



*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

This week, we had the joy of celebrating Mother's Day in our church, where our children truly shone. Their fantastic oracy skills and beautiful singing filled the space with warmth and love, making the occasion even more special. We are so proud of their efforts and the joy they brought to our community.

Additionally, we held our Parents' Evening this week, which provided a wonderful opportunity for parents to engage with teachers and witness the incredible progress our children are making. It was heartwarming to see so many families come together to discuss their child's growth and development.

We are committed to our vision of helping every child to "grow and flourish." Parents' Evening is a vital part of this journey, allowing us to celebrate achievements and set goals for the future. Together, we can ensure that each child reaches their full potential, supported by both home and school.

As we reflect on the special ladies in our lives, I wish you all a lovely weekend filled with love and appreciation.

As we celebrate the nurturing spirit of mothers, let us remember the words from Proverbs 31:25: "She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come."

Wishing you all a blessed weekend!

Warm regards,

**Rachel Mills**

**Executive Headteacher**

## *Launch of Our Top Ten Reads Initiative*

We are excited to announce the launch of our new reading initiative, the Top Ten Reads for Each Year Group! This initiative aims to foster a love of reading among our children and promote cultural capital through engaging and diverse literature. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the SASA and FOMH for their generous funding, which has made this initiative possible.

Throughout the year, your child will be challenged to read the Top Ten Books selected for their year group. Each child will receive a bookmark featuring these ten titles, which they can use to track their progress. Here's how the initiative will work:

1. **Weekly Book Changes:** Your child will have the opportunity to change their book each week. Once they have finished reading a book, they will mark it off on their bookmark with a sticker.
2. **Reading Challenge:** The challenge is for your child to read all ten books by the end of each year. We encourage you to support them in this endeavour and discuss the books together at home (As we are launching now, we would like children to read four books from the list from now until the end of July).
3. **Book Recommendations:** After completing each book, your child will have the chance to write a brief book recommendation. This activity will not only enhance their writing skills but also help them articulate their thoughts and opinions about what they have read.
4. **Certificates:** At the end of the year, children who successfully complete the Top Ten Reads challenge (four for this year) will receive a certificate to celebrate their achievement!

We believe that this initiative will not only enhance your child's reading skills but also inspire a lifelong love of literature. Thank you for your continued support in nurturing our children's love for reading.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this initiative further, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Happy reading!

## Red Nose Day Donations!

A huge thank you to our incredible parents who have generously donated to our Comic Relief JustGiving page!

We've received 36 contributions, raising a phenomenal £151 and exceeding our target!

Your support is truly appreciated.

The JustGiving page remains open for anyone who would still like to donate  
and contribute to this worthy cause.

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/mease-schools-mary-howard-and-st-andrews-5?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/page/mease-schools-mary-howard-and-st-andrews-5?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL)

## Mease Schools's fundraiser for Comic Relief



**£151**  
raised of **£80** target  
by 36 supporters

Give Now

Share



Red Nose Day 2025 - Primary  
Schools

Campaign by Comic Relief (RCN 326568)

## *IMPORTANT- TO ACTION! KS2 - Young Voices!*

### **Exciting News for Our KS2 Children!**

**We are thrilled to announce that our Key Stage 2 children (Years 3-6- current Years 2-5) will have the incredible opportunity to participate in **\*\*Young Voices\*\*** in January 2026! This event is a fantastic chance for our children to showcase their musical talents and join together with other schools in a spectacular concert at the **\*\*Utilita Arena in Birmingham\*\***.**

**As part of the **\*\*TSSMAT\*\***, our children will not only be able to perform in front of a large audience but also experience the joy of singing alongside their peers from various schools. This event promises to be an unforgettable experience filled with music, fun, and camaraderie.**

**We appreciate that this is a very early request but as part of our KS2 music curriculum next year, we will be taking part in Young Voices.**

**This is the heartbeat of music for primary schools across the UK, where children and teachers unite in an electrifying choir experience. Through an unforgettable concert, children discover their voices, gain confidence and create lasting memories.**

**All children will take part in learning the performance as part of their curriculum. This will then be celebrated in an evening concert at the NEC in Birmingham, after an afternoon of rehearsing with hundreds of other children!**

**Until we have final numbers we are unable to give an exact date, but it will be in January 2026. We would really like all KS2 children across the MAT to be involved in this amazing celebration.**

**Please indicate on the form <https://forms.gle/T5yMNywGJEAKMwpf9>**

**By Wednesday 2nd April 2025 if you do not wish for your child to attend.**

**Non completion of this form indicates that you are happy for your child to attend.**

**More information will be sent closer to the time.**

**Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to making beautiful music together!**

**<https://youngvoices.co.uk/parents-and-carers>**



# Dinners for Week Commencing 31st March 2025 - Week 3

## WEEK 1



### MONDAY

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

### TUESDAY

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

### THURSDAY

- CHOOSE FROM
- 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

### WEDNESDAY

- CHOOSE FROM
- 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

### FRIDAY

- CHOOSE FROM
- 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
- Veggie Bolognese 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
- 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

### THURSDAY

- CHOOSE FROM
- 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

### WEDNESDAY

- CHOOSE FROM
- 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

### FRIDAY

- CHOOSE FROM
- 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
- 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
- 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

### THURSDAY

- CHOOSE FROM
- 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

### WEDNESDAY

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

### FRIDAY

- CHOOSE FROM
- 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 31st March**

PE Kits

Bikeability **MH** - Years 3&4 please bring in your bikes and helmets

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

### **Tuesday 1st April**

Bikeability **MH** - Years 5&6 please bring in your bikes and helmets

### **Wednesday 2nd April**

Bikeability **MH** - Years 5&6 please bring in your bikes and helmets

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

### **Thursday 3rd April**

Non Uniform-Easter Egg donations please **MH**

### **Friday 4th April**

8:45 to 9:15am Rock up & Read

PE Kits

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

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

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

- 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**

- 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**
- 9th - 11th Apr -Bikeability **SA** -Please note there has been a change of date!
- 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**

- 2nd May Class 2 & 3 start their Swimming lessons **MH**
- 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

### **June**

- 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

### **July**

- 9th - 11th July - Year 5&6 Residential to Laches Wood - please ensure all payments are made by Monday 30th June and permission forms complete.
- 18th Jul - Break up for Summer Holidays
- 21st Jul - Inset day

# St Andrew's Events

We now have an Athletics club after school on Wednesday's starting on April 30th - book your place now!  
<https://www.clubz4kidz.co.uk/my-childs-school-portal-st-andre-ws-ce-primary-school.html#/>



## 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



Clubz4Kidz  
After School Programme

## 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)

# Mary Howard Events



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!

  

The poster features a white background with colorful confetti and Easter eggs at the top. At the bottom, there are illustrations of bunnies and Easter eggs on a grassy hill.



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!

The poster has a blue background with white clouds and colorful bunting at the top. It features illustrations of two bunnies and several decorated Easter eggs. A green box at the bottom contains the event details.

# 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**

- Please can all parents complete the mobile library permission form sent on Dojo

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 Friday 11th April - please note the change of date**

**St Andrew's - Class 3 (yr 5 & 6) Level 1 / 2 Combined on Wednesday 9th April & Thursday 10th April - please note the change of date! The class will be split into 2 groups one will take part on the 9th and one on the 10th you will be informed by Dojo which day your child is taking part.**

## **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. Formally delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider regional themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [wakeupwednesday.com](http://wakeupwednesday.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 targeting ground for scammers. Recent warnings include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency' – plus a scam where strangers trigger a withdrawal message by attempting to log in to your account, then [posing as WhatsApp] staff or law enforcement to request the code back to them – giving them access.

### CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user they wish to message. Therefore, if a child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It is also possible that the child might be added to a group chat or community, one of their friends, for example, contacting other people they don't know.

### FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allow news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on this app now display a 'Forwarded many times' label and a double checkmark. This makes users aware that the messages they've just received have been original – 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 'Secret Chat' folder, which is not backed up to the cloud. It also offers a 'Secret Code' (a PIN or a fingerprint) or 'Face ID'. There is an additional feature – 'Secret Code' – where users can create a password for the locked chat. 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 inspect them later to show evidence of an incident. People used to be able to screenshot this disappearing content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, being a restriction of privacy.

### VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's live location feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking on their child. It's a simple set, for example, however, anyone in a user's contacts list or in a community group that can also track their location – potentially before a user has even shared their home address or journey that they make 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 via WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds 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 without needing approval. You can give permission to My Contacts or My Contacts Except... Additionally, if a child needs to use live location, emphasize 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're there for their safety at all times. If you spot a contact that looks dodgy, you might want to talk about this sort of contact they've added in there, who they're talking to, and why they want to keep them there in their life. If a child has used any View Once content, it could be helpful to ask them why.

### DISCUSS GROUP CHATS

Make children aware that there could be members of a group that they don't know well and that needs can be misleading. Encourage them to help in good situations and to avoid joining in conversations that 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 – or 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 share things widely, but once you've posted or shared something widely, you can't take it back. Encourage children to consider how on impulse messages or forwarding might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

### 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 Justice on government campaigns internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, look at Australia.



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## 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 or a speech-to-text system (such as voice typing) can also be abused on the side of the screen. Modern on-call chat is relatively free, 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 season also includes a 'Daily Spin' (much like those seen in Fortnite and Call of Duty), offering a series of exclusive cosmetic items. These prizes don't expire – but they can't be purchased once the next season rolls around, creating a lot of missing out.

### CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With such a huge player base, it's impossible to predict whom your child will be teaming up with or playing against. They're virtually certain to make into strangers through voice and 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 – potentially before a user has even shared their home address or journey that they're regularly making.

### VIOLENT CONTENT

There's no gore in Marvel Rivals, and the violence depicted is comparatively cartoonish – but the playable characters also take very different forms. Iron Man and Thor are very familiar to most children, but the playable characters also take very different forms. Iron Man and Thor are very familiar to most children, but the playable characters also take very different forms. Iron Man and Thor are very familiar to most children, but the playable characters also take very different forms.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The game includes some in-game animations that are in the nature of a joke, which could expose youngsters to content unsuitable for their age, depending on their age and their family's gaming experience. As we mentioned previously, the content of the game could also be age inappropriate, ranging from swearing to mature themes to potentially harmful content.

### FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

The inclusion of iconic characters might mean Marvel Rivals appears more appealing to children than other games in the genre, with recognisable heroes and villains like Spider-Man and Venom. This could lead to more interest from younger players, increasing the likelihood of children 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 most complex of the nature of characters (people can play as one of the Avengers, for example), while also enjoying the violence, however cartoonish, world destruction theme.



### 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. To keep it free, online play of Marvel Rivals will likely be subject to the game's All in Practice Mode, until they're old enough to compete online.

### MONITOR OR TURN OFF CHAT

Voice and text chat can both be adjusted within the in-game settings. If you're particularly concerned about exposing children and young people to them, however, you can disable both text and voice chat in the game's settings. It can be worth to play alongside friends, so that they can see their console's party chat feature or host a call on a third-party service like Discord.

### DISCONNECT PAYMENT OPTIONS

Parents should ensure that no payment options – such as debit cards – are linked to the game, to prevent unauthorised purchases and charges. Children can be tempted by in-game offers without fully understanding the costs, involving for example, making in-game purchases or making a series of financial decisions, both being young people to be careful with their money.

### Meet Our Expert

Ujjal Choudhary is a Senior Editor at The Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for 16 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 mainly about tech and fitness, he has been published on sites including TechCrunch and Penny News.





## 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 possi-

ble.  
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](https://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