



What a busy half-term that has been! So much has happened in school over the past few weeks..... sports' fixtures, open evenings and mornings, primary school students visiting us, bake sales, production auditions, Black History Month workshops, feature menus, Trust Student Council meetings to name just a few; and yesterday saw a fabulous day with Years 9 and 10 visiting Alton Towers and Years 7 and 8 having a Halloween-themed end to the day. Year 11 and our post-16 students, mindful of their upcoming mocks and continued preparation for success at the end of the year, had additional time to support learning for their PSAs and NEAs – what many of us might call 'coursework' from days gone by! – so that their academic learning remained at the forefront. Year 11s had a hot chocolate and cookie treat to end their day.....before many of them returned for our Post-16 Open Evening, and it was lovely to see them thinking so carefully about their next steps, with many excellent questions from both students and parents and carers. Do please remember to check our website - [Gospel Oak School - Sixth Form](#) – for further information, and if there are questions please use [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#).

As we enter half-term, we will welcome back into school many of our exam students for 'Exam Masterclasses' with teaching staff offering a variety of sessions from Monday to Thursday. A reminder that the full list of sessions can be seen here – [October 2024 Half Term Masterclasses](#) – and students are able to come into school next week with their consent form, or a note from home, if they have not yet returned this to school. We know that our Year 11 and Year 13 students will be revising hard for their mock examinations; this hard work now will pay off in the future. It can be a worrying time for many students, and it is natural to be a little anxious in the build-up to the exam period; please remember that support is available from [YoungMinds | Mental Health Charity For Children And Young People | YoungMinds](#) and [Home - Kooth](#) should it be needed.

Thank you to our parents and carers who have completed the form to support us with understanding how to develop our approach to homework over the coming weeks; the consultation - <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=UTeH7weljks2mO4DGypXkim203fYHApLtyX1rQ-vKqJUNUIJWtIYTETZTDNaMEY4QU9KV1ZSRUIJNi4u> – closes at 5pm on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October. Please reinforce with your daughter and/or son that we are currently rewarding students for completion of homework, and outstanding homework on ClassCharts; we propose to develop this to include sanctions – detentions after-school - for Year 11 students who choose not to complete their homework from 25<sup>th</sup> November, and for Years 7-10 from 13<sup>th</sup> January. Developing our approach to homework is key to supporting improved academic results for our students; we are keen for as many parents and carers as possible to support us with this, and will be discussing further in our Parents' and Carers' Forum next month.

As it is the holiday period, please be mindful that [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#) will not be responded to using our usual 48-working hours' response time to enable colleagues to relax with friends and family over the week; messages will be returned when the second half-term begins again. Please take the time to look at the many different opportunities provided in the local area which we have featured later in the eZine; we are fortunate to have so much community support and so many different activities available for all of us in our local area. We look forward to seeing your daughter and/or son back in school on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 8.25am as normal, and wish you a restful week.

#### Upcoming Dates

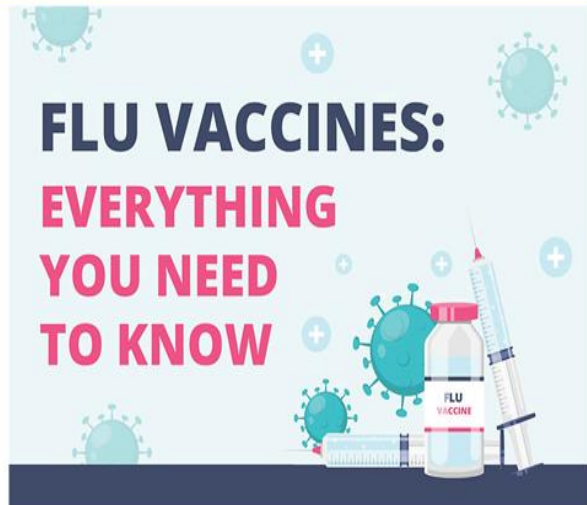
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November – Parent/Carer Forum  
 Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November – Year 7 Tamworth Arboretum Trip  
 Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November – Year 8 Loudmouth Performance  
 Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November – Year 11 Birmingham City Centre Art Trip  
 Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November – Yr 9 St Mark's Church Trip

#### Assembly Themes

Assembly focus this week was Rewards  
 w/c 04/11 – Term ahead – expectations  
 w/c 11/11 – Remembrance Day  
 Please take the time to talk to your child about what they have learnt in Assembly.

Please complete the below link for your child to receive their vaccine:-

<https://midlands.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2024/sandwell>



Vaccination UK will be coming into Gospel Oak School on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024 to administer the flu vaccine for a catchup session. Should you wish for your child to receive his / her vaccine then please complete the above link by midnight on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024. Please ensure that your son / daughter has no allergies to the vaccine and should you have any queries then please contact Vaccination UK on 0121 592 1110.

### Exam Masterclasses

Unfortunately our advertised Computer Science Exam Masterclasses will not be running at half-term; there are a number of different Exam Masterclasses that students can choose to attend on the same day, and we will support students with this choice when they come into school.

### Sparx Maths, Reader and Science

A big thank you to all parents and carers supporting students with Sparx Maths, Reader and Science homework. We have now activated the parent emails on the system so you should get feedback on homework completed. As this has just been activated there may be some teething problems so please bear with us.

As always, parents and carers can let us know through [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#) if there are any questions.

### Sixth Form

As half term is approaching, I would like to thank the year 12 and 13 students for their hard work and dedication to their learning. It has been a busy and hard term, but you have all strived to complete all tasks. Well done!

Reminder – To be completing Uplearn, Everlearner and Seneca.

Your sincerely,

Mr Bala  
Director of Post 16

Year 12 student of the week – Tyler F  
Year 13 student of the week – Keira J M

Year12 attendance – 95.8 %  
Year 13 attendance –93.7 %

Events – 24<sup>th</sup> October - Post 16 Open evening 6.00-8.00



**Christmas card competition**

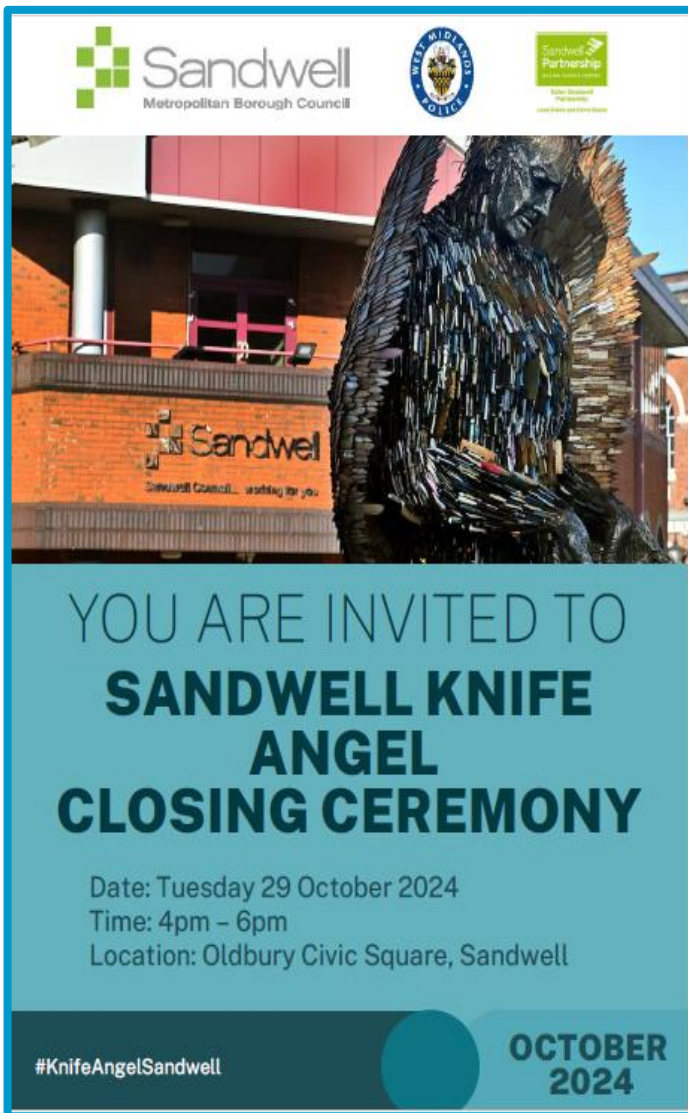
Have a go at creating the official Gospel Oak's School Christmas Card 2024.

**Winner will receive a Voucher & a stocking full of goodies**

Submit your 2D Handmade or Digital designs by **Friday 15th November**

hand your designs to your Form Tutor

The poster features a red background with various Christmas decorations including red and gold baubles, snowflakes, and wrapped gifts. The Gospel Oak School crest is visible in the top left corner.



**Sandwell**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

**WEST MIDLANDS POLICE**

**Sandwell Partnership**  
Safer, Stronger, More Resilient

**YOU ARE INVITED TO SANDWELL KNIFE ANGEL CLOSING CEREMONY**

Date: Tuesday 29 October 2024  
Time: 4pm – 6pm  
Location: Oldbury Civic Square, Sandwell

**OCTOBER 2024**

#KnifeAngelSandwell

The poster features a photograph of the Knife Angel sculpture, a large figure made of thousands of knives, standing in front of the Sandwell Council building.

**You're Invited to the Knife Angel Closing Ceremony**

We are honoured to invite you to join us for the Knife Angel Closing Ceremony, a moment of reflection and hope as we conclude this impactful project. Over the past month, the Knife Angel has stood as a powerful symbol of our commitment to raising awareness about the devastating impact of knife crime and the urgent need for prevention.

**Event Details:**

- Date:** 29th October 2024
- Time:** 4:00 PM
- Location:** Civic Square, Oldbury Council House

The ceremony will include special speeches, presentations of the Safer Sandwell Partnership Impact Through Imagery Award, T-shirt design competition and recognition of our Anti-Violence Champions. We will also feature a display of photos from the Knife Angel photography competition and a performance by local artists.

As we come together to close this chapter, let us carry forward the message of change, unity, and a safer future for all.

**#KnifeAngelSandwell**



#KnifeAngelSandwell

The poster features a close-up photograph of the Knife Angel sculpture, showing the intricate details of the knives forming the figure's body.


# REACH OUT AND CONNECT WITH OUR TEAM TODAY

**GET IN TOUCH**

Let us know you are attending the opening ceremony - please email [Community\\_SafetyTeam@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:Community_SafetyTeam@sandwell.gov.uk) to confirm.



- Website: [www.sandwell.gov.uk/KnifeAngel](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/KnifeAngel)
- Email: [Community\\_SafetyTeam@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:Community_SafetyTeam@sandwell.gov.uk)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/safersandwell](https://www.facebook.com/safersandwell)
- X: [@Safersandwell](https://twitter.com/Safersandwell)
- Instagram: [@Safersandwell](https://www.instagram.com/Safersandwell)



Sandwell Police Partnerships  
West Midlands Police  
West Bromwich Police Station  
Moor St  
West Bromwich  
B70 7AQ  
Tel: 101  
Email: [sandwell\\_partnerships@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk](mailto:sandwell_partnerships@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk)

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It's that time of year again where communities will soon be enjoying celebrations including Halloween, Diwali and Bonfire night. Children and young people will break up from school this week and whilst this provides an opportunity for families and friends to spend some enjoyable time together, I want to remind you all of the dangers that this busy period poses. The darker nights will soon be upon us, so ask yourself if you know where your child is going, who they are with and what they are doing.

Fireworks provide wonderful entertainment as part of an organised display. They can, however, be very dangerous when used inappropriately. Remember that in order to buy fireworks you must be over the age of 18 and they can only be purchased from registered retailers. Please remind your child of this: any child or young person found in possession of, or letting off fireworks in public commits a criminal offence. More importantly, they also place themselves and members of the public in unnecessary danger.

Also, please be mindful of the vulnerable members of our community who may be fearful at this time of year. I would ask you to ensure that your child does not cause unnecessary distress through their actions, whether by involving themselves in anti-social behaviour or associating with those engaging in such behaviour.

Sandwell Police are very proud of our relationship with the young people of Sandwell and our wider communities. We encourage families to spend time with each other and enjoy the celebrations.

At the same time I would ask you, as parents/guardians, to ensure that the whole of Sandwell can enjoy this time together, and that the actions of a few do not spoil the enjoyment of many. If we all ensure our own child is safe then we can be sure others are safe too.

Regards

Sandwell Police Partnerships Team  
West Bromwich Police Station

## Cancer support at your finger tips

Introducing the new version of our award winning digital information tool. Get the right treatment advice and support at your NHS Cancer Centre.



- Content tailored to your region and cancer type
- Bespoke video guides created by clinicians
- Treatment timeline guides you through every step
- Contact details for your cancer centre and NHS trust
- Virtual pre-assessment and prehabilitation

# Yoga Sessions

## at Brasshouse Community Centre

**FREE** to all pregnant ladies and new moms. Babies and toddlers welcome.

**No booking required, equipment is provided. Fully qualified instructor.**

Yoga improves strength, balance and flexibility.



Starting Wednesdays,  
9:30am – 10:30am  
16 October – 18 December

Phone: Bryony- 07749 847818  
Email: info@nsdt.org.uk  
Address: Brasshouse Lane,  
Smethwick, B66 IBA (Free Parking)





## YOU ARE INVITED TO SANDWELL KNIFE ANGEL CLOSING CEREMONY

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#KnifeAngelSandwell

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- Email: [Community\\_SafetyTeam@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:Community_SafetyTeam@sandwell.gov.uk)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/safersandwell](https://www.facebook.com/safersandwell)
- X: [@Safersandwell](https://twitter.com/Safersandwell)
- Instagram: [@Safersandwell](https://www.instagram.com/Safersandwell)

**Swim Bike Run Community  
Activator Award – West Bromwich**



**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

Passionate about promoting physical activity and making a difference in your local community?

This award will equip you with the skills and confidence to organise fun, inclusive swimming, cycling, and running activities for people of all ages and abilities. Be part of a movement that encourages healthy lifestyles and builds stronger, more active communities.

**Minimum age:** 14 years

**Cost:** £10 per person the remaining costs covered by a bursary.

**Commitment:** 9 hours in person learning.

**Accreditation:** 9 CIMSPA points

Contact Natalie: 07827444769 or [info@dynamickids.co.uk](mailto:info@dynamickids.co.uk) for more information.



COACHING AND EDUCATION



**DADS AND MALE CARERS  
FREE SATURDAY GROUP !!**

Do you live in Sandwell?

Are you a dad or a male carer?

**COME ALONG TO OUR DADS/MALE CARERS GROUP AT YOUR LOCAL FAMILY HUB  
ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE:**

- Arts and Craft
- Messy Play
- Baby activities
- Interactive activities for children aged 0 - 16
- Safe relaxing environment, to meet other Dads/Male carers

Free  
Breakfast  
provided



**WHEN?**

Saturday 26th  
October 2024  
AT  
10am-12pm

**WHERE?**

Rowley Family Hub  
Dudley Road,  
Rowley Regis,  
B65 8JY.



**FEEDBACK FROM DADS/MALE CARERS WHO HAVE ATTENDED DADS/MALE CARER GROUP:**

"Thanks for today everyone, my son had a great time! he really enjoyed the fruit platter"

"Hi Dads, I'm a father of two girls, glad to be here in the group"

"Really enjoyed that today and so did the kids"



For more information, please contact the Fathers and Male Carers Engagement Worker: **Chris Myles** on: 07720 143821 or [chris.myles@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:chris.myles@barnardos.org.uk)



For the first time ever!

**Fire Garden**  
at Sandwell Valley

**Friday 8 - Saturday 9  
November 2024**

A blazing installation of fiery sculptures that will transform Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre into a landscape of fire.

[www.visitsandwell.com](http://www.visitsandwell.com)



# DIGITAL BASICS USING CHROMEBOOKS



**Free!**

**JUBILEE PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
2nd October 2024 - 11th December 2024  
1PM - 3PM






**Topics covered**

- Basics of using a Chromebook
- Sending email
- Searching online
- Using Googles Docs and other apps
- Keeping safe online

For information call  
0121 520 0234  
[www.learnsafl.ac.uk](http://www.learnsafl.ac.uk)



West Midlands Combined Authority  
Winner of the WMCA Adult Learner Awards 2024  
Digital Inclusion Project

**safli**     

SAFL PRESENTS

# HALLOWEEN FAMILY EVENT

**SPOOKY FAMILY FUN FOR EVERYONE**  
CRAFT ACTIVITIES & LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

**31st Oct 2024** **JUBILEE PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE** **12 PM - 2 PM**

ADULTS WILL NEED TO BRING ID TO ENROL  
FOR INFORMATION CALL 0121 520 0234



**safli**     

## Sandwell

# Cycle Security

- Tuesday 15th October, 11:00 - 15:00 @ Brushstrokes, 253 High St, Sandwell, B66 3NJ
- Monday 28th October, 11:00 - 15:00 @ West Smethwick Park, Park Road, West, W Park Rd, Sandwell, B67 7JJ



**FREE EVENTS!**

**Our Dr Bike Repair Services include:**

- Security marking
- Small repairs
- Bike safety check
- + 7 free D-locks 
- Expert advice




### Jubilee Park Community Centre Timetable


#### Sept-Dec 2024

| Monday                                 | Tuesday   | Wednesday                               | Thursday                                  | Friday                                    | Saturday   |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|
| Cost of Living Team<br>9.00am – 3.00pm | SMBC Employment Job Club session<br>9.00am-3.00pm | Play & Stay<br>9.30am -11.00am          | General advice Drop in<br>10am-2pm        | Welcoming Space Warm Hub<br>9.00am-3.00pm | Martial Arts<br>10.00am-12.00pm<br>(paid Sessions)                                     |
| General advice Drop in<br>10am-2pm     | Art For Wellbeing Class<br>10.00am-12.00pm        | General advice Drop in<br>12pm-2pm      | Food Parcels<br>11.00am,-2.00pm           | Employment Support<br>09.00 – 03.00pm     |  |
| Beat It Percussion<br>6.00pm-7.00pm    | Welfare Service<br>9.30am-3.00pm                  | Digital Basics Class<br>1.00pm-3.00pm   | Adult Weight Management<br>12.30pm-2.00pm | Zumba Gold<br>10.00am-11.00am             | Every 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday<br>Councillor Surgery<br>10am-12.00pm |
|  | Kick Boxing<br>6.00pm-7.00pm<br>(paid Sessions)   | Empower me Recovery support<br>10am-2pm |   | Empower me Recovery support<br>10am-2pm   |  |

Jubilee Park Community Centre Number/Email 0121 520 0234 / jubileepark15@gmail.com

Introduction to BSL



Are you interested in learning British Sign Language? This 6 week introductory course is designed to assist individuals in deciding if they wish to pursue their learning onto the next levels.



- ◆ Max 8 students.
- ◆ 2.5 hours course.
- ◆ Fridays for 6 weeks.

Friday 11am - 1.30pm

- 8th November
- 15th November
- 22nd November
- 29th November
- 13th December
- 20th December


£90


REGISTER NOW AT :  
[training@sdca.co.uk](mailto:training@sdca.co.uk)

CALL / TEXT / VIDEOCALL :  
**07885 913 225**



## GO PLAY SANDWELL PRESENTS A SPOOK-TACULAR TIPTON HALF-TERM

MONDAY 28TH OCTOBER  
11:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
TIPTON LIBRARY, MAYFAIR GARDENS,  
TIPTON DY4 8SR

THURSDAY 31ST OCTOBER  
11:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
NEW ROAD METHODIST CHURCH, MOUNT ST,  
TIPTON DY4 7DE

All Go Play sessions are FREE, open access (so come along at any time) and do not require booking. Sessions are aimed at families with children aged 6-12 and up to 19 with additional needs.

Sessions are NOT drop-off sessions.

DRESSING UP!

FAMILY GAMES!

GOO & SLIME!

DEN BUILDING!

PEPPER CARVING!

MARSHMALLOW GHOSTS!

ARCHERY & LEGO!

LOOSE PARTS PLAY!

HALLOWEEN MAKE UP/FACE PAINTING!



Go play Sandwell

Delivered by 

Funded by 

## Reach & Reconnect

Health and digital literacy for Sandwell residents

**A new service to support individuals with accessing online services to improve Health and Wellbeing**

**Contact: Ian**  
 Mobile: 07976807743 or  
 email: [ian@sweda.org.uk](mailto:ian@sweda.org.uk)






## Reach and Reconnect

**Do you struggle with the following?**

- I just don't know where to get help
- I don't have a computer to access the internet
- When should I call 999 or 111?
- I can't make appointments online for my GP
- I don't know how to order my repeat prescription
- I don't understand my health condition

**WE CAN HELP!**

Contact Ian  
 Office: 0121 525 2558  
 Mobile: 07976 807743 or Email: [ian@sweda.org.uk](mailto:ian@sweda.org.uk)



# GO PLAY HALLOWEEN PARTY

THURSDAY 31ST OCTOBER  
 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
 NEW ROAD METHODIST CHURCH, MOUNT ST, TIPTON DY4 7DE

|                  |                    |                   |                |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Archery and Lego | Loose parts play   | Dressing Up       | Goo and Slime  |
| Games            | Marshmallow ghosts | Den Building      | Pepper carving |
|                  |                    | Halloween Make up |                |

All Go Play sessions are FREE, open access (so come along at any time) and do not require booking. Sessions are aimed at families with children aged 6-12 and up to 19 with additional needs, sessions are not drop of sessions.

Created by  Go play Sandwell

Funded by  Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council



**SANDWELL BETTER MENTAL HEALTH**  
Better mental health for all

**HEALTH SANDWELL**

# MEN'S MENTAL HEALTH

We would like to hear your views and ideas on how we can improve mental health support for men living and working in Sandwell.

Please scan the QR code to share your views. Let's build better mental health for Sandwell men. Thank you.

[www.consultationhub.sandwell.gov.uk/public-health/mens-mental-health-campaign/](http://www.consultationhub.sandwell.gov.uk/public-health/mens-mental-health-campaign/)

Feeling stressed or anxious? Remember it's OK to talk. Call 0800 008 6516 or text 07860 025 281 (24/7 Black Country Urgent Mental Health Helpline)

Or Scan QR code for assistance:



In partnership with **Independent Age Grants Fund**

# Silver Linings

Are you 65+ and need advice?

The Silver Linings project provides tailored advice and support for over-65s, focusing on welfare benefits, financial literacy, and fuel advice. Services include:

- Ensuring full entitlement to welfare benefits
- Budgeting and managing debt
- Applying for hardship grants
- Referrals for specialist advice, including debt support
- Help with managing fuel bills and avoiding loan sharks

For more information please contact us on:

0121 533 2568

[info@sandwellconsortium.co.uk](mailto:info@sandwellconsortium.co.uk)

[www.sandwellconsortium.co.uk](http://www.sandwellconsortium.co.uk)

**SANDWELL Consortium**

**Independent Age Grants Fund**



## Go play Sandwell

Join us for two **FREE Play sessions each week across Tipton**. Sessions are aimed at children aged 6-12 and up to 19 with special additional needs. **No booking is required so just turn up and have fun!**

**October Term Time Sessions:**  
Outside Wednesbury Oak School (DY4 OAR)  
Monday: 30th (September) 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th October

**Jubilee Park (DY4 ORL)**  
3:00-5:30pm  
3:00pm-5:30pm  
Thursday: 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th October

**October Half Term Events:**  
**Tipton Library (DY4 8SR) LIBRARY TAKE OVER DAY,**  
Monday 28th October, 11:00am-4:00pm

**New Road Methodist Church (DY4 7DE),**  
Thursday 31st October, 11:00am-4:00pm

For more information contact Johnny at [johnny.lomax@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:johnny.lomax@groundwork.org.uk) or 07872857437, visit <https://goplaysandwell.co.uk> or follow our social media accounts

Delivered by **GROUNDWORK** CHANGING PLACES CHANGING LIVES

Funded by **Sandwell** Metropolitan Borough Council



**SITC**  
STEPPINGSTONES  
IN THE COMMUNITY

**West Midlands  
Cycle & Walk**

# Bicycle Repair

GET YOUR BIKE FIXED  
FOR FREE

Bring your bike to be repaired or for a mini service by an experienced mechanic on the following dates:

**@ Lewisham Park,  
Smethwick, meet outside  
the play area, B66 1DL**

**29th October, 30th  
October & 31st  
October  
10am-1pm**

Contact Qasim on 07707 212 321 for enquiries

Contact 07707212321 or Qasim.ghaffoor-sitc@outlook.com



**SITC**  
STEPPINGSTONES  
IN THE COMMUNITY

**West Midlands  
Cycle & Walk**

## WANT TO LEARN HOW TO RIDE A BICYCLE???

JOIN US FOR OUR **FREE** LEARN TO RIDE SESSIONS TAKING PLACE ON:

**29th October  
30th October  
31st October  
10am-12pm**

**ALL WELCOME**

**@ Lewisham Park,  
Smethwick, meet outside  
the play area, B66 1DL**

Bikes available on the day Contact Qasim on 07707 212 321 to reserve a bike for the session or just turn up with your own bike.

Contact 07707212321 or Qasim.ghaffoor-sitc@outlook.com



*Let's Talk Hope provides support to people who have cancer or survived cancer, as well as their families and friends. Also raising awareness and signposting to relevant services that are available.*

**YCA**  
in Sandwell

## Let's talk HOPE

**WHEN**  
LAST SATURDAY  
OF EVERY MONTH  
10:30am - 12:00pm

**WHERE**  
**GREETS GREEN ACCESS CENTRE**  
Tildasley Street, West Bromwich  
B70 9SJ

**WHEN**  
2ND SATURDAY  
OF EVERY MONTH  
10:30am - 12:00pm

**WHERE**  
**DOROTHY PARKES CENTRE**  
Church Road, Smethwick  
B67 6EH

**CONTACT**  
AMEENA: 0121 525 3909

**MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT**

**NO ONE IN  
OUR COMMUNITY  
SHOULD FACE  
CANCER ALONE**

Let's Talk Hope in Sandwell Support Group

Ameena@yca-sandwell.org.uk

**THE GAP CHRISTIAN FAMILY CENTRE PRESENTS...**

**YOUTH CAFE!**

**LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH**  
**6:30-8:30PM**  
**HARGATE LANE, WEST BROMWICH**  
**B71 1PH**

CALL 0121-525-4442  
OR  
EMAIL [KIRSTY@THEGAPONLINE.ORG](mailto:kirsty@thegaponline.org)  
FOR MORE INFO AND BOOKINGS

**FOR AGES 11-16**  
**£3 PER PERSON**  
**INCLUDES MEAL,**  
**ICE-CREAM AND**  
**DRINKS!**

# Keeping your child safe online

It's important that children have the opportunity to explore, learn about online spaces and relationships, and – on occasion – have negative experiences or make mistakes. Have an honest conversation with your child about staying safe online and set up some house rules to protect them. Here are a few top tips:

1. Start talking to your child about content they look at online and what apps they go on.
2. Get clued up on how different apps share personal information. Advise them to keep personal details off social media and keep profiles on private.
3. Get to know their friends in and out of school – they might be talking to different people online. It's good to ask what they talk about in their online chat groups
4. Check the age restriction before your child downloads an app. An app or game that could be suitable for one young person may not be suitable for another.
5. Use parental controls on your child's iPhone and iPad to restrict explicit content, purchases and downloads, and changes to privacy settings. By allowing two factor authentication on your child's iCloud account, it can prevent thieves taking their phone and using their data. Learn more about iPhone privacy settings here.

Always call 999 if you or your child is in immediate danger.

You can also call 101 to report non-urgent crime or visit [www.west-midlands.police.uk/incident-report](http://www.west-midlands.police.uk/incident-report) to fill in an online form

Report online sexual abuse at [www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre](http://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre)

Talk to your child's school about their mobile phone policies

**West Midlands POLICE**

# Learn more about online safety



## ParentSafe

[www.parentsafe.lgfl.net](http://www.parentsafe.lgfl.net)

An amazing resource page from the London Grid for Learning (LGL) with guidance and videos on a variety of topics online, including safe settings and controls, and how to talk to children about online life.

## Internet Matters

[www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)

Step-by-step guide on how to set parental controls on a number of devices, internet connections, gaming and social media apps.

## NSPCC

[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)  
0800 900 5000



**NSPCC**

The UK's leading youth charity that has lot of useful information and resources available covering a wider variety of topics. They also have a YouTube channel, scan the QR to find out more.

## Stop radicalisation and exploitation

Anyone can be vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation, but children are particularly at risk. As they grow and become more independent, it is not unusual for them to take risks, explore new things and push boundaries. Educate Against Hate's website ([www.educateagainsthate.com](http://www.educateagainsthate.com)) offers practical advice and support to protect children from extremism and radicalisation. NetMums have partnered counter-terrorism policing to promote Act Early, a safeguarding website for parents, friends and families who are concerned, visit [www.netmums.com/act-early](http://www.netmums.com/act-early) for more information.

## Report online sexual abuse

If you or your child is worried about online abuse or grooming, make a report to on CEOP's website [www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre](http://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre)

A Child Protection Advisor will get in contact and help you talk through what's going on. CEOP cannot help with bullying or account hacking.

For a child or young person, having a sexual image or video of themselves shared online can be a distressing situation. This can be difficult for parents and carers too, but there are ways you can support your child. If they're under 18, they can use Report Remove. Report Remove is a tool that allows young people to report an image or video shared online, to see if it's possible to get it taken down. Provided by Childline and the Internet Watch Foundation, it keeps the young person informed at each stage of their report, and provides further support where necessary.

Advice for parents - search 'NSPCC Report Remove' for more information or scan the QR code to make a report

Search 'WMP Advice' for more information.



**childline**

[www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)  
0800 1111

Working in partnership, making communities safer  
[www.westmidlands.police.uk](http://www.westmidlands.police.uk)



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**Life in Community**

## Free Activities this Half Term

St Johns Church Hall,  
Upper Church Lane, Tipton

### Monday 28th October

Autumn Makes & Bakes  
Fun and games  
1pm-4pm


We welcome parents/carers to stay and play along with younger siblings.

**Go play**  
Sandwell

To find out more text 'PLAY' to  
**07752 659257**

Funded by:  
**Sandwell**  
Community Foundation

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|--|--|---------|
| <b>What's on at Great Bridge Library</b>   |  | October |
| Activities & Events in Great Bridge Library  |  | 2024    |
| <b>Regular Adult Activities</b>  | <b>Children's Activities</b>   |         |
| <p><b>Monday</b><br/> <b>Art Group</b><br/>                 10am - 12 noon<br/>                 Paint or draw at our relaxing Art Group. Bring your own materials. Share ideas and a cuppa.</p> <p><b>Knit and Natter</b><br/>                 2.00pm - 4.00pm<br/>                 Join our lovely group, to knit, crochet or simply natter over a cuppa and a biscuit</p> <p><b>Wednesday</b><br/> <b>Cost Of Living Advice</b><br/>                 10am—2pm<br/>                 Free support with Benefits, Budgeting, Debt, Employment and Energy</p> <p><b>Job Club</b><br/>                 1.30pm—4pm<br/>                 Help and advice with searching for jobs, filling in applications, CVs, and interviews.</p> <p><b>Cant and Colour</b><br/>                 2.00pm - 4.00pm<br/>                 Take a break and join our adults colouring group. Relax in our calm atmosphere, colouring with tea and biscuits. Perfect for health and wellbeing.</p> <p><b>Friday</b><br/> <b>Sandwell Strides Health Walk</b><br/>                 10.30am - 12noon<br/>                 Meet for a healthy walk around park, followed by a cuppa and biscuits.</p> <p><b>Basic ICT 2pm—4pm</b><br/>                 Help with basic IT, receiving and sending emails, saving information and printing</p> <p><b>Jigsaw &amp; Games Club</b></p> | <p><b>Friday</b><br/> <b>PlayTalk Read</b><br/>                 11.00 - 11.45am</p> <p>Join us in the library for fun interactive story sessions and craft activities</p> <p><b>Saturday</b><br/> <b>Sandy Bear Story Time</b><br/>                 Stories for children under 5</p> <p>10.30am - 11am<br/>                 Take part in Sandy Bear's challenges and collect a stamp for each one you Complete</p> <p><b>Family Lego Club</b><br/>                 11am—12.30pm</p> <p><b>OPENING TIMES</b></p> <p>Mon 9.30am - 5.30pm<br/>                 Tue CLOSED (Library Plus)<br/>                 Wed 9.30am - 5pm<br/>                 Thu CLOSED (Library Plus )<br/>                 Fri 9.30am - 5pm<br/>                 Sat 10am - 1pm<br/>                 Sun CLOSED (Library Plus)</p> <p>greatbridge_library@sandwell.gov.uk<br/>                 0121 569 4930</p> <p><b>Sandwell Welcoming Spaces</b><br/>                 Come inside the library for a chat, a FREE drink and welfare support</p> |         |
|    |  |         |

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|---|--|--|
| <b>What's on at Great Bridge Library</b>  |  | October  |
| Activities & Events in Great Bridge Library   |  | 2024   |
| <b>Children's Half Term Activities (ALL FREE)</b>   |  |  |
| <p><u>Monday 28th October</u><br/>                 2.30pm<br/>                 Spooky Drawing with author<br/>                 Shoo Rayner</p> <p><u>Wednesday 30th October</u><br/>                 2.30pm<br/>                 Autumn Craft with a spooky feel</p> <p><u>Friday 1st November</u><br/>                 10am<br/>                 Stealer of Stories -<br/>                 Meet fairytale characters at this Children's Theatre Production</p>  <p><b>Worrapalava</b><br/>                 Friday 1st November, 7.30pm<br/>                 An evening of good old Black Country entertainment</p> |  | <p><b>Free NHS Health Checks @ Great Bridge Library</b></p> <p>Wednesday 9th &amp; 23rd October</p> <p>Book an appointment using the code below or pop in on the day</p> <p><b>AGED BETWEEN 40 &amp; 74?</b><br/>                 A free NHS health check could help you to spot early signs of stroke heart disease &amp; diabetes.</p>  <p>Check if you are eligible for visiting <a href="https://nhs.uk/health-checks/and/or">https://nhs.uk/health-checks/and/or</a> scanning the QR code. Alternatively call us on 0800 2546 163</p>    <p><b>Art Therapy Workshops (FREE)</b><br/>                 Friday 4th &amp; 18th October, 10am—12pm<br/>                 jewellery making, clay work, printing, mosaic making, and embroidery.</p> <p><b>Struggling with the cost of living?</b><br/>                 We can help...</p> <p><b>Our cost of living advisers offer free support with:</b></p> <p><b>Benefits Budgeting Debt Employment Energy</b></p> <p>Great Bridge Library<br/>                 Sheepwash Lane, Tipton, DY4 7JF<br/>                 Drop-in sessions every Wednesday's 10.00am to 1.00pm</p>    <p>Download eBooks &amp; eAudiobooks</p>       |



23 October 2024

This is a message from West Midlands Police for parents, carers, and older brothers or sisters.

Police and schools across the West Midlands are committed to working together to protect our young people from becoming victims of robbery and violent crime, but to do this we need your help.

As we head into October half term, we are urging everyone to talk to their child about increasing their phone security and their safety during Halloween and Bonfire Night.

We have seen an increase in criminals targeting young people who carry iPhones or iPads. Thieves are forcing young people to log out of their iCloud to prevent the phone being tracked after it's stolen. By enabling two-factor authentication on iCloud or your child's phone, can make thieves lose interest in taking their phone.

**Increasing the security on your child's iPhone and iPad:**

1. Firstly, talk to your child about enabling two-factor authentication on their devices to help keep them, and their phones, safe from theft and exploitation.
2. Reassure them that turning on location and enabling better privacy settings allows them to communicate with their friends and family safely and securely.
3. Turn on two-factor authentication for your child's Apple Account: On your iPhone or iPad: Go to Settings > [your name] > Sign-In & Security. Tap Turn on Two-Factor Authentication. Then tap Continue and follow the onscreen instructions.
4. Discuss with your child who they would like to add to their 'trusted contact list' and encourage them to save these numbers in their emergency contacts list in case they get into trouble.
5. Add your child's devices to your 'Family' by heading to your Apple ID settings and adding the devices.
6. Make sure all the latest software is updated across the devices you're adding
7. From the 'Family' group you can enable content and privacy restrictions and two-factor authentication, as well as location sharing.

For further information about parental controls and privacy guidance please visit: [Use parental controls on your child's iPhone and iPad - Apple Support](#)

Please note, if your child has an Android phone there are additional security settings you can put in place to make sure the location of their phone and data is secure. Visit your phone provider website for further crime prevention advice.

**Reducing antisocial behaviour and keeping young people safe:**

We want everyone to go out and enjoy the festivities of Halloween and Bonfire Night, but this can be a worrying time for those most vulnerable in our communities. Before your child heads out with their mates, be sure to talk to them about how to respect others and how to get help if they find themselves in trouble.

Your schools' officer will be able to provide you with a parent's guide to Halloween and firework safety but here are some top tips:

1. Plan a safe and familiar route and stick with friends
2. Make sure phones are charged, location on, and kept out of sight
3. Wear high-visibility clothing or something recognisable so friends and family can spot you in a crowd





4. **Attend a public firework display when you can and never allow children to handle fireworks**
5. Organise a meet-up place in case you lose each other
6. Talk to your child about the dangers of pointing fireworks at people, animals, and roads.
7. Tell them that police can arrest and prosecute anyone using fireworks dangerously
8. If someone has a 'no trick or treating' card in their window do not approach the property or ring the bell.

**What to do if you are concerned about your child or a young person you know:**

Talk to them in a safe and quiet location that feels comfortable for both of you.

You may wish to contact a member of the Pastoral Team at school if you feel your child isn't listening or is at risk. You can reach out your school's officers to seek advice. They can talk through your concerns and plan a way forward together.

If you or your child has been a victim of crime or their life is in danger, call 999 immediately. Alternatively, you can call 101 if the crime has happened and you want to report this to the police.

You can contact Crime stoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

Thank you, **West Midlands Police**.





**Gospel Oak School**

Bilston Road  
Gospel Oak  
Tipton  
West Midlands  
DY4 0BZ

T 0121 556 1351

F 0121 506 7833

W [www.gospeloakschool.co.uk](http://www.gospeloakschool.co.uk)

**Our Ref:** SBr.KH.3132

**Your Ref:**

To: Parents/Carers

25<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: Staffing**

I am writing to thank you for your help and support in improving attendance and behaviour this academic year. We are pleased that the behaviour in lessons and around the school is significantly better this year and that the number of students absent from school is significantly lower than this time last year. We are confident that this will help improve attainment and achievement.

I am delighted that the school continues to be fully staffed providing our students with the consistency and visibility of staff that they deserve. We have therefore not had to use any agency and supply staff so far this academic year. To add extra capacity, I am pleased to announce the appointment of another new teacher and Miss Khera will join us in November 2024 as a teacher of maths.

I hope everyone enjoys their October half term holiday and I look forward to the school re-opening for all students on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 8.30am.

Please do contact the school via the 'Contact Form' at [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#) should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr S Brownlow**  
**Executive Principal**