



The Mosley Academy

Newsletter

Friday 21/03/2025



Comic Relief

What a fun day we have had today raising money and dressing in red to mark Comic Relief.

Thank you for your generous donations you raised £236.25! It is also the 40 year anniversary of Comic Relief. Radio Derby visited in the week interviewing staff about what they remember about 1985 and collecting jokes off the staff and children too. You can listen again on BBC Sounds-Ian Skye-Available Episodes to hear all the amazing jokes!



Hens

There has been a lot of added egg-citement today, as we have started to build our chicken coop and walk –in run! More information on this next week....

Within the next week or so our hens will arrive and be made very welcome. In order to give the chicken food fund a little boost, we are asking for a 50p donation to enter the Easter Bonnet Parade or egg scene competition on the last day of the term, Friday 11th April. The parade will be at 9 am on the school playground weather permitting.

There will of course be a prize for each class for the 'best entry'.

Easter Bingo

The PTFA are arranging our Easter Bingo for Thursday 10th April.

Can we ask for chocolate donations, Easter Eggs, small/medium/large, Easter themed chocolate, and any general chocolate for the event. It always proves to be an egg-cellent evening, so please donate what you can!

More details will follow next week from the PTFA, so hold the date!

Lost Property

Please pop by and see if any of lost property belongs to your child, we have absolutely loads! We also have more donated items in the foyer by the office, please help yourself!

Soccerstars

We are pleased to tell you that from Tuesday 1st April, our Reception class will be able to join SoccerStars at the after school club.

If you are interested in your child attending this after school club on a Tuesday then please book direct on www.soccerstarsuk.co.uk

OPAL Donations –Extra Items Added!

PLEASE, PLEASE can everyone bring in just one thing (or more!) to support our OPAL playtimes. The main loose parts that children are asking for are -

Tarpaulins

Mud kitchen items

Sand play items

Suitcases

Electrical cable wheels- plastic or wood

Eyelet or tab top curtains

Plastic tubing or guttering

Crates/ Bread baskets etc

Musical instruments

Pool noodles

Bubbles

Chalks

Paintbrushes

Blankets

Old garden furniture - plastic or metal

Old toddler pushchairs

If in doubt, pop and speak to Mrs Ingham, Mrs Kavanagh or Mrs Rowe

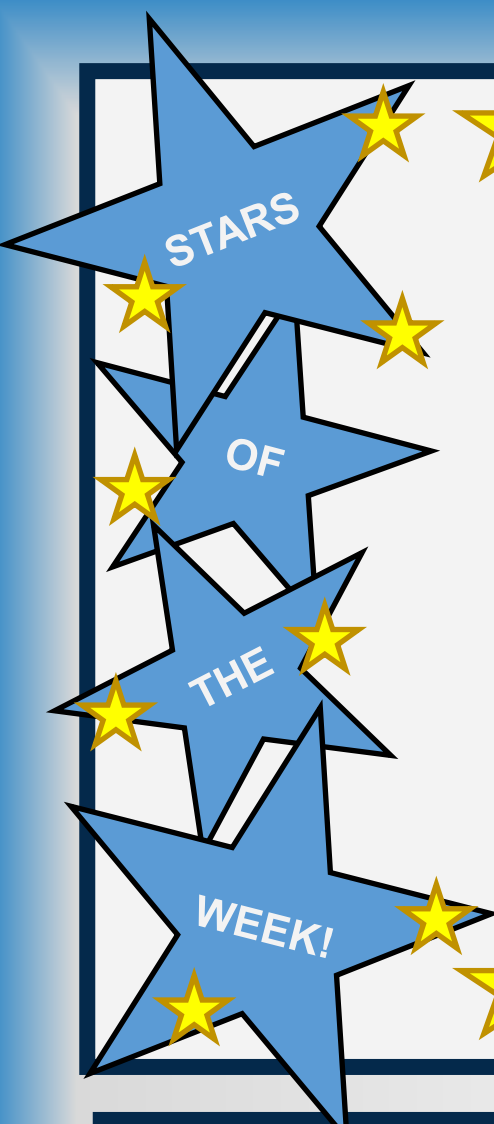
We are putting together a little iMovie of all things OPAL playtimes so you can see the simply brilliant playtimes that the children have at Mosley.

Also Breakfast Club require donations of board games or jigsaw puzzles, if anyone has any unwanted ones at home, please bring them in.

STAR Foundation

On Monday we welcomed Tim, an actor specialising in history! He worked with every class to do some drama linked history sessions.

The STAR FOUNDATION provide these sessions free of charge to those schools who have a STAR Bin outside of school. We will also receive a donation each year based on the amount of clothing and goods recycled.



CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Rec	Annabelle
Y1	Diana
Y2	Willow M
Y3	Elsie
Y4	Alfie G
Y5	Mabel
Y6	Eloise

ATTENDANCE Target 97.5%

Year Group	This Week Attendance %	Days Missed This Week
Rec	99.3	1
Year 1	97	1.5
Year 2	97.9	3
Year 3	97.4	4
Year 4	95.5	7
Year 5	96.4	5.5
Year 6	96.3	5.5
Whole School	97.1	27.5



Whole School Year to Date Attendance

96.8%

820 days missed so far this year

Diary Dates 2024 - 2025

Any changes made from the previous week will be marked in red

DATE	YEAR	EVENT
Fri 28th Mar	ALL	Mother's Day Shop. Mother's Day gifts handmade in school, £3 in the PTFA box in school reception area – latest Monday 24th March please.
Fri 28th Mar	Y3,Y4,Y5 & Y6	Mother's Day Lunch –Details on newsletter, book on MCAS from Monday 17th March.
Mon 31st Mar	Rec, Y1 and Y2	Mother's Day Lunch—Details on newsletter, book on MCAS from Monday 17th March.
Weds 2nd April	Yr 1	Year 1 Parents Recount Writing Workshop 9am-10am
Fri 4th Apr	Y5	Y5 Parent Lunch - available to book on MCAS under Clubs tab.
Thurs 10th Apr	ALL	Chocolate Bingo—details to follow from PTFA
Fri 11th Apr	ALL	Easter Bonnet Parade and Egg Scene Competition. Details on newsletter.—9 am parade on playground– 50 p donation to the hen fund payable on the day please
Fri 11th Apr	ALL	Break Up for Easter 2.30pm
Mon 14th Apr - Fri 25th Apr	ALL	Easter Holidays
Mon 28th Apr	ALL	Return to School
Fri 2nd May	ALL	May Day Celebrations 9 am on the playground weather permitting
Mon 5th May	ALL	May Day Holiday - School Closed
Thurs 8th May	Y1	Phonics Screening Workshop
Mon 12th May	Y6	SAT's Week for Year 6
Fri 23rd May	ALL	Family Picnic—12.30-1.30 Welcome to join our OPAL playtime followed by family reading picnic at 1.30 onwards on the school field– bring your own picnic snacks
Fri 23rd May	ALL	Break Up For Half Term

DATE	YEAR	EVENT
Mon 26th May - Fri 30th May	ALL	Half Term
Mon 2nd Jun	ALL	Return to School
Mon 16th Jun	Y3/Y4	WCET Violin and Ukulele Concert Birmingham Symphony Hall Birmingham
Fri 20th Jun	ALL	Sports Day and Summer Fair 1.15 onwards
Wed 2nd Jul	Rec, Y1, Y2	Seaside Day EYFS and KS1
Thurs 3rd Jul	Y3,4,5, 6	Seaside Day KS2
Fri 4th Jul	ALL	INSET Day - School Closed to Children
Wed 9th Jul	KS2	Summer Music Showcase
Tues 15th Jul	ALL	Move Up Morning and Meet the Teacher (3.30pm-4pm)
Fri 18th Jul	ALL	Break Up for Summer Holidays 2.30pm
Mon 21st Jul	ALL	INSET Day - School Closed to Children
Tues 22nd Jul - Fri 29th Aug	ALL	Summer Holidays

95%	=	40 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 8 days in total or 1 week and 3 days	ATTENDANCE MATTERS WHAT DO YOUR ATTENDANCE FIGURES ACTUALLY MEAN? BE SMART BE THERE! <small>Percentages based on 190 academic days</small>
90%	=	80 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 16 days in total or 3 weeks and 1 day	
85%	=	120 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 24 days in total or 4 weeks and 4 days	
80%	=	160 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 32 days in total or 6 weeks and 2 days	



JUNIOR BAKE OFF



JOIN THE CLASS OF 2025!

JUNIOR BAKE OFF

**... IS LOOKING FOR BRILLIANT BAKERS, AGES
9-15 FOR THE NEXT NEW AND EXCITING
SERIES!**

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE
SUNDAY 23RD MARCH**

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EASTER BIG BOUNCE

Giant Indoor Inflatable Play Event

DATES & VENUES NOW LIVE!

BOOK YOUR SPACE HERE

Unlimited Play on a Huge Indoor Arena Full of Supervised Inflatables & Interactive Games

Ideal for 4 - 13 year olds

- Bouncy Castles - Slides - Free Fall Jump
- Obstacle Courses - Sports Games - Rodeo Sheep
- Under 5's Zone - Speed Game - Disco Dome
- Total Wipeout Sweeper Game - nerf guns
- Helter Skelter - Wrecking Ball - Bungee

**UNDER 5'S
INFLATABLES**



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**EasterEgg Hunt
& Charity Raffle**



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@Big Bounce Events



EASTER BIG BOUNCE 2025

EASTER DATES

ALL EVENTS ONLINE AVAILABLE TO BOOK

SUN 23rd MARCH - CHEADLE

South Moorlands Leisure Centre - ST10 1HJ

MON 7th APRIL - KETTERING

Kettering Buccleuch Academy - NN16 9NS

WED 9th APRIL - CORBY

Lodge Park Sports Centre - NN17 2SG

SUN 13th APRIL - SWADLINCOTE

The Pingle Academy - DE11 0QA

TUES 15th APRIL - DAVENTRY

Daventry Leisure Centre - NN11 4FP

WEDNESDAY 16th - STOURBRIDGE

Crystal Leisure Centre - DY8 1AE

THURS 17th APRIL - CANNOCK

Chase Leisure Centre - WS11 4AL

GOOD FRIDAY 18th - WALSALL WOOD

Oak Park Active Living Centre - WS9 9BH

EASTER MON 21st - SOLIHULL

North Solihull Sports Centre - B37 5LA

TUES 22nd - COALVILLE

Castle Rock High School - LE67 4BR

WED 23rd - STAFFORD

Stafford Leisure Centre - ST16 3TA

THURS 24th - BURTON

Shobnall Leisure Complex - DE14 2BB

FRIDAY 25th - BLOXWICH

Bloxwich Active Living Centre - WS3 2DA

SUNDAY 27th - BIDDULPH

Biddulph Valley Leisure Centre - ST8 7HL



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With more than two billion active users, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. The UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging, but for the time being, this controversial feature remains.

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency' – plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user they want to message. Therefore, if a child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that the child might be added to a group chat or community (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people they don't know.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allow news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "Forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original... and might not be entirely factual, either.

CHAT LOCK AND SECRET CODES

In 2023, WhatsApp introduced a feature that lets users keep their chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind their phone's passcode, fingerprint or face ID. There is an additional feature – 'Secret Code' – where users set a unique password for locked chats. Unfortunately, this creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of.

VIEW ONCE CONTENT

The ability to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate material or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't reopen them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this disappearing content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing protection of privacy.

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's Live Location feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child is safe while out, for example. However, anyone in a user's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider 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.

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. You can give permission to My Contacts or My Contacts Except... Additionally, if a 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

Check in with the child about how they're using WhatsApp, making sure they know you only have their safety at heart. If you spot a Locked Chats folder, you might want to talk about the sort of content they've stored in there, who they're talking to, and why they want to keep these chats hidden. Also, if children send any View Once content, it could be helpful to ask them why.

DISCUSS GROUP CHATS

Make children aware that there could be members of a group that they don't know well and that words can be misinterpreted. Encourage them to leave a good impression, to avoid joining in if conversations turn towards bullying, and to respond to such situations in an appropriate way. Make sure they know that it's OK to leave a group chat if it makes them uncomfortable – or for any reason, in fact.

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 that a user posts to be shared more widely, even publicly on social media. Encourage children to consider how an impulsive message or forwarding might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

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

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

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MARVEL RIVALS

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
12

ESRB advise nobody under the age of 13 should play

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Marvel Rivals launched in December 2024 and amassed a player count of nearly 150,000 in mere weeks. This player versus player (PvP) shooter packs in a host of recognisable comic-book characters, pitting two teams of six against each other. Despite the game's cartoonish nature, there are several potential risks for parents and educators to be aware of.

IN-GAME CHAT

Voice chat allows players to speak to teammates and opponents within the game, but in a competitive environment, some conversations can become unpleasant. Text chat is equally prominent among those playing on PC and will be shown on the side of the screen. Moderation on chats is relatively lax, so it's important to recognise that potentially inappropriate messages could arrive at any time.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

While Marvel Rivals is free, there is an in-game store, selling character skins from recognisable movies and comic-book titles. Each season also includes a £10 Battle Pass (much like those seen in Fortnite and Call of Duty), offering a series of exclusive cosmetic items. These passes don't expire – but they can't be purchased once the next season rolls around, creating a fear of missing out.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With such a huge player base, it's impossible to predict whom your child will be teaming up with or playing against. They're virtually certain to run into strangers through voice and text chat, for starters. Most of these people will just be ordinary gamers enjoying the action, but there is the risk of some users behaving inappropriately with younger players – either intentionally, or because they don't realise that they're speaking to a child.

VIOLENT CONTENT

There's no gore in Marvel Rivals, and the violence depicted is comparatively cartoonish – but the playable characters available vary between more traditional superheroes and supervillains, and figures like Black Widow and The Punisher, who use more realistic firearms. Given the game's nature as a shooter, this may make some parents and carers uncomfortable as some players will be firing these weapons at each other.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The game includes some innuendos and mature themes in the dialogue, which could expose youngsters to content unsuitable for their age, detracting from a safe and family-friendly gaming experience. As we mentioned previously, the content of the in-game chat could also be age-inappropriate, ranging from swearing to mature themes to potentially harmful content.

FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

The inclusion of iconic characters might make Marvel Rivals appear more approachable than other games in the genre, with recognisable heroes and villains like Spider-Man and Venom. This could lead to more interest from younger players, increasing the likelihood of children playing the game without properly understanding the risks.

Advice for Parents & Educators

FOLLOW ESRB RATINGS

The ESRB rating for Marvel Rivals says the game shouldn't be played by anyone under 13. Most children of that age will be able to appreciate the moral compass of the roster of characters (people can play as Hela, the Goddess of Death, for example), while also ensuring that the violence, however cartoonish, won't overwhelm them.



FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

The game's inclusion of fan-favourite characters like Iron Man and the Hulk, plus its increasing popularity, means that younger Marvel fans will likely be eager to see what the fuss is about. Since it's free, consider playing Marvel Rivals yourself to gauge how you feel about a child playing it. Alternatively, you could let them play against the game's AI in Practice Mode, until they're old enough to compete online.

MONITOR OR TURN OFF CHAT

Voice and text chat can both be adjusted within the in-game settings. If you're particularly concerned about exposing children and young people to them, however, you can disable both forms of chat in the game's settings. If a child wants to play alongside friends, remind them that they can use their console's party chat feature or host a call on a third-party service like Discord.



DISCONNECT PAYMENT OPTIONS

Parents should ensure that no payment options – such as debit cards – are linked to the game, to prevent unauthorised purchases and charges. Children can be tempted by enticing in-game offers without fully understanding the costs. Removing payment methods avoids impulsive in-game spending and instils a sense of financial awareness, teaching young people to be careful with their money.



Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor at the Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, he has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and plenty more.



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10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



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HOLIDAY SPORTS CAMP

Have fun in the school holidays with your friends!



William Shrewsbury

Mosley Academy

Thomas Russell Infants

William Shrewsbury (DE13 0HE)
April 14th-25th
Thomas Russell (DE138DS)
April 14th-25th
Mosley Academy (DE139QD)
April 14th-17th

Camp info

Times: 8.30am - 3.15pm
Ages: 4-13
What to bring:
Packed lunch
snack plenty to drink,
Late collection option
4.15pm

Featuring

- Dodgeball
- Football
- Basketball
- Cricket
- Movies at lunchtime
- Easter Activities
- Street dance
- Nerf wars
- Zorb football
- Capture the flag
- Gymnastics
- Axe throwing

Apply: @activelearningsports.com

If you receive this flyer you will be within 15 minutes drive of one of our venues



The Mosley Academy

PTFA Newsletter

MARCH 2025



Friendship, Kindness & Love Disco

We hope all the children enjoyed ending the half term with the Disco.

A big thank you to the volunteers and teachers who gave their time so the children could have fun.

Ticket sales and tuck shop items sold raised **£465 profit!**

Upcoming Events!

March – Mother's Day Shop Friday 28th March

April – As last year was so much fun we have decided to do it again – Chocolate BINGO! Thursday 10th April

May – Family Picnic Friday 23rd May

June – Summer Fair Friday 20th June



MOTHER'S DAY

Mother's Day

For the Mother's Day Shop this year children will be making something in school to bring home on Friday 28th March.

For those wishing to participate please put £3 cash in a named envelope in the red PTFA box by the end of the day on:

Friday 21st March

Funding Commitments

We have contributed £100 to each class to offset against the cost of coaches for their class trip. Year 4 have already been to Poole's Cavern.

Coaches to Lichfield Garrick for the Pantomime were funded for everyone.

KS2 children had a drama workshop for anti-bullying week.

KS1 & Reception – watch this space!