



Since January, we have been implementing a 'Strong Start' at the beginning of each lesson. Our 9-step protocol involved students being greeted on the class door and also completing four retrieval questions to create deliberate practice of them retrieving information from their long term memory. This week, we welcomed two external consultants into school who have been supporting us with the implementation and quality assurance of our 'Strong Starts' to lessons; they visited a number of lessons and also met with groups of students. It was really lovely to hear our students being described as "really considered and a credit to the school" as they were given an opportunity to give their feedback on this key aspect of all of our lessons.

As we move ever closer to end of year external exams, a number of our Year 11 students have been involved in the practical component of their Hospitality qualification; as always, the skills of our young chefs continue to impress all. It is, too, a good time to remind parents and carers of children who are studying GCSE Fine Art and/or GCSE Photography of the importance of encouraging their child to continue with their coursework for these subjects. And students in Year 11 who will be taking GCSEs in Home Languages have been working with Mrs Brown on the necessary preparations; the hard work and commitment of so many of our students in so many different subjects is always so heartening to see. Please remember that we are hosting a 'Preparation for Success' evening on Wednesday 20th March to support students, parents and carers with last-minute revision guidance in Maths, English and Science [Year 11 Preparation for Success Evening - 20th March 2024](#), and information on our Easter holiday revision programme has been made available to our students; [Year 11 and 13 Easter Holiday Revision Programme](#)

Year 9s are at an extremely crucial time in their decision-making for Years 10 and 11; choices should have been submitted by the end of the day today (Friday 15th March); we will be chasing any outstanding choices next week.

We continue to work on processes in-school to improve student understanding of routines and processes; in any - and such a large school such as ours - the importance of consistency is key. We will be providing more information over the coming weeks for parents and carers about these measures so you are able to support with reinforcing key messages at home. You will recall from last week's eZine that we are looking at ways to continue to explore our communication; one area we hope you will notice is that we will be linking letters which have been sent out to this eZine too to enable easier reference. As mentioned last week, do please contact Miss Middlehurst - cmiddlehurst@gospeloakschool.co.uk - if you have ideas for how we can develop this process to support your needs.

You will know that we have been working extremely hard on upholding our uniform standards as a small number of students were choosing not to follow these; as always, we are extremely grateful for the efforts of so many of our parents and carers in ensuring that uniform is worn in line with our policy. There remain a minority of students who are choosing not to wear school shoes; we will continue to work with students, parents and carers to put the necessary support in place where needed to ensure that school shoes are being worn.

Many of our school community are observing Ramadan at this time; this is a significant and special time for members of our Muslim community. Please do visit [What is Ramadan and when does Ramadan happen? - BBC Bitesize](#) for further information. This particular link makes reference to last year's dates for Ramadan; we understand that Eid Ul Fitr is expected to fall on Tuesday 9th or Wednesday 10th April and one day of authorised absence is granted for religious observance. If your child is eligible for Free School Meals, and you would like a packed lunch for them to take home, please contact school, either as parents and carers or via your child, so that we can put this provision in place.

Do have a lovely weekend; we are grateful for your continued support.

Upcoming Dates

Monday 18th March – Year 11 Carding Mill Valley
Geography Fieldtrip

Wednesday 20th March - Year 11 Core Subjects' 'Final
Preparations for Success'
Evening, 3:30pm-4:30pm

Thursday 21st March - Year 11 Carding Mill Valley
Geography Fieldtrip

Monday 8th April – Teacher Training Day

Wednesday 10th April – Year 12 Parents Evening

Friday 12th – Sunday 14th – CCF Camp, Cannock Chase

Assembly Themes

Assembly focus this week was Science Week

w/c 18/03 – Easter Rewards

w/c 08/04 – Welcome Back

Please take the time to talk to your child about what they have learnt in Assembly.

World Book Day

Wednesday 7th March was World Book Day and students participated in a range of competitions and activities including identifying staff dressed up as book characters. Book tokens have been given to Year 7 & 8 to spend in the local shops and more are available at reception for anyone that missed out.

Well done to all our competition winners who received a chocolate prize this week:

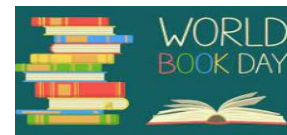
Year 7 - Olly K 7A

Year 10 – Claribel N 10C

Year 8 – Lexi N 8D

Year 11 – 11H

Year 9 – 9G



Cycling to School

We have received a report from a member of the public about some students riding their bikes dangerously at the end of the school day; where school staff see this when on duty, this is addressed directly with students. Please do talk to your child if they cycle to school about the importance of being safe when cycling; you may wish to refer to the following information from The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA):

[Cycling advice - RoSPA](#)

[Active Travel Advice for the General Public | RoSPA - RoSPA](#)





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

To: All Parents/Carers

15th March 2024

Our Ref: SBr.KH.2948

Your Ref:

Dear Parent /Carer,

Re: Parent / Carer Forum

Following my introduction letter of last week, I am writing to let you know of a Parent/Carer Forum that I will be introducing after the Easter holidays. I am committed to re-building trust amongst Parents/Carers and so to begin, I feel it is important that parents/carers share ideas. The Forum is designed to build on the home-school partnership that already exists and introduce a two-way level of help, trust and support.

I propose that the Forum meet once a term to review and evaluate practices at Gospel Oak School and we would like to have the first meeting during the week beginning Monday 29th April. The topic(s) of discussion for meetings will be decided by consulting with parents/carers and teaching staff close to the date of the meeting. The minutes of the meetings will appear on the school's website.

The Parent/Carer Forum will consist of three Parents/Carers from each year group. If you are interested in being a member of the Forum, please complete the form [here](#) by Friday 12th April. Alternatively, you can email us on info@gospeloakschool.co.uk stating your name, your son's/daughter's name and their year group.

If there are more than 3 parents/carers from each year group, then the 'names will be drawn out of a hat'.

I look forward to hosting the first meeting in late April.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Brownlow
Principal



SANDWELL
Holiday Activities

ALBION FOUNDATION

Be part of our family

EASTER HAF CAMPS

10:00AM - 2:00PM | AGE 8 - 16

RECEIVE EVOUCHER FROM SCHOOL | FOLLOW THE LINK TO SIGN IN TO EVOUCHER | SEARCH THE ALBION FOUNDATION

FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE CONTACT: DARRYL.HICKMAN@ALBIONFOUNDATION.CO.UK

WEEK 1
MONDAY, MARCH 25 - THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2024
Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy
Lower City Road, Tividale, Oldbury, B69 2HE

WEEK 1
MONDAY, MARCH 25 - THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2024
Portway lifestyle Centre
Newbury Lane, Oldbury, B69 1HE

WEEK 2
TUESDAY, APRIL 2 - FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2024
Gospel Oak Secondary School
Bilston Road, Tipton, DY4 0BZ

SEND SPECIFIC

If parents and carers have any questions about the Evoucher required to sign up, please contact our Finance Team.



GOOD FOR YOU & GOOD FOR THE PLANET

Aspens

BRING YOUR OWN BOTTLE!

Do your bit for the environment by bringing your bottle to refill, and help reduce plastic waste.

Please encourage your child to bring a refillable water bottle to school. If your child is eligible for Free School Meals, having water saves on their allowance and means more money can be spent on food.



The ABCs of Safer Sleep

Always sleep your baby on their back in a clear cot or sleep space

A Always sleep your baby on their back

B Babies should sleep in a clear cot or sleep space

C Cots should be clear of soft toys and bedding

Safer sleep for baby, sounder sleep for you

Following the ABCs for every sleep day and night will help to protect your baby from sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) giving you the peace of mind to enjoy this special time.

For support and advice on sleeping your baby safely The Lullaby Trust can help

- www.lullabytrust.org.uk
- 0808 802 6869
- info@lullabytrust.org.uk

SOFAS ARE NOT SAFE FOR SLEEPING BABIES

Sleeping on a sofa with your baby increases the risk of sudden infant death syndrome by up to 50 times

Learn how to give your baby the safest possible sleep at lullabytrust.org.uk or call 0808 802 6869

SAFER SLEEP FOR BABIES

Things you can do



Always place your baby on their back to sleep



Keep your baby smoke free during pregnancy and after birth



Place your baby to sleep in a separate cot or Moses basket in the same room as you for the first 6 months



Breastfeed your baby



Use a firm, flat, waterproof mattress in good condition



Things to avoid



Never sleep on a sofa or in an armchair with your baby



Don't sleep in the same bed as your baby if you smoke, drink or take drugs or if your baby was born prematurely or was of low birth weight



Avoid letting your baby get too hot
Don't cover your baby's face or head while sleeping or use loose bedding

Follow the advice for every sleep, day and night

Sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) is the sudden and unexpected death of a baby for no obvious reason and although we don't yet know how to completely prevent SIDS, it is possible to significantly lower the chances of it happening by following the advice.

You can also talk to your midwife or health visitor if you have any questions or concerns or get in touch with us

- 020 7802 3200
- office@lullabytrust.org.uk
- www.lullabytrust.org.uk



The logo was conceived by The Lullaby Trust. The information was last updated in February 2023. Notwithstanding to UNICEF UK. Registered charity no. 262921. Company registered no. 2020584. Member of the Foundation for the Study of Child Health.



To help protect your baby from sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), follow our safer sleep advice for every sleep, day and night.



Our safer sleep advice

- Place baby on their back
- On a firm, flat, waterproof mattress
- In a clear sleep space free of bumpers, toys, pillows and loose bedding
- For every sleep



For support and advice on sleeping your baby safely The Lullaby Trust can help. Visit: www.lullabytrust.org.uk
Contact us on: 0800 802 6869
Email: info@lullabytrust.org.uk

Registered charity no. 262921



SPOT THE RISKS

Can you spot **10 things** in this picture that may increase the chance of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS)?

Is your baby sleeping as safely as possible? This picture shows a baby aged between 1 month and 6 months asleep. Can you identify ten things about the room, cot or the way the baby is sleeping that may increase the chance of sudden infant death syndrome?



Registered Charity Number: 262191
Company registration number: 01000824

Did you spot all 10?

- 1 **NURSERY** - The baby is in their own room. The safest place for your baby to sleep for the first six months is in a cot or Moses basket in the same room as you.
- 2 **SIDE SLEEPING** - It is important that you always put your baby on their back as part of their regular sleep routine - never on their front or side.
- 3 **FEET-TO-FOOT** - Place your baby with their feet to the foot of the cot so they can't wriggle under the covers, or you can use a baby sleeping bag.
- 4 **BEDDING** - The blankets in the cot are loose. It can be dangerous if your baby's head gets covered when they sleep.
- 5 **PILLOW** - If your baby is under one year old never use a pillow, quilt, or duvet. Pillow use alone has been shown to increase the chance of SIDS occurring by up to 2.5 times. It is much safer to sleep your baby in a clear, flat, separate sleep space.
- 6 **HAT** - Babies need to lose excess heat from their heads. Remove hats and extra clothing as soon as you come indoors, even if it means waking your baby.
- 7 **RADIATOR** - To avoid overheating, babies should never sleep next to a radiator or in direct sunlight.
- 8 **COT BUMPERS** - We do not recommend cot bumpers. Cot bumpers can pose the risk of an accident when your baby becomes mobile.
- 9 **POD/NEST** - We don't recommend placing baby on a pod or nest to sleep or nap. When sleeping, babies shouldn't lie on or have anything soft around them, particularly their heads, as this can cause them to overheat and increases the risk of SIDS.
- 10 **CUDDLY TOYS** - A clear cot is a safer cot, so we advise that you remove any toys from your baby's sleep space.

Keep baby smoke free

The picture doesn't show parents smoking near the baby, but this is a major risk for SIDS. Keep your baby as smoke free as possible and never share a bed with your baby if you or your partner smokes.



Page
Supporting parents with learning disabilities



Supporting parents with learning disabilities and/or autism who are subject to, or at at risk of interventions from Children's Services by offering a range of support options that includes the provision of **independent advocacy and independent living skills training.**

To make a referral please contact:
Tel: 0121 520 8070
Email: sandwelladvocacy@btconnect.com

Parents Advocacy, Guidance and Empowerment



Free School Meals – Supermarket Vouchers

One supermarket voucher to the value of £15 per child who is eligible for Free School Meals is being provided by Sandwell Council for the Easter holidays; we will aim to get vouchers emailed out to you by the end of the day on Thursday 21st March. If you have not received your voucher/s by this time, please contact school on Friday 22nd March so we can support.

Emotional Health & Wellbeing Directory

Please see links below for further information:

[Emotional Health & Wellbeing Directory](#)

[i-Thrive Model Master for Sandwell](#)

Disruption to Tram Services

A4 Poster

Track construction and bridge works

There will be no tram services between Wednesbury and Edgbaston Village

Saturday 23 March to Tuesday 9 April



tfwm.org.uk/tramworks

Plan ahead



Please [click here](#) to download social media assets

Screensaver

Track construction and bridge works

There will be no tram services between Wednesbury and Edgbaston Village
Saturday 23 March to Tuesday 9 April

tfwm.org.uk/tramworks



Plan ahead






Please [click here](#) to download social media assets

Suggested text for your material

Beginning from this Easter, Midland Metro Alliance (MMA) will be working to install infrastructure in the Wednesbury area to tie in the existing Metro line to new tracks for the new tram route to Dudley. At the same time, Sandwell Council are set to re-construct a bridge at the nearby Dudley Street Guns Village tram stop.

There will be changes for the service for Metro passengers. Metro tickets will be accepted on alternative rail* and bus routes.

Use the [TFWM Journey Planner](#) or the [MyMetro app](#) to plan an alternative journey.

- **Between Saturday 23 March – Monday 25 March**
 - No Metro services between Wednesbury Parkway and Edgbaston Village.
 - Metro travel will still be possible between all stops between Wednesbury Parkway and Wolverhampton.
- **Tuesday 26 March to Tuesday 9 April 2024**
 - No Metro services between Wednesbury Great Western and Edgbaston Village.
 - Metro travel will still be possible between all stops between Wednesbury Great Western and Wolverhampton.
- **Thursday 11 April to Friday 3 May 2024 (Sunday to Thursday only)**
 - Daytime metro services will return to their usual timetable, evening services between Black Lake and Edgbaston Village will be subject to timetable alterations and cancellations.
- **May Bank Holiday weekend - Saturday 4 May to Sunday 5 May 2024**
 - The Metro will operate between Wolverhampton and Black Lake only.
 - There will be no service between Black Lake and Edgbaston Village stops.
- **Monday 6 May 2024 onwards** – Evening services (Sunday to Thursday only) between Black Lake and Edgbaston Village are likely to be impacted until mid-May.

*Season ticket holders only.

To find out more visit the tfwm.org.uk/tramworks

Dates for your diary

Key

No tram service between Wednesbury and Edgbaston Village

Daytime tram services resume - No tram service between Black Lake and Edgbaston Village after 8pm

No tram service between Black Lake and Edgbaston Village

All services running as usual

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
23 March	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1 April	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1 May	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17

Key travel messages

- **Between 23 March - 25 March:** No tram service between Wednesbury Parkway and Edgbaston Village
- **Between 26 March - 9 April:** No tram service between Wednesbury Great Western and Edgbaston Village
- **Between 30 March - 31 March:** Extra demand on local train services due to football matches and Easter rail engineering work between Wolverhampton – Birmingham
- **Saturday 4 - Sunday 5 May:** No tram service between Black Lake to Edgbaston Village

Your Metro ticket is accepted on many alternative bus routes and rail services between Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

Plan Ahead. Consider your alternative options using the TfWM Journey Planner and the MyMetro App

For shorter journeys: Walk, scoot or cycle to your destination especially if you are travelling within town/city centres.

Think twice before driving. Could you get the train or the bus to your destination?

Key travel messages for those who usually travel via tram after 8pm

- **Between 11 April - mid-May -** Early termination of evening services (Sunday to Thursday) between Black Lake and Edgbaston Village)

Your Metro ticket is accepted on many alternative bus routes and rail services between Wolverhampton and Birmingham

Subject to change

Plan Ahead. Consider your alternative options using the TfWM Journey Planner and the MyMetro App

Travel earlier

Check the revised timetable to see when service will be ending.

Remember Friday and Saturday evening services will be unaffected.

Useful contacts

For up-to-the-minute travel information and help planning your journey, please see below:

Plan a journey	National Express Bus	https://nxbus.co.uk/west-midlands/journey-planning	@nxwestmidlands
Plan a journey	Transport for West Midlands	https://www.tfwm.org.uk/plan-your-journey/	@TransportForWM
By train	National Rail	nationalrail.co.uk/Contact-Us	@nationalraileng
By tram	West Midlands Metro	https://www.westmidlandsmetro.com/plan-your-journey/	@WMMetro
By cycle	West Midlands Cycle Hire	https://www.wmcyclehire.co.uk/	@BerylBikes
By scooter	Beryl Scooters	https://beryl.cc/scheme/west-midlands-e-scooters	@WMCycleHire
Plan a journey	Google	https://www.google.co.uk/maps/	

Most up to date project information can be accessed via www.tfwm.org.uk/tramworks or via this QR code



If you would like help to support your staff with travel planning, please contact the team at: behaviourchangehub@tfwm.org.uk

If you require any materials in an alternative format, get in touch: customerservices@tfwm.org.uk



Transport for West Midlands (TFWM) is part of the **West Midlands Combined Authority**. We work with bus and train operators to make sure that public transport is: safe, reliable, affordable and accessible for everyone
[Transport for West Midlands | Journey planning, tickets and help \(tfwm.org.uk\)](https://www.tfwm.org.uk)



The Midland Metro Alliance (MMA) is a team of planning, design and construction experts delivering a number of light rail extensions across the region on behalf of Transport for West Midlands.

The Midland Metro Alliance consists of the WMCA, which owns the West Midlands Metro; a consortium of design experts from Egis, Tony Gee and Pell Frischmann; and rail construction specialists Colas Rail – supported by Colas' sub-alliance partners Colas Ltd, Barhale, Bouygues UK and Auctus Management Group.
More information on the alliance can be found at www.metroalliance.co.uk



West Midlands Metro is the regions light rail network, which is operated by Midland Metro Limited (MML) on behalf of the owners of the network West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA). MML are responsible for delivering a safe and secure, reliable and sustainable service to the communities that rely upon them every day. [More information about West Midlands Metro.](#)



Sandwell is a metropolitan borough in the Black Country, which is made up of six towns - Oldbury, Rowley Regis, Smethwick, Tipton, Wednesbury and West Bromwich. Located in the West Midlands, with excellent access to the national motorway network with five junctions feeding in the M5 and M6 motorways. It also benefits from a **mainline train station - Sandwell and Dudley** and the **Midland Metro**. The borough has 1,200 hectares of parks, playing fields and local green spaces, and over 30 miles of canals. [Sandwell Council homepage.](#)



Local Government for Birmingham, England. Birmingham City Council, based in The Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BB, is the largest local authority in the UK. Serving a population of a million citizens daily.
[Birmingham City Council Homepage](#)