

Gospel Oak Weekly Newsletter

w.e. 21st November 2025



UPCOMING DATES

Monday 24th November - 'Split Second'
Performance

Thursday 27th November - Year 13 Parents'
Evening

Friday 28th November - Teacher Training Day

Friday 5th December - Flu Vaccines

Thursday 11th December - Year 11 Parents' Evening



ASSEMBLY THEMES

Assembly focus this week was Safety
Online and AI

w.c 24/11 - Homophobia and
Discrimination

01/12 - PAL Assembly (Provider Access
Legislation)

Please take the time to talk to your
daughter and/or son about what they
have learnt in Assembly.

YEAR 7

YEAR 8

YEAR 9

YEAR 10

YEAR 11

SIXTH FORM

LETTERS

COMMUNITY

MESSAGE FROM MISS MIDDLEHURST, SENIOR VICE PRINCIPAL

It has certainly been a chilly week; please do remember to make sure that your daughter and/or son brings a coat to school, and that this is labelled with their name. As you are aware, we have closed the fields now that the ground is much wetter, but we are trying to keep all other outdoor spaces – for example, the MUGA, the Quads, the Astro – open for students at break and lunchtime; we are very lucky with our extensive outside spaces and we know that many of our students want to stay outside in their social times. We are fortunate, too, with the large indoor spaces such as the Bistro and the Restaurant where students can stay if they do not wish to go outside. New posters have gone up in the Restaurant this week which show exactly what you can get for a meal deal in school; a reminder for our parents and carers of students who are eligible for Free School Meals that a meal deal is available as part of this entitlement. Please do make sure that your daughter and/or son is using their Free School Meal entitlement if they are eligible and do please contact us if you have any queries. On that note, HAF vouchers will be sent out shortly for eligible families; please get in touch from week commencing 1st December if you are eligible and have not received the information.

Tuesday evening saw a fabulous Awards' Evening in school; it was lovely to welcome so many students into school with their parents and carers to recognise the excellent achievements of so many of our students from last year. Thank you to Mr. Bowser, Mr. Hickinbottom and Mrs Mistry for their work on organising such a wonderful event.

Year 11 and 13 students have started their 'Feedback Fortnight' to support their next steps as they continue to prepare for success next summer in their GCSE, A-level and BTEC exams. This morning saw both year groups also receive their formal mock examination results; this is a huge part of learning what Year 11 and Year 13 'look' like; having to wait for the results now prepares students for the wait next summer. Year 11 students have also been busy starting their flashcard revision sessions in tutor time; if you have a daughter and/or son in Year 11, please talk to them about this, and you will recall there was more information about this in last week's newsletter.

Please keep talking to your daughters and/or sons about homework; it makes a huge difference to the exam results that all students get at the end of Year 11 and Year 13. If there are questions from parents and carers in any year groups about homework, please get in touch via Gospel Oak School - Contact Us. This is the same link to contact us if you have any queries or if we can support in any way. I hope you have a lovely weekend.

YEAR TEAM UPDATES



YEAR 7

Attendance Focus

- We are aiming for Year 7 to come first in attendance every day and every week.
- Please support in arriving on time and attending every day unless genuinely unwell, having said that, we will support in any way necessary for you!
- Strong attendance helps pupils make great progress and feel fully part of school life.

Daily and Weekly Targets

- **Daily Goal:** 100% attendance for every tutor group.
- **Weekly Goal:** Year 7 to achieve the highest year-group attendance across the school – AGAIN!! We have done it before with 100%, we can do it again!!
- Classes with the best attendance each week will receive special recognition and rewards, as always!!

Positive Points

- Pupils can earn positive points every day for punctuality, effort, and attitude.
- Weekly recognition will be given to pupils and tutor groups with the highest positive point totals.

Important Dates

- 28th November – School is CLOSED

Mr Wilson and the Year 7 Team



Welcome to the Team, Mr Minton!

Big news, Year 8! This week we welcomed the amazing **Mr Minton** to our Year 8 family as our brand-new **Assistant Year Team Lead!**

Make sure you give him a big smile, a friendly hello, and show him why Year 8 is the BEST year group in the school! 😊💙

Attendance Heroes!

We started the week with a little dip... BUT you bounced back like absolute champions and reached **95.7%** midweek! 🙌

Let's keep pushing—every day counts, and we're aiming HIGH!

★ **Positive Points Battle!**

Okay, Year 8... we need to talk.

Year 9 beat us this week with the most positive points 🙌

BUT we're not giving up!

Let's show them what we're made of—kindness, effort, respect and positivity!

We ARE taking that top spot back next week! 💪🔥

Important Dates Coming Up!

 27th November – Home game for our Year 8 football team! ⚽ Bring your support!

 28th November – School is CLOSED

Student of the Month!

Starting this month, we'll be choosing a Year 8 Student of the Month!

This could be someone showing kindness, teamwork, effort, great behaviour, or someone who has gone the extra mile!

Could it be YOU? 😊

Keep shining—you never know!

Mr Bowser and the Year 8 Team



What an amazing week it's been for Year 9! 🌟 We've continued to see brilliant levels of attendance, staying strong in the 90s—so a huge well done to every student who arrives each day ready to learn and get involved 🌟📚. Your consistency really does make a difference! However, we do need to talk about Fridays... 😞📉 Attendance drops significantly at the end of the week, and this is the only thing letting us down. Let's turn Fridays into our strongest day—full of positivity, teamwork, and good habits! 💪❤️

This week, Mr Johnson delivered a powerful and eye-opening assembly on vaping and the serious damage it can cause to the body 🚭🚫. The message was clear: your health matters, and the choices you make now have long-term impacts. We're really proud of how maturely students listened and engaged with this important topic.

A polite reminder for homework 📝🌟—if you don't know your ClassCharts login or your computer login for home study, please speak to your tutor, Mr Johnson, or pop to see the IT team at break or lunch. They're always happy to help! 💻👨🏫 Starting next week, any homework that isn't completed on time will result in an automatic 1-hour detention the following day 🕒. Maths and English homework are due on Tuesdays, and Science is due on Fridays, so make sure you're organised and planning ahead 📅📖

A huge congratulations to all the Year 9 students who attended our very first Annual Awards Evening! 🏆🌟 You represented the year group brilliantly, and we are incredibly proud of your achievements, confidence, and dedication. Mr Johnson, Mr Marrs, and all our Year 9 tutors were absolutely beaming with pride the entire night 🥰❤️.

Earlier this week, Mr Johnson also carried out some student voice sessions with groups across the year. The quality of your responses was outstanding—thoughtful, articulate, and genuinely passionate about making our school even better 🗣️💡🌟. Your ideas and honesty show just how mature and forward-thinking this year group truly is.

Keep up the tremendous work, Year 9! 🚀🌟 Let's push attendance even higher, keep smashing homework deadlines, and continue being the brilliant, hardworking, and kind students we know you are. Here's to another fantastic week ahead! 🎉📚🌈

Mr Johnson and the Year 9 Team



Happy Week 3 of Autumn 2 from the Year 10 family! A cold miserable one this week in terms of the weather, but lots to celebrate in terms of Y10 success in school!

This week some of our incredible Year 10 were lucky enough to be invited to our first ever awards evening where we as a school could celebrate and recognise their efforts in subjects over the academic year of 24-25! It was an absolute honour to see so many Year 10s being rewarded for their hard work and effort and Miss Ralph was bursting with PRIDE in the front row for the whole event! Big big well done to you all! ✨

As well as this, Mr Lowndes shared with the Year Team a message of praise and recognition for his 10B Languages class, he stated: "An absolute pleasure to teach – perfect attitudes, perfect behaviour, brilliant motivation, great senses of humour. Possibly my best ever class in 30 years of teaching" - What an incredible message to receive, we are so proud of you 10B!

Unfortunately, we are still noticing a few more students arriving late to school and lessons. Remember – school starts at 8:25am and you should be in line-up ready to go on the MUGA. No ifs, no buts, no maybes! Being on time helps you start your day with confidence and focus – plus, it's a great life skill for the future and we have a 10/10 expectation so we need to sort this quickly! 🕒

So, that is all for this week! Week 3 of Autumn 2, Year 10 at GOS done already. Let's see what our 10/10 attitude towards learning, our 10/10 mindset towards success and achievement and our 10/10 positivity every single day can get us between now and Christmas – Let's go TEAM GREEN! ❤️

Miss Ralph and the Year 10 Team



YEAR 11

Attendance Matters

Our attendance has dipped to around 94%, and we need to bring this back up. Every lesson genuinely counts – being in school every day ensures you're accessing the teaching that will secure the grades you deserve in May. Let's lift it together.

Lateness is a huge issue within the year group, which is a reason for the dip in attendance, we need to be in for 8:25am every day.

Key Dates Coming Up

Parents' Evening – **Wednesday 11th December**

A key opportunity to review your progress and fine-tune your revision plans.

Year 11 Prom – **Wednesday 2nd July**

Save the date – more details coming soon!

GCSE Exams begin Monday 5th May

Earlier than usual this year, so consistency now is everything.

Homework Expectations – Important Update

To improve accountability and ensure high-quality preparation for exams:

Homework will no longer be completed in a lunchtime detention.

Any incomplete homework will now result in a 1-hour after-school detention.

Staying organised with your deadlines and asking for support early will make a huge difference.

Punctuality & Conduct

Late to school = detention in F2 at break.

Missing this = a 30-minute after-school detention.

Arriving on time sets you up for a successful day – keep the standards high.

Shoebox Appeal – Deadline: 1st December

This year we are proudly supporting Black Country Women's Aid and Murray Hall.

We urgently need empty shoeboxes themselves, as well as:

Non-perishable food items

Toiletries and sanitary products

Small essentials and items of comfort

Every donation goes directly to local women and families in crisis. Your contribution will make a real difference this winter.

Miss Malkin and the Year 11 Team



Year 12 and 13 students are continuing to work hard in lessons. Year 13 students will be receiving their mock grades on Friday.

Anyone that is interested in applying to the 6th form is welcomed to apply online or to collect a paper application form. If you require any further information, please contact me or see the sixth form team.

Your sincerely,

Mr Bala
Director of Post 16

Upcoming dates -

27th November – Visit to University of Birmingham

27th November – Year 13 Parents' Evening

18th December – Reward trip to Liverpool



To: Yr 7 to 9 Parents/Carers

21st November 2025

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

Our Ref: AHi.KH.3422

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Years 7 to 9 MFL Project

As part of our Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) curriculum, students in Year 7 to 9 will be completing an MFL Exploration Project. This project encourages independent research, creativity and cultural awareness while giving students an opportunity to apply the language skills they have learned so far.

Each year group will complete a different project focus:

Year 7 – French-speaking World Project

Year 7 students will research a French-speaking country of their choice. They may present their work in any format (PowerPoint, poster, booklet, video, model, etc). Students should use simple French phrases to introduce each section and provide further detail in English.

Their project must include:

- Location and geography
- Population
- Money and currency
- Weather
- Tourist attractions
- Brief history
- Food

Year 8 – Spanish-speaking World Project

Year 8 students will research a Spanish-speaking country. As with Year 7, they have full creative control over how they present their findings. Students should use simple Spanish phrases to head each section, with explanations in English.

Their project must include:

- Location and geography
- Population
- Money and currency
- Weather
- Tourist attractions
- Brief history
- Food

Year 9 – Famous French-speaker Project

Year 9 students will complete a research project on a famous French-speaker, either living or historical. The work may be presented as a PowerPoint or poster and should be original, creative and well-researched. Students may include some French phrases, written independently.

Suggested content includes:

- Personal details (name, age, birthday, family)
- Physical description
- Job or career
- Why this person is famous
- Their impact on their community or the world
- Why the student admires them
- Any future plans or projects related to this person

We want to celebrate the hard work and creativity that goes into these projects:

- All students who complete the project will receive 50 achievement points and a certificate of participation.
- The Top 10 projects in each year group will receive a special voucher and a certificate, which will be presented in the celebration assembly.

All MFL Exploration Projects must be completed and submitted by:

o **Monday 8th December 2025**

This is an excellent opportunity for your son/daughter to develop research skills, creativity, cultural understanding and confidence in using a foreign language.

We appreciate your support in encouraging your son/daughter to plan their project carefully and take pride in their presentation and research.

Yours faithfully,



Mr A Hickinbottom
Assistant Principal



To: Parents/Carers

Gospel Oak School

Bilston Road
Gospel Oak
Tipton
West Midlands
DY4 0BZ

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F 0121 506 7833

W www.gospeloakschool.co.uk

21st November 2025

Our Ref: AHi.KH.3421

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Homework

I am writing to inform you about our updated procedures for homework at Gospel Oak School.

If a student fails to complete or submit their homework, they will receive a 60-minute after-school homework detention, which will take place the next school day. If your son/daughter does not attend this detention, the situation will be escalated in line with our behaviour policy.

This is to ensure that teachers can read or mark the work and your son/daughter can receive feedback in line with their peers.

We continue to reinforce the importance of homework because the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) reports that regular, well-designed homework can add up to five months of additional progress at secondary level. This is especially effective when students' complete homework to a high standard, understand its purpose and keep up with deadlines. Your support in encouraging your son/daughter to complete their homework on time makes a significant difference to their progress.

We also want to recognise and celebrate students who consistently meet homework expectations. Teachers award Achievement Points for completing homework on time and additional points are given when students produce outstanding homework. These rewards contribute to our whole-school recognition systems, helping students feel motivated and valued for their hard work and dedication.

If your son/daughter is still experiencing log-in issues with Carousel, Educake or Mathswatch, please get in touch using our [Contact Us page](#) so we can support them quickly.

These expectations are in place to help ensure that your son/daughter keeps up with their learning and develops strong independent study habits that support academic success.

Yours faithfully



Mr A Hickinbottom
Assistant Principal



To: All Parents/Carers

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

21st November 2025

Our Ref: PG.KH.3427

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carers

Re: Winter Illness - Flu

As winter approaches, we want to ensure our students stay healthy and safe.

Illness is the biggest single reason for school absence; while some absences due to illness are unavoidable, many can be reduced through simple, proactive measures that minimise the spread of infections.

This time of year often brings an increase in flu cases and I kindly ask for your support in helping protect your son or daughter from seasonal illnesses.

Here are a few simple but effective ways to help prevent the spread of winter flu:

1. Encourage regular handwashing: thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water, especially before eating and after coughing, sneezing or using the bathroom, to help reduce the spread of germs.
2. Promote good hygiene habits: Remind your sons/daughters of the 'Catch It, Bin It, Kill It' approach and to avoid touching their faces with unwashed hands.
3. Consider the seasonal flu vaccine: Vaccination is one of the most effective ways to prevent flu or reduce its severity. Please see the information fact sheet at [Help-protect-your-child-from-flu-this-winter-factsheet.pdf](#)

The annual flu vaccination programme is important in helping protect your son or daughter, as well as the wider school community, from seasonal flu. The vaccination is safe, effective and recommended for all young people to reduce illness and absence. Our school's flu vaccination programme will take place in December and I kindly ask that you complete the online consent form as soon as possible using the following link: [Vaccination UK Immunisation](#). Please ensure the form is submitted even if you choose not to give consent, so that our records are accurate and the vaccination team can prepare accordingly.

We appreciate your cooperation in maintaining a healthy environment for all students. If you have any concerns or need additional information, please feel free to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Parm Grewal
Vice Principal –Designated Safeguarding Lead



To: SEND Parents/Carers

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

21st November 2025

Our Ref: HN.KH.3428

Your Ref:

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: Stay Informed – Sandwell SEND E-Bulletin

Sandwell Council is starting a new SEND email bulletin this autumn. This bulletin will help you stay up to date with news about Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Sandwell. The first email will be sent at the end of this month.

It is a quick and easy way to keep informed about SEND in Sandwell. Please sign up so you do not miss anything. You will get regular updates and be part of the SEND community.

To sign up, please visit the Sandwell Council website and look for ‘**Sign up to our Sandwell SEND Bulletin**’ or use the link below.

[Sandwell Council - Sign up to our Sandwell SEND Bulletin](#)

Kind regards,

Hayley Nutting
Vice Principal

COMMUNITY



Winter Festival

Monday 8th December

Drop in anytime from 11-3pm

**Malthouse Gardens,
100 Oldbury Road,
B66 1JE**

Celebrate the season with us!
Join us for festive stalls, fun activities and food alongside advice, support, and winter warmers to help us all stay warm, well and happy this winter

0121 558 5555 (option 2)
contactifa@idealforall.co.uk
social media @idealforall
@GrowingOpportunities

IDEAL FOR ALL
Registered Charity number 1070112 and company number limited by guarantee number 03196518



Winter Festival

Calling all local sellers!

Are you a local maker, crafter, or food vendor? Join us at the Winter Festival for a day of festive fun, community spirit, and seasonal cheer!

**Malthouse Gardens, 100 Oldbury Road, B66 1JE
Monday 8th December
Drop in anytime between 11am - 3pm**

To book a stall or find out more:
Call 0121 558 5555 (option 2)
Email contactifa@idealforall.co.uk
Follow us: @idealforall @GrowingOpportunities

IDEAL FOR ALL



FREE BOXING SESSIONS

BoxClever Mentoring will be running after-school boxing sessions every TERM-TIME TUESDAY from 04/11/25 - 24/03/26 at Contenders Boxing Club. All sessions are FREE of charge.

Contenders Boxing Club
Unit 13 Tinsley Street
Great Bridge
West Bromwich
DY4 7LQ

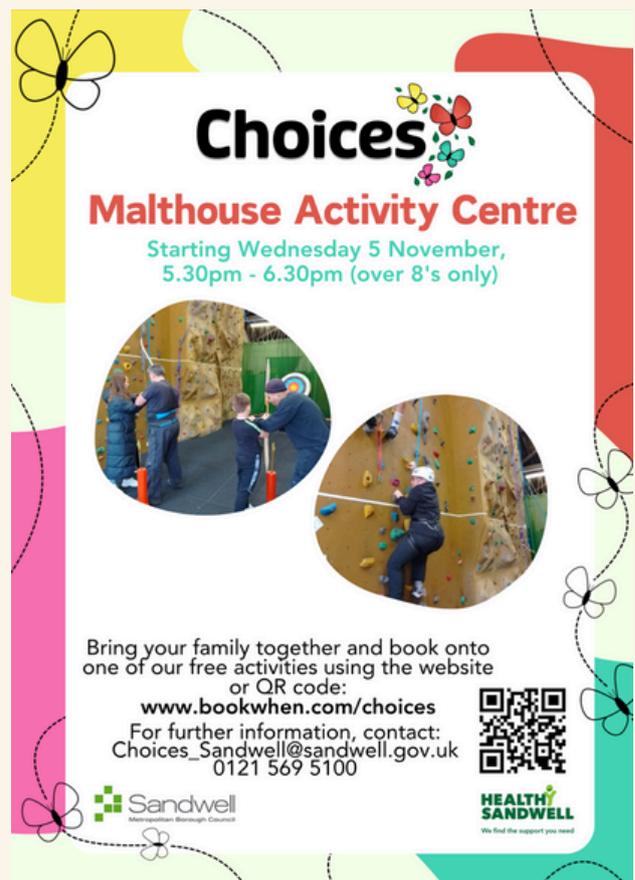
4:00 - 5:15pm
Ages 9 - 16 years

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
BOXCLEVER MENTORING ON THE BELOW**

@boxclevercj
BoxClever Mentoring

WEST MIDLANDS VIOLENCE REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP

BOXCLEVER Mentoring



Choices

Malthouse Activity Centre

Starting Wednesday 5 November, 5.30pm - 6.30pm (over 8's only)

Bring your family together and book onto one of our free activities using the website or QR code:
www.bookwhen.com/choices
For further information, contact:
Choices_Sandwell@sandwell.gov.uk
0121 569 5100

Sandwell
Health and Wellbeing Gateway

HEALTHY SANDWELL
We find the support you need

YMCA CHRISTMAS ROLLER DISCO

FRI 12 DEC 6PM-9PM
@ YMCA WEST BROM

TICKETS FROM £5

GET YOUR SKATES ON - DON'T MISS OUT!

LIVE MUSIC

FESTIVE MENU

ALL WELCOME

BOOK ONLINE AT YMCABC.ORG.UK/ROLLERDISCO

YMCA Here for young people Here for communities Here for you

YMCA enables people to develop their full potential in mind, body and spirit. Inspired by, and faithful to, our Christian values, we create supportive, inclusive and energising communities, where young people can truly belong, contribute and thrive.

FAMILY & YOUTH WORK | HEALTH & WELLBEING | HOUSING | TRAINING & EDUCATION | SUPPORT & ADVICE

All ages welcome – accessible venue – free entry!

Christmas at Murray Hall

A free festive family event, crafts, music, and Santa's workshop!

Live Music Refreshments
Activities for all the family

1pm - 5pm Thursday 11th December 2025
The Bridge, St Marks Road, DY4 0SL

Calling All Little Elves!

Join Santa's Workshop and Elf Training Academy!

Decorate Your Own Festive Cookies!

Reindeer Food Making Fun!

And more!

Meet Santa!

For further information please call 01902 826 513

Charity No. 1076896 | Company No: 03692018 Registered in England & Wales

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS WEEK

17 - 21 NOVEMBER 2025
#SAFEGUARDINGADULTSWEEK

Safeguarding Adults Week 2025 is about

PREVENTION
Safeguarding is often thought to be policies and procedures to respond to abuse, or to minimise risk. Or maybe lessons learnt from past cases of abuse. Learning is important, however preventing abuse from occurring is better than responding to harm, and neglect.

Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board is launching a new **Prevention Group** to look at raising awareness, sharing best practice, identifying emerging themes and co-ordinating learning and training needs. The quarterly group meetings will be hybrid.

If you are interested in being part of our new prevention approach or would like further information please contact sue_clark@sandwell.gov.uk

Prevention: Act Against Abuse

ann craft trust acting against abuse

Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board

Safeguarding Adults Week 17 - 21 November 2025 #SafeguardingAdultsWeek

Safeguarding Adults Week

17 - 21 NOVEMBER 2025

For information Visit tinyurl.com/ACTSAW25 or scan here >>

Monday - Change the Conversation
Today's about proactive intervention – about the good things we can do, as individuals and organisations, to create safer environments that work to prevent abuse.

Tuesday - Prevention in Practice
How does prevention work in practice? What role should leadership play in setting the tone and building more supportive environments?

Wednesday - Creating Empowering Environments
Explore how empathy, understanding, co-production, and positive risk taking can help create trauma informed approaches.

Thursday - Trust Your Instincts
Today's all about how we can build our courage and resilience as individuals to speak out. To do this, we will look at organisational and individual tools that help develop supportive cultures in which good safeguarding practices can thrive.

Friday - Celebrate the Safer Cultures
Shine a spotlight on examples of good practice, so that we can illustrate what we mean by "safer cultures". So shout about your success stories. We want to hear stories of positive outcomes, constructive conversations, exciting initiatives, and fruitful partnerships. We want to hear as many voices as possible, so please share!

SEE SOMETHING DO SOMETHING

SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

ann craft trust acting against abuse

SEE SOMETHING If you are concerned that an adult with care and support needs is at risk of abuse or neglect and is unable to protect themselves

DO SOMETHING In an emergency dial 999 Call Sandwell on 0121 549 2266 Out of hours 0121 549 2353



Celebrate Safer Cultures

Prevention act before abuse

Safeguarding Adults Week 2025

Shine a spotlight on examples of good practice and illustrate what we mean by safer cultures.

Prevention act before abuse

Safeguarding Adults Week 2025

WHAT IS SAFEGUARDING ADULTS WEEK?
Safeguarding Adults Week is a time for organisations to come together to raise awareness of important safeguarding issues.

A FOCUS ON PREVENTION
For the 2025 week, we're focusing on prevention, and on how we can act to stop abuse from taking place.

WHY PREVENTION MATTERS
It's important to learn the right lessons when things go wrong. But it is much better to prevent abuse from occurring in the first place than it is to respond to instances of harm, neglect, and isolation.

KINDLING COURAGE
We need the courage and the confidence to act on our instincts, and to speak up when something feels wrong.

BUILDING RESILIENCE
In a resilient community, people know their rights and responsibilities and understand what to do the moment they have concerns.

GET UPDATES & FREE RESOURCES
Visit tinyurl.com/ACTSAW25 or scan here →



SCAN ME

#SafeguardingAdultsWeek

Sandwell SEND E-Bulletin Sign up Now

Stay Informed: Sandwell SEND E-Bulletin Sign up Now

- Sandwell Council is launching a brand-new SEND e-bulletin this autumn, designed to keep everyone up to date on the borough's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Transformation Programme. The first edition will be issued end of this month.
- Whether you're a parent carer, young person, professional, or part of an education setting, the e-bulletin will deliver the latest news, events, and opportunities straight to your inbox.
- It's the easiest way to stay informed about important developments and SEND news in Sandwell. Don't miss out—sign up today to receive regular updates and be part of the SEND community. Visit the Sandwell Council website to subscribe to the Sandwell SEND Bulletin.
- **Sandwell Council - Sign up to our Sandwell SEND Bulletin**



•Mobile Vaccination Clinic - Flu and Covid-19 Vaccines - Tipton Clinic Details

The mobile vaccination clinic for Flu and Covid-19 vaccinations will be in Tipton and across Sandwell/Black Country over the next few months. Details for Tipton are below:

Tuesday 25 th November, 10am – 3pm	Tipton Shopping Centre, Tipton Market Place, Unity Walk, Tipton, DY4 8EZ (Walk-in clinics, no appointment necessary)
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Information is below and website link, which will be updated when future clinic dates are set up.

All Mobile Clinic Locations in the Black Country - Stay Well This Winter: Get Vaccinated at a Mobile Clinic in the Black Country - <https://blackcountry.icb.nhs.uk/your-health/health-advice/flu/mobile-vaccination-clinics>

- As winter approaches and viruses spread, flu mobile vaccination clinics are being set up to encourage people to stay well this winter.
- The community mobile clinics are being hosted at a range of locations in Wolverhampton, Dudley, Walsall and Sandwell, with no appointment necessary.

Those eligible to receive their flu vaccine at the mobile clinics include:

- All adults aged 65 years and over
- People with certain long term health conditions, from 6 months to under 65s
- All children aged 2–3 years old on 31 August 2025
- Pregnant women
- Frontline health and social care staff, including those working in care homes for older adults

Those eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine can also receive it at the mobile clinics.

FLU IMMUNISATION FOR PUPILS IN SCHOOL YEARS RECEPTION - YEAR 11

Prevent your child from being seriously ill this winter!
Vaccinating is crucial in protecting them and vulnerable friends and family from flu.

NASAL VACCINE



No needles - just quick, painless, effective flu protection (contains gelatine)

OR

THE INJECTION



We offer a PORK-FREE, GELATINE-FREE injection considered a faith-friendly alternative.

Complete this form, even if you do not want the vaccine.

<https://midlands.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/sandwell>

Secondary School students only: Young people under the age of 16 can give or refuse consent themselves if considered competent to do so by nursing staff.

CONTACT THE TEAM

✉ sandwell@v-uk.co.uk
☎ 01215 921 110

Need more information?
Please see our FAQs sheet attached with this letter.

Or visit our website:



We endeavour to come to your child's school twice. If your child is absent or unable to be vaccinated at school, they can still receive this important vaccine by attending one of our community clinics for the vaccine.

Your consent will remain in place for the entire flu season. If your child misses a first visit, you do not need to complete a second form.

Details of these can be found on our website or you can contact the team above.

LEARN MORE

<https://www.schoolvaccination.uk/flu>
www.youtube.com/@vaccinationuk

PRIVACY POLICY

Our 2024/25 policy can be viewed here: www.schoolvaccination.uk/privacy-policy
For data protection queries, please contact: gdpr@vaccinationuk.co.uk

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

<https://midlands.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/sandwell>

FLU VACCINES: EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

Vaccination UK will be coming into Gospel Oak School on Friday 5th December 2025 to administer the flu vaccine for a catchup session. Could you please complete the link to accept or decline if you wish for your son / daughter to receive his / her vaccine to update your son / daughters NHS record by midnight on Monday 24th November 2025. 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.

Please note that unless you accept or decline to update your son / daughters NHS record Vaccination UK will continue to contact you.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q WHY ARE CHILDREN BEING OFFERED THE FLU VACCINE?

Flu can make children feel very unwell and can sometimes lead to serious complications like pneumonia or ear infections. Some may even need hospital treatment. It's especially important for children with long-term conditions like asthma or diabetes, as flu can be more dangerous for them.

Q HOW DOES THE FLU VACCINE FOR CHILDREN WORK?

The nasal spray contains weakened flu viruses that help your child build protection without causing illness. Because flu strains change each year, the vaccine needs to be given annually. Most children only need one dose.

Q IS THE FLU VACCINE SAFE FOR CHILDREN?

Yes, it has a very good safety record and has been used for over 10 years in countries like the US without any major concerns. All vaccines available in United Kingdom must pass strict safety testing before being approved for use. The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) only approve vaccines that have gone through rigorous safety testing measures. The regulators continually monitor them all the time.

Q SHOULD ANYONE NOT HAVE THE VACCINE?

Let us know if your child:

- Has a severe allergy to eggs, gelatine, or certain antibiotics
- Has recently had severe asthma symptoms or is 'wheezy on the day'
- Has a seriously weakened immune system

Also, after vaccination, children should avoid close contact with people who have very weak immune systems for about two weeks—everyone else is fine to be around.

Q ARE THERE ANY SIDE EFFECTS?

Side effects from the nasal spray are usually mild and short-lived. These may include a runny or blocked nose, headache, reduced appetite, or a slight temperature. Paracetamol or ibuprofen can help if needed.

Q WE DO NOT EAT PORK PRODUCTS. CAN MY CHILD HAVE A DIFFERENT FLU VACCINE?

Yes. There is an injectable flu vaccine is available that contains no pork (porcine gelatine).

While the nasal spray is generally more effective and painless, we respect your preferences. Just complete the consent form for the injection—no need to fill out both.

CONSENT INFORMATION

The consent form needs to be signed by a person with parental responsibility which includes:

- Mother: automatic
- Father: if married to the mother either when baby is born or marries subsequently
- Unmarried father: if name appears on birth certificate (since 1/12/03) or legally acquired
- Others: if parental responsibility is legally acquired
- Parental Responsibility Agreement: signed, properly witnessed and sent for registration to Principle Registry or the Family Division (High Court)
- Residence Order: granted by the Court

Please note that young people under the age of 16 can give or refuse consent if considered competent to do so by nursing staff.

Q NATURAL IMMUNITY

While natural immunity from the flu can occur, it's not generally considered better than vaccine-induced immunity. Natural infection carries the risk of severe illness and complications, whereas the flu vaccine offers protection with significantly less risk. Natural immunity can be long-lasting against specific strains, but we know that the flu virus changes (mutates) overtime so natural immunity to one strain might not protect against a different strain that emerges later. Vaccines are a safer and more reliable way to protect against a wider range of flu viruses.

Flu vaccines are updated for each winter to give protection against the strains of flu that are most likely to be going around. For this reason, we strongly recommend that even if your child was vaccinated last year, they should be vaccinated again this year.

Q MY CHILD NEEDS A DIFFERENT VACCINE

If your child needs another vaccine you can speak to our team or attend one of our community clinics, all information can be found on our website: www.schoolvaccination.uk/catch-up-clinics

Q I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS

We run Q&A webinars which address frequently asked questions and gives parents an opportunity to ask their questions. You can find information and how to join on our website.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI-GENERATED VIDEOS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AI-generated videos are increasingly difficult to spot and easy to share. From fake news clips to deepfake abuse, children and young people face new risks every day online. These videos can imitate real people, spread false narratives or even generate harmful content from scratch. Understanding these dangers is crucial for schools and families who want to protect children in a fast-evolving digital world.

DEEPIAKE ABUSE CONTENT

Shockingly, artificial intelligence is now being exploited to create child sexual abuse material (CSAM). These synthetic images and videos are a form of digital abuse, often generated by manipulating real children's photos, including ones shared innocently online. Worryingly, the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has identified a sharp rise in this disturbing trend. Whether real or AI-generated, this content causes lasting trauma – and its creation or possession remains a criminal offence under UK law.

BLURRED REALITY

Regular exposure to fake content can erode a child's trust in real-world evidence. If everything can be faked, they may begin to question genuine videos – including actual abuse or injustice. This is known as the 'liar's dividend', where real harm is dismissed as fake news. It can discourage victims from coming forward or speaking up.

USED FOR BULLYING

Deepfake technology is already being used by peers to create embarrassing or explicit clips of classmates. These videos can be edited to appear as though a child said or did something they never did. Once shared, they are almost impossible to delete completely. AI-generated bullying adds a new layer of harm that is deeply personal and difficult to prove.

EMOTIONAL MANIPULATION

AI-generated videos can be used to provoke strong emotions, including fear, anger or guilt. False footage of crying children, injured animals or burning buildings may be created purely for clicks, donations or political influence. Children may feel upset or powerless, unaware that what they are watching has been digitally invented to manipulate their reaction.

DISINFORMATION

AI-generated videos can spread fake news, making it harder for children to separate fact from fiction. False clips may include deepfake interviews, hoax disasters or fabricated health claims. AI is already being used to produce misleading or persuasive material that appears authentic. If they don't develop media literacy, children may accept false content as truth.

IMPERSONATION AND SCAMS

With just a few photos or voice clips, AI tools can imitate someone's appearance or speech. This makes it easier for scammers or bullies to create fake videos of children, teachers or celebrities. These impersonations can be used for fraud, harassment or humiliation – and can spread quickly through social media or group chats, due to the viral potential of videos, in particular, on social media.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TEACH HOW IT WORKS

Explain to children that videos can be faked – and show them how. Demonstrating side-by-side examples of real vs AI-generated clips helps to build awareness. Discuss how faces, voices and even movements can be copied by machines. Understanding the technology reduces fear and builds confidence in navigating digital content safely.

TALK ABOUT TRUST

Always keep lines of communication open. If a child sees something upsetting or unbelievable, they should feel safe discussing it without judgement. Create an environment where they know they will not get in trouble for asking questions. This also helps you step in quickly if harmful content has been shared; trust is vital and needs to be nurtured.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL QUESTIONS

Help children question what they watch. Who made this? Why was it made? Is it trying to persuade me? These habits encourage digital thinking, especially when videos seem too shocking or convenient. Reinforce that not everything shared by friends or influencers is true, even if it looks convincing at first, and that the initial approach should always be one of speculation.

STRENGTHEN PRIVACY SETTINGS

Advise children not to share voice notes, selfies or personal videos on public platforms. AI tools often scrape content from social media to create deepfakes. Use privacy controls to limit who can see their content and turn off facial recognition where possible. Fewer public images means fewer opportunities for misuse.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keefe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



The National College