

# NEWSLETTER



# The Forest Family

## Awards

12th January 2024

### ALL SAINTS

Class 1: **Archie R** Class 2: **Adeline** Class 3: **Charlie S** Class 4: **Mya**

Badges: ★ **Alaynah (Red Star)**

Headteacher awards: **Charlotte, Haadi, Gill**

Writer of the Week: **Peter B (Class 4)**

### NEEDWOOD

Class 1: **Zakariyah** Class 2: **Minnie** Class 3: **Sienna**

Badges: 🏆 **Finn (Bronze Cup)**

Headteacher awards: **Alice, Xanthe, Robin, Ava, Bertie, Romilly,**

Writer of the Week: **Tiffany R**

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas break. I would like to thank everyone who sent cards, Christmas wishes and presents to myself and the staff. We are so grateful for your thoughts and kindness.

There are lots of exciting events coming up over the rest of the school year. In just under two weeks our junior children from both schools will be taking part in the Young Voices concert at the Resorts World Arena in Birmingham. Here is a link to the Spotify playlist so the children can practice at home. It's going to be a wonderful night to remember!

[The Young Voices Choir | Spotify](#)

Have a lovely weekend, Best wishes,  
**Mr Baxter**



### [The Young Voices Choir](#)

Artist · 25.6K monthly listeners.  
[open.spotify.com](https://open.spotify.com)

## ATTENDANCE

### ALL SAINTS

CLASS 1 - 96%

CLASS 2 - 95%

CLASS 3 - 99%

CLASS 4 - 99%

### NEEDWOOD

CLASS 1 - 96%

CLASS 2 - 93%

CLASS 3 - 93%

WELL DONE CHILDREN!

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### DIARY - ALL SAINTS

24.1.24	YOUNG VOICES CLASSES 3 & 4
29/30.1.24	BIKEABILITY YEARS 4 & 5
9.2.24	PANCAKE RACE 2.45 PM
12.2.24 - 16.2.24	HALF TERM
19.2.24	INSET DAY
7.3.24	WORLD BOOK DAY
19.3.24	EASTER SERVICE 9.15 AM
3.7.24	SPORTS DAY AM
18.7.24	LEAVERS AND FINAL CELEBRATION 1.30 PM

### DIARY - NEEDWOOD

24.1.24	YOUNG VOICES CLASSES 2 & 3
9.2.24	PANCAKE RACE 9.15 AM
9.2.24	SCHOOL DISCO
12.2.24 - 16.2.24	HALF TERM
19.2.24	INSET DAY
19.3.24	EASTER SERVICE 2.30 PM
4.7.24	SPORTS DAY AM
17.7.24	LEAVERS AND FINAL CELEBRATION 1.30 PM

### CENSUS DAY

On Thursday, 18th January it is Census Day at School. We would like to encourage all children to stay for a school dinner on Thursday as this affects the amount of money the school is allocated. Lunch at Needwood will be Hot Sausage Roll and Chips or Vegetable Pie and Chips as the hot choices, alongside the normal Sandwiches and Jacket Potatoes options we have available.

Thank you for your support.

### Grow a Pound Project

Thank you so much to all our children and families who were so innovative, creative and entrepreneurial when taking part in the Grow a Pound Project. We were absolutely blown away by the children's ideas, their team work and their financial awareness. The total raised is an amazing £726.05! At the end of the Autumn Term, the children brainstormed a number of charities that they would like to put to a vote for half of the money to be given to. It was a difficult choice as there were so many fantastic charities mentioned, but once the votes were counted the children decided that they would like £363.00 to go to the RSPCA. The other half of the money will go towards resources in school for all the children. This is a tremendous achievement by everyone, thank you so much for your support! The children will receive certificates next week in one of our workshops.

If you were unable to take part in the project, please could we ask that all £1 coins are returned to school by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January, thank you.



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

#### EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

#### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

#### SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

#### UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

#### NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert: potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

#### CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

#### PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

#### GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

#### AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

#### BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

#### SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

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



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Source: <https://www.nationalonlinesafety.com/parents-carers/what-parents-carers-need-to-know-about-group-chats>



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



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## COMMUNITY

### RARING 2 GO!

The latest issue of Raring 2 Go! Is now available.

[CLICK HERE FOR LINK](#)



### SPARK YOUNG WRITERS GROUP

Spark Young Writers Group now has three **new creative writing groups** for **Key Stage 2** aged young people in **the Staffordshire area, which commence January 2024.**

The sessions are different from school as they focus on creativity and imagination, and less on spelling and punctuation. Young people who engage in these writing groups have been shown to have improved engagement in writing and comprehension within a school context.

Spark Young Writers group meets **once a month on Saturday mornings 10.30am – 12.30 pm** in three new locations:

Cannock Junior at Cannock Library  
Newcastle Under Lyme Junior at Newcastle Under Lyme Library  
Uttoxeter Junior at Uttoxeter Library

They also have groups for older people in the following locations:

Burton Teen at Burton Library (school years 7-13)  
Stoke On Trent at Stoke Library (school years 5-9)

If you are interested, parents will need to book their young writers on via the website [www.sparkwriters.org](http://www.sparkwriters.org)

Sessions cost £9 when booked as a block, or £10 when booked as a one-off session. But we can offer bursary places for students eligible for pupil premium or free school meals.

For more information please contact  
Amelia Clarke  
Programmes & Marketing Assistant - Writing West Midlands

**Office:** 0121 246 2770  
Facebook / Instagram / Twitter: @writingwestmids | @thesparkwriters | @bhamlitfest

*Disclaimer: We are proud to have a newsletter which shares information with you for our parish, village, WI, social club, Rascals and our local communities. We do try to vet all items which go into*

*School information can be provided in different languages, large print, simple text only or Braille.  
Please speak to Mr Baxter if you have a particular requirement.*

