



## Wenlock's Weekly Round Up

'With God's love, we are lights for the world'

This month's Value is:

**GENEROSITY**



Friday 8th September 2023

### Key dates

Monday 11th September	Year 5 Bikeability week 1 (Fire drill this week)
Tuesday 12th September	Welcome and meet the Teachers 3.30—4.30 pm (see below)
Tuesday 12th September	Welcome and meet the Teachers 5.30—6.30 pm (see below)
Wednesday 13th September	Year 4 Verulamium trip
Thursday 14th September	Year 4 Aurora Class Swimming Lesson
Monday 18th September	Inset Day—School closed
Tuesday 19th September	Year 5 Bikeability week 2
Thursday 21st September	Year 4 Aurora Class Swimming Lesson
Thursday 28th September	Year 4 Aurora Class Swimming Lesson
Monday 2nd October	Bishop of Bedford Celebration Event
Thursday 5th October	Year 4 Aurora Class Swimming Lesson
Thursday 12th October	Year 4 Aurora Class Swimming Lesson
Wednesday 18th October	School Photographer visit
Thursday 19th October	Children celebrate Harvest at church (more to follow)
Thursday 19th October	Year 4 Aurora Class Swimming Lesson
Friday 20th October	Inset Day—School closed
Monday 23rd October	Half Term Holiday
Monday 30th October	Inset Day—School closed

#### Welcome and meet the Teachers

**12th September 3.30pm or 5.30pm**

There will be a presentation by the Senior Leadership Team in the hall, followed by a visit to the classrooms with the Teachers. For anyone wishing to attend the 5.30 session, please notify us by email at [admin@wenlockacademy.co.uk](mailto:admin@wenlockacademy.co.uk) Thank you.

#### Attendance

Attendance figures for this this week will be given in next weeks weekly round up.

Our School target is 97%

With God's love in our hearts, we are eager to reach our goals and stretch our limitless imaginations to build our futures and create aspiring leaders. Everyone is welcomed and respected for their unique contributions as we flourish and grow. Our Christian values help us to keep safe, go above and beyond to build the foundations that shape our school.

# PARENT INFORMATION

## PE Days

3 - Alpha	Tuesday	Friday
3 - Omega	Tuesday	Wednesday
3 - Genesis	Tuesday	Thursday
4 - Aurora	Tuesday	Thursday
4 - Alina	Tuesday	Thursday
4 - Vesper	Tuesday	Thursday
5 - Lunar	Monday	Wednesday
5 - Solar	Wednesday	Friday
5 - Stellar	Wednesday	Thursday
6 - Aviary	Wednesday	Friday
6 - Arboreal	Monday	Wednesday
6 - Aquarium	Wednesday	Thursday

## Request for containers

We're just putting out a plea for clean plastic take-away containers with lids that we would like to make use of in the school. Should you have any to pass on to the school, please bring them in to the office or send in with your child.

That would be much appreciated.

Many thanks

Mrs Ayres (maths leader)

## School Inset Days

Please note that upcoming Inset days are as follows:

Monday 18th September, Friday 20th October and Monday 30th October.

The school will be closed on these days.

## Arbor

Thank you to all who have registered into Arbor and already using it successfully.

For parents who have not yet registered, you will have been sent a link. Please register by clicking on the link in your email. So that you can be sent messages, book trips and clubs, make payments and view/update details etc.

Thank you.

## Dinner money

Please top up dinner money payments in advance of your child having school dinner. The cost for school dinner is as follows: £2.40 per day or £12.00 per week.

If you have a query relating to dinner money payment, you can contact the finance team on [schooldinner@wenlockacademy.co.uk](mailto:schooldinner@wenlockacademy.co.uk)

## Values homework

Please see below and earn 5 house points!

## Online Safety

For e-safety support and advice please click on this [link](#) Please click on the links below for more information on e-safety.

[Think you know](#)

[Disney Wild](#)

[About Safety](#)

[Smartie The Penguin](#)

[Childnet Safety Internet](#)

[A useful guide to apps to help keep your child safe online](#)

## Emailing the School Office

Please can we remind families that when emailing the school or leaving a message on the answerphone that you give your child's full name and their class and/or their teacher.

If you do not provide these details, it will lead to delays in answering or forwarding your queries.

You can report your child's absence by calling 01582 730624 and pressing option 1 or via email on [attendance@wenlockacademy.co.uk](mailto:attendance@wenlockacademy.co.uk)

# Online Safety Update

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about **INFLUENCERS**

In today's digital age, social media influencers play an increasingly significant role in shaping the opinions, interests and behaviours of our children. While many of these individuals can have a positive effect, influencer culture can also present certain risks – such as encouraging consumerism, affecting self-esteem and blurring trustworthiness. To help ensure a safe online environment for young people, it's vital to maintain open communication, set sensible boundaries, promote a healthy self-image and teach digital media literacy. Our guide delves deeper into all of these.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### HEIGHTENED CONSUMERISM

A major way that influencers make money is through brand partnerships and sponsored content. As a result, children who follow them may be exposed to a steady stream of advertising; this can lead to materialistic attitudes, unrealistic expectations and an increased desire to have the latest products. Many influencers have built huge brand empires around their large, impressionable following.

#### THE SOFT SELL

Some influencers aren't always transparent about the motivations behind their posts, blurring the lines between genuine recommendations and paid-for promotions – and young people sometimes find it difficult to distinguish authentic content from advertising. Many major social platforms have taken steps to make sponsored content and ads easier to identify, but it remains an area of concern.

#### PRIVACY CONCERNS

Inspired by their favourite influencers, children may start sharing more of their own lives online – which could reveal personal information or details about their daily routine. This openness can put them at risk of cyberbullying or even predatory behaviour. This is exacerbated by live streaming, which gives young people no time to consider the potential consequences of saying too much.

#### UNDERMINING SELF-ESTEEM

Many influencers share images and videos of themselves and their activities, which are often painstakingly curated and edited to present an idealised version of their life. Children who follow these influencers may develop distorted expectations about body image and the concept of beauty, which can potentially lead to negative self-esteem and even mental health issues.

### Advice for Parents & Carers

#### KEEP TALKING

Chat to your child about the content they consume on social media and the influencers that they like. Encourage them to think critically about what they see and hear online, and listen to any concerns they might have. Maintaining this line of open, honest communication can help your child to make informed decisions about which individuals they follow and what content they engage with.

#### SET SOME BOUNDARIES

Agree age-appropriate boundaries for your child's social media use, including time limits and privacy settings (the two major operating systems on mobile devices, Android and iOS, have these controls baked in). Try to keep an eye on your child's online activity and discuss it regularly with them – including reminding them of the potential risks that can arise from following influencers.

#### SUPPORT A HEALTHY SELF-IMAGE

Reinforce your child's awareness that real life isn't usually as picture perfect as it may appear on social media – and how some content (particularly that of influencers) is often curated, staged or edited to look more glamorous. If possible, highlight examples of other influencers who share authentic, relatable material which acknowledges their imperfections and struggles as well.

#### PROMOTE MEDIA LITERACY

Talk to your child about the concepts of sponsored content, advertising and potential influencer bias. Teach them to critically evaluate the information they're presented with online and to consider the possible reasons behind content creation. This can help young people develop the skills to make healthier decisions about the influencers they choose to follow and the content they consume.

#### Meet Our Expert

A former director of digital learning and currently a deputy headmaster and DSL, Brendan O'Keefe's experience and expertise gives him a clear insight into how modern digital systems impact the experience of children, staff and parents – and which strategies help to ensure that the online world remains a useful educational tool rather than a minefield of risks.



**NOS** National Online Safety  
#WakeUpWednesday

# GENEROSITY

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

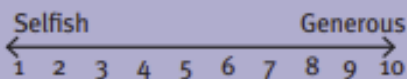
This term we will be focussing in school on the value GENEROSITY. We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together.

## TALK TOGETHER about Generosity

When we think about **generosity** we usually think about being **generous** with money or possessions. However, we can also be **generous** with our time, our gifts and our abilities.

**Generous** people often say that they receive much more than they give. Perhaps this is because when someone is **generous** to us, it makes us want to be **generous** in return. The opposite of being **generous** is being selfish. What kind of person would you prefer to have as a friend?

- How would you describe yourself on this scale?



- Where would other members of your family put you on the scale and what are their reasons?
- Who is the most **generous** person you know?



## READ TOGETHER...

### The Widow's Mite

Jesus had been teaching in the Temple. But now he sat down near the treasury and watched as the many visitors to the Temple passed by and dropped money into the collecting box to help with God's work.

The rich men dressed in fine robes threw in handfuls of coins as they passed, without a thought. But then a poor widow came by, paused, and placed just two mites (tiny coins) into the box.

Jesus called his disciples to him and told them what he had seen.

Then he said to them, "Let me tell you, this poor widow gave more than all those people who threw many coins into the treasury. The wealthy men gave just a small part of their riches which made no difference to them. But the widow gave all that she had."

You see, God is more interested in what is in the heart of the giver than the size of their gift.

Bible story based on Mark 12:41-44

**A Mite** in Jesus' time was a small brass coin worth 1/128th of a denarius. Typically a labourer was paid 1 denarius for a day's work.



In Britain, many years ago, a coin called a mite was in general use and worth half a farthing, a very tiny amount of money.

## THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom

"God loves a cheerful giver"  
2 Corinthians 9.7

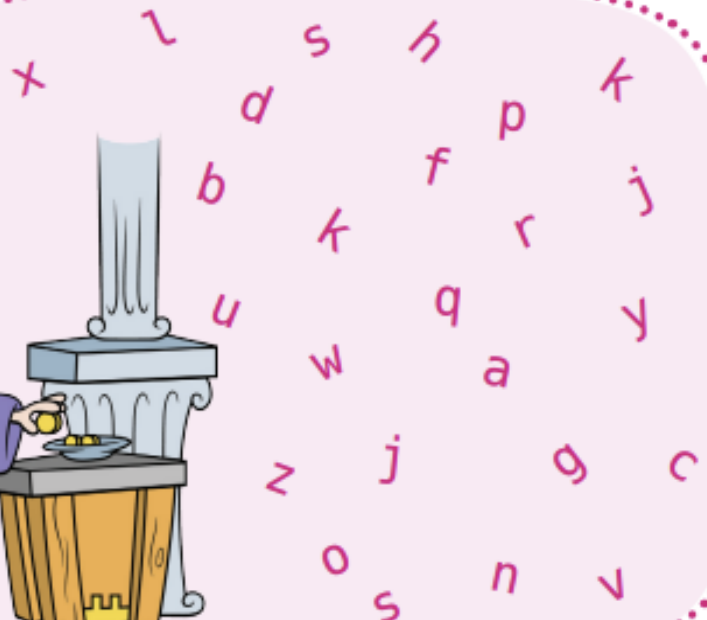
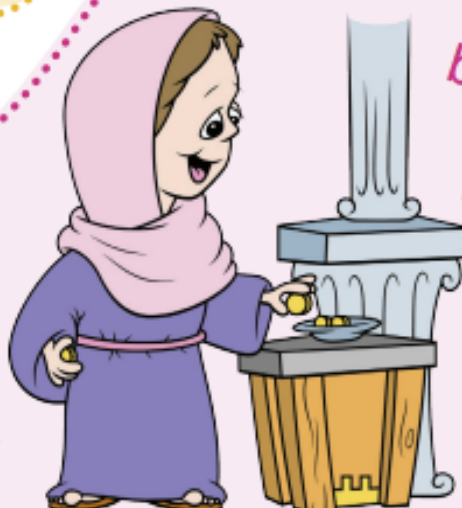
New King James Version® of the Bible



## ? QUIZ

### Lost Letters

Which letters are missing from the alphabet? Arrange them to make a word from the story.



# ☆ HALL OF FAME

## A Generous Saint

Nicholas grew up long ago in a poor part of Turkey. His father earned just enough to provide for the needs of his family but many people in the town were extremely poor.

One day something extraordinary happened. A wealthy relative, who Nicholas barely knew, suddenly died and left him a vast fortune. Overnight Nicholas became rich, so rich that he felt very uncomfortable about having so much money when many of the townsfolk barely had enough to eat. But Nicholas knew that the families were proud and they would not want to accept money that they had not earned. He needed to find a way to help them in secret.

So in the dark of night, Nicholas crept through the town leaving parcels of food, clothing and money for the families most in need. He helped one family with three daughters several times. The father was so curious about the mysterious benefactor, that he was determined to stay awake and discover who was being so **generous**. As Nicholas quietly left his gift at the door of their tiny home the man leapt out and chased Nicholas until he finally caught up. Nicholas was embarrassed and begged the man not to give away his secret. The father promised. But he was so happy and grateful that he just couldn't help telling people, and soon the whole town knew about Nicholas' **generosity**.

Nicholas continued to live in the same town and he continued to be **generous** to every one in need. Every December he rewarded the children who had been good during the year by secretly delivering presents whilst they were asleep. To this day Nicholas is remembered in countries across the world when children receive gifts on December 5th, St Nicholas' Day.



## HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE



### The Generositree

The fruit of the generositree are blessings.

Think of something **generous** that you could do that would bless someone and make them happy. Then do it.

Design and make a colourful exotic looking fruit to represent the blessing and take it to school to hang on the Generositree.



## FAMILY FOCUS

### Secret St Nick

Each member of the family could decide on someone that they think deserves a special present. Find some pots for each person and begin to save a small amount each week.

When December comes buy presents that will make your special person smile or that they will find useful. Wrap the gifts as creatively as you can and write their name on a homemade label. Deliver in secret on 5th December, St Nicholas' Day.



## FASCINATING FACTS

### Leading the Pack

Lieutenant Baden-Powell was a brave soldier in the British Army and served in India and Africa. He was an expert in wilderness survival skills, like hunting, making fires and building rafts. To help new soldiers he wrote a small manual. A version of this became 'Scouting for Boys' and gave him the idea of setting up the Scouting movement.

Today, worldwide, millions of children and young people are Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Guides, Brownies or Rainbows.

- In the UK over 160,000 volunteers run Scouting and Guiding groups
- They **generously** give over 20 million hours of service each year
- Many parents also use their skills to help children to earn badges

