



Issue 8 Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024



Spring Term 2024 is complete!

It has been a cracking term (no pun intended) of great highs - the Hot Cross Cafe, World Book Day, Comic Relief and the Year 4 production of Wind in the Willows – what a show!

The children have worked so hard this term and are progressing well in their learning, I'm incredibly proud of all of them.

You will have received your child's Attendance and Punctuality letter (a two-term update). Congratulations to all those children who have achieved a Zoomania voucher for being part of the 97up Club! There were nearly 200 children: I'd love to double this for the end of the summer term!

As you know we say goodbye to our wonderful Sarah Brew today as she is off to be a neighbouring Headteacher at North Marston Primary School. Words cannot express how much Sarah means to me, the staff and of course the children. She has committed 18 years of her life to Thomas Hickman School and it is a fact – the school simply won't be the same without her. But, her legacy will continue. She has achieved so much in her time here whether it be in her role as Safeguarding lead, English lead or pupil champion. Sarah Brew, you are a 'top BIRD' (hahahaha) we love you very much and wish you luck and success as you go on to great things.

Have a restful Spring break everyone - Ramadan Mubarak to our Muslim community and Happy Easter to our Christian community.

To all of you, enjoy the special time with your families.

Keep safe.

Much love,

Pippa x

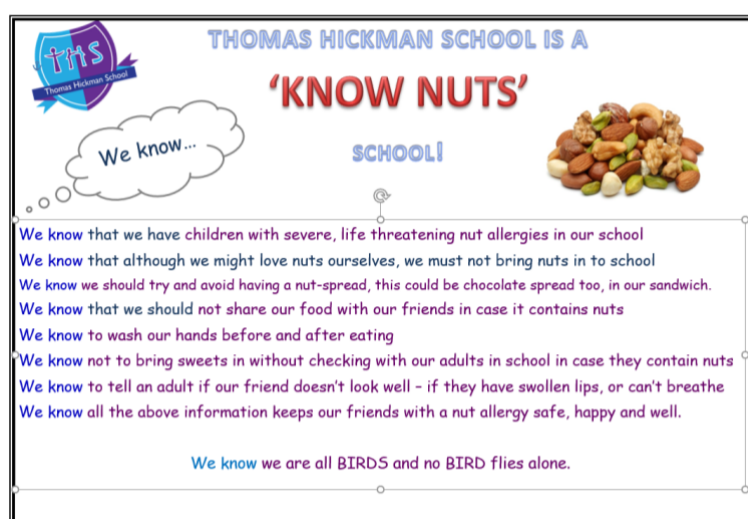
## Hot Dinner Menu

Our lunch room staff kindly ask you to take time to order your child's food with them. They are finding currently, that many of the children are not liking the choice they have as they have not been involved with their menu choice.

## Healthy Lunch Box

### Supertato's Tips for a Healthy Lunchbox:

- 😊 Vary the contents of your child's lunchbox daily.
- 😊 Involve your child in preparing their lunchbox. They are more likely to enjoy food they have made themselves.
- 😊 Keep different breads in the freezer so you can just take out and defrost what you need for one day's lunchbox. Using different breads will make the lunchbox more interesting and enjoyable.
- 😊 For variety, use pitta strips, crackers, bread sticks, or fruit and vegetable finger foods with a dip.
- 😊 Make a fruit smoothie by blending juice and fruit together, or a yoghurt or milk drink by mixing yoghurt or semi-skimmed milk with pureed fruit.
- 😊 You can use leftovers; for example, rice and curry, vegetable pizza or pasta and sauce.
- 😊 Wash your hands before handling food. Wash fruit and vegetables before use and put food in clean containers.
- 😊 Use fresh fruit and vegetables which are in season to help the environment and enjoy variety!
- 😊 Everyone enjoys a treat in their lunchbox – go ahead! Just make sure your lunchbox is nutritionally balanced.
- 😊 Please don't include sweets or fizzy drinks in your child's lunch box.
- 😊 Remember we are a 'Know Nuts' school so nothing with any kind of nut please to help keep all our BIRDS safe (if you are using chocolate spread please make sure it is a type without hazelnuts).





## **Last Note from Miss Brew**

A massive thank you to all of you for your kind words, cards and gifts.

After nearly 19 years at THS, it is with very mixed emotions that I am now moving on. I have many amazing memories of my time here, and of all the wonderful children I have had the privilege to teach and spend time with over the years. There is something very special about THS which will always stay with me.

I am very excited to start my next adventure, confident that I am leaving you in safe hands with Claire and Abi taking on the co-deputy roles. I will definitely be keeping in touch with THS in the future and I'm sure I'll be popping back now and again!

Once a THS BIRD, always a THS BIRD.

## **HAF Camp for the Easter half term 2024**

The provider named APF Activity Camps is delivering from Treehouse Pre-School on 2nd April to 5th April and 9th April to 12th April (8:30am to 12:30pm) and they currently have several places still available for families to book onto.

If you are eligible we would encourage you to book.

You can book on the HAF website <https://familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/advice-and-support/buckinghamshire-haf/how-to-book-haf-places/>

## **Hand in Hand' Parent Workshops WITH GUEST SPEAKERS**

Workshop 1: Tuesday 16th April 6pm Julia Daunt Bestselling author presents, 'Me, myself and PDA'.

Workshop 2: Tuesday 30th April 6pm Soli Lazarus expert in ADHD and author presents "ADHD is our superpower"

We look forward to welcoming you to what I am sure will be both informative and supportive sessions. These will be held at Thomas Hickman School and a Creche will be provided.

## **Eid Picnic 19<sup>th</sup> April:**

Whilst on Easter holidays, the end of Ramadan will be celebrated with Eid. To celebrate this within our school community, our annual Eid Picnic will take place on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April from 2-3pm outside the front of the school hall. Please bring your own food and drinks to enjoy with your child. Tickets will be open on an online form on the Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April (first day back). To ensure food safety and allergy needs, there will not be any food provided but it is an opportunity to share your own foods with your family.

## **PE Newsletter:**

PE @ THS continues to flourish, even in the cruel weather that has been served up. We have been out in all conditions, fighting the wind, rain and sleet to get our daily exercise!



### **Netball:**

THS HAWKS netball team have continued their excellent form, finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in a competition at St Michael's School. The team were fantastic – passing, moving, marking and shooting their way to some stunning victories.

In the league, we had a close-fought contest against Brill School. Brill went 4-0 up in the first quarter, but THS showed their resilience and bounced back to get the score back to 5-4 going into the final quarter. We just fell short and ended up losing 6-4 but there were some excellent performances all-round.

Netball Team: Noah, Darius, Aleena, Allanya, Jaycee, Olivia, Kupa, Callie, April, Reagan



### **Basketball:**



Team THS advanced to the Basketball County Finals held at Princes Risborough School. Coming up against some truly fantastic basketballers, we found life tough-going early on but came roaring back with some excellent displays of dribbling, passing and shooting. It was a tremendous learning curve for our BIRDS who have ambitions to improve in the future and there was so much to gain from the whole event. In true THS style, the teamwork and spirit in the team never dwindled and we stayed together throughout.

Basketball Team: Ruqayah, April, Leo, Guransh, Brajesh, Noah, Allanya, Eduard, Kupa.

### **Football:**

Our girls' football team have progressed so much this year – from way back in September when they were all chasing the ball – to now when the girls know their positions and are executing tactics well all over the pitch. The girls finished the league with two wins, two draws and just one defeat (in the first game of the year). It all culminated with a fantastic 2-1 comeback victory against runaway league leaders, St Mary's. We played with so much confidence, scored two stunning goals and defended superbly to see out the win against a very good team.

Girls' Football: Iylah, Phoebe, Sapphire, Jaycee, Aleena, Kupa, Callie, Olivia, Allanya, Abi.

Our boys' team are through to the quarter-finals of the cup competition this year, where they will face Haddenham at Stadium THS at the end of April. We have been competitive in the league also, winning three and losing two games this season. It bodes well for the future with so many Year 5 children pushing for places in the team this year so I look forward to another successful year next season.

Boys' Football: Jack, Pareis, Jake, Noah, Reagan, Ethan, Leo, Brajesh, Zhuliano.

With so many events coming up in the Summer Term, I am looking forward to another fantastic Summer of sport at THS!







## THS BIRDS get Ready, Steady and... READ!

Creating a love of reading in children is life-changing. Research tells us that children who read for pleasure are more likely to do well in school, have strong friendships, better mental health, better paying jobs and happier lives. We want our THS BIRDS to soar throughout their lives and are therefore pleased to announce further improvements to our reading curriculum to ensure this happens.



**Homework is changing** to support reading at home. Whilst it is still essential to listen to your child read daily, we have also invested in a new, fabulous resource, Reading Eggs! This online resource is designed to build children's reading and comprehension skills. And the best part is that children love it! Alfie in Year 5 has trialled it for us and says it's 'great'! The program makes learning to read fun and is highly motivating.

The children will be able to access this resource online using a laptop, tablet or phone, using their individual logins which you should have received. Please encourage your child to login as much as they can and access this over the break and please keep your login safe!



Another new exciting initiative we are introducing is MAGAZINE MONDAY and FICTION FRIDAY. On these days, after lunch, all classes across the school will spend 15 minutes reading. On a Monday, everyone will be reading a comic, a magazine, newspaper etc. Then on a Friday everyone will get stuck into their reading book of fiction.

Please, please get behind this initiative and ensure your child has a magazine of their choice to bring in on the first Monday back. Once finished, the children can swap their magazine with their friends or donate it to our new Comic Connections Library!



## Wordy-Wise Dads!



Lastly, Dads, Grandads, Stepdads, Uncles.... we need your help! This initiative is called '**Wordy**-Wise Dads'. Of course, we know that you are all worldly-wise, but we need you to share with our children that you are also 'wordy-wise'. The reason being that our boys do not read or achieve in reading as well as our girls. Many boys think reading is simply not for them. So we need to show boys that reading is essential for everyone whether you want to be a footballer (you need to read and sign your contract!) A bus driver, a chef or a decorator! Please email in to the office if you are interested in coming in to speak to your child's class about how reading influences your job. Even better if you yourself hated reading at school and now love it! Dads we need your stories.

If there are any questions please email the office and these will be picked up by Mrs Mann-Jones.

*"The more that you read, the more things you will know.*

*The more you learn, the more places you'll go."*

*Dr. Seuss*









### Earth Day 2024

On *Monday 22nd April* we are celebrating Earth Day 2024! We would like the Children to wear green or blue Mufti clothes. Alongside this, we would like children to bring a *bedding plant to plant* in the school grounds. At drop off, staff will direct you and your child to an area of the school where you can plant your plant together. Children who attend Breakfast Club will have the opportunity to plant their bedding plant with a member of staff. We would welcome any plants, but if possible, it would be fantastic if we could have perennial plants that re-bloom each and every year. There will be a letter to follow with further information.





<p><b>Muddy Ducks Nursery</b></p> <p>Muddy Ducks Nursery FOS after Easter will be 'Minibeasts'. During this project we will learn about the weather changes that happen during Spring/Summer time, e.g. it gets warmer, we see more flowers etc. We will also explore the different types of minibeasts in their natural habitat. Children will be learning about bugs and insects, including butterflies, ladybugs, worms and spiders.</p> 	<p><b>Muddy Ducks Pre-School</b></p> <p>Preschool have had an amazing time learning about a range of fairy tales over this half term as part of our field of study, 'Into the woods!' As well as exploring rhymes, we have built houses, collaged pictures and explored the 'good guys' and the 'bad guys'. We also had an amazing time in Communications Week, taking our parents on a monster hunt. Thank you to all the parents who were able to join us for this and for our Hartbeeps story telling session.</p> <p>Next half term we will be starting our new Field of Study, 'Sunshine and Sunflowers'. We will be growing plants, exploring food and learning about how we stay safe in the sun. We would love parents to join us for a flower themed activity on Wednesday 24th April - further details to follow!</p> 	<p><b>Reception</b></p> <p>Reception started their topic with a dress up farmer day! The children enjoyed learning all about types of farms and visiting Hogshaw and getting to see different types of animals and their young. The children enjoyed tasting the food that comes from the farm in our tasting day. Finishing off our topic with the pizzeria which parents were invited to. We love having you in and can't wait for our learning next term.</p> 
<p><b>Year 1</b></p> <p>This half term Year 1 have been enjoying lots of books linking to our field of study topic 'London's Calling'. The children had great fun laughing at the story 'The King's Pants'. They then turned into Kings and Queens themselves and rewrote the story. We have now moved onto the 'Tower Bridge Cat' and the children have thought carefully about adjectives to describe the characters.</p> <p>In maths the children have been learning about numbers to 50. We have now started to learn about measuring. We have used cubes to measure different objects and have begun to use rulers too.</p> <p>In Science, the children have been learning about the 5 senses. We have been testing our taste buds by trying different coloured yoghurts. We also had fun using our senses to work out what objects were in a feely bag.</p> <p>As part of our field of study topic the children have been looking at different lines and shapes in art. We are really looking forward to starting our new field of study next term.</p> 	<p><b>Year 2</b></p> <p><b>Long Live the King!</b></p> <p>I am delighted to share with you the incredible progress and achievements Year 2 has made over the course of this term. In our English lessons, the children have embarked upon an exciting literary journey, exploring a range of books linked to our engaging topic, "Long Live the King," they have delved into rich and captivating stories, expanding their imaginations and deepening their understanding of narrative structures.</p> <p>I am pleased to report that our swimming lessons have been progressing swimmingly! They are growing in confidence and ability in the water.</p> <p>As we approach the end of term, I would like to express my gratitude for your ongoing support and partnership, the parent pitstop 'Do you know more than your 6-7 year old?' was a success. Thank you for the large turnout; your involvement in your child's education is invaluable.</p> 	<p><b>Year 3</b></p> <p>In Year 3 we had an amazing virtual reality headset workshop! We got to fly over an erupting volcano in a helicopter and see the lava flowing down the outside of the volcano. We also visited the rainbow pool, or Grand Prismatic Pool, at the supervolcano in Yellowstone National Park which we had read about in our core text, 'Into the Volcano'.</p> <p>We loved World Book Day and enjoyed sipping delicious hot chocolate and taking part in workshops based on some wonderful books. We are looking forward to our Geobus workshop and another author zoom with Bex Hogan in the last week of term.</p> 



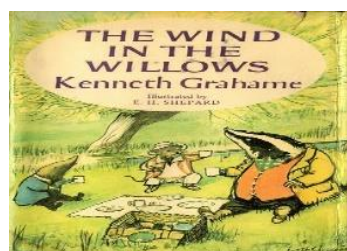


#### Year 4

What an amazing half term! We're so grateful to everyone who supported us to put together our amazing production. Thank you also to everyone who came to see our BIRDS perform!

We've loved our English learning all to do with 'The Wind in the Willows' especially our programmes for our production.

In maths, we've completed our learning about Fractions and will be starting decimals after half term. Please remember to log into TTRS every day if you can!



#### Year 5

In Year 5, we have been working very hard across the board. We have been making miniature allotments and understanding statistics - including how to interpret line graphs and data tables. We are also writing incredibly exciting newspaper reports linked to our book, 'Bloom'.



#### Year 6

Year 6 have had a fabulous term learning all about the Frozen Kingdoms of the world and we enjoyed sharing all our knowledge with the adults who joined us at the Parent Finale. Thank you for joining us! After Easter we begin our learning journey about "Britain at War" - this takes our learning from the beginning of World War One to the end of World War 2. It is a jam packed term that includes a trip to Bletchley Park on 21<sup>st</sup> May - more details on the trip will be out the first week back after Easter. It is also our SATS in the next term during w/c 13<sup>th</sup> May, running from Monday - Thursday. Please ensure your child is in school during this period, unless they are very unwell (a further message will come out after Easter about the plans for this week). Our Pit Stop will be Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May @ 2.30pm. After this busy term and an even busier one to come, enjoy the break and return refreshed! See you on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April.



### Message from the Bucks School Nursing Service

#### Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust

School Nursing Services  
CYP Admin  
Haleacre Unit  
Amersham Hospital  
Whielden Street  
Amersham  
Bucks HP7 0JD

[Bht.schoolhealth-enquiries@nhs.net](mailto:Bht.schoolhealth-enquiries@nhs.net)

Tel: 01296 838000 option 5  
[www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk/school-nursing](http://www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk/school-nursing)

Dear Parent/Carer

Following the recent height and weight measurements taken in school as part of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) we would like to draw your attention to the free services and wealth of healthy lifestyle resources that can help on Be Healthy Bucks  
<https://bhb.maximusuk.co.uk/>

Be Healthy Bucks offers a free family programme for children aged 7 to 11 to help them reach a healthier weight, and online resources for all ages to achieve a healthy weight. If your child's NCMP measurement letter results showed as overweight, we would recommend contacting the service for support.

Be Healthy Bucks is a free service that offers support to Buckinghamshire residents to make simple and sustainable health and wellbeing changes.

If you are interested in support for yourself, Be Healthy Bucks also provides help to stop smoking, lose weight or cut down on drinking alcohol. To explore if you could improve your health, visit their website and take a quick 5-question survey.

Please visit [Be Healthy Bucks](https://bhb.maximusuk.co.uk/), call 03332 300177 or scan the below QR code to register to access the resources or to find out more.



Yours Sincerely  
Susie Mitchell  
Service Lead for School Nursing and Learning Disability Nursing

OUTSTANDING CARE

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

AND A GREAT PLACE TO WORK

Providing a range of acute and community services across Buckinghamshire  
Chair: David Highton Chief Executive: Neil Macdonald

GETTING STARTED WITH THE  
**SchoolScreener  
ParentPortal®**  
IN 4 EASY STEPS

**STEP 1 - FIND & OPEN THE LINK**

Your child's school, or school health provider, will have sent you a link to the required document. Open the email, and click the link, to be redirected to our secure landing page. This could be:

- a consent form
- a health questionnaire
- information about a screening programme

**STEP 2 - REGISTER OR LOGIN**

First time? You will need to Register an account. We only need your name & contact information, on a one-time basis. You'll receive an email from **'no-reply@thomsonscreening.com'** asking you to create a password. You can now log on.

**STEP 3 - FILL IN THE FORM**

When you've logged in, you'll see the relevant form. "Fill in the questionnaire form" button. Complete some details about your child. Any fields with an asterisk (\*) must be filled in to progress. All done? Press the "Submit" button to complete the questionnaire. Need a break? You can save and exit at any time, to come back to it later.

**STEP 4 - FINAL STEPS**

Submitted? The status will update on the "Submissions" screen. You will also receive an email, detailing any required next steps. Add other children using the "Add another child" button. Children in different schools? Simply wait for another invite.

**Still need help?**  
Contact us:  
0203 958 4181  
[parentsupport@schoolscreener.com](mailto:parentsupport@schoolscreener.com)

**SchoolScreener  
PARENT PORTAL**



## Summer 1 Diary.....

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<u>15<sup>th</sup> April</u> Return to school – gates open at 8:30am	<u>16<sup>th</sup> April</u>	<u>17<sup>th</sup> April</u>	<u>18<sup>th</sup> April</u> Reception Bug hunt in the Woodlands (parents to join)	<u>19<sup>th</sup> April</u> Eid Picnic
<u>22<sup>nd</sup> April</u> Reception visitor Geoff Steel Earth Day – bedding plants please!	<u>23<sup>rd</sup> April</u> St George's Day	<u>24<sup>th</sup> April</u> Pre-school- Flower activity	<u>25<sup>th</sup> April</u>	<u>26<sup>th</sup> April</u>
<u>29<sup>th</sup> April</u> Echoes – Royal Albert Hall	<u>30<sup>th</sup> April</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> May</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> May</u>	<u>3<sup>rd</sup> May</u>
<u>6<sup>th</sup> May</u> May Bank Holiday	<u>7<sup>th</sup> May</u> Muddy Ducks - Forest Experience	<u>8<sup>th</sup> May</u> Reception Share a story/stay and play/make a bug hotel	<u>9<sup>th</sup> May</u>	<u>10<sup>th</sup> May</u>
<u>13<sup>th</sup> May</u> Yr6 SATS	<u>14<sup>th</sup> May</u> Yr6 SATS	<u>15<sup>th</sup> May</u> Yr6 SATS Yr2 – Pitstop	<u>16<sup>th</sup> May</u> Yr6 SATS	<u>17<sup>th</sup> May</u> Yr3 - Pitstop
<u>20<sup>th</sup> May</u> Yr5 – Pitstop	<u>21<sup>st</sup> May</u> Muddy Ducks – Art and Crafts Yr1- Pitstop Yr6 – Bletchley Park	<u>22<sup>nd</sup> May</u> Yr6- Pitstop	<u>23<sup>rd</sup> May</u> Yr4 - Pitstop	<u>24<sup>th</sup> May</u> Break up for Half term Reception Ugly bug ball 2pm (children only)





## In the community



**Buckinghamshire  
Family Learning**

**FREE EARLY YEARS WORKSHOPS for PARENTS and CARERS**

Booking is essential. SCAN the QR code or CLICK on the [link](#) below or PHONE 01296 383582



**BUSY FINGERS**  
EYBF031 (4 WEEKS)

HITHERCROFT FAMILY CENTRE, WYCOMBE  
• **Monday 22 April**, 9:30am to 11:30am

HAMPDEN WAY FAMILY CENTRE, WYCOMBE  
• **Wednesday 24 April**, 10am to 12pm

SCAN ME 

SCAN ME 

**YOUR HEALTHY ACTIVE CHILD**  
EYHA034 (4 WEEKS)

SOUTHCOURT FAMILY CENTRE, AYLESBURY  
• **Tuesday 23 April**, 1pm to 3pm

NEWTOWN FAMILY CENTRE, CHESHAM  
• **Wednesday 24 April**, 10am to 12pm

 Active



**PLAY AND LEARN**  
EYPL046 (5 WEEKS)

ELMHURST FAMILY CENTRE, AYLESBURY  
• **Thursday 25 April**, 10am to 12pm

SCAN ME 

SCAN ME 

**CONFIDENT ME**  
EYCM032 (5 WEEKS)

CASTLEFIELD ADULT LEARNING CENTRE, WYCOMBE  
• **Tuesday 23 April**, 10am to 12pm

PRINCES RISBOROUGH FAMILY CENTRE  
• **Thursday 25 April**, 10am to 12pm

 Wellbeing

 [facebook](#) [instagram](#) [twitter](#) [linkedin](#) [youtube](#) [buckinghamshireadultlearning](#) [BucksAdLearning](#) [adultlearningbc.ac.uk](#)

 Funded by UK Government

**Discover Bucks  
Museum**  
& Roald Dahl Children's Gallery

**FREE** Saturday 30 March – Easter Eggstravaganza!  
Family Day FREE with standard admission charges, drop in 10am - 4pm. Suitable for ages 3+

Monday 1 April – Hatch An Easter Pom-pom Chick!  
£3.50, drop in 10am - 4pm. Suitable for ages 4+

Tuesday 2 April – Make A Fossil! 2 hour workshop  
£7, 10am - 12pm. Suitable for ages 5+

Wednesday 3 April – A World Of Your Own!  
£3.50, drop in 10am - 1pm. Suitable for ages 3+

Thursday 4 April – Introduction to Ink Drawing. 2 hour workshop  
£6, 10am - 12pm. Suitable for ages 11+

Friday 5 April – Eggcellent Experiments! 1 hour workshop  
£6, 10.15am - 11.15am or 1.30pm - 2.30pm. Suitable for ages 5+

Monday 8 April – Celebrating Eid!  
£3.50, drop in 10am - 12pm or 1pm - 3pm. Suitable for ages 3+

Tuesday 9 April – Bucks Back in Time: The Victorians  
£4.50, drop in 10am - 12pm or 1pm - 3pm. Suitable for ages 5+

Wednesday 10 April – Let's Print!  
£4, drop in 10am - 12pm or 1pm - 3pm. Suitable for ages 4+

Thursday 11 April – Make A Pet!  
£3.50, drop in 10am - 12pm or 1pm - 3pm. Suitable for ages 4+

Friday 12 April – Let's Sculpt!  
£5, drop in 10am - 12pm or 1pm - 3pm. Suitable for ages 4+

Make a day of it and visit the Roald Dahl Children's Gallery and the rest of the Museum while you're here. We're now open Sundays 12pm - 4pm as well.

For more event details, charges and to book please scan the QR code or visit [discoverbucksmuseum.org](#)

Enjoy our Easter Egg Trail on every day Friday 29 March - Sunday 14 April

**Discover Bucks  
Museum**  
& Roald Dahl Children's Gallery

Discover Bucks Museum  
Church Street  
Aylesbury HP20 2QP  
[discoverbucksmuseum.org](#)  
01296 331441

**Easter Holiday Activities**  
29 March - 14 April 2024

Join us for our Egg-cellent Easter Craft Activities, take part in our new exhibition This Fractured Land inspired art classes, celebrate Eid with paper craft, step back in time to Victorian Bucks and make your own paper pet for National Pet Day! Plus enjoy our Easter Egg Trail on every day of the holidays.

For more event details, charges and to book please scan the QR code or visit [discoverbucksmuseum.org](#)



**Book Now**




Discover Bucks Museum, Aylesbury HP20 2QP  
01296 331441 | [discoverbucksmuseum.org](#)

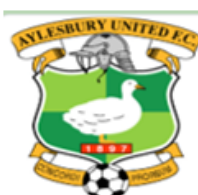




Aylesbury United FC will be hosting a Community Day on **Saturday 13th April 2024** when The Ducks play Ware FC in our penultimate Southern League Division One Central home game of the season (3pm kick off). There will be some **family fun and child friendly activities** within the ground before [kick off](#) and at half time.

It will be **FREE entry for all those who complete the registration form** (linked below at the bottom of this email).

The venue is The Meadow, Amy Lane, Chesham, HP5 1NE



## One Club: United

### Aylesbury United Community Day - Registration

Aylesbury United FC will be hosting a Community Day on **Saturday 13th April 2024** when The Ducks play Ware FC in our penultimate Southern League Division One Central home game of the season (3pm kick off). There will be some **family fun and child friendly activities** within the ground before kick off and at half time.

It will be **FREE entry for all those who complete this registration form**, and you can register multiple people on the same form (must be named).

The venue is The Meadow, Amy Lane, Chesham, HP5 1NE which is where the club currently play their home games, as we have been homeless and playing out of town for the last 18 years.

Registration will close at midnight on **9th April 2024**. For those not registered by this time the cost to enter the ground will be £9 per adult, £6 for concessions and £1 for children (under 16).

Come and cheer on The Ducks!



The school would like to express their sincere thanks for the donations we have received recently from them.

Where **CURIOSITY** HATCHES, *creativity* takes *Flight* and *learning* SOARS TO A SKY OF *Opportunity*.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CLICKBAIT

Clickbait is a controversial online marketing strategy which uses sensationalist (and frequently misleading) headlines to encourage engagement with an article, image or video – often playing on users' emotions and curiosity, while much of the actual content is of questionable accuracy. Clickbait is also sometimes used to disguise scams, phishing sites and malware.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

**HARMFUL MISINFORMATION**

Clickbait tends to play fast and loose with the truth, opting for eye-catching content over objectivity. This is particularly dangerous for younger internet users, who are generally more susceptible to that type of material. A child could be presented with false news, misleading articles and – in some cases – outright lies without fully understanding what they're viewing and why it's harmful.

**INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**

Due to the misleading nature of many examples of clickbait, what may seem to be innocuous and child-friendly could actually contain age-inappropriate material such as extremist political views or violent, pornographic or sexually explicit content. This is clearly a hazard for young people, who could be upset, disturbed or influenced by exposure to such subject matter.

**HIDDEN MALWARE**

While most clickbait is simply trying to promote engagement to earn companies additional revenue, some of it does redirect to dubious sites with the potential to infect devices with viruses or malware. This could put a child's sensitive data – such as their name, email location and their date of birth – at risk of being accessed and exploited by malicious hackers.

### PRIVACY PROBLEMS

Some clickbait leads to sites which could coax a child into volunteering their personal data – using pop-ups to ask them for their email address and phone numbers. For example, in exchange for accessing additional content or subscribing to services or newsletters. Normally, this harvested information is then sold to third parties, who often utilise it for targeted adverts and other sales schemes.

**A DRAINING DISTRACTION**

Clickbait encourages spiralling consumption of online content, which could easily result in a young person spending hours scrolling aimlessly instead of doing something productive or interesting with family and friends. This can leave them tired, apathetic and lacking focus – and, in the long term, can negatively impact their social skills, education and mental wellbeing.

**IMPACT ON BEHAVIOUR**

Depending on the type of clickbait a child is interacting with, you might notice negative changes in their behaviour. Weight loss scams, for example, are common online clickbait and have the potential to influence eating habits and body image – while deliberately inflammatory 'rage bait' articles can leave impressionable young people feeling irritable, restless or argumentative.

### Advice for Parents & Educators

#### START A CONVERSATION

The sheer volume of clickbait can make protecting children against it quite challenging. It's vital to talk to young people regularly about the types of content they encounter online, so that they understand the risks of engaging with clickbait. If you're still concerned, it may also be wise to keep an eye on children's online activity to ensure they're not being tempted by clickbait headlines.

#### PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Encouraging children to question the legitimacy of sensational headlines and 'too good to be true' promises will help them to become savvy online – and far less likely to be drawn in by clickbait content. These critical thinking skills will also serve to protect them in other areas of the digital world where misinformation is becoming increasingly common.

#### SPOT THE TELLTALE SIGNS

There are certain common elements in clickbait, including headlines and images that use shock and outrage to grab people's attention – as well as numbered lists, such as '8 Facts You Won't Believe Are True'. Some clickbait combines several of these tactics to snag users' interest. Learn to recognise these techniques for yourself so you can teach children to notice them as well.

#### TAKE CONTROL

Many parents opt to place limits on how long their children can spend online each day, which obviously reduces the chance of exposure to clickbait. Alternatively, most internet-enabled devices have built-in controls that allow parents to manage what sort of online content their child can access – including filtering by age, which can screen out a percentage of inappropriate material.

**Meet Our Expert**

Carly Page is an experienced technology writer with more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, she is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant who writes for Forbes, TechRadar and Wired, among others.

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