

## Robert Miles Junior School Newsletter – 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parents,

**Staffing News:** As you are aware, Carol Ward will be leaving us at the end of this term to take up the role of Head of Inclusion across Equals Trust schools. I am delighted to inform you that we have appointed Mrs Jemma Wallace as Carol's successor. Not only will Jemma be our SENCo, she will also lead on other aspects of our pastoral and behaviour work. Jemma has worked in Nottingham as a SENCo for a number of years and I know will be an excellent addition to our team. Jemma will be spending time with both myself and Carol over the coming weeks where we will support her induction into our school. I am also aware that many of you will be keen to meet with her and this will be an early priority for her.


I wrote to the Year 5 parents earlier in the week to inform them that Vicki Ryan will also be leaving us at the end of this term. Vicki has been at our school for twenty years and is very highly regarded by staff and children alike. Vicki is moving into the special needs area of education and I know will continue to do important work in this vital area. I will update Year 5 parents in the coming weeks regarding our staffing plans for the summer term. Do get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

**Dates:** confirmation of a few dates for the upcoming summer term to pop in the diary:

- 19<sup>th</sup> June: Sports Day
- 21<sup>st</sup> June: Summer BBQ
- 26<sup>th</sup> June: Reserve Sports Day

Have a great weekend.

Best Wishes



James Evelyn  
Headteacher, Robert Miles Junior School

### Parents Evening – 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> March

Bookings for parents evenings are now open. Parents have received an email containing a link taking them to the booking system.

### Dates for the Diary

|                        |                                  |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 13 <sup>th</sup> March | Y4 Residential Parent Meeting    |
| 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                     |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> 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         | 94.1%        |
| 3J         | 94.2%        |
| 4H         | 99.7%        |
| 4G         | 97.2%        |
| 5AR        | 95.6%        |
| 5M         | 97.5%        |
| 6L         | 97.8%        |
| 6M         | 96.9%        |
| <b>All</b> | <b>96.7%</b> |

Congratulations to 4H who have the best attendance this week.



### 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 | 439 |
| Mercury | 434 |
| Neptune | 489 |
| Saturn  | 463 |



## The Annual Science & Technology Competition 2024

A big thank you to all the children, and their supporting adults, who entered this year's Science and Technology competition, making the event such a success. We were greatly impressed by the quality and ingenuity of all of the designs.

During the competition, the children demonstrated a high level of resilience; when their run didn't go to plan, they took it in their stride and tried again with a smile on their face. There are obviously some engineers in training in school, as children independently modified designs when encountering problems and some run lengths had such a high level of consistency. All entrants should be very proud of their efforts and the way they participated in the competition. The winners are:



### **Year 5 and 6 with 6 turns required before releasing the marble**

- Jumbo Jungle - Imogen Groom and Emily Mogg achieving a distance of 904cm.

### **Year 3 and 4 with 5 turns required before releasing the marble**

- Waste Run - Christian Ignatoff and Mylo Chapman achieving a distance of 1000cm.

### **Most ingenious roller-coaster**

- Tardis - Ewan Marson

### **Most Aesthetically designed and finished Roller Coaster**

- Splash and Fun - Lara Gibbs



This was a very enjoyable event for everyone involved and hopefully even more children will be inspired to enter next year.





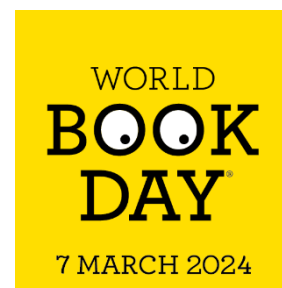
## World Book Day

A huge thank you to everyone who visited the Scholastic Book Fair. Over £1000 was spent which means we are now able to choose approximately £600 worth of new books for our classrooms and the library which is just fantastic!

We all had a very cosy day on Thursday dressed in our snuggly pyjamas with lots of activities going on in school to celebrate World Book Day. The librarians held an assembly and announced the winners of our 'Write a Blurb' Competition. Congratulations go to the year group winners: Henry Hatton (Y3), Phoebe Camidge and Elliot Brain (Y4), Bella Finlay (Y5) and Sophia Brookes (Y6). This was followed by buddy-reading with Year 3s pairing up with Year 5s and Year 4s pairing up with Year 6s to read together and chat about their favourite books.

At break time, many children swapped their ticket for a kindly donated 'preloved' book and have hopefully bought home some new bedtime reading!

Finally, a massive thank you to all those children who transformed a humble potato into a fictional character. They look absolutely amazing and you should all be very proud of the hard work, creativity and effort you put in. The characters are on display in the library for all to see. Of course, every day is a reading day and we hope that children's love of books now develops into a passion for reading for life. Happy Reading!



## 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  | Georgie Tang & Verity Gilfillan        |
| 3B  | Ellis Chambers & Adhveeth Menon        |
| 4G  | Archie Hickinbottom & Scarlett O'Brien |
| 4H  | Evie Herrick & Lydia Loft              |
| 5M  | Skye Smith & Alfie Brownson            |
| 5AR | Cian Walters & Madison Bryan           |
| 6M  | Henry Bates & Sophia Brooks            |
| 6L  | Josh Taylor & Charlie Manchester       |

## Sports Update

This week, year 3 were representing RMJS at a sports festival. The festival was all about a game called Queen and King Ball. Filled with so many questions about what exactly the game will be like, it didn't stop us from going and giving it a go! It was an incredible event and we are so incredibly proud of each member of the team. They improved, they developed and they became confident in what they were doing. Teamwork and friendship were at the centre of their incredible success. To explain Queen and King Ball....well, you will have to ask one of these amazing individuals. A super well done - you should all be proud how impressive you were as ambassadors of the school.



## Times Table 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:** Macie H, 4H

**Most coins earned:** Joshua S, 5AR

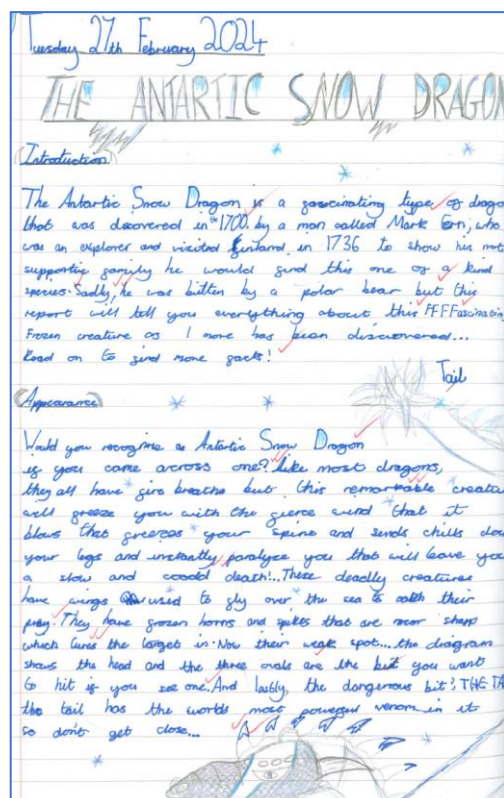
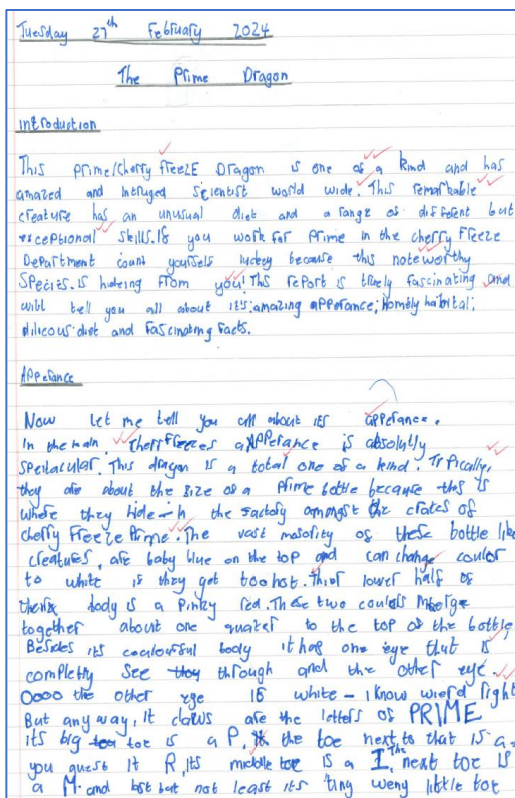
**Biggest improvement in accuracy:** Noah S, 4G

**Biggest improvement in speed:** Elise T, 4H

## Excellent work in the Spotlight



Welcome to the Year 6 dragons lair where our group of intrepid dragonologists have been compiling their research on a range of fascinating creatures. Each piece was completely independent and showed off their extensive dragon-esque knowledge, wonderful imaginations and fabulous writing skills. Read them, if you dare...



## 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.



The graphic features a blue circular logo with a yellow border containing the text '1787' and 'BINGHAM CC' around a yellow church icon. To the right is a string of yellow and blue triangular bunting. Below these are several tulips in purple, yellow, and pink. In the center background, a cricket stump with a red ball is visible.

# Spring craft fair

**Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2024**  
**10am - 2:30pm**  
**Bingham Methodist Centre**  
**Free entry**

With a range of items from local businesses,  
and some delicious baked goods, Bingham Cricket  
Club's Spring craft fair has lots of offer!

Personalised gifts, designs in clay, jewellery,  
textiles, home fragrances, artwork, woodcrafts,  
dog treats ... and much more.



Find out  
more



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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 devices 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.

# 10 top tips for safely using SMARTWATCHES

Kids love gadgets, and smartwatches – available to buy from as little as £20 online – make a tempting gift. As with any type of mobile technology, though, smartwatches can pose risks to children unless they're used safely. Receiving unwanted calls, cyber-stalking and distracting a young person when they're crossing the road are all known risks associated with smartwatches. However, these devices can bring plenty of benefits for children and parents alike – so let's examine the pros and cons of smartwatches.

## AVOID CHEAP OPTIONS

A quick search online yields a torrent of cheap smartwatches for kids, costing as little as £20. It's wise to avoid this bargain basement tech: it tends to deliver a poor experience with inferior battery life, and it's hard to have faith in the software's safety. There have been cases of smartwatches being hacked to track or contact children; stick to known brands who have a reputation to protect.

## CONTROL CALLING

Many smartwatches have the facility to make or take calls. As with a phone, you may want to restrict who your child can call – or be called by. On Apple Watches, you can select trusted contacts who are allowed to ring your child, while other watches' controls vary hugely. Some need to connect to a linked phone for calls, so you may be able to block unknown contacts via that device instead.

## BEWARE HIDDEN COSTS

For a smartwatch to allow calls independently (that is, without being connected to a phone via Bluetooth), it will need its own mobile data plan. This might take the form of a tiny SIM card that you slot into the watch – or an eSIM, where the physical card is replaced by software settings. Either way, this will incur an additional monthly cost that you'll need to factor into any buying decision.

## ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Apple Watches aren't cheap, but they do offer superb safety features – allowing parents to control calls, messages and emails on the device, as well as a location tracking system that can send alerts if kids wander beyond pre-set boundaries. Their SOS function enables children to contact emergency services instantly if they're in trouble, which simultaneously also alerts parents and carers.

## MAKE THEM COOL FOR SCHOOL

Some schools have banned smartwatches, as pupils have been using them as substitute phones. If your child's school does permit them, some devices can be set to prevent distractions in class. For example, Apple's Schooltime feature turns their watches into ordinary time-keeping devices during school hours. The display changes in this mode, showing teachers that it isn't being used for other purposes.

## TRACK ITS LOCATION

Both Apple and Android devices have apps which allow you to track a smartwatch's location. They can also initiate an audio alert – avoiding those cushion-hurling panics when a treasured device can't be found at home. If you're planning to track your child's location via their watch, make them aware of that in advance. You could even make it a condition of them getting the watch in the first place.

## THINK 'SAFETY FIRST'

Smartwatches are often worth hundreds of pounds, which can make young people wearing one a target for thieves. Advise your child to keep the watch hidden in public (when possible) and not to resist if muggers demand their watch. If you manage to track a stolen device, pass that information to the police; location data isn't always accurate, so you could end up wrongly accusing someone.

## STORE MEDICAL INFO

Devices including the Samsung Galaxy Watch and Apple Watch can store the owner's medical details (such as their blood group and any pre-existing medical conditions), potentially giving emergency services access to vital information in a crisis. These devices also have 'hard fall' detection, which sends a text message to selected contacts along with a map showing the wearer's location.

## USE THEM AS MOTIVATION

If you're worried your child's spending too much time slumped on the sofa staring at screens, smartwatches are great fitness trackers and can be a powerful incentive to get moving. Some devices will alert the wearer if they've been inactive for a long time and encourage them to do some exercise. Many watches record the user's daily step count and measure other health metrics.

## BE MINDFUL OF BEDTIME

Many smartwatches offer sleep tracking, which some (usually older) children use to justify wearing them to bed. However, that also presents a temptation to message friends or check social media late at night, even if their phone is downstairs. Unless there's a valid reason not to, you could encourage your child to remove the watch in the evenings and ensure the charger stays in a different room.

## Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and the *ITV News* at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly about internet safety issues.



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#WakeUpWednesday



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## Weekly Menu - w/c 11<sup>th</sup> March

### Monday

- Homemade Cheese & Tomato pizza, garlic bread, sweetcorn and peas.
- Loaded cheesy bean hot pitta parcel. (V)
- Jacket potato with tuna mayonnaise or cheese or beans.
- Apple & sultana crumble bar

### Tuesday

- Hearty pasta Bolognese with peppers, green beans and carrots.
- Plant based Bolognese pasta with lentils, peppers and basil. (V)
- Jacket potato with tuna mayonnaise or cheese or beans.
- Homemade lemon cake with custard.

### Wednesday

- Toad in the hole, roast potatoes, gravy, cauliflower and seasonal greens.
- Quorn sausage toad in the hole, roast potatoes and gravy. (V)
- Jacket potato with tuna mayonnaise or cheese or beans.
- Banana cake and fruit slices

### Thursday

- Mexican style chicken, bean and sweetcorn burrito, mixed vegetables and sweetcorn.
- Homemade macaroni cheese. (V)
- Jacket potato with tuna mayonnaise or cheese or beans.
- Chocolate cookie

### Friday

- Cod fish fingers, chips, baked beans or peas.
- Cheese & onion pastry roll and chips.(V)
- Jacket potato with tuna mayonnaise or cheese or beans.
- Red nose day cookie.

## Upcoming Dates w/c 11<sup>th</sup> March

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 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024

- Film club 3.30 - 5.15pm. The film showing this week is Garfield, £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 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024

- Dodgeball for year 3 & 4 group two 8.15- 8.45am.
- Year 6 sports festival at Toot hill. Leaving school at 3.15pm.

### Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024

- Bible explorers at lunch time for all year groups.
- Equal trust choir rehearsal 3.30-4.30pm
- Year 4 residential parent meeting 5pm in the school hall.
- Girls Football Trials – lunchtime. Please bring football boots or sturdy trainers, shinpads and PE kits

**Thursday 14th March 2024**

- Martial arts club 8-8.45am
- Year 3 swimming. Please ensure you remember your swimming kit and any inhalers required.
- Colouring club for year 3 and 4 3.30 – 4.30pm.
- Boys football match against Carnarvon School at Carnarvon. 4pm kick off.

**Friday 15th March 2024**

- Honours assembly.
- Girls football match against Radcliffe school at RMJS, kick off at 3.30pm.