

*It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs  
and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.*

*Parable of the Mustard Seed- Matthew 13:31-32*

Koinonia- Wisdom-Love- Perseverance



## Message from Miss Mills

Dear families

As we welcome the warmth of spring, we have been truly blessed with beautiful weather this week. The sunshine has brought joy to our children, who have thoroughly enjoyed picnics outside and playing on the field. Long may this lovely weather continue!

This week, we also celebrated our second Mother's Day lunch, honouring the special ladies in our children's lives. A heartfelt thank you to our catering team for providing such lovely meals. It was a wonderful opportunity for our children to express their gratitude and love.

In addition, we had an online training session with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA). As a result, each school will receive £250 worth of tennis equipment, which will greatly enhance our PE lessons this summer. We are looking forward to seeing our children develop their skills on the court!

As we prepare for Mother's Day, I would like to extend a huge thank you to our Parent-Teacher and Friends Associations (PTFAs) for organising thoughtful gifts for our children to present to their mothers. Your support in making this occasion special is greatly appreciated.

Looking ahead, next week marks our Parents' Evening, where you will have the opportunity to share in the progress and wonderful work of your child. It is a time to celebrate their achievements and growth.

Lastly, we will also be holding our Mother's Day service in church, where we will reflect on the importance of love and family. As we gather, let us remember the words from Proverbs 31:28: "Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her."

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community.

Warm regards,

**Rachel Mills**

**Executive Headteacher**

## Swimming Gala Finalists!

The Swimming Gala finals will take place on April 10th at the Snowdome in Tamworth, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Parents will need to provide transportation for their children to and from the event.

Tickets for spectators will be available, more information has been sent out this week.

A huge congratulations to all the children who have qualified for the finals! We are excited to see you there and wish you the very best of luck.

### Our Finalists!

Henry M	Race 10 - Boys Year 5 25m Backstroke & Race 18 - Boys Year 5 25m Breaststroke
Charlie M	Race 4 - Boys Year 3 25m Backstroke & Race 22 - Boys Year 3 25m Front Crawl
Luke R	Race 16 - Boys Year 4 25m Breaststroke & Race 24 - Boys Year 4 25m Front Crawl
Holly R	Race 13 - Girls Year 3 25m Breaststroke
Isla M	Race 15 - Girls Year 4 25m Breaststroke & Race 23 - Girls Year 4 25m Front Crawl
Ona L	Race 7 - Girls Year 5 25m Butterfly & Race 9 - Girls Year 5 25m Backstroke

# Dinners for Week Commencing 24th March 2025- Week 2

**Please note:** Wednesday 26th March is Class 3's Mother's day lunch  
Unfortunately due to capacity we can only offer Sandwiches to class 1 and 2 on Wednesday  
Thank you for your understanding

## WEEK 1



### MONDAY

CHOOSE FROM  
 1 Macaroni Cheese with Garlic Bread  
 Beef Chili Con Carne with Brown and White Rice  
 ON THE SIDE  
 Vegetables of the day or salad  
 TO FINISH  
 Chocolate Brownie

### TUESDAY

CHOOSE FROM  
 1 Veggie Cottage Pie  
 Chicken Nuggets with Diced Potatoes  
 ON THE SIDE  
 Vegetables of the day or salad  
 TO FINISH  
 Yogurt or Jelly

### WEDNESDAY

CHOOSE FROM  
 1 Homemade margherita pizza  
 Homemade BBQ Pizza topped with Chicken  
 ON THE SIDE  
 Vegetables of the day or salad and crinkle cut wedges  
 TO FINISH  
 Jammy Shortbread Biscuit

### THURSDAY

CHOOSE FROM  
 1 Vegetable and Bean Burrito  
 Pork Sausages and Mashed Potato and Gravy  
 ON THE SIDE  
 Vegetables of the day or salad  
 TO FINISH  
 Chocolate Sponge with Mint Custard

### FRIDAY

CHOOSE FROM  
 1 Quorn Sausages  
 Breaded Cod  
 ON THE SIDE  
 Peas, salad or beans and Chips  
 TO FINISH  
 Toffee Apple Sponge

## WEEK 2



Our primary school menus comply with the Government's food and nutritional standards, meeting an average of 530 calories for each meal

### MONDAY

CHOOSE FROM  
 1 Veggie Bolognaise and Pasta with Garlic Bread  
 Chicken Katsu Curry with Brown and White Rice  
 ON THE SIDE  
 Vegetables of the day or salad  
 TO FINISH  
 Homemade Cookies

### TUESDAY

CHOOSE FROM  
 1 Veggie Sausage Roll with Wedges  
 Ham Carbonara with Pasta and Garlic Bread  
 ON THE SIDE  
 Vegetables of the day or salad  
 TO FINISH  
 Fruit Mousse or Jelly

### WEDNESDAY

CHOOSE FROM  
 1 Homemade Margherita Pizza  
 Homemade Cheese and Ham Pizza  
 ON THE SIDE  
 Vegetables of the day or salad and crinkle cut wedges  
 TO FINISH  
 Rice Krispie Cake

### THURSDAY

CHOOSE FROM  
 1 Veggie Sausages in a Yorkshire Pudding with Gravy  
 Sticky Honey Glazed Chicken with Brown and White Rice  
 ON THE SIDE  
 Vegetables of the day or salad  
 TO FINISH  
 Ginger Sponge

### FRIDAY

CHOOSE FROM  
 1 Tomato and Basil Pasta Bake with Garlic Bread  
 Breaded Cod and Chips  
 ON THE SIDE  
 Vegetables of the day or salad  
 TO FINISH  
 Raspberry Ripple Ice Cream

## WEEK 3



### MONDAY

CHOOSE FROM  
 1 Cauliflower and Broccoli Bake topped with Cheese  
 Pork Sausage Roll  
 ON THE SIDE  
 Vegetables of the day or salad and diced potatoes  
 TO FINISH  
 Apple Sponge Cake

### TUESDAY

CHOOSE FROM  
 1 Mediterranean Veg Pasta Bake with Garlic Bread  
 Baked Chicken Fajita with Diced Potatoes  
 ON THE SIDE  
 Vegetables of the day or salad  
 TO FINISH  
 Homemade Cookies

### WEDNESDAY

CHOOSE FROM  
 1 Handmade Margherita Pizza  
 Homemade Chicken Pizza  
 ON THE SIDE  
 Vegetables of the day and crinkle cut wedges  
 TO FINISH  
 Flapjacks with Raisins

### THURSDAY

CHOOSE FROM  
 1 Quorn and Leek Pastry Crown  
 Roast Chicken and Yorkshire pudding  
 ON THE SIDE  
 Vegetables of the day, mashed potatoes and gravy  
 TO FINISH  
 Chocolate Sponge

### FRIDAY

CHOOSE FROM  
 1 Sweet Potato and Chickpea Curry with Brown and White Rice  
 Breaded Cod and chips  
 ON THE SIDE  
 Vegetables of the day or salad  
 TO FINISH  
 Fruit or Jelly

Light bite options available. Daily sandwiches, jacket potatoes with fresh daily fillings

## What's coming up this week...

### **Monday 24th March**

PE Kits

SA singing Mothers day songs at Clifton Campville's Coffee Shop 10am

After School Club Gymnastics - St Andrew's 3:30 - 4:30pm

### **Tuesday 25th March**

9:15 to 9:45am Mothers Day Service SA

Parents Evening St Andrews 3-6pm - appointments have been sent via Dojo message

### **Wednesday 26th March**

Class 3 Mothers Day Lunch - Sandwiches Only available for class 1 & 2

Non Uniform Day-Chocolate Donations please **MH**

After School Club Archery - St Andrew's 3:30 - 4:30pm

### **Thursday 27th March**

9:15 to 9:45am Mothers Day Service MH

Parents Evening Mary Howard 3-6pm

### **Friday 28th March**

Momissons MH

Momissons Delivery Date for SA

### **Church Dates - St Andrew's**

- 25th Mar 9:15 to 9:45am Mothers Day Service
- 10th Apr 9:15 to 9:45am Easter Service & Let Your Light Shine

### **Church Dates - Mary Howard**

- 27th Mar 9:15 to 9:45am Mothers Day Service
- 8th Apr 9:15 to 9:45am Easter Service

Please access the Schools' website for key events -

Mary Howard- [Upcoming Events | Mary Howard CE Primary School](#)

St Andrew's- [Upcoming Events | St. Andrew's CE Primary School](#)

[st-andrews-cliftoncampville.staffs.sch.uk](http://st-andrews-cliftoncampville.staffs.sch.uk)

## Dates to note...

### **March**

- 24th Mar - SA singing Mothers day songs at Clifton Campville's Coffee Shop
- 25th Mar - Parents Evening St Andrews
- 25th Mar 9:15 to 9:45am Mothers Day Service SA
- 26th Mar Class 3 Mothers Day Lunch - Bookings now closed.
- 26th Mar - Non Uniform Day-Chocolate Donations please **MH**
- 27th Mar - Parents Evening Mary Howard - forms have been sent out book now!
- 27th Mar 9:15 to 9:45am Mothers Day Service **MH**
- 28th Mar - Momissons **MH**
- 28th Mar - Momissons Delivery Date for SA
- 31st Mar - 1st/2nd April - Bikeability **MH** - Please complete consent forms - dojo

### **April**

- 3rd Apr - Non Uniform-Easter Egg donations please **MH**
- 4th Apr - 8:45 to 9:15am Rock up & Read
- 8th Apr - 5pm to 7pm (approx.) Easter Bingo MH
- 8th Apr 9:15 to 9:45am Easter Service **MH**
- 7th - 9th Apr -Bikeability SA -Please complete consent forms - dojo
- 10th Apr 9:15 to 9:45am Easter Service & Let Your Light Shine SA
- 10th April - 6-8pm KS2 Swimming Gala Final at Snowdome
- 11th Apr - 9am **MH** Let your light shine
- Easter Holidays 14th - 25th Apr - Return to School Mon 28th April

### **May/June**

- 5th May - May Day Bank Holiday
- 12-15th May Year 6 SATs
- 20th May - Both schools trip to the Think Tank - please complete forms sent on Dojo and payments on parent pay by 9th May
- Half Term - 26th - 30th May
- 2nd Jun - Inset Day - Return to school Tue 3rd June
- 12th Jun - Cross Country KS2 @ Richard Crosse
- 16-20th Jun - Sports week - all pupils to wear PE kit everyday
- 17th Jun - KS2 Athletics competition - Tamworth Sports Stadium



# St Andrew's Events

Archery After School Club - Wednesdays 3:30-4:30pm  
5th March - 9th April must book in advance!



## EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS @ St Andrew's CE Primary School

Premier are pleased to announce that will be hosting the following Extra Curricular activities at St Andrew's CE Primary School :-

R-Y6

### Monday- AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

3:30pm - 4:30pm  
Gymnastics

24th February- 7th April (7 sessions)

Available to children in R-Y6

Cost = £38.50

**Gymnastics:** As one of the most popular sports across the planet, it's no wonder that boys and girls love to take part in gymnastics. Our classes are designed specially to ensure kids have fun, learn the fundamentals of movement, and leave with a smile on their faces.

While gymnastics is a fun, exciting activity for kids to participate in, it is also important to maintain proper safety measures. This will include things like laying out appropriate mats to provide a soft surface, and performing a good warm-up and stretching before beginning a class.

After-school clubs are a fantastic way for your child to experience gym - whether they are a regular gymnast, or if it's their first time!

#### Why Premier?...

Attending our club will provide your child/children with a series of fun sessions to improve not just sports skills, but also many other important assets in the process; Social skills and key motor skills are the successful by-products of the clubs we host. Our qualified coaches deliver fun sessions, allowing your child/children to enhance their skills and techniques vital towards successful short and long term athletic development. Premier strives to ensure each club is a place for your child/children to find new friends, enjoy themselves, be rewarded for success, boost self-confidence and obtain an active and healthy lifestyle.

Book your place now!!!

[www.premier-education.com](http://www.premier-education.com)

Full terms and conditions available on the website

## AFTER SCHOOL Programme

The activity club is an after-school programme designed to provide a safe and supportive environment for children to experience unique adventures and engage in fun, educational activities.

More: Scan QR code

**Book Now!**

Contact Us 07786746521 | Visit Our Website [www.clubz4kidz.co.uk](http://www.clubz4kidz.co.uk)

# momazon

Momazon is opening a pop-up ordering station at St. Andrew's for Mother's Day!

Order Date:  
Wednesday 19th March  
during school

Delivery Date:  
Friday 28th  
March



BEAUTIFUL,  
personalised,  
bespoke gifts  
ranging from  
£3 - £10

An order form will be sent home on Friday 14th March so students can share with another grown-up to help make an informed decision for their special loved ones! They should return it on the 19th to the Momazon ordering station!

Shhh! Don't  
tell mum!



If your child is absent on the 28th for delivery, the gift will be stored in reception for pickup on the following Monday.

# Mary Howard Events



Friends of Mary Howard would like to introduce...

## 'MOMISSONS'

Mother's Day Present Shop

Friday 28th March  
£5 per gift

Please complete and return form and pre-payment to school by 21st March



PLEASE SUPPORT THE FRIENDS OF MARY HOWARD

## NON-UNIFORM DAYS

Wednesday 26th March  
CHOCOLATE RAFFLE DONATIONS PLEASE

Thursday 3rd April  
EASTER EGGS DONATIONS PLEASE

Easter bingo Tuesday 8th April 5pm. See you there!



JOIN THE FRIENDS OF MARY HOWARD FOR OUR ANNUAL

# EASTER BINGO

EGG TRAIL  
EASTER EGG PRIZES  
BINGO GAMES INCLUDED  
FOOD AND ALCOHOLIC/SOFT DRINKS

**TUESDAY 8TH APRIL 5-7PM**  
MARY HOWARD SCHOOL, EDINGALE  
ADULTS £5. CHILDREN £5. UNDER 2S £2

HEAD TO [WWW.FOMH.CO.UK](http://WWW.FOMH.CO.UK) FOR TICKETS!

# Reminders

**A polite reminder that children should not be walking between staff cars at any time for health and safety reasons.**

**Parents should also not be parking within the school gates to drop children off, due to safety of the children and congestion. Thank You**

All Pupils from St Andrews and Mary Howard will be going to the **Think Tank in Birmingham**. The trip will take place on Tuesday 20th May. We will be leaving school around 9:15am by coach and returning by 3:15pm. The cost of the trip is £13 per child. Please can you complete the following form and make payments on parent pay by the 9th of May.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf8jdfq-G2cBNCa2FROFKLhABACwgmwRFOP1M6vCngbKPFJrg/viewform?usp=header>

## Bikeability

Links have now been sent out via Dojo requesting Parents/Carers consents.  
Bikeability will be taking place on the following dates:

Mary Howard - Class 2 (yr 3 & 4) - Level 1 on Monday 31st March

Mary Howard - Class 3 (yr 5 & 6) Level 1 / 2 Combined on Tuesday 1st April & Wednesday 2nd April

St Andrew's - Class 2 (yr 3 & 4) - Level 1 on Monday 7th April

St Andrew's - Class 3 (yr 5 & 6) Level 1 / 2 Combined on Tuesday 8th April & Wednesday 9th April

### **What will my child need?**

- The ability to ride a cycle unaided. This can be a two-wheeled bike with no stabilisers or an adapted cycle.
- A signed consent form. Please complete (see Dojo) and return to school at least one week before the first day of the course.
  - A cycle helmet.
  - Appropriate clothing. It is important, especially during the cooler months, that children wear gloves and warm, dry clothing as they will be outside during their session. We recommend wearing a waterproof!
  - Your own cycle that is ready to ride. Please follow the simple guide below to check whether your a child's cycle is suitable. See law on the use of e-bikes [www.gov.uk/electric-bike-rules](http://www.gov.uk/electric-bike-rules)



# Medicines

## Important Medication Administration Information for Parents

Dear Parents,

We would like to remind you of our policy regarding the administration of medication at The Staffordshire Schools Multi Academy Trust.

- **Prescription Requirement:** We can only administer medication that has been prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse, or pharmacist.
- **Medication Labelling:** All medication must have the prescription sticker attached, which should include your child's name, the date, the type of medicine, and the dosage.
- **Permission Form:** Before any medication can be administered, a signed Permission to Administer Medication form must be completed in advance at the school office.
- **Dosage Frequency:** Please note that we can only administer medication if your child requires a dose four times a day or more. For medications that need to be taken less frequently, we kindly ask that these be administered at home before school, immediately after school, and before bedtime.

## INJURY ON ARRIVAL TO SCHOOL

As part of our Safeguarding Children Policy, we ask that all parents/carers whose children suffer an injury outside of school e.g. cut knee from falling off a bike, bruises from a football match etc., would need to fill out an Injury on Arrival Form. It is paramount that we have this form filled out.

Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring the health and safety of all our children.



## *Kaleidoscope of Colours Arts Festival*

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope this message finds you well. We recently shared the exciting news that our children will be participating in a Festival week celebrating song, dance, and art. We are thrilled to announce that we will be collaborating with twenty-two schools from Tamworth and Burton, as well as local high schools, to make this event truly special.

Please note that we have had to amend the original date. Kindly mark your calendars for **Saturday, 5th July**. We are working closely with Tamworth Council to create a memorable day filled with performances by our talented children.

More detailed information will be provided before we break up for Easter. We appreciate your understanding and support, and we look forward to celebrating this wonderful event with you and your children.





# COTTAGE FARM RANGERS FC

A community football club based at  
TEC, Belgrave

Everyone welcome - no matter  
what age, experience or skill level

## KIDS FOOTBALL



### WILDCATS

Girls looking to take their first kicks into football  
age 5-11 years old, in a fun and friendly  
environment



### DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Boys & Girls aged 3-5 years old. Learning fundamentals  
of movement in a safe football environment



### BOYS & GIRLS TEAMS FROM UNDER 7'S - OPEN AGE



## ADULTS FOOTBALL

### JUST PLAY! SOCCER MUMS & SOCCER DADS

Recreational football to have fun, meet  
new/old friends & improve mental health



### MIDWEEK WOMENS 7-A-SIDE TEAM

Competitive womens midweek football - matches a  
couple of times per month



# GIRLS FOOTBALL

AGES 5-11 YEARS  
ALL ABILITIES WELCOME

Make  
friends  
HAVE FUN!

- ✔ SATURDAYS 9-10AM
- ✔ AT TAMWORTH ENTERPRISE COLLEGE (BELGRAVE)
- ✔ £3 PER SESSION (FIRST 2 SESSIONS FREE)
- ✔ RUN BY A FEMALE COACH WITH PLAYING EXPERIENCE



FOR MORE INFO ON THE WILDCATS SESSIONS MESSAGE 07903939107



@CottageFarmRangersFC

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ANY OF THE SESSIONS/TEAMS - PLEASE MESSAGE US ON SOCIAL MEDIA





# Easter Quiz

FRIDAY, 4TH APRIL 2025

6:00 - 9:00pm @ Village Hall

Doors open @6pm for food/Quiz starts @6:30pm

Tasty Prizes!

Kids' activities!

Limited Spaces  
Pre-booking essential!

Pulled Pork Sandwiches & Hot Dogs available (£)!

Bar of Beverages (£)!

**£3 adult**  
**£2 child**

**Teams of 6**

(Business)  
St Andrews School Association  
20-08-64  
83651274

Reference:  
surname+number of guests+'QUIZ'  
Example: SMITH4QUIZ



# Online Safety

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [www.thenationalcollege.com](https://www.thenationalcollege.com).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With more than two billion active users, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients; not even WhatsApp itself can read them. The UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging, but for the time being, this controversial feature remains.



### EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious emergency – plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a withdrawal message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code again to them.

### CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user they want to message. Therefore, if a child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, their parent could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that a child might be asked to sign up to a community. By one of their friends, for example, containing other people they don't know.

### FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity makes it an ideal venue for the spread of disinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app have a 68% chance of being read many times. Fake news can also be used to cause harm. The message they've just received to be from an official... and might not be entirely factual, either.

### CHAT LOCK AND SECRET CODES

In 2023, WhatsApp introduced a feature that lets users keep their chats in a separate 'locked story' to help control which people can see their messages, photos or files. There is an additional feature – 'Secret Code' – where users set a pin to lock their account. Unfortunately, this creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of.

### VIEW ONCE CONTENT

The ability to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate material or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't retain them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot it – a disappointing constant – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, ending perpetration of jealousy.

### VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's live location feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking their child is safe while out. For example, however, anyone in a user's contacts list or in a contact group that can view their location – potentially by being a family or a child's home address or journey that they move regularly.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unsolicited messages with caution, get them to consider whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details in messages. Tell them to never tap any links unless a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

### ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats with out needing approval. You can give permission to any contacts or my contacts except... Additionally, if a child needs to use live location, encourage that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

### CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Check in with the child about how they're using WhatsApp, making sure they know you only have their safety at heart. If you spot a locked story folder, you might want to talk about the sort of content they've shared in them, who they're talking to, and why they want to keep their status hidden. Also, if a child has used any View Once content, it could be helpful to talk to them why.

### DISCUSS GROUP CHATS

Make children aware that there could be members of a group that they don't know well and that adults can be invited. Encourage them to have a good impression to avoid joining in if conversations turn towards bullying, and to respond to such situations in an appropriate way. Make sure they know that it's OK to leave a group or if it makes them uncomfortable – for any reason, in fact.

### THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding anything on WhatsApp. It's easy to click a button and share a link to a user's posts to be shared more widely, even publicly on social media. Encourage children to consider how an impulsive message or forwarding might damage that reputation or upset a friend who isn't connecting to them on another app.

### 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 sending behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [www.thenationalcollege.com](https://www.thenationalcollege.com).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MARVEL RIVALS

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Marvel Rivals launched in December 2024 and amassed a player count of nearly 150,000 in mere weeks. This player versus player (PvP) shooter packs in a host of recognisable comic-book characters, pitting two teams of six against each other. Despite the game's cartoonish nature, there are several potential risks for parents and educators to be aware of.



### IN-GAME CHAT

Voice chat allows players to speak to teammates and opponents within the game, but in a competitive environment, some conversations can become unpleasant. Text chat is equally problematic, allowing players to chat and as well as show up on the skin of the screen. Muted on or mute is relatively easy, so it's important to recognise that potentially inappropriate messages could arrive at any time.

### IN-GAME PURCHASES

While Marvel Rivals is free, there is an in-game store, selling character skins from recognisable movies and comic-book titles. Each skin can also include a CG skin that, much like those seen in real life, is a cosmetic item. These items don't give you any in-game advantage, but they can be purchased from the real world for real money, creating a fear of missing out.

### CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With such a huge player base, it's impossible to predict which people will be teaming up with or playing against. They're virtually certain to run into strangers through voice or text chat, for starters. Most of these people will just be ordinary gamers enjoying the action, but there is the risk of some users behaving inappropriately. For example, while also ensuring that the violence is more cartoonish, wasn't over-the-top.

### VOLENT CONTENT

There's no gore in Marvel Rivals, and the violence depicted is comparatively cartoonish – but the playable characters overlap a lot between more traditional superheroes and supervillains, and figures like Black Widow and the Punisher, who use more realistic firearms. Given the game's nature as a shooter, this may mean some parents and carers understandably in some players will be taking these weapons on each other.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The game includes some in-game and mature themes in the dialogue, which could expose youngsters to content unsuitable for their age. Extracting from a safe and family-friendly gaming experience. As we mention of previously, the content of the in-game chat could also be age inappropriate, ranging from swearing to mature themes to potentially harmful to them.

### FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

The inclusion of iconic characters might mean Marvel Rivals appear more appealing to them than other games in the genre, with recognisable names and abilities like Spider-Man and Venom. This could lead to more interest from younger players, increasing the likelihood of them playing the game without properly understanding the risks.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### FOLLOW ESRB RATINGS

The ESRB rating for Marvel Rivals says the game shouldn't be played by anyone under 13. Most children of that age will be able to appreciate the broad compass of the range of characters (people can play as both the heroes and villains, for example), while also ensuring that the violence is more cartoonish, wasn't over-the-top.



### FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

The game's inclusion of fan-favourite characters like Iron Man and the Hulk, plus its increasing popularity, means that younger Marvel fans will likely be eager to see what the game is about. Since it's free, consider playing Marvel Rivals yourself to gauge how you feel about it ahead of play. Alternatively, you could see them play online, the game's AI in Practice Mode, until they're old enough to compete online.

### MONITOR OR TURN OFF CHAT

Voice and text chat can both be adjusted with the in-game settings. If you're particularly concerned about speaking children and young people to them, however, you can disable both forms of chat in the game's settings. It will be worth to play unsolicited texts, read out there that they can use the in-game party chat feature or text to call on their party service like Discord.

### DISCONNECT PAYMENT OPTIONS

Parents should ensure that payment options – such as debit cards – are linked to the game, to prevent unauthorised purchases and charges. Children can be tempted by anything in-game that they're not fully understanding the costs. Encourage your child to disconnect their payment methods from the game and to have a sense of financial awareness, teaching young people to be careful with their money.

### Meet Our Expert

Uggal Coombes is Games Editor of the Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety, writing many career tech and fitness, he has been published in sites including BBC, TechRadar and plenty more.





## Why is it important?

Attendance	Days absent	Weeks absent	Lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	250 lessons
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	290 lessons



Across the TSSMAT we expect good attendance to ensure that all pupils are able to take full advantage of the education available to them. Good attendance matters.

Pupils who have good attendance: **Get better jobs in the future, Achieve better results, Make better friendships, Have good self-esteem and confidence**

We strive for every child to achieve 96% attendance or higher. Please do not be offended if you are told that we are concerned about your child's attendance or if you receive a letter of concern. Attendance falls under the category of safeguarding and it is our duty of care to challenge and support attendance. If we can help in any way please contact Miss Mills or the office. Thank you.

### Medical Appointments

Could we kindly remind

parents, to try and book medical appointments outside of school times. We do understand that there are occasions when this is not always possible.

Thank you!

### Little Heroes Attendance

We are excited to announce the return of our Little Heroes Attendance Initiative for the current academic year. You will see posters and other promotional materials displayed throughout the school to raise awareness of this programme.

In each classroom, there is a sticker chart where pupils' names are displayed. Every day a pupil attends school and arrives on time, they will receive a sticker next to their name on the chart. The "Hero" acronym stands for "Here Everyday Ready and On Time" - the key pillars of this initiative.

The Little Heroes Attendance Initiative will run throughout the year. Pupils who maintain 100% attendance and punctuality each half term will be rewarded with a certificate.

For more detailed information about the programme, please visit the dedicated webpage at [Staffordshire.gov.uk/littleheroes](http://Staffordshire.gov.uk/littleheroes).

We appreciate your continued support in encouraging strong attendance habits among our pupil community. Together, we can ensure all our pupils have the best possible start to their day and access the full benefits of their education.

For the TSSMAT Attendance policy, please click the link:

Mary Howard: <https://maryhoward.staffs.sch.uk/parents/attendance-absence>

### **Spring Term 2025**

**Term Ends:** Friday 11th April

**Holiday:** Monday 14th April – Friday 25th April

**Easter Sunday:** Sunday 20th April

### **Summer Term 2025**

**Term Starts:** Monday 28th April

**May Day:** Monday 5th May

**Holiday:** Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May

**Inset:** Monday 2nd June

**Term Ends:** Friday 18th July

**Inset:** Monday 21st July

**Holiday:** Monday 21st July – Friday 29th August