



13TH OCTOBER 2023

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please log onto PARENTPAY to make payments for trips and meals.  
If you have any difficulties please call in to the school office

### PARENTS EVENING Thursday 19th October

Don't forget to book! If you have any problems please do not hesitate in contacting the office, where we can book manually for you.

**FLU Vaccinations (if you have booked via the link)  
in school Tuesday 17th October**

### ASSEMBLY DATES

Friday 20th October	Y4	8.50 am
Friday 3rd November	Y1	8.50 am
Friday 10th November	Y2	Remembrance 8.50 am
Friday 17th November	Reception	Welcome 8.50 am
Friday 24th November	Y3	

### VISITORS IN SCHOOL

Thursday 19th October Creative in Nature visiting Reception children where they will look for mini beasts and enjoy a story about Hedgehogs while they toast marshmallows around a camp fire.

### MEETINGS IN SCHOOL

#### WELCOME WEDNESDAYS

Wednesday 18th October 8.45-9.30 am Nursery parent/carers

Wednesday 18th October 2.15-3.15 Reception and Y1 parent/carers followed by a Reading/Phonics workshop in the hall 3.15-3.45 pm

### School Closes for half term

Friday 20th October



### PHOTOGRAPHER CHANGE OF DATE

**TUESDAY 14th November** photographer in school to take family photographs from 8.15 am and then individual photographs during the school day.

## MASS TIMES

### Sacred Heart Church Mass Times

There are two Churches in our Parish. Holy Family in Kirkholt and Sacred Heart on Kingsway. The Parish Priest is Father Simon and he resides in Sacred Heart Presbytery.

#### *Saturday at Sacred Heart*

5.15 Confessions

6.00 Vigil Mass

#### *Sunday*

9 am at Holy Family

11 am at Sacred Heart

## PENALTY NOTICES



Every student. Every day.

### Poor attendance

Children who miss more than 20 sessions/10 school days unauthorised absence in a 12 week period will receive a Penalty Notice which is £60 per parent.

### Holiday absences

Children who miss 10 sessions/5 school days unauthorised absences will receive a Penalty Notice which is £60 per parent, per child. Holiday requests will be reviewed separately and in some circumstances may be approved.

# CAPTAINS TABLE

Captains Table children (and friends) all chosen this week for quiet lining up and excellent table manners. Always sensible behaviour, eating quietly and for being a fabulous, reliable hall helper/



PIC-COLLAGE



## HEADTEACHERS AWARD

Headteachers award children chosen this week for (R) joining in more in group activities/being kind to others in class (Y1) writing sentences independently and for a great effort in all her lessons. (Y2) for a huge improvement in maths (Y3) trying hard and improving handwriting/using numbers bonds knowledge in maths (Y4) an amazing role model for her peers and for trying hard with her handwriting in particular with her finger spacing (Y5) for super imagination in his sentence stacking in English and for writing a lovely prayer in RE asking God to guide us throughout the year (Y6) for great listening during our Crucial Crew visit .

Well done everyone



# SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our School Council have been very busy this week talking about the reintroduced of our “Golden Hearts Award”. Keep a look out for our competition to design the Heart logo that will be given out during the weekly assembly. At the end of every half term we will be organising a reward for the children awarded a Golden Heart.





# GIFT TEAM



This week the GIFT Team a wonderful and thoughtful afternoon with a visitor from Caritas. They are now fully trained Caritas Ambassadors and with their new role will show everyone in the school how we can help others in our community and around the world through prayer and action. They are also enjoying attending Class Liturgies in every class every Friday.

# ATTENDANCE

Well done to our Year 2 for not only achieving the highest percentage attendance this week of 99% but for also being the most improved.





# 10 top tips for safely using SMARTWATCHES

Kids love gadgets, and smartwatches – available to buy from as little as £20 online – make a tempting gift. As with any type of mobile technology, though, smartwatches can pose risks to children unless they're used safely. Receiving unwanted calls, cyber-stalking and distracting a young person when they're crossing the road are all known risks associated with smartwatches. However, these devices can bring plenty of benefits for children and parents alike – so let's examine the pros and cons of smartwatches.

## AVOID CHEAP OPTIONS

A quick search online yields a torrent of cheap smartwatches for kids, costing as little as £20. It's wise to avoid this bargain basement tech: it tends to deliver a poor experience with inferior battery life, and it's hard to have faith in the software's safety. There have been cases of smartwatches being hacked to track or contact children; stick to known brands who have a reputation to protect.

## CONTROL CALLING

Many smartwatches have the facility to make or take calls. As with a phone, you may want to restrict who your child can call – or be called by. On Apple Watches, you can select trusted contacts who are allowed to ring your child, while other watches' controls vary hugely. Some need to connect to a linked phone for calls, so you may be able to block unknown contacts via that device instead.

## BEWARE HIDDEN COSTS

For a smartwatch to allow calls independently (that is, without being connected to a phone via Bluetooth), it will need its own mobile data plan. This might take the form of a tiny SIM card that you slot into the watch – or an eSIM, where the physical card is replaced by software settings. Either way, this will incur an additional monthly cost that you'll need to factor into any buying decision.

## ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Apple Watches aren't cheap, but they do offer superb safety features – allowing parents to control calls, messages and emails on the device, as well as a location tracking system that can send alerts if kids wander beyond pre-set boundaries. Their SOS function enables children to contact emergency services instantly if they're in trouble, which simultaneously also alerts parents and carers.

## MAKE THEM COOL FOR SCHOOL

Some schools have banned smartwatches, as pupils have been using them as substitute phones. If your child's school does permit them, some devices can be set to prevent distractions in class. For example, Apple's Schooltime feature turns their watches into ordinary time-keeping devices during school hours. The display changes in this mode, showing teachers that it isn't being used for other purposes.

## BE MINDFUL OF BEDTIME

Many smartwatches offer sleep tracking, which some (usually older) children use to justify wearing them to bed. However, that also presents a temptation to message friends or check social media late at night, even if their phone is downstairs. Unless there's a valid reason not to, you could encourage your child to remove the watch in the evenings and ensure the charger stays in a different room.

## TRACK ITS LOCATION

Both Apple and Android devices have apps which allow you to track a smartwatch's location. They can also initiate an audio alert – avoiding those cushion-hurling panics when a treasured device can't be found at home. If you're planning to track your child's location via their watch, make them aware of that in advance. You could even make it a condition of them getting the watch in the first place.

## THINK 'SAFETY FIRST'

Smartwatches are often worth hundreds of pounds, which can make young people wearing one a target for thieves. Advise your child to keep the watch hidden in public (when possible) and not to resist if muggers demand their watch. If you manage to track a stolen device, pass that information to the police: location data isn't always accurate, so you could end up wrongly accusing someone.

## STORE MEDICAL INFO

Devices including the Samsung Galaxy Watch and Apple Watch can store the owner's medical details (such as their blood group and any pre-existing medical conditions), potentially giving emergency services access to vital information in a crisis. These devices also have 'hard fall' detection, which sends a text message to selected contacts along with a map showing the wearer's location.

## USE THEM AS MOTIVATION

If you're worried your child's slumped on the sofa staring at screens, smartwatches are great fitness trackers and can be a powerful incentive to get moving. Some devices will alert the wearer if they've been inactive for a long time and encourage them to do some exercise. Many watches record the user's daily step count and measure other health metrics.

## Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *BBC Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and the *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and writes regularly about internet safety issues.



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