

## Robert Miles Junior School Newsletter – 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

Dear Parents,

**Secret Reader** Thank you to the many parents who have come into the classrooms as Secret Readers. I think we have got through almost everyone who has put themselves forward and we are on the lookout for some more. If you fancy coming into school and reading a short story to your child's class – without them knowing – please get in touch with either myself or the office.

**Science Competition** In assembly on Wednesday, Mrs Chamberlain launched the annual Science competition where children are being asked to make a marble roller coaster. There was lots of enthusiasm from the children and I know they will come up with some fantastic, ingenious ideas. Please have a chat with your child about this event and encourage them to take part. Any questions, please contact Mrs Chamberlain.



### The Annual Science & Technology Competition 2024

#### Marble roller-coaster run-off challenge



This week, we have launched our annual science and technology competition with an assembly explaining the challenge.

All children are welcome to compete and can enter individually or in teams of up to 4 children.

This is a project to complete at home and an opportunity to work with your child. However, they must be able to operate the marble roller-coaster independently when they bring it into school.

There are marbles available in school, or they can choose to use their own standard sized marble.

There is a detailed set of rules and a planning sheet to support the children's entries available from school. Please check the rules carefully, particularly the size and number of turns the marble needs to make. The children should bring their planning sheet into school prior to the heats, so that they can be included on the list of entrants. Please note, we are encouraging the use of recycled items, if possible.

The **heats** will be held in school on **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024**.

The **final** will be held on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024**.

Have a great weekend.

Best Wishes



James Evelyn

Headteacher, Robert Miles Junior School

### Dates for the Diary

w/c 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Half Term
19 <sup>th</sup> February	Newark Swimming Gala
1 <sup>st</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> 5 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Book Fair
21 <sup>st</sup> March	Y3 Trip to Lincoln
22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Y3/4 Equals Trust Football Event
25 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents Evening
26 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents Evening
27 <sup>th</sup> March	Equals Trust Choir Event
28 <sup>th</sup> March	School Disco

### School Attendance

Excellent attendance is vital to success at school. We track attendance closely and celebrate excellent attendance. Our target is for each child to have an attendance figure of at least 95%.

3B	94.4%
3J	100%
4H	97.2%
4G	99.4%
5AR	93.8%
5M	98.8%
6L	95.9%
6M	94.1%
<b>All</b>	<b>96.7%</b>



Congratulations to 3J who have the best attendance this week with a brilliant 100%!

### Bingham Town FC – Players Needed!

Bingham Town U11 Reds (Boys) are on the hunt for additional members for the team. We currently train on Thursday evenings at Butt Field, Bingham and South Notts Academy, Radcliffe for the winter period. We play on Saturdays in the YEL Division 3 and are made up of Year 6 players from a number of different local schools. If you know someone currently looking for a club then please get in contact with our coach, Scott Bedward by e-mail at [scottbedward@gmail.com](mailto:scottbedward@gmail.com).



## Young Voices 2024

Last Friday, a group of children travelled to the NEC in Birmingham for the annual Young Voices Mass Choir event. It was another wonderful occasion where the children sang their hearts out, behaved impeccably and enjoyed the unique thrill of singing at a huge venue. They were also treated to performances from a range of artists including the amazing Nandi Bushell – a 13-year-old drumming superstar. Huge thank you to all the school staff who rehearsed tirelessly over many weeks and to Mrs Broster and Mr Miller for coming along on the night and helping to ensure everything ran smoothly.



## Water Safety

Year 4 have been swimming at Bingham Arena since September. Not only have they worked on their swimming technique, but the children also learnt about water safety and basic lifesaving skills.

As part of their water safety understanding, the children were tasked with creating a water safety poster to help other children understand how to keep safe in water. Here are a sample of 4Hs swimming posters that they took with them to the leisure centre this week.





## Term Dates 2024/25

Term dates for academic year 2024/25 have now been agreed by the local governing body. They are published on our website under Key Information/Term Dates.

### Equals Trust Chess Tournament

On Wednesday, four children travelled to Roundhill Primary School in Beeston for the first Equals Trust Chess Tournament. Jaon, Sam, Riley and Thomas took part against children from eight other schools to see who would win the inaugural trophy. Whilst we came up slightly short of lifting the trophy, the children played well, enjoyed some victories and learned a few new moves.



# School Term Dates 2024 - 25

September 2024 – July 2025

August 2024						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

September 2024						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

October 2024						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November 2024						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

December 2024						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

January 2025						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2025						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2025						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April 2025						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May 2025						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June 2025						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

July 2025						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

School Holiday Public Holiday School/Trust Inset Day

This pattern gives 195 working days for staff including the inset days.

A total of 6 in-service training days for staff, as indicated above, will be taken from the 195 term days, leaving 189 term days for pupils.

[Note – return date for the Autumn Term 2025 TBC]

## Honours Assembly

Congratulations to these children whose success was celebrated at Honours Assembly this week and some of their work was shared with all the children in the school.

3J	Dexter Walters & Amber Ball
3B	Lauren Jones & Amber Rawson
4G	Eryn Loo & Elliott Brain
4H	Jacob Carter & Larus Chan
5M	Imogen Groom & Rosie McCormick
5AR	Harry Vaughan & Seb Brihmani
6M	Chloe Ruggles & Olly Akehurst
6L	Tobias Towers & Thomas Hallam-Waite

## House Points

Children are earning House Points each and every day for showing the REACH values, making good choices and doing their very best. Each Friday in Honours Assembly, we announce the latest scores. At the end of each term, the house with the most points earns a non-uniform day. Totals for the term so far are:

Jupiter	368
Mercury	317
Neptune	318
Saturn	315



## Times Tables Rockstars

Congratulations to the following children who have topped the charts for their work on TTRS this week:

**Most correct answers:** Jacob, 4G

**Most coins earnt:** Micah, 4H

**Biggest improvement in accuracy:** Dexter W, 3J

**Biggest improvement in speed:** Nellie 4H

## Local News & Information

We are happy to publicise local events and activities for children in the newsletter particularly ahead of holiday periods. (Please note the school is not endorsing these events as they are run separately.) Any enquiries should be made through the website address shown on the leaflet below.



**Little Wickets**  
"Championing Teamwork,  
Fair Play & Fun-Creating Team  
Players for Life"

# FEB HALF TERM CAMP

Full Day £35    Half Day £20    3 Days £95

**Softball Cricket Camp for Boys & Girls Reception - Year 6**

**Our camp:**

- ✓ Cricket skills and games
- ✓ Fair play & teamwork
- ✓ Spirit of Cricket
- ✓ Lots of FUN!!
- ✓ ECB Qualified Coaches
- ✓ Batting, Bowling & Fielding
- ✓ Make new friends
- ✓ Skill development

30% DISCOUNT FOR YOUNGER SIBLINGS & TWINS (BOOK VIA EMAIL)

**Date:** 12th - 14th Feb  
**Time:** 8:30am - 3:30pm (pick up by 4pm)

**RUSHCLIFFE SPENCER ACADEMY, BOUNDARY ROAD, WEST BRIDGFORD, NG2 7BW**

[www.littlewickets.com](http://www.littlewickets.com)    [info@littlewickets.com](mailto:info@littlewickets.com)    0115 671 0565



**BINGHAM COMMUNITY CINEMA**

Bringing all ages from the community together for an afternoon of entertainment. Refreshments will be available from our tuck shop. Seating is provided but if you would like to bring along beanbags etc. to sit on then please feel free.

**Coming soon... 25th February 2024**



Main Hall, The Methodist Centre, Bingham  
Doors open at 2pm for a 2:30pm start  
Suggested Entirely Free Will Donation - £2 per person (no obligation)  
Children under 16 to be accompanied by an adult.  
Children will remain the responsibility of their parent/carer



We share E-Safety information from National Online Safety with parents in the Robert Miles newsletter. This is to help you in ensuring that your child can use technology safely. Please read the following information.

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 apps 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

# SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Snapchat is an instant messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to people in their friends list. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures and messages 'disappear' 24 hours after they've been viewed; however, this content isn't as temporary as many believe – with some users saving screenshots or using another device to take a photo of their screen. This year, Snapchat added 'My AI': a customisable chatbot with which people can chat and share secrets, as well as asking for advice and suggestions of places to visit.

### CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects with people they know, they may still get friend requests from strangers. The Quick Add option lets users befriend people the app recommends – but these 'friends' are merely a username, which could have anyone behind it. Accepting such requests reveals children's personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features, potentially putting them at risk from predators.

### EXCESSIVE USE

Snapchat works hard on user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score), Spotlight Challenges tempt users into spending time producing content in search of cash prizes and online fame, while it's easy for children to pass hours watching Spotlight's endless scroll of videos.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat aren't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.



### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

### ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beauty' effects on photos can set unrealistic body-image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy if a young person compares themselves unfavourably with other users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

### VISIBLE LOCATION

Snap Map highlights a device's exact position on a virtual map which is visible to other users. There are options to restrict who can see this information: all friends, only you (Ghost Mode) or selected friends. Snapchat also has real-time location sharing, which is intended as a buddy system to ensure friends have reached home safely – but which could also be used to track a young person for more sinister reasons.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add feature helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).



### CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

In 2021, Snapchat rolled out a new safety feature: users can now receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check Up' encourages users to delete connections with users that they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.



### DISCUSS AI

Although My AI's responses can often give the impression that it's a real person, it's essential that young people remember this certainly isn't the case. Encourage your child to think critically about My AI's replies to their questions: are they accurate and reliable? Remind them that My AI shouldn't replace chatting with their real friends, and that it's always better to talk to an actual person in relation to medical matters.



### CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it's important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Remind your child that once something's online, the creator loses control over where it ends up – and who else sees it. Likewise, it's vital that children understand that some challenges which become popular on the platform may have potentially harmful consequences.



### KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Snap Stories are visible to everyone your child adds, unless they change the settings. On SnapMaps, their location is visible unless Ghost Mode is enabled (again via settings). It's safest not to add people your child doesn't know in real life – especially since the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchat users to see where your child regularly visits and checks in.



### BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger *does* connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user (annoying or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).



### 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.



**National Online Safety®**

#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/7228788356832-What-is-My-AI-on-Snapchat-and-how-do-I-use-it> | <https://values.snapchat.com/en-gb/news/early-learning-from-my-ai-and-new-safety-enhancements> | <https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/7222924165441>



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## Weekly Menu - w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> February

All parents have received a link to a form where you can submit information about your child's dietary requirements. If you have not already done so, please complete the form here if your child has specific dietary requirements: <https://orders.lunchhound.co.uk/medicaldiets/request>

### Monday

- Homemade macaroni cheese with sweetcorn and cauliflower.
- Quorn sausage & bean loaded hot pockets, sweetcorn & cauliflower (V)
- Jacket potato with tuna mayo or cheese or beans.
- Chocolate banana cake

### Tuesday

#### Chinese New Year

- Chicken chow mein with mixed salad.
- Sweet chilli quorn & noodle stir fry (V)
- Mandarin orange jelly

### Wednesday

- Smoky BBQ chicken & sweetcorn meatballs & rice, mixed vegetables and peas.
- Plant based mince & lentil cottage pie, mixed vegetables and peas (V)
- Jacket potato with tuna mayo or cheese or beans.
- Oaty flapjack finger with fruit.

### Thursday

- Beef mince chilli, rice, green beans & cauliflower.
- Homemade cheese & tomato pizza with garlic bread, green beans & cauliflower (V)
- Jacket potato with tuna mayo or cheese or beans.
- Citrusy lemon drizzle cake

### Friday

- Cod fish fingers, chips, baked beans or peas.
- Cheese & onion pastry roll & chips, beans or peas. (V)
- Jacket potato with tuna mayo or cheese or beans.
- Shortbread & mandarin pieces.

## Upcoming Dates w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> February

### Monday 5th February 2024

- Film club 3.30 - 5.15pm. The film showing this week is Elemental, £2 charge for this club. Please pay for this using the School Money app. Soft drink and biscuit provided. No sweets or chocolate please.

### Tuesday 6th February 2024

- Chinese New Year.
- Dodgeball for year 3 & 4 group one 8.15- 8.45am – last session.
- Athletics finals competition at SNA 3pm.

### Wednesday 7th February 2024

- Basketball club 7.45 – 8.45am.
- Bible explorers at lunch time for all year groups.
- Keep fit with Rosie 3.45 – 4.30pm.

**Thursday 8th February 2024**

- Martial arts club cancelled.
- Basketball club 3.30-4.30pm.
- Colouring club for year 4 3.30 – 4.30pm.
- Year 4 swimming. Please ensure you remember your swimming kit and any inhalers required- Last session- last session.
- Year 5 and 6 swimming gala practice. Please ensure you remember your swimming kit and any inhalers required.

**Friday 9th February 2024**

- Honours assembly