



This week at Suckley School

Happy Friday,

It's been lovely to finally enjoy lighter mornings and even a glimmer of sunshine this week—spring feels as though it's just around the corner!

Each Monday, we begin the week with our "Let's Talk About It" assembly. This week, the children explored the origins of Chinese New Year and learned about some of the animals behind the celebration. We also introduced our Playground Game of the Week: Stuck in the Mud. I've absolutely loved seeing the children embracing these traditional games and playing together across all of the ages.

I'd also like to give a special mention to the boys who attended the Under 9's seven-a-side football festival at The Downs Malvern, with myself and Miss Jones this week. Their team spirit, determination and exemplary behaviour stood out amongst all of the teams that took part. We were so proud of each and every one of them.

Earlier this week, I sent an email outlining our exciting plans to transform play at Suckley School. We are delighted to share that we have already raised £265, and we are incredibly grateful for your support. Thank you.

Next week, we are looking forward to welcoming you into school for our parents' evenings, as well as celebrating World Book Day on Thursday. I can't wait to see the wonderful characters who will arrive at school- children and adults alike!

Wishing you all a happy and healthy weekend ahead.

With kind regards, Helen Field



Suckley School Vision

To celebrate the unique and individual needs of all of our pupils by delivering an inspiring, rich, inclusive, broad and balanced curriculum which enables children to achieve their full potential, without limits.

'Happy, Aspirational and Ready for Life'



Photos of The Week

To support the children's vocabulary and in order for them to keep abreast of current affairs, both locally and nationally, we have a "Let's Talk About It" assembly every Monday. Each week we have different pictures and questions to initiate conversations with, and between, the children. We would like to continue this 'talking' theme by asking you to discuss activities the children have done in school each week. Here are some photos to help prompt the conversations:



Suckley School Vision

To celebrate the unique and individual needs of all of our pupils by delivering an inspiring, rich, inclusive, broad and balanced curriculum which enables children to achieve their full potential, without limits.

'Happy, Aspirational and Ready for Life'



Notice to parents

Please keep dogs on leads until they have left the vicinity of the school. This is to ensure the safety of both children and dogs.

A reminder to NOT park over the lane by the school. Access is required at all times for the houses down the lane.

After-school clubs start next week. These will run for 4 weeks.

Parents' evening is on Tuesday & Thursday next week. You should have been sent an appointment reminder with your time. If you have not received this & are unsure of where to find your bookings, please contact the office.

We will notify you when Forest School begins again. At the moment, the ground is still too wet.



Suckley School Vision

To celebrate the unique and individual needs of all of our pupils by delivering an inspiring, rich, inclusive, broad and balanced curriculum which enables children to achieve their full potential, without limits.

'Happy, Aspirational and Ready for Life'



WHAT'S ON NEXT WEEK

3 rd March	Wrens- Height & Weight measurements
3 rd March	Parents Evening
5 th March	Parents Evening
6 th March	'Let Girls play football' - Girls from Woodpeckers- Dyson Perrins

FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

18 th March	Eagles- MSJ Spring Sing
20 th March	Rocksteady Concert
24 th March	Little Litter Warriors are visiting the whole school
25 th March	Easter Disco
25 th March	Woodpeckers- Tennis event at Dyson Perrins
27 th March	School closes at 2 pm
30 th March - 10 th April	Half Term
13 th April	TED Day

Head Teachers Awards

WRENS CLASS
Elianna Fisher

WOODPECKERS CLASS
Austin Miles

ROBINS CLASS
Pippa Goode

EAGLES CLASS
Harvey Walker



Suckley School Vision

To celebrate the unique and individual needs of all of our pupils by delivering an inspiring, rich, inclusive, broad and balanced curriculum which enables children to achieve their full potential, without limits.

'Happy, Aspirational and Ready for Life'





GOVERNORS' UPDATE SPRING 2026

What do we do?

In a nutshell, the role of the Governing Body is to set the school's strategic direction, oversee finances, and ensure legal duties like safeguarding are met. We hold the headteacher to account for the school's performance but do not manage the day-to-day running of the school.



New Governors

The Governing Body has welcomed two new parent governors; Emily Anthony and Sarah Baggs and two new co-opted governors: Jake Gammon and Andy Mayfield.

This means we are now the strongest we have been in numbers and range of skills for very many years.

Exciting Plans

There have been a lot of improvements made to the outside areas recently with the replacement trim trail, sensory garden and pond renovation. However, due to the condemnation of the castle, the collapse of the tree and the use of natural materials in Wrens outside area we plan to make improvements to this area.

In addition, we're launching an exciting project to enhance break and lunchtime play for every child from Reception to Year 6 by improving the main playground and wild area.

Oversubscribed!

Partly due to our Outstanding OFSTED inspection, and partly due to the fantastic reputation Suckley School has in the local community, we have received record numbers of applications for our Reception class in September. This is great news for us but does mean that there will be some disappointed parents when places are offered in April. We have a limit to the number of places we can offer due to the size of the school and the fact that each year's cohort will be only half of a class as they move up through the school.

Happy, Aspirational and Ready for Life.



Online Safety Newsletter

March 2026

YouTube Safety Update: New Parental Controls

YouTube have published their latest update on how parents can support their child on YouTube. YouTube will now allow parents to set the amount of time viewing Shorts – this can even be set to zero. YouTube Shorts are short videos, usually less than 60 seconds long, which when continuously watched, can lead to excessive screentime. Furthermore, parents will also be able to set bedtime and 'take a break' reminders. You can find out more here:

<https://blog.youtube/news-and-events/updates-youtube-supervised-accounts-teens/>

If you would like to find out more about supervised accounts on YouTube, then this article explains the different settings available:

https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/10315420?hl=en-GB&ref_topic=15279060&sjid=15225282118002181205-EU

Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translate tool on our web version: <https://www.knowsleycitylearningcentres.org.uk/march-2026/>

Mobile phones: do you know the risks?

We know that children having access to a smartphone can expose children to risks including:

- ☐ ☐ Viewing inappropriate content
- Excessive screen time/use, which in turn can affect their mental health and sleep pattern.
- ☐ Contact from inappropriate people/grooming
- ☐ Cyberbullying
- ☐ Spending money on in-app purchases/scams

What effects do mobile phones have on children's mental health?

Compass discuss the research around this important topic, outlining the positive and negative effects that mobile phones have:

<https://compass-uk.org/services/compass-changing-lives/online-resources/what-effects-do-mobile-phones-have-on-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health/>

EE Online Safety Hub

EE has published age guidance for smartphone usage to improve children's digital wellbeing. In summary, they recommend that children under 11 should use non-smart devices, for children aged 11-13, they advise that if a smartphone is used, then parental controls should be enabled and access to social media restricted. Finally, for 13-16-year-olds they still recommend that parental controls are implemented and appropriate restrictions set up. You can read the full guidance here:

<https://ee.co.uk/internet-online-safety>

Could you delay when your child is given a smartphone with Smartphone Free Childhood?

The premise behind this movement is that all parents/carers of a class all agree not to give their children smartphones (therefore the level of peer pressure is reduced) for a set time or until a specific age:

<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/>

What device?

When you think it is the right time for your child to have a phone, then 'Which?' provide an overview of some options available:

<https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/mobile-phones/article/buying-a-first-mobile-phone-best-dumb-phones-and-smartphones-for-kids-aA03C3Y8aTzr>

Virtual Private Networks

A Virtual Private Network (VPN) helps make your connection between a device and the internet more secure and can help protect personal information and add privacy. However, whilst a VPN has benefits, it is important that you are aware that if your child is using a VPN, they may be able to get round Wi-Fi restrictions, access blocked or restricted websites and bypass parental controls. It may also mean that their browsing history is hidden.

The NSPCC provides a helpful overview of VPNs, plus top tips and conversation starters here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/vpns-and-online-safety/>

Social Media Algorithms

What is an Algorithm?

Algorithms influence what we see on social media platforms and predict what type of content we are most likely to interact with, thereby keeping us online for longer. The algorithm uses information such as who you follow, what you have searched for and what you have watched, liked or shared to determine what it thinks most interests you. It will then show you this content more, for example, in the explore tab on Instagram.



What do I need to know?

Whilst there are benefits to algorithms, for example it means we tend to see content that does interest us, unfortunately there are negatives as well. They can lead to increased screentime as we continue to see things that interest us. Secondly, it can lead to users being shown large amounts of inappropriate content which can for example, exacerbate negative body image or heighten access to misogyny content. It can also lead to 'echo chambers' where you are only seeing content that relates to your opinion rather than seeing a balanced viewpoint.

Further information

- ☐ <https://cybersmarties.com/behind-the-screen-how-algorithms-shape-what-kids-see-online/>
- ☐ The BBC discuss algorithms in this article about doomscrolling: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zwnk3qt>

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date released 01.03.26. The inclusion of any links does not imply any affiliation with or endorsement of the linked websites, documents, or videos, nor are we claiming any ownership or copyright in the content of the linked materials.

Five Nights at Freddy's

Five Nights at Freddy's is a horror game designed to frighten players with jump scares or creepy characters. It can be accessed from several places, for example on an Xbox (PEGI rating of 12) and on the App store (age rating of 13+). There is merchandise available, which may suggest that it is child friendly. We would recommend that you preview the game first to ascertain its suitability for your child. You can view Bark's review here:

<https://www.bark.us/content-review/five-nights-at-freddys-review/>

Screen time and online harms

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health have created a page that brings together key resources on screen time. Find out more here:

<https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/screen-time-online-harms-resources-members>

New government campaign: Is your child influenced by toxic content?

The Government have launched a new campaign providing guidance to parents on safety settings, conversation prompts and advice for tackling misinformation and harmful content. It also includes a quiz to help you and your child spot misleading or unreliable information online. You can find out more here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/is-your-child-influenced-by-toxic-content-new-government-campaign-supports-parents-to-talk-about-harmful-online-content>



FRIENDS OF SUCKLEY SCHOOL
JOIN US FOR OUR

Easter Disco

£6 PER CHILD

WEDNESDAY

25th MARCH

KS1 - 4.15 - 5.15

KS2 - 5.30 - 6.30

Pizza & Party
Treat Included





FRIENDS OF SUCKLEY SCHOOL
JOIN US FOR OUR

Easter Disco

PAY HERE





**HELD @
SUCKLEY
SCHOOL**



Dance & Musical Theatre

HOLIDAY CLUB

Join Monkeys in Motion for an action-packed Dance & Musical Theatre Holiday Camp featuring dancing, singing, drama, team games, outdoor play, creative crafts and mini shows— all ending with a surprise disco party! From £20.



**9:00
UNTIL
13.00/
15.30PM**

**3-11
YEARS
OLD**

- Dance, Perform & Shine ★
- Sing Loud, Act Big, Have Fun 🎤
- Create, Play & Make New Friends 🎨
- Party Vibes With A Surprise Disco 🕺

BOOK NOW!



**WWW.MONKEYS
INMOTION.CO.UK**

**"Best Multi-Sport Holiday Camps
Provider 2025 - Midlands"**



2025 Global Excellence Awards



Easter Holidays HOLIDAY CAMP

Monday 30th March - Friday 17th April



THE DOWNS



The Downs, Malvern

BOOK HERE ↘

WWW.TEAMSUPERSPORTS.CO.UK/BOOKING



***EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNT ENDS SUNDAY 8TH MARCH**