

The best from everyone, all of the time.

#### **HEADTEACHER'S ROUND-UP**

As we approach the long weekend, it's lovely to reflect on what has been a wonderfully positive week. The weather this week has certainly been more forgiving than last, with sunshine brightening our days and adding to the positive energy across the school.

This week has been an exciting one, with a range of events that have brought our school community together. One of the highlights was the Year 7 House football event. The competition was fierce, but the level of participation and team spirit was even more impressive. It was fantastic to see so many students getting involved, showcasing not only their sporting abilities but also their dedication to their teams and Houses. A huge congratulations and thank you to all those who took part and those who organised it.

Tonight, we are looking forward to welcoming all our prospective students and their families for the Sixth Form Open Evening. It's always a pleasure to see students exploring their next steps ang engaging with our Sixth Form staff to understand the opportunities available for their future. If you're coming along tonight, be sure to ask plenty of questions and take in all the great offerings we have here for the next stage of your education.

In the midst of all the excitement, we've also been adding a bit of festive cheer to the school. Our Christmas decorations are up and looking absolutely wonderful! The festive spirit is truly beginning to fill the halls, and it's amazing how a few twinkling lights and festive touches can transform our school environment. The students have loved seeing the transformation and it's certainly made our school feel even more welcoming as we approach the holidays.

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our Year 10s who, this week, played a key role in supporting the Nativity play at St. James. Under the guidance of Ms Hughes, our students helped to bring the Christmas story to life. The feedback was incredibly positive, with staff praising our students for their respectful attitude and comment to making the event a success. The primary school were so impressed that they have already asked for our students to return next year - a fantastic achievement and a true reflection of how well our students represent the school.

Looking ahead, let's make the most of this extra-long weekend, recharge, and come back next week ready for even more great things to come. I hope everyone has a restful break.

Wishing you all a lovely long weekend.

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#### **WORD OF THE WEEK**

#### **CONTRAST**

Noun: An obvious difference between two or more things.

The mountains stood in sharp contrast to the blue sky.

**Verb:** To compare two people or things in order to show the difference between them.

The tartness of the lemons contrast with the sweetness of the honey.

# Annette lamblin

#### **HOUSE POINTS**







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#### **DIARY REMINDERS**

**ALL YEARS:** 

Friday 6th December - Flu Vaccinations - Years 7 - 11
Thursday 12th December - Year 11 Parents' Evening - School Closes at 2pm
Wednesday 18th December - Trussell Trust Foodbank Collection Deadline

**YEAR 7:** 

Monday 2nd December - Year 7 Netball Skills Event
Monday 9th December - Year 7 A&B Teams (A) vs Alderbrook, St Peters and Arden

**YEAR 8:** 

Wednesday 4th December - Year 8 A&B Teams Netball (H) vs Arden Thursday 5th December - Year 8 Jr NBA Basketball (A) at Lode Heath Monday 9th December - Year 8 A&B Teams (A) vs Alderbrook, St Peters and Arden Monday 9th December - Year 8 Jr NBA (H) vs Park Hall Wednesday 18th December - Year 8 Basketball (A) vs Alderbrook

**YEAR 9:** 

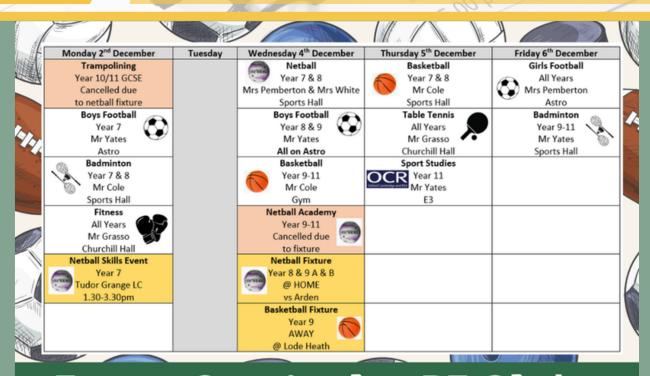
Wednesday 4th December - Year 9 A&B Teams Netball (H) vs Arden Wednesday 4th December - Year 9 Basketball (A) vs Lode Heath Tuesday 10th December - Year 9 Basketball (H) vs St Peters

**YEAR 10:** 

**YEAR 11:** 

Friday 6th December - Year 11 Grades to Parents
Thursday 12th December - Year 11 Parents' Evening - School Closes at 2pm

**YEAR 12:** 



Extra-Curricular PE Clubs 2nd December - 6th December

# THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

# Giving Thanks Thanksgiving Day America - 28th November

Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday in the United States, and, in 2024, falls on Thursday, November 28. In 1621, the Plymouth colonists from England and the Native American Wampanoag people shared an autumn harvest feast that is acknowledged as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the colonies.

For more than two centuries, days of thanksgiving were celebrated by individual colonies and states. It wasn't until 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day to be held each November. But the holiday is not without controversy. Many Americans—including people of Native American ancestry—believe Thanksgiving celebrations mask the true history of oppression and bloodshed that underlies the relationship between European settlers and Native Americans.

#### **Thanksgiving at Plymouth**

In September 1620, a small ship called the Mayflower left Plymouth, England, carrying 102 passengers—an assortment of religious separatists seeking a new home where they could freely practice their faith and other individuals lured by the promise of prosperity and land ownership in the "New World." After a treacherous and uncomfortable crossing that lasted 66 days, they dropped anchor near the tip of Cape Cod, far north of their intended destination at the mouth of the Hudson River. One month later, the Mayflower crossed Massachusetts Bay, where the Pilgrims, as they are now commonly known, began the work of establishing a village at Plymouth.

#### **Thanksgiving Food**

In many American households, the Thanksgiving celebration has lost much of its original religious significance; instead, it now centers on cooking and sharing a bountiful meal with family and friends. Turkey, a Thanksgiving staple so ubiquitous it has become all but synonymous with the holiday, may or may not have been on offer when the Pilgrims hosted the inaugural feast in 1621. Today, however, nearly 90 percent of Americans eat the bird—whether roasted, baked or deep-fried—on Thanksgiving, according to the National Turkey Federation. Other traditional foods include stuffing, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie. Volunteering is a common Thanksgiving Day activity, and communities often hold food drives and host free dinners for the less fortunate.

# RECOMMENDED READS



How one woman masterminded slave resistance against the British in eighteenth-century Jamaica - the incredible true story of Queen Nanny and the Maroons.

The first in a series, this entertaining book sensitively explores the challenges and joys of growing up. The diary format will help readers to empathise with Edie, and black-and-white illustrations throughout bring the story to life.







# YEAR 7 ASSESSMENTS

English			Maths		Science		L&M		Drama	
			Wednesday		Tuesday 10th		Wednesday			
H	1 Monday 9th	Monday 9th P1 H1		H1	P5	H1	11th P4	H1	Friday 13th P1	
			Wednesday		Wednesday		Wednesday		Tuesday 10th	
H	Monday 9th	Monday 9th P2 H		HE	11th P3	HE	11th P4	HE	P5	
				-	Monday 9th		Wednesday		Wednesday	
Н	N Monday 9th	P5 <b>H</b>		HN		HN	11th P.3	HG	11th P4	
			Wednesday		Monday 9th		Thursday			
H	G Monday 9th	P2 <b>H</b>	M 11th P2	HG	The second secon	HG	12th P2	HN	Friday 13th P2	
			Wednesday		Wednesday		Tuesday 10th			
L1	Monday 9th	P3 L:		L1		L1	P3	L1	Monday 9th P2	
			Thursday 12t	100000	Monday 9th	1000	Thursday	20.00	Wednesday	
LE	Monday 9th	Monday 9th P2 L2		LE	P4	LE	12th P4	LE	11th P3	
			Wednesday		Monday 9th		Thursday		440000000000000000000000000000000000000	
LN				LN		LN	12th P4	LG	Monday 9th P2	
١.,	Tuesday 10th		Thursday 12t		Monday 9th		Tuesday 10th		5 : 1 . 40:1 DO	
LC	LG P3		VI P2	LG		LG	LG P4		LN Friday 13th P2	
-	History	13	Geography		IT Tuesday 10th		Music Manday Oth	recr	Technology and food	
	Thursday 1 12th P4		Monday 9th P4		Tuesday 10th P2	Н1	Monday 9th P5	Н1	Monday 9th P2	
H	Thursday	H1	Monday 9th	H1	Tuesday 10th	н1	Thursday 12th	H1	Thursday 12th	
н		H2	P4	Н2	P2	HE	P3	HE	P4	
- "	Thursday	112	Tuesday 10th	112	Monday 9th		Wednesday	THE.	F4	
н		на	P1	на	P3	HG	11th p 1	HG	Friday 13th P4	
-	Friday 13th	117	Tuesday 10th	1111	Monday 9th	110	Thursday 12th		Thursday 12th	
н		нм	P1	нм			HN P4		P3	
	Wednesday	18	Thursday 12th	2			Tuesday 10th	HN	Tuesday 10th	
LI		L1	P2	L1	Friday 13th P1	L1	P4	L1	P1	
	Tuesday 10th		Tuesday 10th		Wednesday		Thursday 12th		Wednesday	
LE		L2	P2	L2	11th P1	LE	P5	LE	11th P5	
	Wednesday	10	Thursday 12th				Tuesday 10th		Wednesday	
LI	11th P4	LA P2		LA	Friday 13th P1	LG	p1	LG	11th P4	
	Friday 13th	N T	Tuesday 10th	1 1	Monday 9th		Wednesday	4	Tuesday 10th	
LC	P2	LM	P2	LM	P5	LN	1th p3	LN	P4	
	French		Spanis	h	Δri	t and [	)		PSHE	

French		Spanish		Art and D		PSHE		
		Wednesday 11th			H1	Friday 13th P1	H1	Wednesday 11th P2
ı	1	P3, Friday 13th P3	H1	Thursday 11th P2 and Friday 13th P2	HE	Monday 9th P1	H2	Friday 13th P5
		Monday 9th P3,		Friday 13th P5 and	HG	Tuesday 10th P5	HA	Tuesday 3rd P3
ı	LE	Friday 13th P3	HE	Monday 16th P5	HN	Thursday 12th p4	нм	Tuesday 3rd P3
		Wednesday 11th		Wednesday 11th	L1	Friday 13th P5	L1	Wednesday 4th P3
ı	LG	P3 and Monday 16th P4	HG	P5 and Friday 13th P4	LE	Tuesday 10th P4	L2	Monday 9th P5
		Monday 9th P2		Monday 9th P5	LG	Monday 9th P1	LA	Wednesday 4th P3
L	LN	and Monday 16th P1	HN	and Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> P4	LN	Weds 11th P3	LM	Wednesday 11th P1

# HOUSE EVENTS

#### YEAR 7 FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

What a great way to end the day on Wednesday! The whole of year 7 were out on the Astroturf cheering on their houses. Well done to all the footballers for taking part. It was a very close race to crown the winners... ... in third place was **Discovery**, in second place was **Challenger** and in joint first place were **Atlantis** and **Endeavour**. Well done year 7!











#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Games challenge - Wednesday 4th December

Create a bath bomb - Thursday 5th December

Christmas mood board - Friday 13th December deadline

#### HOUSE CUP LEAGUE TABLE

	Previous	Shoot the	Y7 football	House	
	points	hoop		points	Total
Endeavour	180	10	35	400	625
Challenger	175	25	20	300	520
Atlantis	200	25	35	200	460
Discovery	145	40	10	100	295











# • FOOD • DONATION

If you would like to donate non-perishable items, there will be a collection box in reception from Wednesday 27th November until Wednesday 18th December

### **URGENTLY NEEDED FOOD ITEMS**

UHT/POWDERED MILK
SQUASH/DILUTING JUICE
RICE PUDDING
TINNED FRUIT & FRUIT JUICE
TINNED VEGETABLES, TOMATOES & SOUP
CANNED MEAT AND FISH
BISCUITS
PASTA SAUCE, PASTA
COOKING OIL
CONDIMENTS AND SPICES
INSTANT MASH
COFFEE
CRISPS

# <u>OTHER ITEMS NEEDED</u>



SHOWER GEL
SHAMPOO/CONDITIONER
DEODORANT
LAUNDRY DETERGENT PODS
TOILET ROLL
WASHING UP LIQUID



# Keeping your child safe online

Always call 999 if you or your child is in immediate danger.

You can also call 101 to report non-urgent crime or visit www.west-midlands.police.uk /incident-report to fill in an online form

Report online sexual abuse at www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre

Talk to your child's school about their mobile phone policies

It's important that children have the opportunity to explore, learn about online spaces and relationships, and – on occasion – have negative experiences or make mistakes. Have an honest conversation with your child about staying safe online and set up some house rules to protect them. Here are a few top tips:

- Start talking to your child about content they look at online and what apps they go on.
- Get clued up on how different apps share personal information. Advise them to keep personal details off social media and keep profiles on private.
  - Get to know their friends in and out of school they
    might be talking to different people online. It's good
    to ask what they talk about in their online chat
    groups
    - 4. Check the age restriction before your child downloads an app. An app or game that could be suitable for one young person may not be suitable for another.
      - 5. Use parental controls on your child's iPhone and iPad to restrict explicit content, purchases and downloads, and changes to privacy settings. By allowing two factor authentication on your child's iCloud account, it can prevent thieves taking their phone and using their data. Learn more about iPhone privacy settings here.



# Learn more about online safety



#### **ParentSafe**



www.parentsafe.lgfl.net

An amazing resource page from the London Grid for Learning (LGfL) with guidance and videos on a variety of topics online, including safe settings and controls, and how to talk to children about online life.

#### Internet Matters



www.internetmatters.org

Step-by-step guide on how to set parental controls on a number of devices, internet connections, gaming and social media apps.

#### NSPCC



www.nspcc.org.uk



0808 800 5000



The UK's leading youth charity that has lot of useful information and resources available covering a wider variety of topics. They also have a YouTube channel, scan the QR to find out more.

#### Stop radicalisation and exploitation

Anyone can be vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation, but children are particularly at risk. As they grow and become more independent, it is not unusual for them to take risks, explore new things and push boundaries. Educate Against Hate's website (www.educateagainsthate.com) offers practical advice and support to protect children from extremism and radicalisation. NetMums have partnered counterterrorism policing to promote Act Early, a safeguarding website for parents, friends and families who are concerned, visit www.netmums.com/act-early for more information

#### Report online sexual abuse

If you or your child is worried about online abuse or grooming, make a report to on CEOP's website www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre

A Child Protection Advisor will get in contact and help you talk through what's going on. CEOP cannot help with bullying or account hacking.

For a child or young person, having a sexual image or video of themselves shared online can be a distressing situation. This can be difficult for parents and carers too, but there are ways you can support your child. If they're under 18, they can use Report Remove. Report Remove is a tool that allows young people to report an image or video shared online, to see if it's possible to get it taken down. Provided by Childline and the Internet Watch Foundation, it keeps the young person informed at each stage of their report, and provides further support where necessary.

Advice for parents - search 'NSPCC Report Remove' for more information or scan the QR code to make a report

Search 'WMP Advice' for more information.



## childline



www.childline.org.uk

