



Dear families,

We arrive at the last day of the first half term; 8 weeks is a long run for the children but they have continued to impress us with their attitudes towards school- I am sure they are ready for a break.

This week, one of my highlights was an unexpected visit to Forest School to cover a staff absence; yes, it was on the wettest day of the year so far, but muddy puddles and clay covered hands offered a wonderful variety to my week!

SP Site- End of Day Opening Times

Following Half Term, there will be a minor change to the time at which our gates at the Somers Park site open at the end of the school day. This is being introduced to support the security of the school site and the safety and well-being of all pupils.

- The Wilmott Road entrance will be opened at 2:55pm- this is so that parents of children in Nursery can enter the school site to collect their children at 3pm.
- The front of school gates and the Yates Hay entrances will open at 3:05 pm, allowing enough time for reception parents, our earliest finish, to collect their children at 3:10pm.

There is no change to the arrangements at the Malvern Vale site.

OPAL Play Parent Event

Opal Play Parent Event- Malvern Vale site report

The atmosphere was fabulous at the Malvern Vale Opal afternoon - despite the damp weather! We had a huge number of parents attend and the feedback was incredibly positive.

Our Year 6 play leaders demonstrated their oracy and leadership skills by not only helping to set up each area but circulating

through the afternoon, explaining to the parents how beneficial Opal has been, supporting younger pupils and guiding visitors around each area. The parents themselves commented on how well organised the afternoon was, how it was wonderful to see what the children are offered during play times and how it was a special opportunity to spend quality time with their children in school.

Everyone got involved in the activities and we even had a Double Dutch contest led by a group of parents! It was a wonderful event to showcase how well Opal has been embedded into our school and the positive and respectful manner in which our pupils interact with our provision.

Opal Play

Parent Event Feedback

Thank you for completing our survey following the OPAL parent event at both sites- 100% of those who filled it out said they would come again... a testament to the success of the afternoon. We also had some lovely free text comments,- here are just a few:

'It was an absolutely fantastic afternoon, it was wonderful to be able to spend time with our children doing something fun together at school.'

'Wonderful to see all the children getting the most out of playtime.'

'The music and bubble area was brilliant!'

'I enjoyed it and found the presentation interesting to understand the 'why' behind OPAL.'

'Nice to see the children using their imaginations.'

'I really enjoyed being a part of my daughter's day.'

'I appreciate all the effort that staff have gone to, putting time aside for unstructured play and fun is something

I know my daughter will have fond memories of in later years.'

There will be another OPAL parent afternoon later in the year- watch this space!

Remembrance- Weds 11th Nov

Wednesday 11th November marks our Remembrance observance in school.

To support this important occasion and recognise the commitment of young people involved in uniformed organisations, pupils who are members of the **Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies, Beavers, Cadets** or other recognised uniformed groups are welcome to wear their organisation's uniform to school on this day.

Attendance Matters!

**MOMENTS
MATTER.
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Keep working hard with your attendance!

Whole school attendance this week:

96.7%

Superstar classes with attendance of over 97% this week are:

16th October- 21st October



Class	Attendance
3KC, Miss Cecil	100.0%
0-RAW, Miss Ward	99.0%
2-BEECH, Miss Hartwright	98.7%
3-PINE, Mrs Del-Monte	98.3%
5VD, Mrs Dawson	98.2%
2EB, Miss Brookes	98.1%
6GL, Mrs Lineham	97.8%
5RM, Mrs Russell and Mrs Marshall	97.8%
4SB, Mr Bowtell	97.6%
2RD Mr Dudley	97.3%

Well done Miss Ward



Miss Ward's legs were a bit sore at the beginning of the week! Last weekend she ran the Abingdon Marathon, completing it in the impressive time of 4 hours 21 minutes. It's lovely to celebrate the achievements of our community and we are very impressed! Well done Miss Ward! 😊

We break up for Half Term today- tomorrow is an INSET Day and school is closed for children.

Have a fabulous Half Term break and we look forward to seeing you on our return on Monday 2nd November.

Best wishes,

Chris

Chris Hansen

Advance notice- Christmas Lunch at SPSS



Christmas Lunch – Thursday 10th December

Traditional X-mas lunch with Stuffing & Gravy
Vegetarian Quorn Roast with Stuffing, Gravy & Cranberry Sauce

*

Pigs in Blankets, Roast Potatoes

*

Baby Carrots, Garden Peas & Brussel Sprouts

Mince Pie & Cream
Christmas Fairy Cake



£3.50 per child
 (Universal and Free School Meals – free of charge)

Celebrating Success at Somers Park

This Week's Values Champions



Class	Child	Values Champion
SP site EY and KS1	Levon A (Year 1)	Excel - Levon has been working incredibly on his reading and writing
SP site KS2	Luka M-H (Year 3)	Thrive - for trying hard with enthusiasm in everything he does.
	Daniel (Year 5)	Excel - He always tries his best and even with mistakes, gives a rueful smile and tries again. Never gives up or gets frustrated. Highly motivated to do well and do his best.
MV site	Meghan T (Year 3)	Shows Kindness , all of the time. A real role model within the school.
	Elijah O (Year 5)	Thrive - Shows an overwhelming enthusiasm and positivity in school.

This Week's Stars of the Week

Class	Child	Star of the Week
Nursery Stars	Felix H-M	For settling in well into Stars and always being ready to learn!
Nursery Rainbows	Elsie C	For walking into nursery by herself with a big smile on her face!
	Ottillie	For being a kind and caring friend and exploring lots of new areas in nursery!
RAW	Oliver B	For working hard on his Rainbow Challenge.
	Maple H	For her amazing independent writing!
RAG	Drew F	For always showing me she is ready to learn!
	Tommy N	For remembering to put his hand up when contributing his lovely ideas!
MV Oak	Ciril F	For always trying his best when completing his work.
	Teddy RH	For working hard to write his name.
1HW	Elsie-Belle A	For always doing the right thing and her fantastic check 5 at carpet time.
	Joory T	For always trying her best and working hard!
MV Elm	Brayden L	For amazing focus with phonics at home and in school.
	Luna J-P	For being positive and working hard in all lessons.
2RD	Troy S	For working independently during maths.
	Harley W	For working hard during his extended writing.
2EB	Mabel B	For her lovely writing about Australia.
	Poppy S	For a super redesign of London after the great fire.
MV Beech	Jenson S	For working hard to use full stops and capital letters correctly in his writing.
	Ioan B	For fantastic maths and always challenging himself!

Continued on the next page...

Class	Child	Star of the Week
3SS	Jacob F	For working hard to understand and demonstrate trickier column addition questions.
	Jovana J	For her enthusiasm and clear workings out in her maths work on column addition.
3KC	Lily R	For representing our school wonderfully on our trip to Malvern Festival of Stories this week.
	Alfie M	For using some vivid vocabulary within his setting description in English.
MV Pine	Zane A E-F	Excellent column addition and subtraction
	Jesse T	Cracking exchange in column subtraction
4SB	Ella A	For being such a kind, caring member of 4SB.
	Zoya K	For fantastic reasoning in maths this week.
4LE	Niamh B	For great ideas for a creative haiku in English this week.
	Orla T	For consistently producing high-quality writing throughout the term.
MV Cedar	Felix F	For his enthusiasm and ideas when problem solving in Maths.
	Willow W	For writing imaginative Haikus
5RM	Lottie P-B	For being so hardworking, focussed and always ready to learn.
	Izzy L	For being so willing to help a friend and support them in difficult times.
5VD	Lily H	For showing such resilience this half term and seeking ways to be more independent.
	Freddie H	For being a very cheerful member of the class, approaching new tasks with positivity.
MV Maple	Eve	Great mathematical reasoning about prime and square numbers.
	Jakob	For being an absolute super star, a pleasure to have in our class!
6GL	Milo T	For confidently sharing his ideas and for leading his (winning) debate team wonderfully.
	Oliver VS	For always trying his best and for his amazing debating in history.
6MM	Alivia H	For fantastic focus in Maths lessons this week, demonstrating a good understanding of fractions.
	Noah	For his hard work in Art this week, creating a fantastic collage!
MV Willow	Soren C	For his detailed biography of Harriet Tubman.
	Elijah H	For his passionate debating skills in class this week during History and RE.
Special mentions		
School Office (site)	Jess M 6	For being so responsible and brave the last couple of weeks – Well done Jess!
Wraparound (site)	Connor H RAW	For settling so well into After School club



News from Mercian Educational Trust

Why do schools talk about attendance percentages?

You may have seen your child's attendance shown as a percentage and wondered why schools talk about it so often.

- Every school day contains new learning.
- Children also spend time practising what they have already learnt, working with their classmates and building routines and relationships.
- When days are missed, those little gaps can add up.
- Attendance is not only about schoolwork. Being in school regularly can also help children feel part of their class and school community.

Of course, there will be times when a child is genuinely too unwell to attend school. Schools understand this.

Attendance percentages help schools and families see the bigger picture over time. If attendance begins to fall, the school can talk with the family, understand what may be happening and look at how they can help.

The aim is not simply a number. It is about working together to help children be in school, feel that they belong and get the most from their education.



Supporting children's emotional wellbeing

Children experience lots of different emotions as they grow. Changes in routine, friendships, learning, family circumstances and tiredness can all affect how they feel and behave.

Here are three simple ways to help your child feel supported at home:

- 1 Make time to talk.**
A few minutes of uninterrupted time can help your child feel listened to. Try asking, "What was the best part of your day?" or "Was anything difficult today?"
- 2 Name feelings without judgement.**
Let children know it is okay to feel worried, frustrated, angry or sad. You could say, "I can see that you're upset. Let's work through this together."
happy sad angry worried frustrated
- 3 Keep routines predictable.**
Regular bedtimes, calm mornings and time to relax can help children feel secure, particularly when life feels unsettled.



If you are concerned about your child's behaviour, anxiety, friendships or attendance, please speak to their class teacher or the school's pastoral or family support team.



Community Links**Waves & Slides at
Malvern Splash**

Families can use the code: **Halloween26** to receive **20% off** at the point of sale. Admissions can be purchased from the following link, and we are welcome both parents and teachers:

[Freedom Leisure Malvern Splash Leisure Complex Tickets, Products, Bundles, Gift Vouchers - Buy Online](#)

**Bridges of Light Festival**

The image below links to website for more information:

Severn Arts

BRIDGES OF LIGHT

Presented by Severn Arts
Part of the Local Voices Creative Choices programme

Worcester city centre
Free to attend

28 and 29 October 2026
6pm-9pm

Full festival programme

Bridges of Light returns to Worcester city centre on Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 October with striking light installations, interactive artworks and creative workshops taking place in locations from The Hive through to Royal Porcelain Works.

Creativity, collaboration and communities are at the very heart of this event. This year, more community groups and volunteers are working alongside festival organisers and artists, helping to shape and bring the festival to life.

From 6 – 9pm on both nights, visitors to the city centre can experience:

MALVERN MAKERS
presents
CUTE & SPOOKY HALLOWEEN
WORKSHOPS

Come & Join us..
Halloween Workshops

Marvellous Monsters (5-11) - Sat 24th & 31st 10-11:30
Terrific Toddlers (0-5) - Tues 27th 10-10:45
Malvern Makers Studio
Claremont House, 119 Church St, Great Malvern WR14 2AJ

Crafting
Drawing
Painting

malvernmakersinfo@gmail.com
07909810484

BOOK NOW

MALVERN MAKERS
presents
HALLOWEEN AT THE FOLD

Halloween Art & Crafts
Come along and make Clay Pumpkins,
Spider Baskets & Spooky Sun Catchers
Wednesday 28th October 1-2:30
For Children aged 4-11

The Craft Room, The Fold, Bransford. WR6 5JB

Crafting
Drawing
Painting

malvernmakersinfo@gmail.com
07909810484

BOOK NOW

Wild school holiday fun



Worcestershire
Wildlife Trust



Don't get bored in the school holidays - try our fun nature activities instead!

Autumn family nature day

Wednesday 28 October
10am - 2pm
Lower Smite Farm, Smite Hill,
Worcester, WR3 8SZ

Explore nature themed trails, get creative with autumnal wood and paper crafts and have a go at hands-on wildlife activities such as log-rolling, minibeast hunts and pond dipping (water levels and weather permitting).

Bring a picnic to eat on our benches and enjoy the sights and sounds of autumn.

Free entry and no need to book. Although, if you register via our website, it helps us know how many people to expect on the day.

Find out more via bit.ly/AutumnFamilyNatureDay2026



Grow your own oak tree

You will need some acorns, a plant pot, some stones or gravel and soil or peat-free compost.

1. Collect acorns in the autumn. Healthy ones will sink in a bowl of water.
2. Lay stones or gravel in the bottom of the pot and then fill it with soil or compost.
3. Plant an acorn by pushing it into the soil with your finger. The acorn must be out of its cup with the pointed end facing upwards.

Leaves should appear in the first spring. Plant your oak tree outside in the second spring.

Did you know an adult oak tree can be home to 284 species of insect?

Pine cone creatures



You will need

- Pinecones
- Craft foam felt or card
- Scissors
- PVA glue and double-sided sticky tape
- Various things (as many natural as possible) to make your animal, such as:
 - Leaves
 - Acorn caps
 - Berries or googly eyes

Always check what berries are before you pick them because some can be harmful to people!

1. Decide what animal you want to make. If you want it to stand, pick a pine cone that will stay upright and make and glue on the feet first.
2. Add legs or wings and eyes and ears using the materials you've collected.

PVA should stick most things, but ask an adult to help if you need to use a hot glue gun.

Here are a few examples to get you inspired...



mouse

fox

owl

www.wildlifewatch.org.uk

