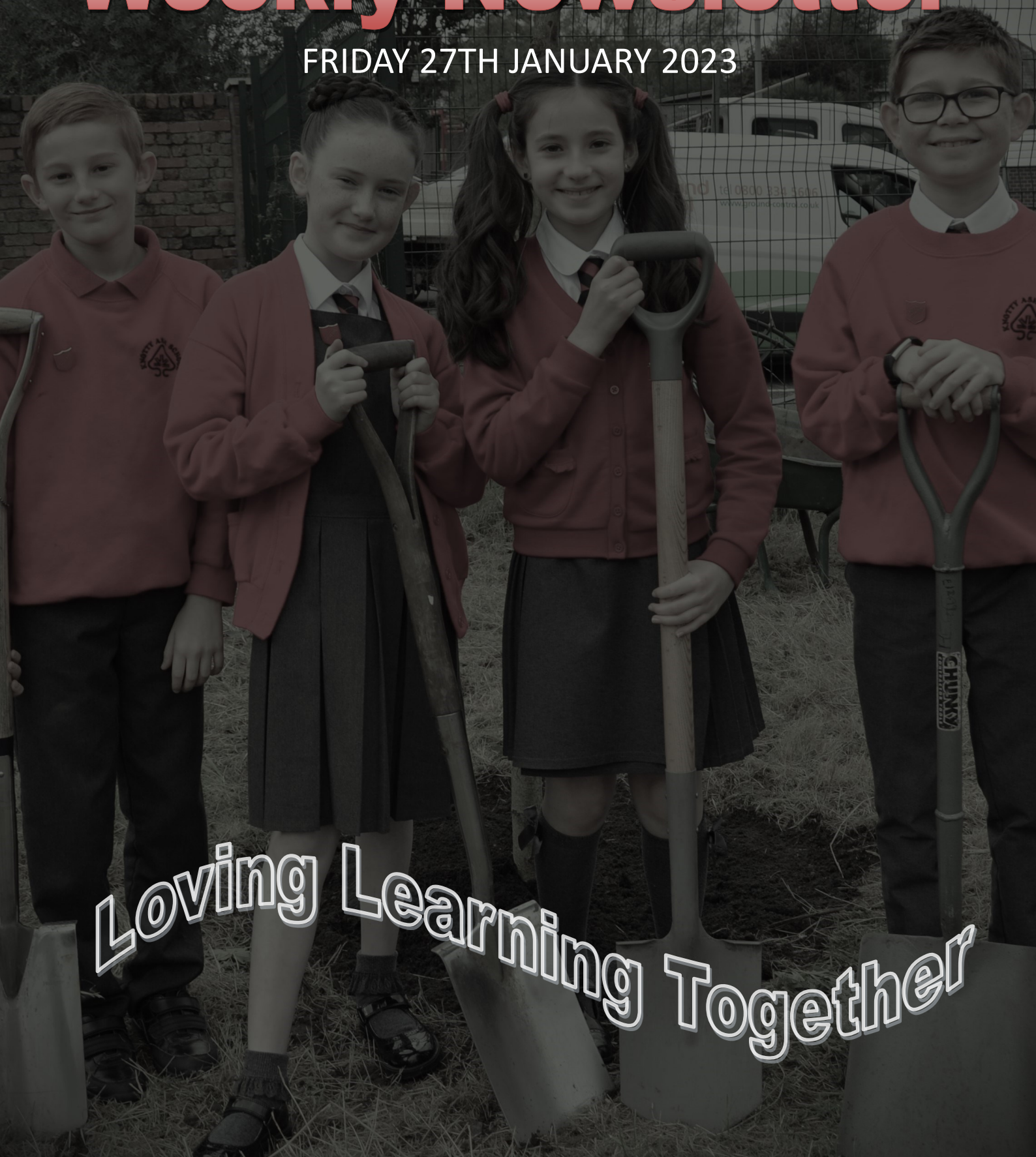




# Weekly Newsletter

FRIDAY 27TH JANUARY 2023



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# Latest News

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a lovely week in school, starting with Chinese New Year activities for everyone. It's great for the children to learn about other cultures through celebrations and fun.

My highlights in school this week have been: seeing the collaboration and trust between y6 children as they tried to explain some tricky maths methods, and seeing the children in y2 really challenging themselves to use a variety of punctuation in their writing.

Earlier in the week I showed a couple of visitors around school and was so proud of our children and staff, the lovely friendships and good manners and the evident enthusiasm for learning. Well done Knotty!

Miss CB

## Pokemon Cards

A few children have been bringing trading cards into school. Unfortunately, this can often lead to upset and disputes so please discourage your children from bringing them in.

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## Wednesday 1st February

You'll have seen that one of the teacher unions has called on members to strike on Wednesday 1st Feb. A number of our teachers have advised me that they will be striking so we have to partially close school on that day. School will only be open to children if you have requested a place and had confirmation that your child can attend.

Please do not bring your child to school on Wednesday 1st Feb unless you have been informed that you have a place.

## PTFA

We'd like to say a huge THANK YOU to our wonderful PTFA (Parents, Teachers and Friends Association) for their generous support of the school. They are a dedicated team who fundraise through fun events and all the money they raise helps Knotty Ash to provide extra fun to the children here.

This term, they have donated £750 for playground equipment which the children have loved using at playtimes. They've also donated £250 to every class to help with the cost of a class trip (so we can reduce the cost to parents.) We are so grateful.

For more news, make sure you're following us on Twitter @AshKnotty

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# What have we been learning?

## Nursery



This week Nursery had lots of fun in Forest school getting very muddy, luckily, we all had our waterproof suits on and wellies so we stayed clean apart from our hands!!

We had lots of fun finding out about and celebrating Chinese New Year. We had a tray of dry rice and containers in the messy area, we made lanterns and we did some dragon dancing.

We have been ordering numbers up to 5/10 and counting out amounts using chocolate gold coins.

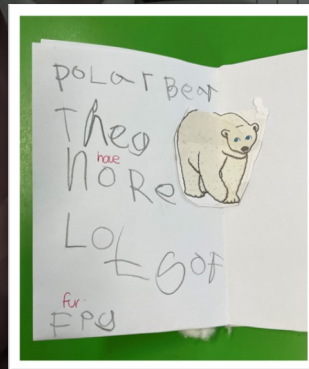
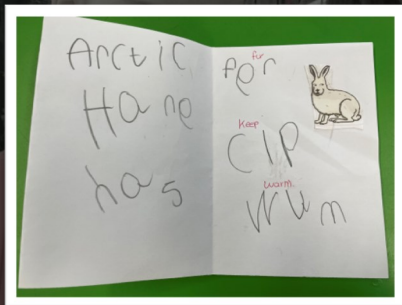
We are going to make lucky red envelopes to take the gold coins home in.

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# What have we been learning?

## Reception



This week, Reception have been learning all about Lunar New Year. They have listened to and re-enacted the story of how the Chinese zodiac years began. We have had lots of creativity including decorating lanterns and making our own '2023' decorations.

They also managed to finish their Arctic booklets from last week. We are so impressed we'll be displaying them up in class. We've had great fun learning all about 'Winter' and 'Lunar New Year' and we look forward to our next topic of 'Space'.

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# What have we been learning?

## Year 1



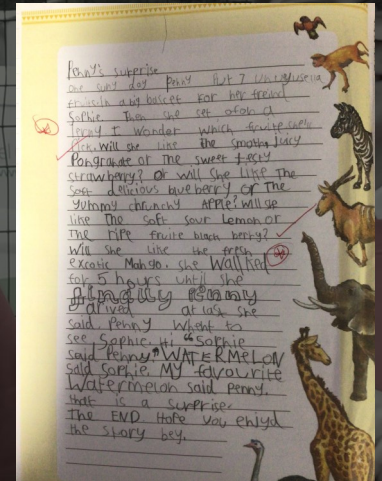
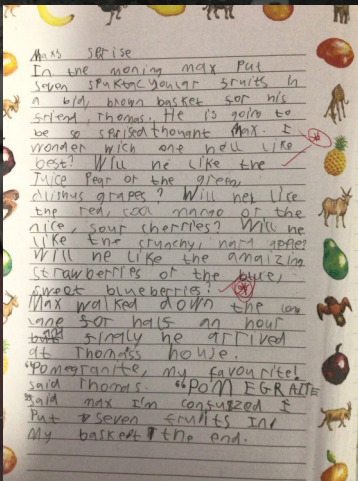
This week Year 1 have been very busy writing diary entries in English from the perspective of Asiya from our text *The Proudest Blue*. They have also learnt about the Islamic Creation story, the Ramadan Moon and the build up to Eid in RE.

In P4c the children have been discussing the right to learn and the experience of Malala Yousafzai. This is very relevant due to the Taliban stance of no education for girl in Afghanistan. In PE we were practising a seated balance and played the cheeky monkeys game when the children had to out balance the crocodiles.

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# What have we been learning? Year 2



Year 2 have had a wonderful week in school and they have been working very hard... especially with their writing. Over the last few weeks, we have been trying to master commas, conjunctions and questions. The children have produced some beautiful pieces of writing based on the book 'Handa's Surprise'. They were all very proud of their writing.

On Wednesday we introduced a new book called 'The Proudest Blue'. This is a lovely true story about a little girl and her first day wearing a hijab. The children were moved by this story and we had some lovely discussions as a class about different cultures and religions, being kind and about how we should only carry around kind things people say and throw the other things that make us feel sad away. I was blown away by the maturity and thoughtfulness of these children!

Following on from this, we looked at the story of how the Islamic religion was founded and the story of Muhammed. The children found the lesson really interesting. We then looked at how Muslims celebrate new year and compared it to how other religions celebrate new year. The children enjoyed talking about Chinese New Year and then discussed their experiences of how they like to spend new year. It was lovely listening to the children share their stories of family gatherings with lovely food, movie evenings with treats and running out onto the street with party poppers!

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# What have we been learning?

## Year 3



We have had an extremely busy week in Year 3 this week. We began with an engaging and fun Chinese New Year carousel on Monday afternoon, where the children travelled around the school taking part in various activities celebrating this event. Some excellent work was produced and the children had a great time visiting different teachers and classrooms.

In maths, we have been really trying to perfect subtraction this week. Each day we have pushed ourselves a little further and have been able to complete some quite difficult calculations. The children have also been continuing to work through their times tables and focused mainly on the 4x and 8x tables mostly this week.

In English, the children have really loved studying poetry, especially when we looked at Valery Bloom's 'The River.' They were able to recognise verbs, adverbs and even did a bit of work on personification...wow!

On Wednesday, we became familiar with the water cycle and how water travels around our planet, and on Thursday they loved their PSHE lesson with Miss Kerr all around the rights of the child! The week ended, as always, with a very enthusiastic PE lesson! Super stuff!

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# What have we been learning?

## Year 4



In Year 4 this week, we have been here, there and everywhere! It has been a very active and engaging week with the whole class getting stuck in! We've once again enjoyed swimming. It's always amazing to see the progress that they are making in the pool. Year 4 also enjoyed forest school this week and had lots of fun; they braved the cold weather like a young Luke Skywalker on the icy planet of Hoth!

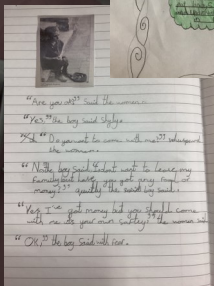
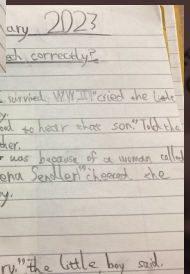
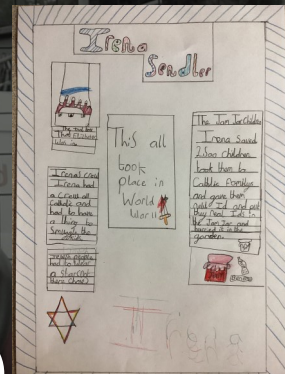
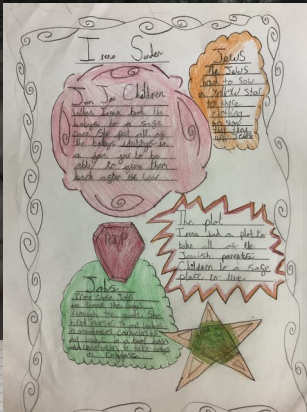
We have also been so busy designing our very own board games and playing with them. There have been so many creative ideas and the class have loved making them. It needs to be said that PE this week was an absolute joy! Ms Colligen dusted off her ballet shoes this week to teach Year 4 a dance to the Eurovision banger, Spaceman by Sam Ryder. The class loved it and learned some serious skills from a well drilled and experienced dance master! We have loved exploring Eurovision songs and dances in our Eurovision Dance Unit this term for PE. There have been some absolute belter dance moves!

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# What have we been learning?

## Year 5



In Year 5, we have continued with our topic of peace and conflict. The children enjoyed researching about Irena Sendler's life, finding out about her childhood and what she did after the war. We have spent some time looking at the features of biographies ready to write our own, about Irena Sendler next week. In Maths, we have learnt about equivalent fractions. We looked at bar models and number lines to represent equivalent fractions and have now progressed onto a method. Our saying in Maths to help with our method is, "Whatever you do to the bottom, you must do to the top!"

Year 5 have been very lucky to enjoy two talks from authors put on by Liverpool Learning Partnership. We listened to Sufiya Ahmed talk about the book Rosie Raja Churchill Spy and Bali Rai who wrote Mohinder's War. It was very interesting to listen to their stories as this links well with our current topic. We even had a surprise visit from Mr Mills, who helped Year 5 to create their own animation scenes. Year 5 are very excited that they have now learnt about all the pieces in chess and can move on to playing a full game next week. We even have some children who were chosen as mini masters after only 7 weeks! What an amazing week we have had!

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# What have we been learning?

## Year 6



The children in Year 6 have worked their socks off this week! They have been gathering even more fascinating details about the life of our incredible heroine, Irena Sendler. Do you know that she smuggled over two thousand Jewish children out of the Ghetto and the clutches of the Nazis, by hiding them in toolboxes, suitcases and even in coffins carrying the victims of Typhus? She faced death at every turn and was even captured by the Gestapo at one point, but managed to escape just before she was due to face a firing squad. What an incredibly tough and brave person she was! In writing her biography, Year 6 are utilising higher level grammar skills - such as fronted adverbials for dramatic effect and semi-colons in the place of 'because' - to take their written work to the next level.

In Science, during our Light topic, they used their understanding of reflection and the angle at which light bounces off a mirror to make a periscope with a cereal box. You can see from the photos how much fun they had with that!

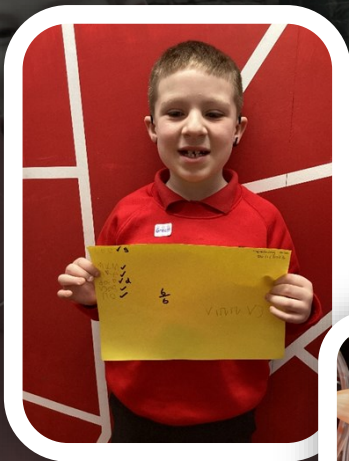
In Maths, we are getting to grips with Reasoning problems - combining our skills to find an answer and thinking about which strategies to use. Being able to select the best strategy will come in handy when it's time to take the SATs tests in May!

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# What have we been learning?

## DRB Key Stage 1



We have had a brilliant week in DRB KS1.

In Science we have been watching our flowers change colour when we put them in coloured water. It took a whole week for the coloured water to travel up the stem and change the colour of the petals.

We have had super spelling results – all our hard work is paying off.

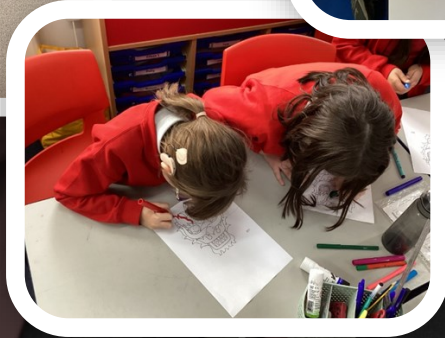
In our BSL and English lessons we have carried on with learning the difference between nouns and verbs. We all took on different roles and were able to act out who was doing what! Our favourite role was Floppy the dog.

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# What have we been learning?

## DRB Key Stage 2



On Monday the children in KS2 DRB thoroughly enjoyed the Chinese New Year carousel. Children had the opportunity to watch Chinese dragon dancing and design their own dragon with Mr Houghton, play Chinese bingo with Mrs Cartwright, write in Chinese with Miss Ratcliffe and make an Origami Chinese dragon with Mr Hall! There was a real buzz in the air when the children arrived back to class; they couldn't wait to show each other what they had made.

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# Attendance



**Whole school attendance this week 93.8%**

**Class attendance winners Year 4 98.3%**

Well done to all the children who were in school every day this week. Our lucky £10 winner in the attendance raffle was Jonathon in y2!



# Term Dates and Events

- 26th Jan—7th Feb Liverpool Festival of Reading author talks
- 30th Jan—3rd Feb Environmental learning sessions with students from John Moores Uni (y3-5)
- Wed 1st Feb Partial closure of school due to industrial action
- Thur 2nd Feb Water Safety swimming session for Year 4
- Fri 3rd Feb NSPCC Number Day
- Fri 3rd Feb Assembly from Revd Tom / St John's Church
- Mon 6th Feb Wateraid workshops y3/4
- 6th—10th Feb Children's Mental Health Week
- Fri 10th Feb School finishes at 3:20pm for half-term
- 13th—17th February HALF TERM WEEK
- Mon 20th Feb School reopens at 8:50am
- Fri 31st Mar School finishes at 1:30pm for Easter break

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# Liverpool Festival of Reading

We're looking forward to meeting these authors online in Liverpool's Festival of Reading, organised by Liverpool Learning Partnership.

Date	Author	Books	Class/es
26/1/23 9:30am	Sufiya Ahmed	 	Y5 & Y6
27/1/23 9:30am	Bali Rai		Y3, 4, 5 & 6
30/1/23 1:30pm	Polly Ho-Yen		Y5 & Y6
31/1/23 9:30am	Sarah Roberts	 	Rec, Y1, & Y2
3/2/23 9:30am	Chitra Soundar		Nursery & Rec
3/2/23 1:30pm	Chitra Soundar		Y1 & Y2
7/2/23	Laura Henry-Allain		Nursery, Rec & Y1

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# Help and Advice

For a range of local services - [info@localsolutions.org.uk](mailto:info@localsolutions.org.uk)

## Parenting

Early Communications—a language enrichment group (Wednesday mornings) for 2-3 year-olds at Stoneycroft Children's Centre. [www.stoneycroftchildrenscentre.co.uk/](http://www.stoneycroftchildrenscentre.co.uk/)

There's a range of groups and activities available at Yew Tree Children's Centre for parents whose children are 0-5 years.

<https://liverpool.gov.uk/children-and-families/early-years-and-childcare/childrens-centres/yew-tree-childrens-centre/>

The Drive is a local community centre offering a range of activities for family members, old and young. They also run weekly food clubs and provide breakfast/lunch to families during school holidays. <https://www.the-drive.org/home>

## Domestic Abuse

For support around domestic abuse - <https://worstkeptsecret.org.uk/>

You, Me Mum course (for women suffering domestic abuse) running 24th Jan to 28th March at Yew Tree Children's Centre (creche available) Call the Centre to book on 296 7950

For more advice and support, follow us on Twitter @Knotty\_Families

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# Winter Illness

## Advice from NHS

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

### Coughs and colds

It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold. But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes.

Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.

### High temperature

If your child has a high temperature, keep them off school until it goes away.

### Chickenpox

If your child has chickenpox, keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over.

This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.

### Sore throat

You can still send your child to school if they have a sore throat. But if they also have a high temperature, they should stay at home until it goes away.

A sore throat and a high temperature can be symptoms of tonsillitis.

### Scarlet fever

If your child has scarlet fever, they'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks.

Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.

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