strong word skills and problem solving. This one by Wubu Apps Limited is exclusive to iOS and constantly changes its roster of daily crosswords and challenges, although there are a whole bunch of apps available out there which do similar things. The app is rated 4+ but would likely be suited to kids a little older as the crosswords are designed for adults as well. As mentioned, Crossword Puzzles is only available on iOS devices and is free to download but does contain in-app purchases.



#### SCRIBBLENAUTS UNLIMITED

Scribblenauts is a game like few others in that it actively encourages children to use their intuition to solve a variety of puzzles. Armed only with their imagination, players must complete levels by conjuring potentially useful items for main character Maxwell to collect the Starbits and achieve his goal. The game helps create strong vocabulary and word association to a fun 2D backdrop. While any version of Scribblenauts is good, Unlimited is the most readily available, being released on Wii U, PC, Nintendo 3DS, iOS and Android devices, PS4, Xbox One and Nintendo Switch.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



### Just for Fun



#### SUPER MARIO ODYSSEY

Widely regarded as one of the greatest games Nintendo have ever made, Super Mario Odyssey provides family friendly fun and a challenging environment for kids to learn new skills in a video game. Rated PEGI 7, Odyssey can be enjoyed by almost any age range, even those who are young at heart. The caveat is that the game is only available on Nintendo Switch, so some investment will need to be made, but the console boasts a host of other child-safe titles and the ability to play on the go as well as at home.



#### NETFLIX

As obvious as it may sound, Netflix's children's section is ideal for keeping young ones and toddlers out of trouble on long journeys or at home. The specific profile for kids allows them to only view content appropriate for younger audiences which lets you and them watch their favourite shows and movies anywhere, at any time. Curated playlists, easy navigation through TV series and movies, and no-hassle auto-play means a stress-free guarantee. The only downside to the app is that it requires a Netflix subscription in order to use it but if you're happy to pay the monthly cost, it's an absolute must for any parent.



#### MINECRAFT

Minecraft is one of those rare, timeless classics that can be enjoyed by every age group. Gaming in both a console version and a ported edition for mobile devices, the sandbox world-building fun in Minecraft can be an amazing place to let your imagination run wild. The game can be played online with friends and supports cross-play, meaning that no matter what device everybody has, it can be played together. While the game isn't free, it will undoubtedly provide hours and hours of fun for the whole family so it's worth the investment of a one-time purchase. As one of the most popular games ever released, it inspires critical thinking, problem solving and above all, fun.



#### LEGO MOVIE MAKER 2

The LEGO Movie Maker 2 app lets users create their own stop-motion movies and upload them for others to watch online. Kids can create a short LEGO movie in whatever genre they like using a range of easy-to-use tools and are able to add in sounds and visual effects to make the videos look super realistic. All movies are moderated before they make it online so you can be sure no sensitive information is uploaded or viewed by third parties. The app is free to download on both iOS and Android devices but does require the creation of a LEGO account to upload videos. The only information needed for an account is the country you live in, your email address and date of birth. While it's rated for 4+, kids of 8 and up will get the most out of this one.



#### ADVENTURES OF POCO ECO: LOST SOUNDS

If something more slow-paced and chilled out is on your radar, Adventures of Poco Eco should be able to scratch that itch. With an emphasis on creating a rich and inviting musical soundscape over hardcore gameplay, the puzzle action is perfect for unwinding young minds, as opposed to challenging them. The single-player game is available on all iOS and Android devices, as well as the Amazon Kindle Store and you can also nab yourself a free copy of the soundtrack with the purchase.

### Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMING Bible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



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# Wake Up Wednesday



## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about STREAMING SERVICES



### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Streaming services are platforms that allow users to watch cartoons, documentaries and movies online immediately (often referred to as SVOD: streaming videos on demand). Ofcom reported that children and young adults prefer streaming services to traditional TV. With two-thirds of UK households subscribing to at least one streaming service, parents must understand how to manage screen time, set age restrictions and ensure safe viewing.

### COSTLY

Subscription services can be costly. As the main source of entertainment, most households have at least one streaming platform, and each platform has its own monthly subscription fee. Services are charging more for ad-free viewing, and better quality and resolution; however, there is a cheaper option with adverts. Due to price increases, Netflix and Disney+ reported a sharp increase in users subscribing to their ad-supported tier in 2023.



### EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Excessive screen time contributes to sedentary behaviour and can negatively impact physical and mental health. Ofcom found that 4- to 15-year-olds averaged 2.5 hours per day across all video-sharing platforms, not including gaming. The vast range of content available, combined with features such as autoplay, makes it easy for children to watch for extended periods of time.



### ILLEGAL STREAMING

Sharing passwords or using modified Fire Sticks to access streaming content without permission is illegal. Most streaming services have now put measures in place to detect account sharing. When account sharing is identified, platforms will offer an opportunity to pay for an added member or will ask the user to verify who they are.

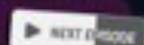
### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most streaming platforms allow users to set up a profile for each family member, with the option of putting specific restrictions in place. These include adding a profile lock or PIN, controlling autoplay of previews and next episodes, and limiting content based on age ratings. Nonetheless, these restrictions aren't foolproof. Content which is rated as suitable for an age group may still include themes, language, or images which children and families find inappropriate.



### BINGE WATCHING

Features such as autoplay make it easy for viewers - especially young people - to continue watching episodes without a break. This can foster unhealthy and addictive patterns, such as consuming a vast amount of content in one sitting. With binge watching come a lack of social interaction, lack of physical exercise, and often late nights and sleep disruptions which impact their mental and physical wellbeing.



### HARMFUL STEREOTYPES

Many platforms track viewing habits, time consumed, and preferences, and generate recommendations to encourage your child to keep watching. This results in your child being in a 'loop' whereby they think the 'recommended' shows would be something they would enjoy rather than thinking critically for themselves. This can shape their beliefs, values, and understanding of the world from a young age without even realising it.



## Advice for Parents & Educators

### SET UP INDIVIDUAL PROFILES AND ADD PINS

Almost all streaming services allow users to set up individual profiles where each family member can have age restrictions put in place for the content they can view. Adult profiles can be protected through the use of PIN. Keep this private. Use the options of putting specific restrictions in place such as controlling autoplay of previews and next episodes, and limiting content based on age ratings.



### TALK ABOUT ALGORITHMS

Talk to your child about how streaming services track what they watch, and base adverts and recommended shows/movies on previous viewing. Encourage them to critically think about whether the recommendations are suitable and how they want to spend their time. Discuss stereotypes with your child and challenge them to think about what they watch and how this may influence their beliefs.



### MONITOR AND TALK OFTEN

Discuss with your child what they are watching, find out which programmes are trending, and watch them yourself. Have a little look at their watch history to check the content of what they're watching. Some platforms have been known to recommend or autoplay older or graphic content after a child's movie has been played. While some TV shows or movies may have a suitable age rating, your child may still find the content scary, or it may explore themes you don't want to explore with your child yet.



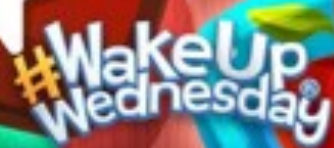
### SET TIME RESTRICTIONS

Many streaming services offer the opportunity to buy movies, or add additional features to your subscription such as sports channels, as well as play games. This can increase the amount of time young people spend sitting idly in front of the screen. Some platforms (e.g. Apple TV+) allow you to set screen time restrictions. If the streaming service doesn't allow you to set screen time limits, set a family rule and stick to it.



### Meet Our Expert

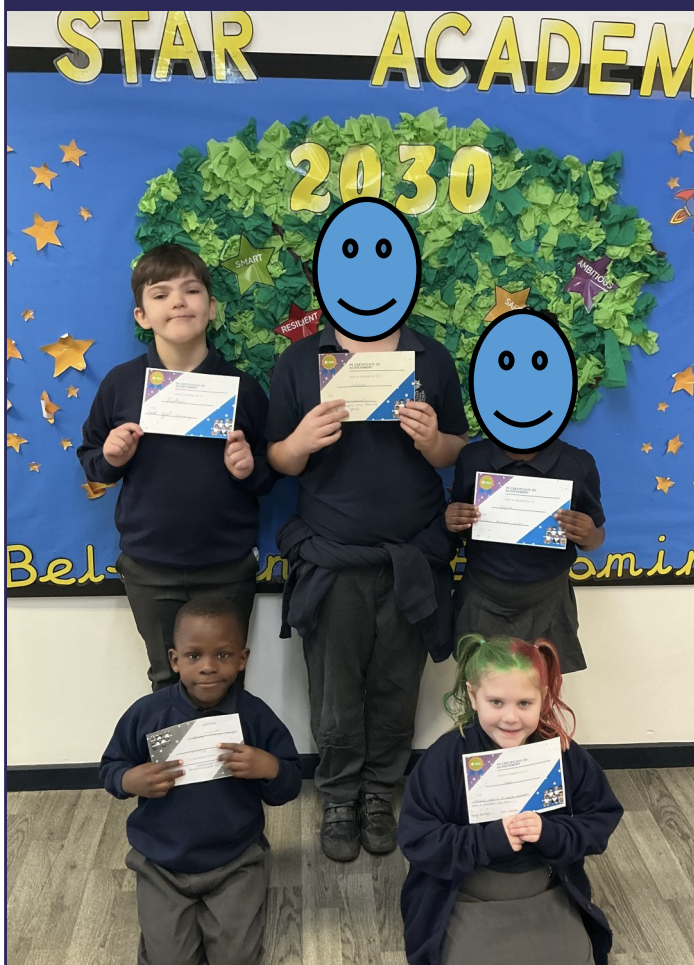
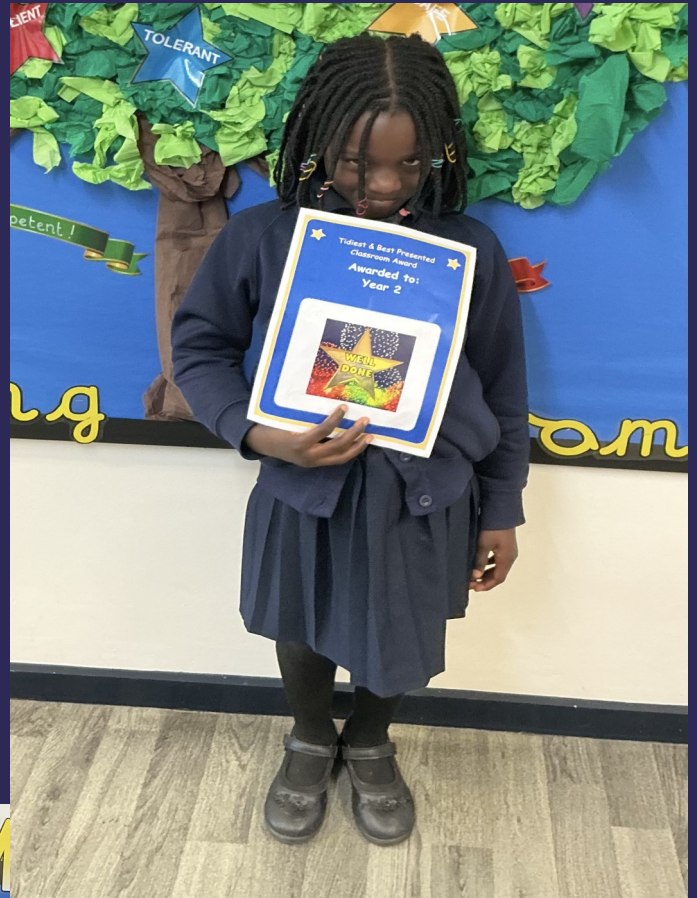
Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator, and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government, comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



# Belonging & Becoming

Well done Year 2!  
Tidiest Classroom!

A huge well done to our superstar pupils who shone in PE this week! Their teamwork, enthusiasm, and brilliant effort have really stood out. We're so proud of the positive attitudes they bring to every lesson. Keep up the fantastic work, everyone — you're inspiring us all to stay active and keep moving!



This week's PE Awards!

A huge well done to our superstar pupils who shone in PE this week! Their teamwork, enthusiasm, and brilliant effort have really stood out. We're so proud of the positive attitudes they bring to every lesson. Keep up the fantastic work, everyone — you're inspiring us all to stay active and keep moving!

# Belonging & Becoming

This week's Superstars!



# Belonging & Becoming

Individual Behaviour Point Winners!



This Week's Birthdays

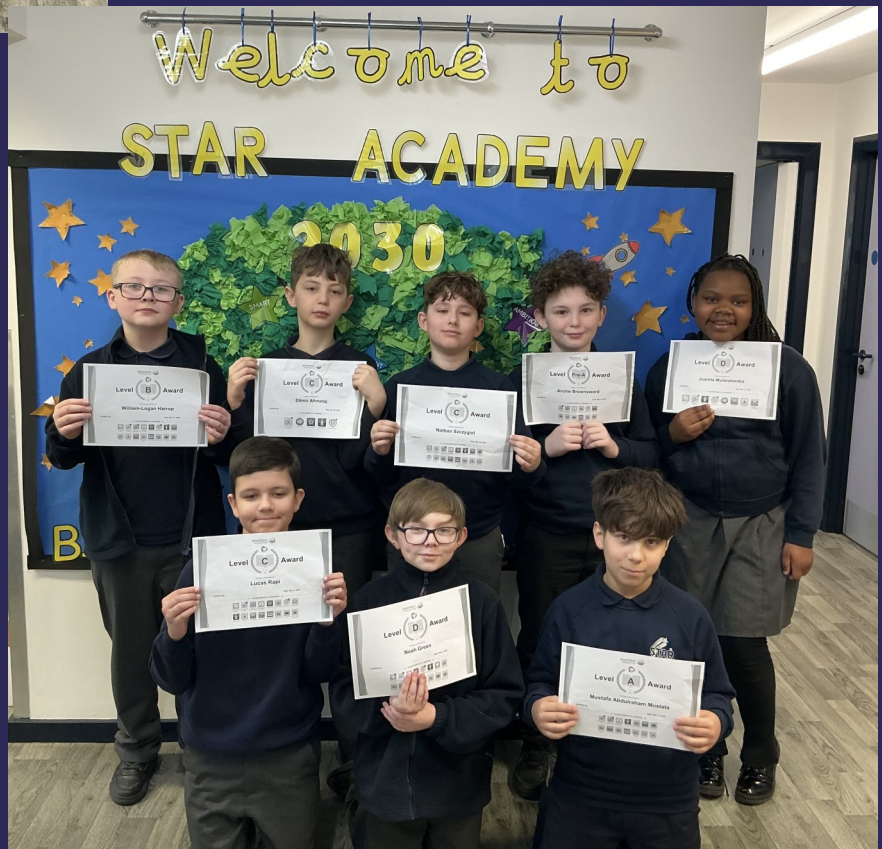


# Belonging & Becoming

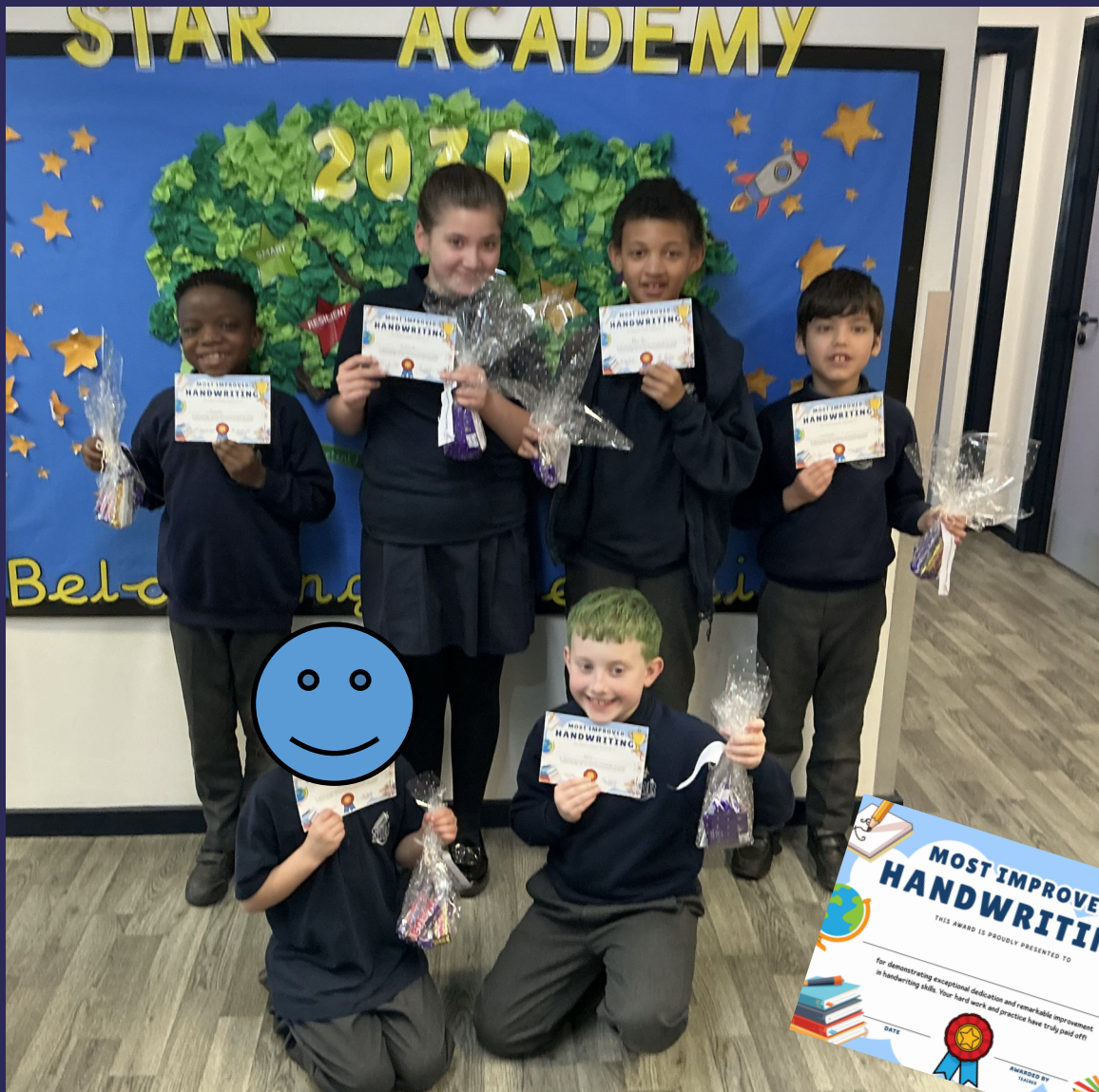


Attendance

Reading Plus



# Belonging & Becoming



Most Improved Handwriting Competition—well done to this weeks winners!

We will be monitoring our pupils handwriting over the next 4 weeks. There will be a weekly award for the most improved handwriting in each year group.

# Belonging & Becoming

## Staff “Star of The Week”



Thank you Mrs Pedley for your dedication to Team Star and being adaptive when we needed your support. You have been a great support to your colleagues in these busy times.

# Belonging & Becoming



## Head Teachers Award

This weeks "Head Teachers Award" goes to Darcie for helping to arrange supplies for the school Busy Fingers gardening club. The club then went on to plant lots of beautiful spring flowers and shrubs all around the school which has made the site look wonderful.

Thank you Darcie and also the Busy Fingers club.

## World Book Day Potato

A huge congratulations to all of the winners for our World Book Day potato competition! It was great fun seeing all of your entries.

Mr Haley had a very tough time choosing winners, so thank you everyone for your entries.

We hope you enjoy your new books!



## Launching SUMMER Trip & Activities Pass

We are launching the SUMMER term, trip and activities pass early as we have a number of families who are using the pay weekly option where you may pay as little as £5 per week rather than having to pay the £20 in full in one go.

The Trip Pass is £20 per term, the **Summer Trip & Activities Pass is payable on MCAS by the end of April 2026 at the latest.** The pass covers ALL non-residential school activities between 13th April and 17th July which is the last day of Summer Term.

**STAR**  
ACADEMY • SANDYFORD

# Star Academy Summer Trip & Activities Pass 2026

**Y1 enjoyed the workshops at Tamworth Castle**

**Y5 enjoyed exploring at the Wolseley Centre**

**Y6 had a great time at National Memorial Arboretum**

**Y3 had a brilliant day at the Science & Industry Museum in Manchester!**

**Y4 had an interesting & fun day learning all about Ancient Greece.**

**Y2 trip to the National Space Centre was out of this world!**

**Your Summer 2026 Trip & Activities Pass is now live on MCAS**

**The Trip Pass is £20 per term, the Summer Trip & Activities Pass is payable on MCAS by the end of April 2026 at the latest.** The pass covers ALL non-residential school activities between 13th April and 17th July which is the last day of Summer Term.

For the Summer 2026 term, your child will benefit from:

- A class trip out per year group
- A visitor/workshop in school to enhance the curriculum
- A whole-school trip out

**In addition, we will continue to access as many fully-funded opportunities as possible and will advertise them as we book them e.g.- trampolining, Lego workshop, Fire Station visits, fishing sessions, allotment visits etc.**

**Please note.....**

Residential trips which involve children staying overnight, are not included.

The Trip Pass is heavily subsidised by our curriculum budget, meaning families are paying a much lower cost than the true value of the trips.

# DAYS Year 1 fun

We'll Never Forget



We celebrated Mummies & Special Ladies



We had a special Assembly



We hunted for things to make a birds nest



still hunting..



We used "rolling numbers" to help us learn our times tables in maths



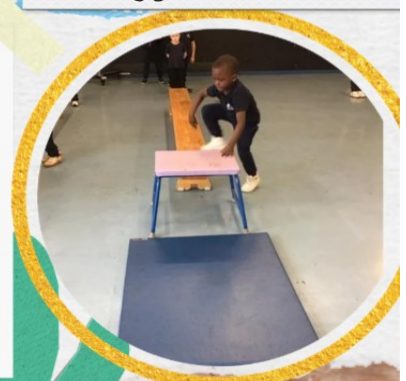
We also use blocks to measure



In PE we did gymnastics



Our assembly celebrated International Women's Day



# Year 2



Special Ladies assembly



We all planted saplings



We had a Seatbelt Safety workshop



We celebrated British Science Week



We had a Fire Safety workshop





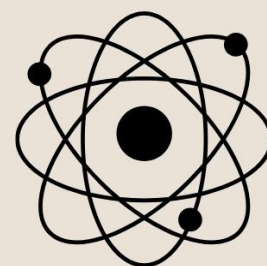
We celebrated International Women's Day! ❤️

In Year 3, we learned about amazing women who have helped change the world.

We talked about how everyone should be treated fairly and with respect, and how girls and boys can both follow their dreams.



WE CONTINUED OUR LEARNING ON MAGNETISM 🧲. WE INVESTIGATED WHETHER ALL MATERIALS ARE MAGNETIC, IT TURNS OUT THEY ARE NOT!



### 🌀 British Science Week 🌊

We learned that scientists have discovered that a shark's age can be estimated by measuring its length! 🐡

Year 3 were tasked with investigating if a human's age can be estimated accurately using their height 📏. Using the measuring skills that we've been honing in maths, we found out everyone's height and then had to roll our twelves to work out everyone's ages in months 🌟. After plotting our data on a graph and drawing a line of best fit, we tested if they were accurate.



We loved our visit to Lower Drayton Farm



We worked hard to complete our Spring Term Assessments.



We chose our winner which was the BFG potato for World Book Day

Day the life of Y4

This week has been a tremendous week for Year 4 including Lower Drayton Farm a Ramadan workshop, British Science week and planting saplings...



The Ramadan Exhibition at Stepping Stones



British Science Week

Does the way food looks change how it tastes?



We planted saplings



**Buzzing into science**



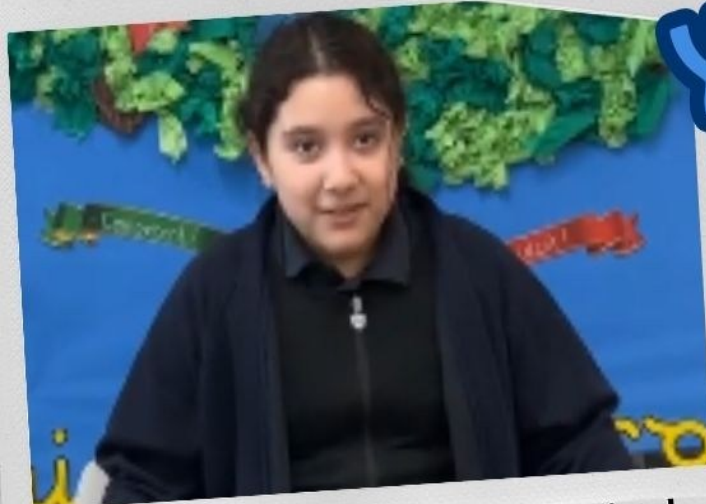
We've stepped into the role of archaeologists, carefully uncovering real historical artefacts



“Buzzing into science—discovering how bees help flowers grow with our parents and carers”



We planted our own saplings



We made videos and spoke about International Women's Day and the women who inspire us

# YEARS 5 week



**Anglo-Saxons and Vikings workshop**

# Y6 HIGHLIGHTS

Year 6 have had a fantastic week! ★

★ Star Awards: Bailey and Olivia

📖 Reading Plus Awards: Jenson, Ditmir, Nathan, Juanita, Lucas, Noah and Mustafa

🏆 P.E Award Mackenzy

🍅 World Book Day 'Best Potato' Competition Winner: Mackenzy

🎂 Happy Birthday: Mackenzy

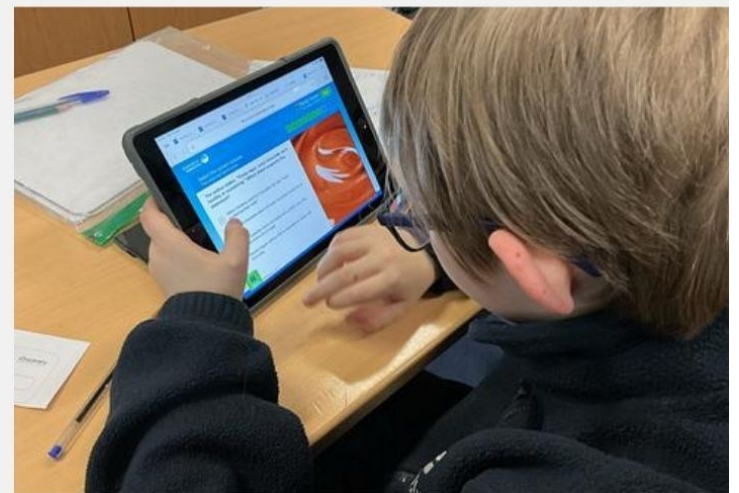
Well done to everyone for all your hard work and achievements this week – we are so proud of you all!



As part of British Science week, our parents and carers were invited to join us as we looked at **WHAT'S THE BEST DESIGN FOR A PAPER AEROPLANE?**

We took part in a tree planting session organised by Mrs Keogh, we look forward to watching our saplings grow.

Y6 main focus is SATs study at the moment, we are all working hard but making sure we have time for fun in between.



# Academy Life This Week

## The STAR community spirit



Mrs Keogh has been a legend using her own time to liaise with The Woodland Trust, she secured a donation of saplings - enough for every child in school. All of the children were taught how to plant and care for their saplings, which one day will be beautiful trees.

The trees will grow with our school.

Thank you Mrs Keogh, and The Woodland Trust, for giving us this wonderful opportunity

# World Oral Health Day

On **20th March**, while school is closed for our INSET Day, we're still celebrating **World Oral Health Day** at Star!

When pupils return, we'll be sharing fun reminders about keeping our smiles bright and healthy.

## Top tips for super smiles:

- Brush **twice a day** for 2 minutes
- Choose **healthy snacks and drinks**





# I brushed my teeth!

21-day toothbrushing challenge for

Brush when you wake, brush before bed. Colour the shapes after you brush!

	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
week 1							
week 2							
week 3							

After 21 days, bring your calendar back to school for a celebration!



To prevent painful tooth decay, brush all of your child's teeth twice a day



## Help your child care for their milk teeth

to give them a healthy smile for life!

### Did you know?

- Good oral health is important for a strong start in life, helping children smile with confidence, speak clearly and make friends.
- It's important to look after your child's milk teeth, as these help adult teeth grow strong.
- Sadly, about a quarter of 5-year-olds across the UK have had experience of visible tooth decay\*.
- And tooth decay is the main reason why 5-9-year-olds are admitted to hospital\*\*.

\* National Dental Epidemiology Programme Survey for England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland 2018-2019

### Top tips to prevent tooth decay

**Supervise your child's toothbrushing until they are at least 7** it can be hard to brush all surfaces of all teeth. Encourage your child by brushing your teeth at the same time.

**Use a fluoride toothpaste**  
Fluoride helps shield teeth and protect them from acid.

**Visit the dentist regularly**  
This helps catch problems early to keep your child's teeth healthy for life.

**Be playful with the Shine Bright song.**  
Download the free Brush DJ app and make toothbrushing fun!



### How to brush your child's teeth



#### Step 1

Pop a pea-sized blob of toothpaste on your child's brush.



#### Step 2

Gently brush the outside, the whole way around using small circles.



#### Step 3

Open wide! Brush the surfaces that crunch. Slowly does it!



#### Step 4

Next, gently brush all inside surfaces, top and bottom.

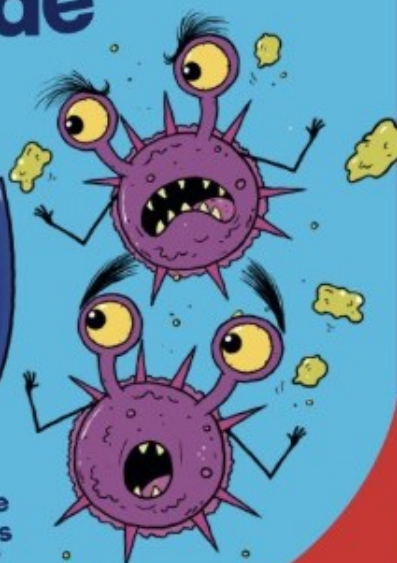


#### Step 5

Spit, don't rinse! Keep the fluoride shield on the teeth.

© National Dental Epidemiology Programme Survey for England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland 2018-2019

# Protect your teeth with a fluoride shield!



Brush those Sugar-Bugs away!



Brush when you wake



Brush before bed



# Tooth-friendly foods and drinks



Brush when you wake



Brush before bed



# Eggs-periment experiment



When the experiment finishes, draw what happened.



Egg in water



Egg in sugary  
fizzy drink

Egg in high-sugar  
orange juice

Egg in vinegar

Which liquids damaged the egg?

.....

.....

Draw a happy tooth being protected by toothpaste.

It is important to brush our teeth because:

- fluoride toothpaste shields our teeth.
- food can stick to our teeth.
- we need to brush away Sugar-Bugs.

# Eid al-Fitr Mubarak

We would like to wish all of our families celebrating **Eid al-Fitr** a joyful and peaceful time. May this special occasion, marking the end of Ramadan, be filled with happiness, kindness and time with loved ones.

For families who would like to learn more about Eid, please visit:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/articles/zr86xbk>

Eid Mubarak from everyone at Star Academy Sandyford!









# SPRING / SUMMER LUNCH MENU



## The Star Primary Academy Menu {Week 1}



Menu for Week Commencing: 2nd Mar, 23rd Mar, 27th Apr, 18th May, 15th Jun, 6th July

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 <b>Main Option One</b>	<b>Pepperoni Pizza</b> <i>Jacket Wedges, Sweetcorn &amp; Coleslaw</i>	<b>Sweet &amp; Sour Chicken</b> <i>With Fluffy Rice, Peas &amp; Broccoli</i>	<b>Herby Roasted Chicken</b> <i>Served with Cabbage, Carrots, Roast Potatoes &amp; Gravy</i>	<b>Beef Meatballs</b> <i>Served with Pasta, Garlic Bread, Green Beans and Broccoli</i>	<b>'Fish &amp; Chips'</b> <i>Peas, Beans or Curry Sauce</i>
<b>Main Option Two</b>	<b>Cheese &amp; Tomato Pizza</b> <i>Jacket Wedges, Sweetcorn &amp; Coleslaw</i>	<b>Vegetable Sweet &amp; Sour</b> <i>With Fluffy Rice, Peas &amp; Broccoli</i>	<b>Vegetarian Quorn Roast</b> <i>Served with Cabbage, Carrots, Roast Potatoes &amp; Gravy</i>	<b>Quorn Meatball</b> <i>Served with Garlic Bread, Green Beans and Broccoli.</i>	<b>Cheese &amp; Onion Slice</b> <i>Served with Oven Baked Chips, Baked Beans &amp; Mushy Peas</i>
<b>Daily Available All Week</b>	<i>Enjoy our jacket potatoes with a variety of hot and cold toppings. We also offer a freshly made salad selection, along with fresh fruit and yoghurts. Made-to-order sandwiches are available, including options like ham, cheese, and tuna mayonnaise. Additionally, alternative dietary options can be provided upon request.</i>				
 <b>Dessert</b>	<b>Frozen Flavoured Yoghurt</b>	<b>Strawberry Jelly</b>	<b>Fruity Flapjack</b>	 <b>Sponge cake</b>	 <b>Vanilla ice cream</b>

Cost: £2.95 per day

Ordering: Lunches must be ordered in advance via the MCAS App and for this to process, they must be placed one day before.

Please note: Lunch orders cannot be made on the day in classrooms, at the school office or on arrival at the school office.



 Universal Free School Meals

All children in Years 1 and 2 are entitled to Universal Free School Meals.

# The Star Primary Academy Menu {Week 2}





Menu for Week Commencing: 9th Mar, 13th Apr, 4th May, 1st Jun, 22nd Jun, 13th July

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 <b>Main Option One</b>	<b>Chicken Fajita Wrap</b> <i>Served with Jacket Potato Wedges &amp; Vegetables</i>	<b>Beef Bolognese</b> <i>With Pasta, Peas, Carrots &amp; Garlic Bread</i>	<b>Herby Roasted Chicken</b> <i>Served with Spring Cabbage, Carrots, Roast Potatoes &amp; Gravy</i>	<b>Beef Burger</b> <i>Served with Cubed Potatoes, Peas &amp; Sweetcorn</i>	<b>Southern Fried Chicken</b> <i>Served with Oven Baked Chips, Baked Beans &amp; Sweetcorn</i>
<b>Main Option Two</b>	<b>Bean and Cheese Wrap</b> <i>Served with potato wedges and vegetables</i>	<b>Quorn Bolognese</b> <i>With Pasta, Peas, Carrots &amp; Garlic Bread</i>	<b>Vegetarian Quorn Roast</b> <i>Served with Cabbage, Carrots, Roast Potatoes &amp; Gravy</i>	<b>Veggie Burger</b> <i>Served with Cubed Potato, Broccoli &amp; Sweetcorn</i>	<b>Quorn Dippers</b> <i>Served with Oven Baked Chips, Baked Beans &amp; Sweetcorn</i>
<b>Daily Available All Week</b>	<p>Enjoy our jacket potatoes with a variety of hot and cold toppings. We also offer a freshly made salad selection, along with fresh fruit and yoghurts. Made-to-order sandwiches are available, including options like ham, cheese, and tuna mayonnaise. Additionally, alternative dietary options can be provided upon request.</p>				
 <b>Dessert</b>	<b>Shortbread Biscuit</b>	<b>Eton Mess with Mixed Berries</b>	<b>Fruit Crumble and Custard</b>	<b>Fruity Milkshake</b>	<b>Vanilla Ice Cream</b>

# The Star Primary Academy Menu {Week 3}



Menu for Week Commencing: 9th Mar, 13th Apr, 4th May, 1st Jun, 22nd Jun, 13th July

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 <b>Main Option One</b>	<b>Ham &amp; Cheese Pizza</b> <i>Jacket Wedges, Sweetcorn &amp; Coleslaw</i>	<b>Chicken BBQ Melt</b> <i>Served with Herby Diced Potatoes, Carrots &amp; Peas</i>	<b>Honey Roast Gammon</b> <i>Served with Mash, Green Beans, Carrots &amp; Gravy.</i>	<b>Beef Lasagne</b> <i>Served with Jacket Wedges &amp; Creamy Coleslaw</i>	<b>'Fish &amp; Chips'</b> <i>Peas, Baked Beans Or Curry Sauce</i>
<b>Main Option Two</b>	<b>Cheese &amp; Tomato Pizza</b> <i>Jacket Wedges, Sweetcorn &amp; Coleslaw</i>	<b>Quorn BBQ Melt</b> <i>Served with Herby Diced Potatoes, Carrots &amp; Peas</i>	<b>Vegetarian Quorn Roast</b> <i>Served with Mash, Green Beans, Carrots &amp; Gravy.</i>	<b>Vegetable Lasagne</b> <i>Served with Jacket Wedges &amp; Creamy Coleslaw</i>	<b>Quorn Burger</b> <i>Served with Chips, Peas &amp; Baked Beans</i>
<b>Daily Available All Week</b>	<p>Enjoy our jacket potatoes with a variety of hot and cold toppings. We also offer a freshly made salad selection, along with fresh fruit and yoghurts. Made-to-order sandwiches are available, including options like ham, cheese, and tuna mayonnaise. Additionally, alternative dietary options can be provided upon request.</p>				
 <b>Dessert</b>	<b>Chocolate Mousse</b>	<b>Vanilla &amp; Strawberry Jam Cake</b>	<b>Fruit Jelly</b>	<b>Carrot Cake &amp; Icing Glace</b>	<b>Frozen Flavoured Yoghurt</b>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

# SPRING Term

- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March - Y4,5,6 Invite Only Play With Clay 1:00-3:00
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March - Y2 Trip Lower Drayton Farm
- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March - Coffee Morning 8:30 - 9:30am
- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March - Hand in Eid Card competition entries

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March - Inset Day (School Closed)**

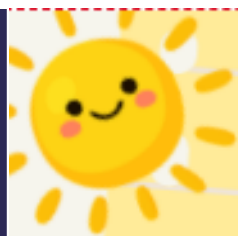
- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March - Hand in Easter competition entries
- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March - Walk to school with Easter Bunny
- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March - Y3, Y5, Y6 - Walking Visit St Josephs Church
- Tues 24<sup>th</sup> March - Canal & River Trust Water Safety Talks
- Tues 24<sup>th</sup> March - Y1 & Y2 Easter Bonnet Parade 8:50am
- Tues 24<sup>th</sup> March - Chocolate Bingo for Parents/Carers 2:40-3:10
- Wed 25<sup>th</sup> March - Y3 Multicultural Exhibition & Workshops
- Wed 25<sup>th</sup> March - Y1, Y2 & Y4 - Walking Visit to St Josephs
- Wed 25<sup>th</sup> March - End of Term Behaviour Treat 2:00-3:10
- Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> March - Easter Assembly parents/carers 8:50-9:15am
- Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> March - Network Rail Safety Workshop
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March - Y1/Y2 Care Home Easter Songs (invite only)
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March - Last day of Spring Term

**EASTER HALF TERM HOLIDAY 30<sup>th</sup> March - 10<sup>th</sup> April**

**READ ALL ABOUT EVENTS:**

ON CLASS DOJO





# SUMMER

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**EASTER HALF TERM HOLIDAY 30<sup>th</sup> March - 10<sup>th</sup> April**

- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April - Coffee Morning 8:30-9:30
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April - Short Story With Teachers 2:55-3:10pm
- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April - School Photos Day
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April - Y5 Bikeability
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April - Y5 Bikeability
- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April - Y5 Bikeability
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April - Y5 Bikeability
- Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April - Y3 & Y4 Practice Walks
- Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April - Coffee Morning 8:30-9:30
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May - Y4 Trip Grosvenor Museum Chester
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May - Coffee Morning 8:30-9:30
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May - Y2 Trip to Warwick Castle
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May - Y1 Trip to Wolseley Garden Centre
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May - Y5 Trip to Emma Bridgewater
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May - Short Story With Teachers 2:55-3:10pm
- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May - Coffee Morning 8:30-9:30
- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June - Y6 Trip to Ikon Gallery Birmingham
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June - Coffee Morning 8:30-9:30
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June - Y4 Trip to Think Tank Birmingham
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June - Fathers Day Challenges 2:30-3:10
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June - Dance Sessions with Complete PE Company
- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June - Y2 Workshop "Great Fire of London"
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June - Y6 Swynnerton Countryside Visit
- Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June - Coffee Morning 8:30-9:30
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June - INSET DAY school closed for teacher training
- Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June - Y1 Trip to BeWILDerwood
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July - INSET DAY school closed for teacher training
- 21/07/2026 - 31/08/2026 6 Weeks Summer Holidays
- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> Sept - INSET DAY school closed for teacher training
- Wendesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept - Autumn Term starts

**READ ALL ABOUT EVENTS:**

**ON CLASS DOJO**





# \*Free Courses for Adults

## It's never too late to learn!

If you're a parent or carer with a child of primary school age or younger, you can access a range of free\* online qualifications delivered by our ATT Further Education College and funded by the Adult Skills Fund.

Our Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications are nationally recognised, NCFE-accredited courses. Learning is all online and can be accessed flexibly at times that suit you- there's no need to attend school-based sessions. You'll receive structured, expert support from the ATTFE team throughout the course.

These courses are available to parents & carers of young children living in the communities around:

- Sun Academy Bradwell
- Star Academy Sandyford
- Icen Primary Academy

## Register Your Interest Now

Scan or Click the QR



See the full list of courses and costs overleaf...

## \*Funding & Eligibility

To be eligible for a fully-funded place, you must:

- Be a UK resident
- Be aged 19+ on 31 August 2025
- Be unemployed or earning under £30,450
- Live in an eligible area

You may be eligible for co-funding if you are over 19 and live in an eligible area; 50% of your course fees are funded by the Government, and you must pay the other 50% yourself.

Funding is limited; apply soon to secure your place. Enrollment closes Friday 27th March.



#TransformingLives

#TransformingPD

Level 3 Course	Course Cost
Level 3 Mental Health	<del>£1,285.20</del> Fully Funded
Level 3 Understanding Autism	<del>£1,587.60</del> Fully Funded
Level 3 Diploma Counselling Skills	<del>£2,268</del> Fully Funded
Certificate in Cyber Security Practices	<del>£1,260</del> Fully Funded
Level 2 Course	Course Cost
Introduction to Neuroscience in the Early Years	<del>£756</del> Fully Funded
Awareness of Mental health Problems	<del>£1,344</del>
Understanding Behaviour that Challenges	<del>£1,092</del> Fully Funded
Business and administration	<del>£930</del> Fully Funded
Children and young people's mental health	<del>£1,134</del> Fully Funded
Counselling skills	<del>£1,008</del> Fully Funded
Customer Service for Health and Social Care Settings	<del>£789</del> Fully Funded
Cyber Security	<del>£924</del> Fully Funded
Data Protection and Data Security	<del>£660</del> Fully Funded
Excellence in Customer Service for Hospitality	<del>£1,050.00</del> Fully Funded
Equality and Diversity	<del>£1,080</del> Fully Funded
Information advice and guidance	<del>£957.60</del> Fully Funded
Mental Health First Aid and Advocacy in the Workplace	<del>£1,008</del> Fully Funded
Preparing to work in adult social care	<del>£1,503</del> Fully Funded
Retail Operations	<del>£849.60</del> Fully Funded
Safe Handling of Medication in Health and Social Care	<del>£1,008</del> Fully Funded
Safeguarding and Prevent	<del>£828.00</del> Fully Funded
Specific Learning Difficulties	<del>£928.80</del> Fully Funded
Team Leading	<del>£1,152</del> Fully Funded
Understanding Autism	<del>£1,276.80</del> Fully Funded
Understanding Coding	<del>£1,302</del> Fully Funded
Mental Health in Early Years	<del>£882.00</del> Fully Funded
Working with individuals with Learning Disabilities	<del>£1,201.20</del> Fully Funded
Working with people with mental health needs	<del>£1,302</del> Fully Funded
Warehousing and Storage	<del>£727.20</del> Fully Funded
Understanding Domestic Abuse	<del>£1,092</del> Fully Funded
Understanding Adverse Childhood Conditions	<del>£864</del> Fully Funded

# Most Improved Handwriting Competition



We will be monitoring our pupils  
handwriting over the next 4 weeks.

There will be a weekly award for the most  
improved handwriting in each year group.

Monitoring starts on Monday 9th March  
and winners will be announced in our  
Friday morning assemblies.





Star Academy Sandyford  
working in partnership with Stoke on Trent Council



## FAMILY LEARNING WORKSHOP

### Play with Clay

A fun, hands-on workshop where you and your child can enjoy creative, screen-free time together. You'll explore the magic of clay—shaping animals, building mini creations and letting your imagination run wild. Clay is calming, tactile and great for creativity and fine motor skills. You'll leave with a handmade piece your child will be proud of.

DAY AND DATE: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March

TIMES: 1:00-3:00pm

School Contact Details:

Y4, Y5 & Y6 invite only (agreed with Mrs Lewis)

Please note Family Learning sessions provide one-to-one time with your child in school. This means unfortunately we can not have babies and younger siblings present. Each session lasts for two hours. If you are not a British Citizen please bring your identification with you.

[stoke.gov.uk/adultlearning](http://stoke.gov.uk/adultlearning)

# ACL

Adult and Community Learning courses  
#GetStokeLearning

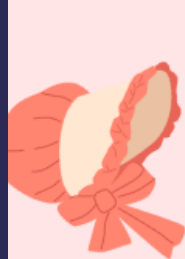


Y1 & Y2 PARENTS & CARERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR AN

## Easter Bonnet Parade

Tuesday, March 24  
8:50am - 9:10am  
IN THE MAIN HALL

See you there!



## PYJAMAS & TEDDY DAY



Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March is our last day of spring term. Pupils are invited to wear their pyjamas and bring in a teddy bear - let's make our last day a great one.

Please ensure that your child will be warm enough when they go outside at playtime and lunch and wearing shoes or trainers (not slippers)

### Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March



You are invited to join Star Academy for a secret mission.....



an Interactive Game

## HIDE OF AND SEEK



Mrs Keogh has a mission for you....watch this space for updates

# EASTER Competition

**Y1 & Y2 : EASTER BONNET COMPETITION**

**Y3 & Y4 : DECORATE AN EGG** (could be hard boiled, polystyrene, plastic egg)

**Y5 & Y6 : CREATE AN EASTER GARDEN**

Entries to be handed in on Monday, March 23 to class teachers. A prize will be awarded to our favourite entry in each year group.

# Easter CHOCOLATE BINGO

**TUESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**  
**2:40 - 3:10PM**

*It's one of our favourites!*  
Parents and carers are warmly invited to join us for some fun at our FLORIS LARGE Easter Bingo session! Celebrate the Easter season with some chocolate prizes, cheerful company, and a chance to win.

**STAR**  
ACADEMY SANDYFORD

# Eid CARD COMPETITION

Make a card at home and hand it into the office by 19<sup>th</sup> March to enter.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR A STORY**

16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2:55-3:10  
21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2:55-3:10

AS PART OF OUR LITERACY PROGRAMME AND TO TIE IN WITH WORLD BOOK DAY WE WOULD LOVE TO INVITE YOU TO YOUR CHILDS CLASSROOM FOR A SHORT STORY READING SESSION. PLEASE HEAD STRAIGHT TO YOUR CHILDS CLASSROOM

# WALK TO SCHOOL WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

The Easter Bunny is coming.  
Get ready to walk to school  
with them.



Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>  
March

8.15am Goldenhill  
Communtiy Centre



# Star Academy Sandyford



Previous attachment

## Community Rock Hunt



Star have created some special kindness rocks and we have hidden them around our community for people to discover.

If you are lucky enough to find one:

- 📷 Take a photo with the rock
- 📍 Tell us where you found it
- 📱 Post it on our Facebook page

🏠 What happens next?

You can either:

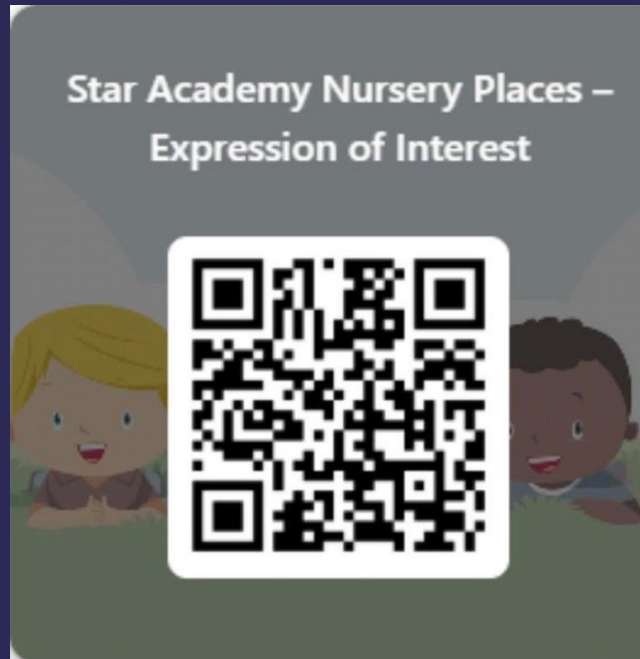
- 📁 Re-hide the rock somewhere new so someone else can find it
- or

🏠 Bring it to Star Academy and receive a free children's book as a thank you!



## Exploring Providing Nursery

We are currently exploring the possibility of offering nursery provision at Star Academy Sandyford as part of our commitment to supporting children and families from the earliest stages. This is an exciting opportunity for us to strengthen our community and provide high-quality early years experiences on site. If you have a child who may be starting nursery within the next two and a half years, we would really value your input. Please scan the QR code to share your interest and help us shape this provision for our community



A colorful poster for "Little Athletes Easter Holiday Camp". The top left features the "Little Athletes" logo with the tagline "Healthy wellbeing. Healthy future". The main title "EASTER HOLIDAY CAMP!" is in large, bold, yellow and pink letters. To the right, a yellow circle says "FOR AGES 4-12 YEARS". Below the title, it says "OUR MULTI-SPORTS HOLIDAY CAMPS ARE BACK!". A list of activities includes Basketball, Athletics, Sports Day, Football, Tennis, Orienteering, Obstacle Course, and Arts &amp; Crafts. A section titled "Event Days!" lists Inflatables!, The Zoo!, Home Cinema!, Magic Show!, Ice-Cream Van!, and Party Time!, followed by "And Much More!". A photo shows a group of children in sports gear. A pink box says "FREE SNACKS PROVIDED!". The bottom left has the website "www.littleathletes.co.uk" and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. The bottom right shows a photo of a child and an adult.



## CHRISTMAS JUMPER DONATIONS NEEDED



We are looking for any old, preloved Christmas jumpers that no longer fit your children. If you have any at home that are no longer needed, could you please donate them to school.

Thanks for your continued support!



## Breakfast Club

We are delighted that so many children are accessing breakfast club.

**All children MUST be booked in online the day before on MCAS. Places are limited.** For children not booked in on MCAS, we will not be able to accommodate, unless it's an emergency. Please contact a member of the Senior Leadership team beforehand, via Dojo to arrange support.

From 7.30—8 am, breakfast club is charged at £1.

From 8—8.30am, it is free.



[STA-office@attrust.org.uk](mailto:STA-office@attrust.org.uk)



01782 235055



[staracademy.attrust.org.uk](http://staracademy.attrust.org.uk)



@attstaracademy



Burnaby Road, Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent  
Staffordshire, ST6 5PT

Star Newsletter

# GOVERNOR VACANCIES

## We Are Recruiting New Co-Opted Governors For Our Schools

Could you be a school governor? School governors are members of our local community who care about our school and the young people we support. Being a school governor can be a very positive experience. Share your skills and passion for the success of our school and become a governor.

