



★ Robert Miles Junior School Newsletter – 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 ★

Dear Parents,

This week really does encapsulate the variety of life in a primary school – children learning vital cycling skills as part of the Bikeability scheme, children learning more about Ancient Greece with a museum visit to Lincoln, beautiful artwork across a number of classes, tarantulas and snakes (safely!) in school linked to Amazon wildlife, more sporting tournaments and plenty more besides. Children’s personal development is so important and we have been working hard recently to better define how we approach this. Central to this vision is providing a range of experiences that sit alongside academic work. Whilst budgets present significant challenges, we are keen to protect this vital part of a school’s work – if you are interested in finding out more, about our approach please take a look on the RMJS website: [life at school / personal development](#).

**Staffing News** I am delighted to confirm the appointment of Mr Martin Knight who will be joining the school from the start of next term replacing Mrs Ryan in 5AR who is sadly leaving us.

Mr Knight has worked at the school previously, is a very experienced primary school teacher and I know will fit well into our school community. He will be teaching the class on a Monday and Tuesday with Mrs Alcock teaching for the remainder of the week. For any class queries or questions during the summer term, please contact Mrs Alcock.

We have arranged for Mr Knight to visit the school on Monday where he will have the opportunity to meet the children and also spend some time with Mrs Alcock planning ahead for the summer term.

Have a great weekend.

Best Wishes

James Evelyn  
Headteacher, Robert Miles Junior School

**Dates for the Diary**

25 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup> Mar	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
<u>Summer Term</u>	
15 <sup>th</sup> April	Inset Day
16 <sup>th</sup> April	First Day of Term
w/c 27 <sup>th</sup> May	Half Term
3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Class Photos
11 <sup>th</sup> /12 <sup>th</sup> June	Y4 Residential
17 <sup>th</sup> June	Inset Day
19 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day (26 <sup>th</sup> June: Reserve Day)
21 <sup>st</sup> June	Summer BBQ
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	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	95.0%
3J	98.6%
4H	95.3%
4G	95.9%
5AR	94.6%
5M	96.1%
6L	96.1%
6M	98.1%
<b>All</b>	<b>96.2%</b>



Congratulations to 3J 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	689
Mercury	647
Neptune	734
Saturn	648



## Year 4 – Busy Thursday!

On Thursday, year four had a truly magical time, experiencing the rainforest in a most interesting and unusual day. In the morning, children had the opportunity to meet a range of animals from the rainforest, learning about their adaptations to live there and getting to hold (or be perched on by) the animals themselves. The children met Guinea Pigs, Red Foot Tortoises, a Blue Tongued Skink Lizard, two Crested Gecko, an African house snake, a Tenrec, a Cockatiel, African millipedes, and a Tarantula! The children were captivated throughout the event and it caused quite a stir through the school knowing there was a tarantula in a box! In the afternoon, children continued this work on the rainforest with the culmination of their art project on Joseph Cornell and shadow boxes by producing their own shadow box of the rainforest. What a wonderful day was had by all the children.



## Year 5 Bikeability



Some children from Year 5 have enjoyed time out of the classroom this week as they have completed their 2-day Bikeability course at school. This has involved a mixture of learning about bike safety – knowing how to ensure your bike is in good working order, is safe to ride at night and is roadworthy; learning important rules of the road on the playground and then putting these skills into practice on the real roads of Bingham. All children taking part have done so sensibly and with great enthusiasm, and it is great to know that they will make mature, trustworthy cyclists of the future.

## Year 5 Dragon Eyes

The children in Year 5 have been looking in detail at designs for dragon eyes and the surrounding scales. They have practised their sketching skills to create some wonderful plans for the clay models, which they will be working on next.



## 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:** Jacob S, 4G

**Most coins earned:** Jacob S, 4G

**Biggest improvement in accuracy:** Camille K, 4H

**Biggest improvement in speed:** Elias M, 3B

## Year 3 at The Collection

Yesterday, Year 3 travelled to Lincoln on their quest to learn more about the Ancient Greeks. They attended The Collection Museum where they took part in a variety of activities to enhance their understanding of life in Ancient Greece and also how it has impacted us. The children became archaeologists and dug for artefacts, performed a variety of drama pieces relating to the Polynesian War and had the opportunity to explore, handle and investigate a variety of artefacts dating back thousands of years. The day was filled with fascinating information, inquisitive questions and smiling children. What a fabulous day it was and fully enjoyed by all.



## Sports Update

### Girls Football vs Radcliffe

Last week, the girls side came up against the team currently top of the league table. We delivered a tough match against Radcliffe with an even tougher playing field as a surface. The rain was present, rainbows were flying high and Georgia was covered in head to toe with mud from her amazing saves in goal. Who knew a pink football kit would be the least noticeable on the pitch by the end!?! With the score line relatively tight throughout the game, RMJS didn't stop fighting. We clawed a goal back by Lucy walking the ball around the keeper, but this came slightly too late into the second half. We played as a team and supported each other through every minute and we did ourselves proud. A fabulous game, one which we're looking forward to playing again.



## 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.

**SCIENCE MUSEUM**

**THE LIVE STAGE SHOW**  
EXPLOSIVE FAMILY THEATRE FOR CURIOUS MINDS

Tuesday 2nd April, 6pm  
£19.00, £18.00 Child, £70.00 Family

**PALACE THEATRE** EST. 1920  
Network

sciencemuseumlive

**next level sports**

**EASTER HALF TERM MULTI SPORTS CAMP**

Including All Traditional Sports & Outdoor Activities for Children AGE 5-11

**Candleby Lane School**  
Candleby Lane, Cotgrave, NG12 3JG

Dates: 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> APRIL  
Time: 08:50-15:20  
£22.00 Per Session

Extra Activities:  
✓ Soft Archery  
✓ Nerf Guns  
✓ Laser Tag  
✓ Pedal Go Karts  
+ Easter Egg Hunt

TO BOOK A SPACE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
[www.nextlevelsportsltd.com](http://www.nextlevelsportsltd.com)

OR TRY OUR NEW QR CODE  
Just scan with your camera and follow the link, it's as easy as that!

Get In Touch: 07398 215354 | 07354 032261 Email: [bookings.nextlevelsports@gmail.com](mailto:bookings.nextlevelsports@gmail.com)

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 issues 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 AI VIRTUAL FRIENDS

Artificial intelligence – particularly in terms of how it generates natural language – has seen significant development over the last six months, with companies releasing new AI-based software or adding an AI element to existing apps (such as Snapchat, for example). One form of AI to become especially popular has been the 'AI friend' or chatbot, as children eagerly experiment with these new-found computer-generated companions. There are now numerous apps available with this 'virtual friend' functionality, with the likelihood of it being added to other successful platforms soon.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### CONTENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

AI chatbots may not always be able to recognise when content is age inappropriate or harmful and should be filtered out. So there's a possibility that children could be exposed to offensive language or explicit material while conversing with their virtual friend. The companies producing such AI solutions are also unlikely to take responsibility for any content that their algorithms generate.

### REDUCED SOCIAL CONTACT

An excessive reliance on chatbots for social interaction could potentially cause a child to begin reducing the amount of face-to-face communication they have, leading to social isolation. If young people become dependent on chatbots to provide companionship, it could very likely hinder the development of their real-life social skills.

### LACK OF SENSITIVITY

Chatbot software isn't always sophisticated enough to pick up on subtle emotional cues or recognise signs of distress in children, as most humans would. It might therefore fail to respond appropriately. AI misinterpreting what it's being told or replying insensitively to a young user who's already struggling could potentially impact a child's emotional wellbeing or exacerbate any existing emotional issues.

### UNINTENTIONAL BIAS

AI companions are only as reliable as the information they've been programmed with. The algorithms they use, therefore, may unintentionally promote bias, stereotypes or discriminatory behaviour (as many originate from the USA or the UK, for instance, they can display a distinctly western-centric worldview). This could lead to children developing skewed attitudes and behaviours.

### COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS

Although many are now undeniably advanced, AI-powered chatbots still have limitations in terms of understanding complex concepts, context and nuance. Depending heavily on chatbots to help with learning or solving problems may stunt the development of a child's own powers of critical thinking, creativity and ability to engage in open-ended discussions with other people.

### PRIVACY CONCERNS

Chatbots typically collect data about users, including personal information and conversations. This is ostensibly to improve their performance as they gradually learn about our behaviour – but many experts are warning that there may be significant risks associated with how this information is stored and used (the possibility of potential breaches or misuse by third parties, for instance).

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### CHAT ABOUT CHATBOTS

If your child is already expressing an interest in AI apps, a relaxed, natural chat should help you to discover which ones they're aware of and how they're using them (or are planning to). Discuss these options with your child and perhaps do your own research to ensure you think they're suitable. Once you're totally happy, you could sit with your young one and begin exploring AI chatbots together.

### CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If your child is keen to engage with AI chatbots, encourage them to do so in a safe environment: ideally in a shared space at home, so you can easily keep an eye and ear on their progress. Set up appropriate content filtering measures in advance – and gently remind them that you'll be close by and ready to help with any questions or concerns that may arise.

### FIND A BALANCE

Work alongside your child to establish the right balance in terms of how they might use AI-powered chatbots – and when it's appropriate. It's important to make sure that children are still getting plenty of opportunities to learn to solve problems for themselves, as well as building their interpersonal skills through face-to-face conversations with friends, family members and teachers.

### TAKE CONTROL

As with any form of app or game, when it comes to AI chatbots we'd strongly recommend that you consider employing parental controls (either on the device being used or within the software itself) to manage which apps your child can download and use. This is particularly important for younger children, who may be more at risk of being upset or frightened by inappropriate content.

### RECOGNISE THE RISKS

It's unlikely that most children will have even considered the potential risks attached to having a virtual companion. So it's probably wise to explain some of the possible hazards and challenges of AI chatbots to your child. In particular, emphasise that AI isn't a real person (however much it might sound like one) and may occasionally tell them something that isn't entirely impartial or accurate.

## Meet Our Expert

A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

## Weekly Menu - w/c 25<sup>th</sup> March

### Monday

- Homemade macaroni cheese with sweetcorn and mixed vegetables.
- Mexican bean & roasted vegetable burrito with sweetcorn & mixed vegetables. (V)
- Jacket potato with tuna mayo or cheese or beans.
- Homemade apple sponge cake.

### Tuesday

- Chicken & Indian lentil tikka masala curry & rice with peas and cauliflower.
- Cheese & tomato pizza and garlic bread with peas and cauliflower (V)
- Jacket potato with tuna mayo or cheese or beans.
- Oaty flapjack finger.

### Wednesday

- Filled Yorkshire pudding with beef & vegetable mince with roast potatoes, carrots and seasonal greens.
- Quorn sausage casserole in a Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes, carrots & Seasonal greens. (V)
- Jacket potato with tuna mayo or cheese or beans.
- Homemade vanilla sponge and custard.

### Thursday

- Pork sausage roll with skin on baked wedges, green beans & sweetcorn.
- Cheese & onion pastry roll with skin on baked wedges, green beans & sweetcorn. (V)
- Jacket potato with tuna mayo or cheese or beans.
- Fruity strawberry jelly & mandarin segments.

### Friday

- Cod fish fingers, chips, baked beans or peas.
- Mediterranean vegetable pasta bake with beans or peas. (V)
- Jacket potato with tuna mayo or cheese or beans.
- Chocolate shortbread.

## Upcoming Dates w/c 25<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 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024

- Film club 3.30 - 5.15pm. The film showing this week is Monsters University, £2 charge for this club. Please pay for this using the School Money app. Soft drink and biscuit provided. No sweets or chocolate please.
- Parents evening 3.30-6.30pm

### Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024

- Dodgeball for year 3 & 4 group two 8.15- 8.45am. Last session.
- Egg rolling competition. All children to bring in a hard boil egg.
- Equal Trust choir last rehearsal 3.30-4.30pm.
- Parents evening 3.30-6.30pm.

### **Wednesday 27th March 2024**

- No Bible explorers.
- Equal Trust choir concert event.
- Year 3 girls football festival at Keyworth sports club. Leaving RMJS at 3.10pm

### **Thursday 28th March 2024**

- Non uniform day for winning house (announced on Wednesday)
- Martial arts club 8-8.45am
- Year 3 swimming. Please ensure you remember your swimming kit and any inhalers required.
- Egg rolling competition final.
- School disco 6.30-8pm. £2 on the door. Tuck shop available, please bring change.

### **Friday 29th March 2024**

Good Friday Bank holiday.

School closed.