



# The Mosley Academy Newsletter

Friday 28/03/2025



## Mothers Day Lunch

It was a very busy first day of parent lunches today. Thank you for coming and sharing a special lunchtime.

A big thank you to all the mums/nans for arriving on time, it made the whole experience very enjoyable for everyone!

A Happy Mother's Day to all our wonderful Mum's this Sunday!

We look forward to welcoming more of our lovely mums on Monday!



## Chocolate Bingo

Tickets will be on sale via the school office for this as of next week. Details on the poster. Please send money in an envelope with your name and ticket information requested.

We are also asking for donations of chocolate- big or small please so as we can get busy making up the bingo prizes, if these could be in school no later than Friday 4th April, thank you. **Non uniform day on Friday 4th in exchange for donating chocolate!**

It was a great family night last year so we are looking forward to another evening of family fun. Our two resident bingo callers are Mrs Ingham and Miss Fryer!

## Welcome Back Miss Luce

Next week we are excited to officially welcome back Miss Luce for three days per week teaching the year 5 children on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

After Easter Miss Luce will be teaching the Monday Tuesday and Wednesday with Mr Parkinson teaching on the Thursday and Friday until the end of the academic year.

Miss Luce will then be working full time from September. Welcome back!!

## Phunky Foods Audit

Next week our Phunky foods ambassador children have organised an audit of lunch boxes over next week. They delivered a whole school assembly yesterday to share with the children their plans. Well done children!

## Opal Donations

Thank you so much for the donations to Opal play... keep them coming! The children are having a fabulous playtime with the amount of loose parts on offer.

## **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!

## **Monies Owed**

**Please can all outstanding balances for dinners, trips, breakfast club etc be paid in full by Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at the very latest.**

**If payments are not made by this date then unfortunately, we will not be able to allow your child to continue in breakfast club or have a school dinner.** Home sandwiches will need to be bought in to school.

After the Easter holiday, we will be updating our breakfast club procedures. All children will need to be booked on and paid for in advance. Breakfast club is a really popular provision and in order to cater effectively for staffing ratios and food items, all children will need to be booked on in advance. More details to follow.

Thank you for your understanding.

## **Netball**

Mrs Ingham and Miss Hardwick were proud take the netball squad to represent Mosley in the Dove Valley Netball league last week.

With 11 games in a row the girls played non stop and had some fantastic results! There were substantial wins with a few draws and losses thrown in. Everyone played their socks off and it was wonderful to see the support the girls showed for each other and their determination to be the best that they can be.

Thank you for your hard work girls and thank you to our supporters!



## **School Dinner Increase**

The cost of a school dinner for a child, as of 1st April 2025, will be £3.00. The price of an adult dinner will be £3.30. Children in EYFS and KS1 will all continue to be free through universal free school meals.

## **After School Clubs**

Next week we will send our updated list and booking details for our after school clubs... we also welcome an exciting new provider to our school .

More details in assembly next week. Children, we think you will love who we will be working with you to deliver extra after school clubs! Watch this space...

## **Easter Holiday Club**

Please support our Easter Holiday Camp at Mosley from Monday 14th April –Thursday 17th April, **book on at [activelearningsports.com](http://activelearningsports.com)**

STARS

OF

THE

WEEK!

## CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Rec	Poppy
Y1	Edward
Y2	Jacob
Y3	Caleb
Y4	Thea
Y5	Clara
Y6	Nathan

## ATTENDANCE Target 97.5%

Year Group	This Week Attendance %	Days Missed This Week
Rec	98	3
Year 1	98.7	2
Year 2	98.6	2
Year 3	99.3	1
Year 4	99.7	0.5
Year 5	94.8	7.5
Year 6	97.3	4
<b>Whole School</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>20</b>



Staffordshire County Council

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## Whole School Year to Date Attendance

**96.9%**

840 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
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 and <b>non uniform day and bring in chocolate!</b>
Thurs 10th Apr	ALL	Chocolate Bingo— <b>details on attached flyer from PTFA</b>
Fri 11th Apr	ALL	Easter Bonnet Parade and Egg Scene Competition. 9am parade on playground– 50p 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!

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



The Mosley Academy &  
PTFA

# Chocolate Bingo!

Thursday 10th April

5:15 - 6:45

Eyes down 5:30

Line prize - Easter Egg

Full House prize - Hamper

Entry ticket - £2

Includes a welcome drink

Buy your tickets at the Office from  
Monday 31st March - Friday 4th April

Bingo Ticket Book - £10

These will be available to buy on the night

CASH ONLY PLEASE

# 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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FACEBOOK COMPETITION  
WIN FAMILY BIG BOUNCE TICKETS  
@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.



The National College®

# HOLIDAY SPORTS CAMP



Have fun in the school holidays with your friends!



**William Shrewsbury**

**Mosley Academy**

**Thomas Russell Infants**

William Shrewsbury  
(DE13 OHE)  
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

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