

1<sup>st</sup> May 2026

# Our Weekly Update



## Headteacher update

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

Our children are working really hard at the moment to prepare themselves for end of year assessments. Across all Phases of the school, classrooms have a hum of productivity with children focused and eager to embed the learning they have completed this year.

This is evident across the curriculum, but especially in writing. Earlier this week, teachers worked with colleagues from other schools in Meridian Trust to moderate children's writing and compare their outcomes. It was lovely to see the high standard of our children's work and for the teachers to be able to consider what else they need to master before the end of the year.

Alongside the more formal academic learning, other opportunities continue to engage the children positively. On Monday, children in Key Stage One enjoyed a fantastic art day.

As their current topic is South America, the tasks all linked to the abstract patterns and bright colours of this continent. Children's brilliant creations included abstract mirror designs, patterned mini rugs and characterful llamas, which they enjoyed sharing with adults at the end of the day.

Reception children are beginning their rehearsals for their production of the Gingerbread Man. They are excited about sharing this with parents and carers in a couple of weeks time. A letter with instructions for requesting tickets has been sent out; please do fill this in as soon as possible.

Today's weather has definitely felt warm, but the forecast for the next week or so is more mixed. Please ensure that children come to school well prepared for the conditions which, at the moment, may mean sunhats, jumpers and coats all on the same day!

With best wishes for a lovely weekend,

Jonathan Clarke and the SPS Team



# Key Dates – updates in blue



Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday – school closed
Week beginning Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs week
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May (09:20)	Reception production to parents/carers
Week beginning Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Half term
Week beginning Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check
Week beginning Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Healthy Week
Week beginning Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day: KS2 AM and Reception/KS1 PM (timings tbc)
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> June @ 16:00	PFA Make a Difference Evening
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	INSET day – school closed to children
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> and Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Abbey College transition
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	KS1 trip to Hunstanton – details to follow
Week beginning Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	PSHE Life Bus visiting Somersham – more details to follow
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> , Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> and Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Cromwell Community College transition
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	PFA Colour Run

# Amazing Art in Key Stage One!



# PFA COLOUR RUN

FRIDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY -  
WATCH THIS SPACE





Reception	Describe	<p>This week we have been looking at the characters in the story of The Gingerbread Man. What do they look like? Are they fluffy? Are they orange? What kind of character are they? Are they mean? Are they clever? How would you describe the character you are playing in our production?</p>
Year 1/2	Tourism	<p>Children made posters about South America to show off their knowledge of the continent and to encourage tourists to go there. Do they remember what tourist means? What kinds of things might tourists do or see there?</p>
Year 3/4	Journey	<p>In English, we have been reading 'The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane'. Can you explain to someone at home the journey your character goes on in your story? Where do they travel, what challenges do they face, and how does the journey change them?</p>
Year 5/6	Tasting	<p>This week we have tasted plantain and jackfruit as part of our DT learning. The children have also practised their knife skills in preparation for making a Caribbean stew later in the term. We were really impressed by the children's attitude towards the tasting.</p>
	French	<p>Year 3/4: Listen to this BBC song to recap clothes and colours: <a href="#">Clothes and colours</a> Year 5/6: Watch this video about a hotel in Guadeloupe. Listen for key words: <a href="#">'hotel Guadeloupe</a></p>

# What are they interested in?

## If football's what they're into...

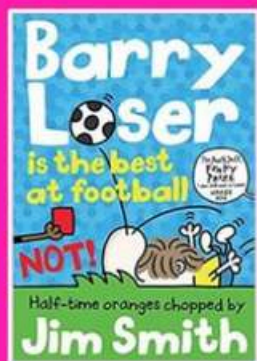
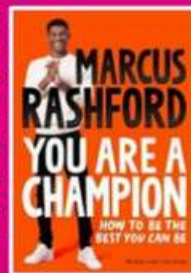
Here's some recommendations your child might enjoy – click on the title to find out more.

Visit [SchoolReadingList](#) for more inspiration

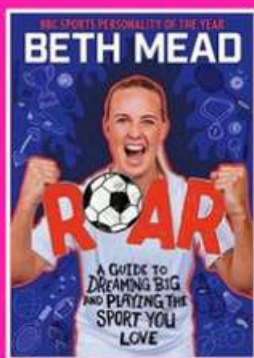


Meridian Trust

In his book, Marcus assures young fans that anything is possible with hard work, good friends, and a positive attitude. He talks candidly about growing up in awe of his football-mad brother in Manchester, struggling at school and the life lessons he learned from his Nanna; as well as what he learned on his incredible journey from playing after-school football to becoming one of the star players on the England team.



[Barry Loser is the Best at Football NOT!](#) by Jim Smith



[Roar](#) by Beth Mead



[Epic Heroes](#) by Alex Bellos & Ben Lyttelton



[Finding her Feet](#) by Eve Ainsworth



[Over the Line](#) by Tom Palmer

## Mindfulness for children

### Gentle Mindfulness Sessions for Children

Helping children to feel calmer, more confident, and better able to handle big emotions.

If you would be interested in coming along, please email us and let us know the age of your child(ren).

[mindfulness.somershamtimebank@gmail.com](mailto:mindfulness.somershamtimebank@gmail.com)

When we know how much interest there is, we will get in contact about days, timings, age groups etc...



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about STREAMING SERVICES

Streaming services are platforms that allow users to watch cartoons, documentaries and movies online immediately (often referred to as SVoD: streaming videos on demand). Ofcom reported that children and young adults prefer streaming services to traditional TV. With two-thirds of UK households subscribing to at least one streaming service, parents must understand how to manage screen time, set age restrictions and ensure safe viewing.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### COSTLY

Subscription services can be costly. As the main source of entertainment, most households have at least one streaming platform, and each platform has its own monthly subscription fee. Services are charging more for ad-free viewing, and better quality and resolution; however, there is a cheaper option with adverts. Due to price increases, Netflix and Disney+ reported a sharp increase in users subscribing to their ad-supported tier in 2025.

### ILLEGAL STREAMING

Sharing passwords or using modified Fire Sticks to access streaming content without permission is illegal. Most streaming services have now put measures in place to detect account sharing. When account sharing is identified, platforms will offer an opportunity to pay for an added member or will ask the user to verify who they are.

### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most streaming platforms allow users to set up a profile for each family member, with the option of putting specific restrictions in place. These include adding a profile lock or PIN, controlling autoplay of previews and next episodes, and limiting content based on age ratings. Nonetheless, these restrictions aren't foolproof. Content which is rated as suitable for an age group may still include themes, language, or images which children and families find inappropriate.

### EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Excessive screen time contributes to sedentary behaviour and can negatively impact physical and mental health. Ofcom found that 4- to 15-year-olds averaged 2.5 hours per day across all video-sharing platforms, not including gaming. The vast range of content available, combined with features such as autoplay, makes it easy for children to watch for extended periods of time.

### BINGE WATCHING

Features such as autoplay make it easy for viewers – especially young people – to continue watching episodes without a break. This can foster unhealthy and addictive patterns, such as consuming a vast amount of content in one sitting. With binge watching come a lack of social interaction, lack of physical exercise, and often late nights and sleep disruptions which impact their mental and physical wellbeing.

### HARMFUL STEREOTYPES

Many platforms track viewing habits, time consumed, and preferences, and generate recommendations to encourage your child to keep watching. This results in your child being in a 'loop' whereby they think the 'recommended' shows would be something they would enjoy rather than thinking critically for themselves. This can shape their beliefs, values, and understanding of the world from a young age without even realising it.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### SET UP INDIVIDUAL PROFILES AND ADD PINS

Almost all streaming services allow users to set up individual profiles where each family member can have age restrictions put in place for the content they can view. Adult profiles can be protected through the use of PIN. Keep this private. Use the options of putting specific restrictions in place such as controlling autoplay of previews and next episodes, and limiting content based on age ratings.

### MONITOR AND TALK OFTEN

Discuss with your child what they are watching, find out which programmes are trending, and watch them yourself. Have a little look at their watch history to check the content of what they're watching. Some platforms have been known to recommend or autoplay older or graphic content after a child's movie has been played. While some tv shows or movies may have a suitable age rating, your child may still find the content scary, or it may explore themes you don't want to explore with your child yet.

### TALK ABOUT ALGORITHMS

Talk to your child about how streaming services track what they watch, and base adverts and recommended shows/movies on previous viewing. Encourage them to critically think about whether the recommendations are suitable and how they want to spend their time. Discuss stereotypes with your child and challenge them to think about what they watch and how this may influence their beliefs.

### SET TIME RESTRICTIONS

Many streaming services offer the opportunity to buy movies, or add additional features to your subscription such as sports channels, as well as play games. This can increase the amount of time young people spend sitting idly in front of the screen. Some platforms (e.g. Apple TV+) allow you to set screen time restrictions. If the streaming service doesn't allow you to set screen time limits, set a family rule and stick to it.

### 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.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website