



# Stocksbridge Junior School

Issue No. 659

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One of our REACH values, Courage, has been fully on display this week. We see children being brave every day as they tackle new learning and experiences, but this courage was particularly noticeable during Thursday's Spelling Bee semi-finals. The semi-finalists demonstrated fantastic confidence, determination and impressive spelling skills, using a range of effective strategies under pressure. While not all children were able to progress to the final, everyone involved should be extremely proud of their performance, including our equally respectful and supportive audiences. We can't wait for the final after half term, where we will find our overall winner and enjoy another exciting competition, continuing to raise the profile of spelling across school — which can only be a bonus!

## SJS STARS OF THE WEEK

- Y3CB: Millie
- Y4GG: Max
- Y5CS: Natalia
- Y6CH/LR: Emily
- Y3JG: Busby
- Y4MC: Nora
- Y5HK/CG: Lily
- Y6RD: Aether

PE Star: Isabella

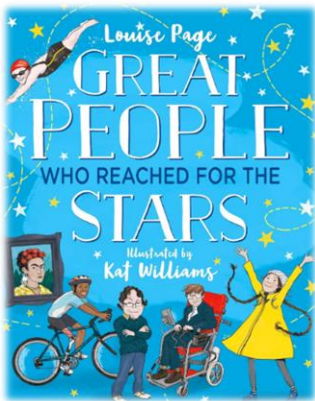
Y3/4 Yard: Annie

Attendance & Punctuality: George

Y5/6 Yard: Jaxon

Dining Hall: Kian

## BOOK OF THE WEEK



Mr Tee has selected this week's Book of the Week: *Great People Who Reached for the Stars*, a collection of biographies of individuals who dared to dream big and push beyond what seemed possible.

The author's own story reminds us that reaching for the stars isn't just about fame or success—it's about courage, perseverance, and believing in your potential, even when the journey is challenging.

By learning about people like Louise Page, we're inspired to set ambitious goals, keep going when things are tough, and understand that ordinary people can achieve extraordinary things. These stories encourage us all to aim higher, support one another, and never stop reaching for our own stars.

## FIDGET TOYS

Fidgets are a proven resource used widely to support children with a range of educational needs as they offer quiet, tactile stimulation to improve focus, support with self-regulation and help to manage emotions. Over recent weeks, we have seen a significant increase in the number of children bringing fidgets/toys into school to use in class which are, contrary to their intention, proving to be a distraction to their own and other's learning.

We ask for parents' support by ensuring that their child does not bring fidgets and other toys into school. School will continue to provide fidgets, as required, to those children whose educational plans identify fidgets as part of their provision.

## READING AROUND THE WORLD

### Y3 - PARIS

Miller  
Ava  
Sofiya  
Ada

### Y3 - MADRID

Oliver  
Lottie  
Ada  
Lucas  
Lucas

### Y4 - CAIRO

Aubree  
Elysia

### Y4 - NAIROBI

Elysia

### Y4 - PRETORIA

Luca  
Amelia

### Y5 - BEIJING

Amelia  
William

### Y5 - TOKYO

Rockley  
Cruz  
Katie

### Y5 - KUALA LUMPUR

Rockley  
Jack  
Oliver  
Zac

### Y6 - LIMA

Georgia  
Alfie

## NEW WORD MILLIONAIRE

Congratulations to Aroussia who has read her way onto our roll of Word Millionaires for the third successive year!

## NEXT WEEK'S PE TIMETABLE

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Y4GG Y5CS	Y3CB Y6RD	Y5HK/CG	Y4MC Y6CH/LR	Y3JG

## CASTLETON COFFEE MORNING

Just after half term, our Y3s will be setting off for the first of many exciting residential trips that take place during their time at Stocksbridge Junior School. In preparation for the trip, we have arranged the opportunity for parents to come into school at the start of the school day on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February for a coffee, a short presentation and the chance to ask any questions about the trip.

## SPELLING BEE

Yesterday, our semi-finalists competed head-to-head in a knockout in front of the rest of lower/upper school. Children were tested on words that they had not previously been given and wowed the audience with their ability to spell some incredibly tricky words, for instance, muscle, skilful and incredulous. Congratulations to the following children who have progressed to the final and equally to the other semi-finalists who were so graceful in defeat. We are so proud of each and every contestant!

Lola  
Charlotte  
Annie  
Emily  
Maxwell



Lily  
Holly-Mae  
Elliott  
Marcie  
Jake

## CROSS-COUNTRY

This Saturday sees the final league race of the 25/26 cross-country season, which takes place at Norfolk Park (S2 2RB). Racing will start at 10am with the Y3/4 girls' race. The course start/finish lines are near the cafe and junior playground. Parking is on the surrounding rounds.

## NON-UNIFORM DAY

Children are welcome to come to school in their home clothes next Friday (13<sup>th</sup> February) for a £1 donation.

## NEXT WEEK'S MENU

# MENU WEEK 1

**SERVED W/C:** 27<sup>th</sup> Oct | 17<sup>th</sup> Nov | 8<sup>th</sup> Dec | 19<sup>th</sup> Jan |  
9<sup>th</sup> Feb | 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar | 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar | 13<sup>th</sup> Apr



**Hutchison**

*Monday*

*Tuesday*

*Wednesday*

*Thursday*

*Friday*

**MAIN MEAL**

OPTION 1

OPTION 2

Rainbow Vegetable stir fry noodles	Cheese & Bean Lasagne	Vegan Lentil & Stuffing Pastry Roll	Vegetable Bolognese with Penne Pasta	Vegan Vegetable Nuggets & Chips
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Ham & Cheese Pasta	Beef Lasagne	Roast Gammon & Gravy	Chicken Curry & Rice	Oven Baked Fish Fingers & Chips
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**VEGGIES**

Carrots & Peas	Broccoli & Carrots	Roasted Carrots & Parsnips	Peas & Sweetcorn	Beans or Peas
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**FILLED ROLLS**

OPTION 3

OPTION 4

Cheese	Cheese	Cheese	Cheese	Cheese
Ham	Chicken	Tuna	Ham	Ham

**AVAILABLE EVERY DAY**

5

Our crunchy colourful salad & jacket potatoes with cheese, beans, tuna mayo or cheese and beans

**SWEET TREATS**

Blueberry Cookie Bar	Chocolate & Banana Brownie	Peach & Pineapple Crumble	Apple & Cocoa Sponge	Lemon Shortbread
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Desserts available every day - a choice of jelly, fruit or yoghurt



**KEY**

Nutritionist's Choice

Vegetarian Vegan Added Wholewheat

### EVENTS COMING UP...

Feb 9	10 Safer Internet Day Y4GG Swimming	11 Young Voices 2026	12	13 Team Treat Non-Uniform Day (£1)
--- Half Term ---				
Feb 23 Read Around the World: Set off on your journey towards your 4 <sup>th</sup> destination	24 Y4GG Swimming	25	26	27 Spelling Bee: The Final!
March 2 Y4 Parents' Session	3 Y3 Castleton Y6 Parents' Session Y4GG Swimming	4 Y3 Castleton Y5 Parents' Session	5 World Book Day	6

## CEO RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Chief Executive Officer, Chris James, has announced that he is retiring at the end of this academic year after 7 years as CEO of Chorus Education Trust and 35 years as a teacher and leader.



Outstanding Achievement for All

“I love going into the schools and feeling the energy and excitement of school life. I am always made to feel welcome by you all. Most of our pupils have no idea who I am, but they are always happy to talk to me and have a laugh. I have always enjoyed my work, and I am still very surprised that I ended up becoming a CEO. Now feels like the right time to start the next phase of my life and fully focus on family and friends.”  
The Trustees of Chorus Education Trust have begun the recruitment process to find a new CEO who will embody the values of our school and trust.

We would like to thank Chris for his exceptional leadership and support for our school and our community. We wish him a happy and well-earned retirement.

## HALF TERM ACTIVITIES



For children in receipt of benefits related free school meals

# HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES WITH FOOD LIMITED PLACES, BOOK EARLY!

### How to access?



- Attend a Sheffield School (Reception-Y11)
- Be in receipt of income assessed free school meals
- Have a HAF Code

### Not eligible but want to join the fun?

Please contact a club directly to discuss.

Please note, HAF providers may need to prioritise families in receipt of benefits related free school meals if activities are oversubscribed.



### How to book?

To book activities online or by phone click the link below or visit [www.sheffieldhealthyholidays.org](http://www.sheffieldhealthyholidays.org)



## LOST YOUR HAF CODE?

Report a problem with your HAF Code | Sheffield City Council

OR



Call the HAF team on 0114 203 9303



This February use #HAF to share your fun!

HAF CODE  
REQUIRED



# INTERNET SAFETY DAY

The theme of this year's Safer Internet Day is 'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI.' At Stocksbridge Junior School, we deliver online safety messages and teach responsible online behaviours throughout the year through our computing and PSHE curricula and not solely on a themed day once a year. Just as we use World Book Day to celebrate a love of literature, Internet Safety Day is used to celebrate the exciting opportunities the internet can provide when it is used safely and responsibly.

We ask for parents' support in promoting safe and responsible online behaviours by engaging in conversation with their child about their child's online interests and regularly reviewing their child's online interactions with others. One topic of conversation which crops up regularly when we are supporting our pupils to resolve fallouts with peers is their use of WhatsApp.

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. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

WhatsApp is a free messaging service owned by Meta which allows users to send text and voice messages, make video calls, share multimedia – such as images, videos, documents and polls – and have group chats. WhatsApp messages are encrypted, meaning only the sender and the recipient can view what is sent. While this privacy may sound attractive on paper, this app comes with several associated risks that must be considered – especially for younger users.

**AGE RESTRICTION 13+**

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- GROUP CHATS**  
Group chats let friends talk together but can pose problems for young users. They might feel excluded – like discovering events they weren't invited to. Hurtful comments can also escalate quickly, as more people join in, amplifying the impact through a wider audience.
- FAKE NEWS**  
WhatsApp's simplicity makes sharing news quick – accurate or not. To help curb misinformation, messages forwarded over five times now show a 'Forwarded many times' label with a double arrow. This alerts users that the message isn't original and may be unreliable.
- EVOLVING SCAMS**  
WhatsApp's popularity makes it attractive to scammers. Tactics include impersonating a child in an 'emergency' to request money, or triggering a login code, then pretending to be WhatsApp and asking for it – giving them access to private messages and personal data.
- CHAT LOCK**  
The new 'Chat lock' feature lets users store specific messages in a separate passcode- or biometrically- protected folder. While useful for privacy, it could be misused by younger users to hide conversations or content they know parents and educators might find inappropriate, including age-restricted material.
- CHANNELS**  
'Channels' let users follow topics anonymously, interacting only through polls or emoji reactions. However, fake channels can mimic real ones, spreading misinformation, hate speech, or phishing for personal data. WhatsApp may also collect and share channel-following info with third parties, raising privacy issues.
- VISIBLE LOCATION**  
WhatsApp's 'live location' feature helps friends meet up or parents check a child's route home. However, anyone in a child's group chats can track their location, potentially revealing their home address or regular travel patterns to strangers.
- DISAPPEARING MESSAGES**  
Disappearing messages help share sensitive info, but young people may wrongly assume they're fully private. Senders can opt for their message to vanish after 24 hours, 7 days, or 90 days – or for media, after one view. However, recipients can still save them by bookmarking or taking screenshots, reducing their privacy.
- AI INTEGRATION**  
Meta AI on WhatsApp poses risks to children, including exposure to misinformation, inappropriate content, and data privacy issues. AI responses may be inaccurate, and kids might share personal information unknowingly. It can also hinder critical thinking by offering ready-made answers.

### Advice for Parents & Educators

- EMPHASISE CAUTION**  
Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution. Get them to consider, for example, whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.
- THINK BEFORE SHARING**  
Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content sent to one user to then be shared more widely, and even publicly on social media. Encourage them to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.
- ADJUST THE SETTINGS**  
It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. To do this, go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups'. You can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...'. Additionally, if the child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.
- CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY**  
Have a conversation with youngsters about how they're using WhatsApp, emphasising that it's for their own safety. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of messages that are in there, who they're with and why they have been hidden. Also, if a young user has sent any 'view once' content, discuss their reasons for using this feature.

### 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

Sources: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/whatsapp-2025>

@wake\_up\_weds | /www.thenationalcollege | @wake.up.wednesday | @wake.up.weds

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## JUNIOR BAKE OFF

The casting researcher at the production company behind The Great British Bake Off, The Great British Sewing Bee and The Great Pottery Throw Down has asked schools to spread the word that they are in search of applications for the next series of **Junior Bake Off!**

Online applications have recently opened at [www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk](http://www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk) for young budding bakers between 9-15 years old. Applications close on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026. Filming would take place from July 2026.

# APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR JUNIOR BAKE OFF

Aged between 9-15 and love to bake?  
We'd love to hear from you!

[WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK](http://WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK)



APPLICATIONS CLOSE 15TH MARCH 2026



Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February  
10:00am - 3:00pm



Stocksbridge Community Leisure  
Centre  
Moorland Drive, S36 1EG



£20 per person per day\*

\*Please contact us about FREE places for  
children & young people in receipt of  
benefits related free school meals

Ultimate Activity Camps  
are guaranteed to give  
your child enjoyment and  
excitement during the  
school holidays.

**AGES 5+**

Email - [UACbookings@onthemove.org.uk](mailto:UACbookings@onthemove.org.uk)

Website - [www.onthemove.org.uk/UltimateActivityCamps](http://www.onthemove.org.uk/UltimateActivityCamps)

**BOOK NOW**

The Ultimate Activity Camp team are insured, DBS  
checked, First Aid trained and experienced or qualified  
in the activities we offer!

