



SOUTH WITHAM ACADEMY NEWS

This week has flown by as the children continue to work hard in school.

Badgers have been busy understanding fractions in maths and the Y6's had a wonderful time at the Young Voices concert in Birmingham. One child emphatically described it as a 'rave'. The pictures looked amazing and a big thanks to Mrs Lait, Miss Hosmer and Mrs Kataiwai for taking the children and staying up late! On a school night.

Otters have begun creating a 'masterpiece' display based on work by artist 'L.S.Lowry'. I can't wait to see the finished piece and share it with you. They are having to show excellent teamwork to do put this together.

In Woodlands, the children have started to create some wonderful narrative writing which has built up over the last few weeks. I am looking forward to reading the finished pieces!

I hope you have a lovely weekend,

Mr Atter



UPCOMING DIARY DATES

26th Jan - Basketball Finals at USSC

16th Feb - End of Term 3

26th Feb - Start of Term 4

24th - 26th April - Y5 Residential to Kingswood Activity Centre

We are looking to recruit parent / family helpers to come into school to listen to some readers. It is a lovely opportunity to get involved in school life and support our wonderful children.

If anyone feels they would like to offer some time, please contact Mrs Caucutt in the office and we will make arrangements to secure times and days.



HOUSE POINT TOTALS

BURGHLEY

BELTON

WOOLSTHORPE

3235

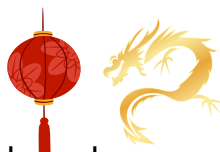
2838

3236





Little Hedgehogs



This week in Little Hedgehogs we have been celebrating Chinese new year! We have decorated lots of different pictures of dragons, made dragons out of playdough and bricks and even tasted some Chinese food at snack time. We have cut some red paper to make our own lanterns to hang in the room and folded paper to make our own dragon on sticks to play with. Some of us also decorated a picture of a dragon on the big screen.



Woodlands



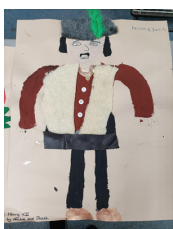
What a lovely week we have had this week, the children have been very busy learning this week. We are still focussing on the text lost and found and the children in KS1 had a go at planning and writing a short narrative – we are so impressed with their work they should be very proud!

In history we have been learning about Grace Darling and the children absolutely love learning about her! This week we created a timeline of her life and rein acted the rescue.

The squirrels have been on an outdoor walk this week looking at the signs of winter, they were great at spotting things in the garden and absolutely loved learning about the seasons.



Badgers



What a jam-packed week we have had in Badger Class with many varied and wonderful activities happening. Rob Lewin carried out a training session for our Year 6 and Sport Ambassadors. Young Voices was such a marvellous opportunity for the children to experience singing on mass at the NEC in Birmingham. With bleary eyes we have made it to the end of the week and have still managed to produce some fantastic Tudor art work, meet with the author Berlie Doherty, conduct an oxidation experiment and secure our fraction skills. I am very glad it is now the weekend - enjoy!

Otters



We have had another busy week in Otter Class. On Tuesday, we had a treat when Mr Lewin came in and, with the help of the Sports Leaders, taught us to play Boccia and also let us try curling (without the ice!). In art, Miss Done has started a large class painting inspired by LS Lowry - the excitement about painting was sky high! In English, we are continuing to learn about explanation texts, and we have been finding out about lots of different Victorian inventions in History! Finally, in science, we have been flexing our muscles, learning all about how we move (as well as a bonus video of marshmallows in a vacuum chamber - all to do with the invention of the lightbulb!)



PRIDE OF SOUTH WITHAM



Readers of the Week!



Always Club

YAY!



Attendance Superstars

this week goes to **Badgers** with **94%**

Attendance is something we celebrate each week in our Celebration Assembly on a Friday. We are required to collate and update the attendance figures for the local authority each week. Going forward we will be monitoring attendance closely to ensure that we are hitting the targets given to the school by the DFE.

Young Voices

Our year 6 children travelled to Birmingham on Wednesday to take part in the Young Voices Concert. There were thousands of children taking part! They all had a super time!



Happy Birthday

to Ariel who celebrated her birthday on Monday Happy birthday Ariel.





Basketball Finals

Today, our basketball team participated in the basketball finals, that we qualified for a few weeks ago.

The team worked really hard and continued to show excellent teamwork and determination. Well done Team SWA!



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MYLOL

AGE RESTRICTION
13-19

MyLOL is a free social networking and dating site aimed at teens. Profiles can publicly display users' images and information, including sexual orientation and personal interests. The service bills itself as "the number one teen dating website in the world", claiming to have more than a million users globally. Despite its popularity, the MyLOL app is no longer available from Google Play or the App Store, although the site is still active. In some countries, police forces and schools have previously warned parents about "sinister predators" and "inappropriate activities" on the site.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

FLIMSY AGE GATES

Although MyLOL states it is exclusively aimed at users aged between 13 and 19, there is no credible age verification system to prevent a younger child – or an older adult – from signing up to the platform. Coupled with the fact that it's impossible to establish a user's true identity on MyLOL, this raises a serious concern that the site could be used for grooming.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

MyLOL maintains that it monitors all uploaded images for nudity or sexual content. It also claims to be able to detect suspicious keywords. However, there have been numerous reports of explicit content being found on the platform, with users often posting provocative, semi-nude pictures of themselves and engaging in flirty or sexually explicit conversation.

POTENTIAL CYBER-BULLYING

MyLOL lets users 'vote' on other people based solely on their appearance, much in the same vein as the now-defunct site Hot or Not. This feature could easily lead to distress and bullying, especially if a young person's profile pics receive an unfavourable response. Various reviews of MyLOL have noted that bullying frequently becomes an issue in the platform's chat groups and private messages.

IN-APP SPENDING

MyLOL is free to join and use, but it also offers paid-for memberships. Users who have paid money get their profile promoted at the top of the site and in search results. They can also earn additional credits for increased engagement with the platform – such as sharing, replying to messages and voting. At the time of writing, the monthly membership fee was \$9.95 (just under £8).

DATA COLLECTION

According to its privacy policy, MyLOL collects user data including email addresses, contact details and interests. While the company says it is committed to protecting users' privacy, the small print states that information may be shared externally. MyLOL claims to follow procedures to keep data secure, but does not specify what these procedures are, or whether such information is encrypted.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

MyLOL makes it easy to connect with strangers. In fact, the site's rewards feature encourages users to send private messages to people they don't know. There have been several media stories of adults posing as teens on MyLOL to connect with minors, which could lead to extremely dangerous situations, such as a young person meeting up with someone who has been posing under a false identity.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DISCUSS ONLINE DATING

It's vital to talk to your child about the possible dangers of platforms like MyLOL – particularly the threat of online predators. Remind them of the risks of sharing intimate images and information with strangers and emphasise that most people don't realise they're being 'catfished' until it's too late – it really isn't wise for a young person to meet up with someone they've only spoken to online.

EXPLAIN PRIVACY RISKS

Before your child begins using a service such as MyLOL, it's important that they understand the potential pitfalls of giving out their personal data on this type of platform. Explain to them, for example, that they shouldn't divulge any personally identifying information to people who they don't know, as scammers can be quite convincing when attempting to steal someone's identity.

RESTRICT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child has access to a bank card or other payment method, they may be enticed into signing up for MyLOL's premium features. Having their profile boosted and receiving more attention could be especially tempting if their friends also use the site. You could consider altering their device's settings to disable internet purchases, or at the very least keeping an eye on their online spending.

SET UP LOCATION ALERTS

If you're worried that your child may be planning to meet up with someone they've met on MyLOL, you could consider utilising GPS or WiFi location tracking technology to follow their whereabouts in real time. You can even set up a virtual boundary or 'fence' and opt to receive an alert to your phone if your child enters or exits a specified area.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



The National College

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#WakeUpWednesday

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