



★ Robert Miles Junior School Newsletter – 23rd February 2024 ★

PE Outside

We are hoping to have more PE outside as the weather (hopefully!) starts to warm up. A reminder to ensure your child has a pair of outdoor trainers to wear for PE.

Dear Parents,

I hope everyone had an enjoyable half term break and your children have had an enjoyable first week back. It was straight back into it for our swimmers who attended the Newark Swimming Gala on Monday finishing an excellent third! Lots of other events on the horizon:

World Book Day – 7th March A letter is going out today about World Book Day – lots of events are happening in school including a Book Swap but we are particularly excited about potato characters where we are asking children to decorate a potato as their favourite character! Have a read of the letter which includes details of the upcoming Book Fair along with a £1 voucher to put towards a purchase.

Science Competition A reminder that the annual Science Competition is under way – the Marble Roller Coaster Run Off Challenge. The deadline for entries is next Wednesday when we will be running heats before the final the following week. All the details are in the previous couple of newsletters.

Year 4 Residential We are running a Year 4 Parent Information Event at 5pm on 13th March. All Year 4 parents are encouraged to attend, where we will be giving more details of the upcoming residential.

Have a great weekend.

Best Wishes

James Evelyn
Headteacher, Robert Miles Junior School

Dates for the Diary

- 1st, 4th 5th Mar Book Fair
- 13th March Y4 Residential Parent Meeting
- 21st March Y3 Trip to Lincoln
- 22nd March Y3/4 Equals Trust Football Event
- 25th March Parents Evening
- 26th March Parents Evening
- 27th March Equals Trust Choir Event
- 28th March School Disco
- 28th March Last Day of Term

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	97.2%
3J	97.1%
4H	100%
4G	96.1%
5AR	96.1%
5M	96.1%
6L	98.1%
6M	98.1%
All	97.4%

Congratulations to 4H who have the best attendance this week with a brilliant 100%



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. Totals so far:

Jupiter	259
Mercury	235
Neptune	264
Saturn	212



Prefects and Sports Ambassadors

Over the past few months, the prefects have been working hard to complete the tasks they set themselves – this week, two of them came to fruition.

Firstly, Nathan (Environment Prefect), wrote to the local council to obtain a grant for new recycling bins in all the offices and classrooms. Having secured the money, the school has now acquired brand new 'recycled' recycling bins across the school. At assembly this morning Nathan talked through what should and should not go in the bin. Nathan is also working on sourcing a tree for the Market Square to replace the one that came down last year. Well done Nathan!

Working with the other prefects, Thomas (Sports Prefect) created a survey to ask all the children what equipment they would like in the playground. Having collected their thoughts, we then purchased the equipment and shared it with the children this morning. Hopefully lots more fun to be had at playtime – well done to all the prefects and Sports Ambassadors for making it happen!



Sports Update

Dance Festival

This week, eight children attended the Rushcliffe dance festival at SNA. We were welcomed by two professional dancers. One of the dancers competed professionally in ballroom and Latin dancing, whilst the other had a variety of dance styles for the children to explore. The event was brilliant. It gave the children a chance to embrace music, learn about rhythm, but also to relate emotionally to songs. The eight individuals represented Robert Miles with the most amazing level of enthusiasm, respect and effort. What a fabulous event, one which we will definitely be attending again next year.



Swimming Gala

This week, the Newark Swimming Gala took place. A swimming competition where multiple schools attend to compete for the top spot. We took eighteen individuals across all year groups on the first day back after half term, and we arrived ready to take on any challenge that came our way. The event itself was brilliant. The team were cheering each other on at every stage and each child gave 100% effort when it came to their chance to represent their school and team. Overall, we came home with a podium position. What an incredible achievement. I truly believe that next year, we will continue to show up and provide other teams with a tough team to face. Each and every individual should be proud of their achievement.



Year 5 Egyptian Day



Year 5 became archaeologists for the day on Wednesday as we enjoyed an enrichment day to mark the end of our history topic. Our visitor, Ian, was quick to teach us that all archaeology is rubbish – literally. Who knew that everyday objects pulled out of a binbag could pose such interesting questions as the children tried to piece together clues of what fragments of objects were, who might have once owned it and what it was used for in the past.

Working as an archaeologist for many years, Ian had a wealth of information and showed the children how to think like a historian and act like an archaeologist. As you can see from these photos, 5M and 5AR enjoyed many exciting activities including creating a human timeline, a mock excavation, piecing together the past, stratigraphy, weaving, making flour the Egyptian way, writing using hieroglyphics, pottery making and weaving. There were some wonderful outfits with lots of attention to detail and some children even made accessories such as jewellery to complete their costumes. Who knows, we may have some budding historians and archaeologists amongst us who will make significant discoveries in the future!

Times Tables Rock Stars

Times Tables Rockstars

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

Most correct answers: Oliver B, 4G

Most coins earned: Joshua S, 5AR

Biggest improvement in accuracy: Harry B, 3J

Biggest improvement in speed: Olly T, 4H



Year 6 have been following Talk For Writing to help us write a non-chronological report about the Yellow-Spotted Lizard. These vicious (and deadly) creatures feature in our class novel, Holes, which has had the children hanging onto the edge of their seats. The reports they have written are not just full of information but creatively compiled with engaging language which really hooks the reader in. I recommend reading them so that you too can be an expert on the Yellow-Spotted Lizard!

Thursday 1st February 2024

*this has upset many citizens

THE YELLOW-SPOTTED LIZARD

These deadly creatures have concerned scientists across the planet and have petrified the toughest of men. The savage but minuscule lizards were first spotted in the outskirts of Australia, and have caused many people to move away. These Yellow-Spotted lizards have a strangely limited and unusual diet. Read on to find out why...

Appearance
Would you be able to recognise the difference between a male and female Yellow-Spotted lizard? Interestingly, male lizards don't have many different features. Male lizards have exactly eleven yellow spots, which lay on a yellow-green body, which allows them to blend in and could easily be mistaken for a small cacti. The main feature of a male Yellow-Spotted lizard is their muscular tail that can take out hundreds of men.

A female Yellow-Spotted lizard has only seven spots, which are a lighter shade of yellow. A female lizard has a venomous tongue that peels off if it gets too hot or dry. Amazingly, they have extremely sharp teeth, used for grinding food. The main feature of a female Yellow-Spotted lizard is their bulging red eyes that could see its prey from a long distance.

Habitat
Like the common lizard, Yellow-Spotted lizards live in dry holes with their family in the middle of the desert. The male lizard goes hunting for its prey to feed its family while the female stays to look after its babies. During the night, Yellow-Spotted lizards sleep with one eye open just in case a hunter comes strolling by. They are easy to detect as they make a high-pitch hissing sound if they are threatened.

Diet
These revolting reptiles have a fairly limited diet. In the main, they enjoy eating small flies but could also be tempted with different animals such as baby geckos and innocent baby chicks. Yellow-Spotted lizards also like different forms of raw meat. Be careful, they may mistake you for a scrumptious steak if you come across them!

*Fascinating Facts
Did you know Yellow-Spotted lizards tend to run out of food? If that ever happens, Yellow-Spotted lizards have no choice but to eat their young! If you come across a Yellow-Spotted lizard, count yourself very unlucky!

*saddy

Introduction
A toxic reptile that has caused fatal emergencies throughout the world has been discovered in the deepest deserts of Texas. It is known as the Yellow-Spotted Lizard. Fascinatingly, this savage creature has a strange home, a voracious diet and a range of unique but misused tools. However, these mysterious reptilians are minuscule but deadly and can sense gear at a single glance. The current alarm of the reproduction of Yellow-Spotted lizards has been highlighted and they are now one of the most growing species of lizard to ever lived. Read on to find out more about this fascinating member of the lizard family!

WARNING
New Lizard Hazardous to Humans!

Appearance
Yellow-Spotted lizards are quite different to most lizards; here's why... Male Yellow-Spotted lizards have large bodies covered in yellow-green scales. Curiously, they have exactly 11 yellow spots that can barely be seen amongst their scales. Their eyes are yellow, with vivid red skins surrounding them which can be quite confusing. Within their jaws are razor-sharp teeth, black as midnight, used for injecting poisonous venom into their prey. As well as these, it has a milky-white tongue, whiter than snow. Males are around 6-10 inches long, but this can vary depending on their originating country.

Habitat
Firstly, Yellow-Spotted lizards live in holes. They live in most Texas deserts, but around the world too. Most of them live in Western and North America. Their preference is large, sandy deserts but dry, empty ones are lovely for them as they like quiet places. Generally, they live twenty lizards to a hole. Mostly, they live in holes, but occasionally they will make new nests under rocks as there is shade.

Diet
These strange little creatures have a voracious diet; read on to find out more! Yellow-Spotted lizards have a specific diet of: the shells of sunflower seeds, certain acorns and some of the smaller animals of the deserts. Copernicingly, these creatures eat rats tails if they can find them, which happens very rarely! These minuscule monsters have seven stomachs, allowing them to eat seven times their body weight. As a tasty drink, these lizards like human blood so be careful if you encounter one of these blood-suckers.

Fascinating Facts
Did you know? That some female Yellow-Spotted lizards' venom is used for medication across the world! As well as this, they are becoming increasingly popular so humans might go extinct if their numbers don't decrease soon!

Wow! What a fabulous report, Piper! A perfect score for this year!

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.

Supporting Families

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Explore our service for families

We can give you advice on matters such as:

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- Energy efficiency and bill assistance
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- Income maximisation
- Housing solutions
- Consumer support
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For families with children under 18 in Nottingham City, Gedling, and Rushcliffe.

We provide free, confidential and impartial advice to help people overcome their problems.

Book your 1-hour telephone appointment

Scan the QR Code or go to tinyurl.com/CANDFamilies to book an appointment.



Registered charity number: 701259

South Nottingham Hockey Club

FREE JUNIOR TRAINING SUNDAY MORNING
10.30-1130

Looking to join a hockey club?

Whatever your age, experience or ability our friendly club will make you feel welcome.
Training is held at Bingham Leisure centre,
Thursday evenings 7:30-9:30.
Come along to a session or contact us on.

Email: southnottmhc@gmail.com
07973864458
<https://snhc.clubbuzz.co.uk/>

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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 nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about



In October 2022, the enormously popular social media network Twitter was purchased by tech tycoon Elon Musk. That sparked a host of changes to the platform – not all which have been received positively by its fans. The alterations have continued with each passing month, many of them raising online safety concerns among the 530 million users of Twitter (now rebranded as simply X). With further adjustments reportedly in the pipeline, X has attracted more than its usual share of controversy and caution in recent times.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

A BLOCK ON BLOCKING

X has announced plans to remove its blocking feature. Previously, this stopped other users from viewing your profile or sending you direct messages, while also hiding their posts from your feed. Only this latter function will now remain. The decision has been criticised by some members, who feel that blocking (in its current form) protects them from X users who promote denial and hatred.

LIMITED REPORTING FEATURES

X offers a premium membership, with some functionality (such as controlling who can view and reply to your posts) increasingly being made exclusive to those who pay the subscription fee. Several commentators have speculated that X could one day become an exclusively paid-for service, with access to accounts being revoked for anyone unwilling or unable to take out a subscription.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Many of X's less age-appropriate posts can feature anything from extreme political views to pornography. While accounts marked as 18+ are restricted from non-members, it's still fairly easy to stumble across this material accidentally. X's new 'For You' page also shows content from accounts that a user doesn't already follow – meaning that almost anything could end up on a child's feed.

VERIFICATION FOR SALE

Historically, Twitter's moderators granted account verification: certifying someone as authentic by placing a blue tick next to their username. One of X's earliest changes was to place verification behind a paywall; this caused the number of celebrity impersonators to rise and left no way to distinguish, say, a legitimate influencer from a copycat fake account seeking to exploit other users.



Advice for Parents & Carers

PROTECT PRIVACY

Unsavory characters may try to gain access to a young person's X account – either to view their posts and gather information on them, or to completely take control of it. To minimise risk, ensure the account has a strong password and enable the 'Protect Your Posts' feature (via the account settings), so that strangers can't view your child's posts without first being approved as a follower.

DON'T RISE TO THE BAIT

To gain more views and followers, some X users post deliberately inflammatory comments on sensitive topics such as race, sexual orientation and gender issues. Many young people could find this upsetting. Emphasise that, if your child encounters someone spreading hate on X, it's best not to give that person what they want: an argument. Ignore them, mute their account and move on.

STAY ALERT FOR IMPOSTERS

Make sure your child understands that X's blue ticks no longer guarantee the identity of anyone on the platform. While it might be exciting if a celebrity liked your child's post, it could just as easily be an imposter with malicious intentions. If your child's not 100% sure that an X user actually is who they claim to be, advise them to err on the side of caution and avoid interacting with that account.

ONLY FOLLOW TRUSTED ACCOUNTS

Using the 'Following' tab on X helps to ensure that the only content your child sees has come from accounts they've chosen to follow: this should reduce the chance of them inadvertently being exposed to harmful, violent or explicit content. Show your child how to report another user's account if, say, they're behaving inappropriately by spreading misinformation or offensive opinions.

BE READY TO TAKE ACTION

If your child suffers harassment on the platform or becomes the target of a hack, you could consider deactivating their account entirely. Recently, X's safety features have been criticised for allegedly failing to protect users' wellbeing – so if your child is being subjected to abusive messages or similar mistreatment on the platform, it might be prudent to remove them from X altogether.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. Always eager to test out the latest apps, games and online trends, he's also a parent who understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Weekly Menu - w/c 26th 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

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

Wednesday

- Roast of the day, roast potatoes, gravy, seasonal greens and carrots.
- Quorn sausage, roast potatoes, gravy, seasonal greens and carrots.
- Jacket potato with tuna mayo or cheese or beans.
- Homemade chocolate sponge and custard.

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 26th February

Monday 26th February 2024

- Film club 3.30 - 5.15pm. The film showing this week is Encanto, £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 27th February 2024

- Dodgeball for year 3 & 4 group two 8.15- 8.45am – last session.

Wednesday 28th February 2024

- Science & Technology marble roller-coaster 1st heats.
- Bible explorers at lunch time for all year groups.
- Equal trust choir rehearsal 3.30-4.30pm
- Year 5 indoor rowing festival at SNA. Leaving school at 3.30pm.

Thursday 29th February 2024

- Martial arts club 8-8.45am

- Year 3 swimming starts. Please ensure you remember your swimming kit and any inhalers required.
- Colouring club for year 4 3.30 – 4.30pm.

Friday 1st March 2024

- Honours assembly.
- Book fair in the afternoon (from 3.30pm – 4.00pm)