6th November 2026

Weekly Update



Headteacher update

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school this week after what was hopefully a restful half term break. They have quickly settled to their learning and picked up from where they left off! One big difference from the first half of the autumn term is the decrease in temperature! Please ensure that the children have appropriate coats to keep them warm at break and lunchtime over the next few weeks.

As highlighted in the last newsletter, the next few weeks are busy and there is a lot going on in school. Please see below for a couple of reminders and details:

- On Monday, Years 5 and 6 are going to Duxford to consolidate their learning about World War II. This visit takes place during school hours and children should wear their school uniform. If you haven't already done so, please make payment for this visit via MCAS.
- On Tuesday, children in Years 3 and 4 have a special Roman Day planned, to bring to life their history learning from last half term. Children are encouraged to come to school in a simple Roman costume, as outlined in the letter which went home about the event.
- On Thursday evening, Mrs Talbot and Mrs Gifford, our Early Reading Leads, will be hosting a Phonics and Early Reading workshop for parents and carers. The Reception event is between 17:00 and 17:30 and the Year 1 event is between 17:30 and 18:00. Parents and carers can come straight to the main office. Please note this is for adults only.
- On Friday, we are raising money for Children in Need through a non-uniform day. Children are welcome to dress in their own clothes for a small donation. Please note clothing should still be appropriate for school and for outdoor play. In the afternoon, Key Stage Two children will be using their entrepeneurial skills to devise arcade games for children in Key Stage One and Key Stage Two to play. Children are encouraged to bring in 10p and 20p coins for this. Further detail can be found in the communication sent out yesterday.

It's certainly going to be a busy week! Have a lovely weekend.

Jonathan Clarke and the SPS Team

Meridian Trust

Key Dates – updates in blue

Monday 9th November	Years 5 and 6 Duxford Visit
Tuesday 10th November	Years 3 and 4 Roman Day
Wednesday 11th November	Flu Vaccinations
Thursday 12th November	Reception (17:00 - 17:30) and Year 1 (17:30 - 18:00) Phonics Workshop for Parents
Friday 13th November	Children in Need
Friday 13th November	PFA Glow Disco
Week beginning Monday 16th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Tuesday 17th November	Individual photos
Monday 23rd November	EYFS and Y6 Measures Programme
Friday 4th December	PFA Christmas Fayre
Tuesday 8th (09:20), Wednesday 9th (14:00) and Thursday 10th (09:20) December	Key Stage One Christmas Production
Thursday 10th December	Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 14th December	Reception and KS1 Walk to Church
Wednesday 16th December	Choir performance at TimeBank Coffee Morning
Thursday 17th December	KS2 Walk to Church

Anti-Bullying Week



The week beginning Monday 16th November is Anti-Bullying Week, and this year's theme is 'Break the Silence.' This is a really important opportunity to talk about bullying, how we address it and what we can do to prevent it. On Monday 16th November, children are encouraged to wear odd socks, to celebrate what makes us all unique.

Lost Property

In our ongoing efforts to mnimise the amount of lost property, we will be trialling a new system from next week.

From Monday, any lost property found in school will be placed in a blue barrel underneath the current shelter on the playground. This should help it to stay dry and in a good condition. On a weekly basis, this will be sorted through, and named items returned to children.



Any unnamed items will be placed in a separate blue barrel outside the main office. Parents and carers are welcome to look through this if they missing an item. After another week, this will be given to the PFA.

We are hoping that this sytem helps us to stay on top of lost property, and ensure that named items are quickly reunited with their owners.

PFA

A big 'thank you' to everyone who supported this evening's 'PFA Pound Shop' stall, led by some of our Y6s. It was great to see so much backing for this.

Friday night is disco night! Please see the poster below and the PFA's social media pages for details of timings and how to book tickets.

Christmas!



We say it quietly so that the children don't hear, but Christmas preparations are already underway in school. Curriculum learning is prioritised until the end of the term, but there are various events to mark this special time of year, which is always magical in a primary school. Please see below for more details:



On Friday 4th December, the PFA Christmas Fayre will take place between 17:00 and 19:00. This is a fantastic event with external stalls, games, food and drink and even a visit from Father Christmas himself. Work on gathering raffle prizes is already in full swing and details of how to buy raffle tickets will be shared soon.

On Tuesday 8th, Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th December, children in Key Stage One will be performing a Christmas production to audiences of excited parents and carers. Ticket details will be shared in due course, as will costume requirements.



On Thursday 10th December, it is Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day. Our wonderful kitchen team will be cooking up a storm, and there will be fun and jollity in the hall with Christmas crackers and music. Children are also invited to wear Christmas jumpers on this day, with a small donation for Save the Children.

On Monday 14th December, Reception and Key Stage One children are walking to the Church, and Key Stage Two will be doing this on Thursday 17th December. This is a great opportunity for children to consolidate their Worldviews learning and learn more about why Christians celebrate Christmas. Any parent/carer volunteers who are able to help with this walk would be greatly appreciated. Please just let your child's class teacher know.

Finally, on Wednesday 16th December at 11:00, the Choir will be performing at the Time Bank Coffee Morning at the Royal British Legion. They are looking forward to sharing some of the songs they are preparing for Young Voices, alongside a couple of Christmas classics. Parents, carers and family members are welcome to come along to this event also.

Hopefully this gives you a clear overview of the upcoming events we have. While we are remaining quiet about these to the children for the moment, please do ask your child's class teacher or a member of the office or leadership team if you have any questions.

SOMERSHAM & PIDLEY TIMEBANK PRESENTS

CHRISTMAS CHOIR COFFEE MORNING

WEDNESDAY 16TH DECEMBER 11AM - 1PM

AT THE SOMERSHAM ROYAL BRITISH LEGION HALL

(LOCATED AT THE CENTURION CLUB BEHIND MIAHS TAKEAWAY)



All are welcome to come and enjoy free festive food treats, warming drinks and songs sung by the children of Somersham Primary School Choir!



Reception	Light	Light is what allows us to see the world around us. This week, we received a special delivery of interesting objects used in different celebrations. These objects got us thinking about the different ways people use light to celebrate special occasions, from candles and lanterns to fireworks. Our delivery has also sparked our curiosity and given us lots to investigate! To extend this learning at home, you could talk about the different ways your family uses light to celebrate special occasions. Perhaps you have candles on birthday cakes, lights at Christmas or lanterns at a festival. Can your child think of any other examples?
Year 1/2	Chronological	We have begun a new History unit. Children put events from their own lives in chronological order. Can they explain what this means?
Year 3/4	Friend	In PSHE, we have been exploring what we think makes a good friend. Can you share some of these qualities with someone at home?
Year 5/6	Cartography	This week in geography, Year 5/6 have begun their learning about North America. We used maps to locate the countries in North America. We then focused on the three largest countries and the biomes in these countries.
	French	Years 3&4: Watch a story: Comment ça va, Pierre? Years 5&6: Learn some school words with this video: A l'école! C'est la rentrée!

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. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones have become a huge part of young people's everyday lives, but new restrictions on their use in schools and proposed restrictions on social media are changing how children and young people can use them. This guide explores mobile phones, their use by young people, what the evidence tells us, the current and future legal position, and what parents and educators should do.

What are the risks?

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The relationship between smartphone and social media use and young people's mental health is complex, and evidence does not establish a simple cause-and-effect relationship. Some researchers and commentators, however, including Jonathan Haidt, author of The Anxious Generation, argue that increased smartphone and social media use may be contributing to poorer mental health and wellbeing among young people.

LEARNING AND ATTENTION

Mobile phones can distract pupils from learning and make it harder to maintain attention and concentration. Research suggests that learning and attention have improved in schools that already prohibited mobile phone use, particularly among pupils with lower prior attainment. Now that the DfE's guidance on mobile phones is statutory, schools should ensure that the whole-school community understands and follows their policy, while monitoring how effectively it is implemented.

HARMFUL CONTENT AND BULLYING

Mobile phones can be a means of extending peer conflict from the community into schools and from schools back into the community. They also provide easy access to harmful and inappropriate content, including content that is sexually explicit, promotes self-harm or eating disorders, or is violent in nature. Exposure to this content can negatively affect children's mental health and wellbeing, potentially increasing the support they require from schools, parents, and support services.

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Ofcom research found that 13- to 14-year-olds spend an average of 4 hours 19 minutes online each day across smartphones, tablets, and computers. However, there is considerable variation between children, with some spending significantly more or less time online. Excessive screen time can contribute to disrupted sleep and fragmented attention, both of which can negatively affect children's mental health and wellbeing.

The current and upcoming rules

SCHOOL BANS

As of 1 September 2026, schools are expected to be phone-free environments by default, with any exceptions limited to specific circumstances. Schools can decide how best to implement this. For example, some may provide secure storage or collect phones at the beginning of the school day, while others may prohibit pupils from bringing them onto school premises altogether. Schools can also confiscate mobile phones in line with their behaviour policy, while searches for prohibited phones must follow the relevant legal requirements.

REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS

Schools should make reasonable adjustments where necessary for disabled pupils and may allow exceptions in other circumstances, including where mobile phone use is necessary to support a medical condition or an identified need. For example, a pupil with diabetes may use a continuous glucose monitor linked to their mobile phone to monitor their blood sugar levels. Schools may also make adaptations where mobile phone use provides agreed support for pupils with SEND. Any exceptions should be clearly reflected in the school's policies and procedures.

ONLINE SAFETY ACT 2023 AND 2026 PROPOSALS

Platforms are required to protect children from harmful content and use age checks to prevent children from accessing pornography and certain other types of harmful content. In June 2026, the government announced that it intends to stop social media companies offering services to under-16s. These restrictions are expected to be introduced in spring 2027, but the precise scope and rules have not yet been confirmed.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

While there is ongoing debate about the relationship between smartphones, social media and young people's mental health, there are steps that parents and educators can take to help reduce the potential risks associated with their use:

1. Delay smartphones. Consider waiting until a child is 14 before giving them a smartphone. Where a child needs a device to contact family, a basic phone may be an alternative.
2. Delay social media. Consider delaying access to social media until the age of 16.
3. Support phone-free schools. Parents, pupils, and staff should understand and support the school's approach to mobile phones.
4. Encourage screen-free activities. Promote independent and outdoor play, alongside other activities that give children opportunities to socialise and spend time away from screens.

Meet Our Expert

Mark Emmerson OBE, CEO – City of London Academies Trust. With nearly 45 years' experience in inner-city education, including 26 years in senior leadership roles, Mark was an early advocate for tackling the risks of mobile phones in schools, introducing a ban as headteacher in 2000. He has also served as a national DfE adviser and held local authority roles, consistently driving improvements in pupil outcomes and Ofsted judgements, particularly in disadvantaged communities.



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1st EBC Scout Group Presents

BLUNTISHAM BONFIRE & FIREWORKS

Mehew's Field,
Wood End, PE28 3LE

SATURDAY 7TH NOV

GATES 5:30PM ▶ BONFIRE 6PM ▶ FIREWORKS 6:30PM

PLUS FOOD TRUCKS!

ADVANCE PRICE

Adult £8
Child £5

Aged 4 & under FREE

GATE PRICE

Adult £9
Child £6

Aged 4 & under FREE

BOOK ONLINE

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