

Kindness Honesty Respect



# Newsletter

*At Western, we aim to develop kind, ambitious, curious, confident and successful young people who are excited about their futures.*

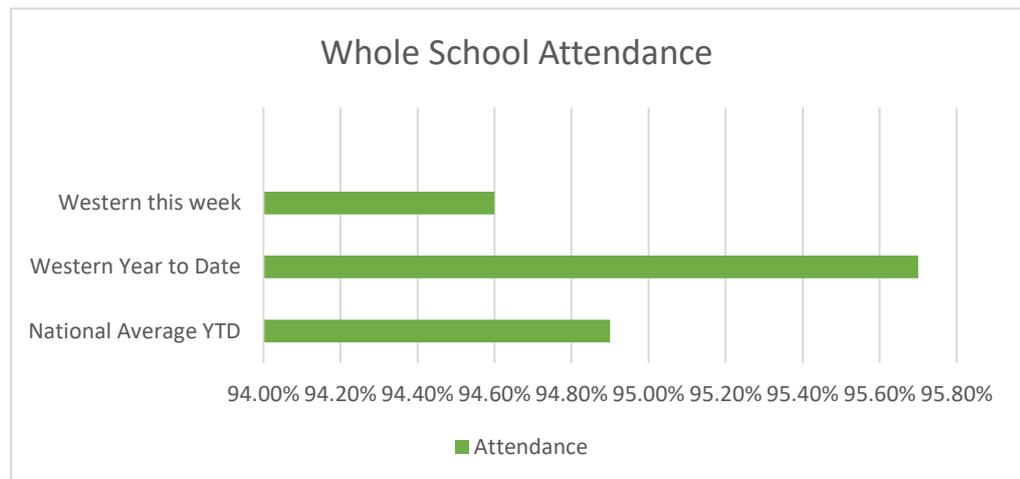
Western Primary School Newsletter

Friday 17 Nov 2023

## Reminders:

Please remember that, as outlined in a letter to parents/carers on 29<sup>th</sup> September, the end of our school day will be extended by 10 minutes from 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 in line with the requirements of the Department for Education. This will only apply to pupils in Reception and Years 1 – 6.

**Please note that the cost of the Hive, Nursery and School dinners will increase from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2024**



## Parent Survey

In preparation for the Government's expansion of wraparound provision for all primary school aged children (YR - Y6) from 8am - 6pm beginning in September 2024, we would be grateful if you could please complete this survey to enable North Yorkshire Council to develop an understanding of potential demand: [Parent Survey](#)

The survey will close at 8am on Monday, 20th November.



Distinguished School

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## Turquoise Room

This week we have continued to enjoy doing lots of fun activities.

We have been developing fine motor skills and have been doing some simple threading activities. We made some collage owls inspired by the story, 'Wow! Said the Owl' and Mrs Voakes put some holes in them and helped us to try some threading. The children have also been using colanders with pipe cleaners and straws to poke in the holes.

The children have also explored junk boxes this week and we have done some junk modelling, learning how to stick boxes together. Once they were dry (which took some time with the amount of PVA glue on them!) we were able to paint them.

The children have been enjoying lots of water play this week and it has been lovely listening to their singing as they have had a go at 'Five Little Ducks' together without our help. They have shown great maths, showing us their fingers too.

Have a lovely weekend and we will see you next week.



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## Green Room

This week in Green room we have been busy looking at lots and lots of different vehicles. We started our week by playing in the big playground - we loved running, jumping and taking turns to ride the bikes and trikes and playing with our friends.



We decided to make sure our trucks were nice and clean so we popped them into our sensory tray and gave them a good scrub with the help of some toothbrushes, engaging both our fine and gross motor skills in this activity. In our creative area we have been very busy indeed. We have made some super cars using toilet roll tubes and we have made some traffic lights using paper plates and some stop and go signs which we have had lots of fun with. Using our funky fingers, we have made some marks with our fingers and with paint on a car template and also placed buttons onto spaces on cars and trucks.



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In maths we have been counting from different numbers. The children understood this very well. We have added numbered parking bays onto our tuff tray and placed the correct number of cars into the correct numbered space.

To end our week, we have had a dotty party in aid of children in need. The children were invited to wear anything spotty or dotty, and participated in lots of party games and dancing, as well as colouring in lots of Pudsey bear pictures.

We have also been learning lots of Christmas songs in preparation for the festivities ahead.

Phew, what a very busy week we have had. Have a lovely weekend.



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## Purple Room

We have zoomed into this week learning all about transport. We have been looking at different vehicles and what makes each one different. This has inspired our junk modelling this week where we have made a vehicle to take home. We have used different sized recycling boxes, toilet rolls and lids and transformed them into bikes, buses, cars and boats with the help of a lot of PVA glue!

Following on with the vehicle themes, we have also enjoyed mark-making with cars, washing cars in the water tray and creating wheels with spirals. We have created our own road signs and traffic lights in the Creative Area and have talked a lot about what the signs we see mean.

In maths we have been using our subitising skills to say how many wheels we notice. We have been measuring the length of trains with cubes and can use language like big, small, long and short. We have really enjoyed exploring the Numicom shapes and have been discussing whole and part numbers.

In phonics we have been looking at the initial sounds in words and have used this to play games such as 'I spy' and 'Silly Soup.' We have also been excellent storytellers this week and have had our very own stories scribed for us and read out to the class. We are becoming increasingly confident to use story language such as 'once upon a time' and can plan our story using the Tales Toolkit symbols to think about the characters, setting, problem and solution of a story. I think we could possibly have the future JK Rowling in pre-school! Watch this space!

On Friday we had a fabulous end to the week, learning about Children in Need. We celebrated the day with Pudsey activities and enjoyed a spotty party. It has been a lovely week.



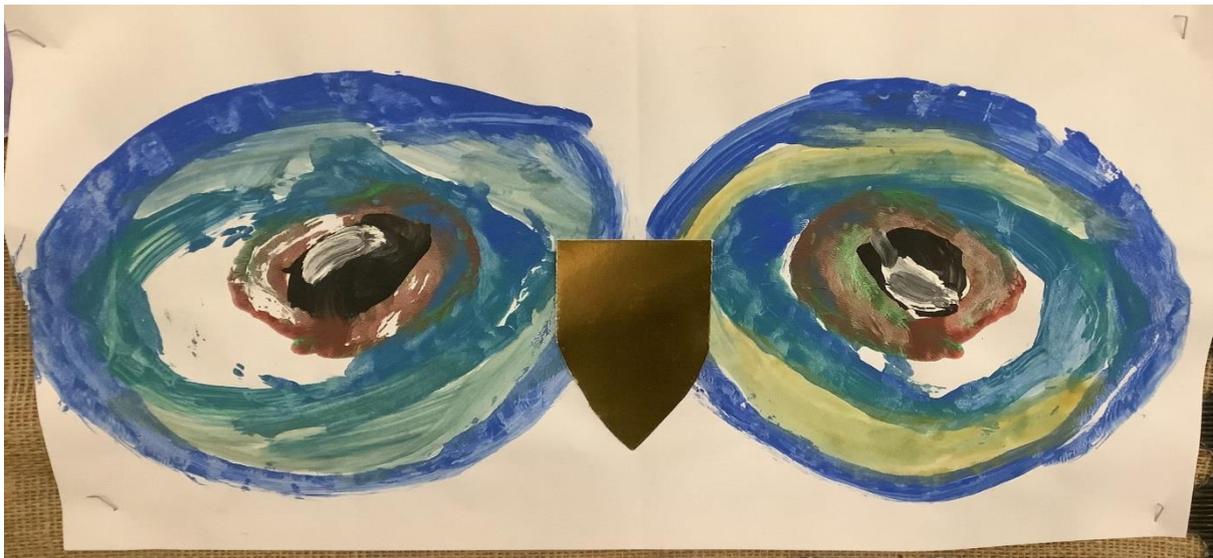
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## Reception

What a busy week we have had with our Drawing Club; we have created dragons, a new broomstick for the witch and secret codes for each of these. Our secret codes, when said, make our dragons or broomsticks do something, for example; 131313131313131 as a repeating pattern makes my broomstick fly through the air at lightning speed to escape the dragon.

In maths, we have been focusing on the number 5; five fingers on our hands, high 5 etc. We have focussed on subitising to 5 in maths this week. Your child's next steps are on their Tapestry to practise at home.

On the creative table, we have been focusing on owls. We know these are nocturnal animals - ask us what this means! We have created some wonderful symmetrical owl eyes, mixed media owl collages and charcoal owls.



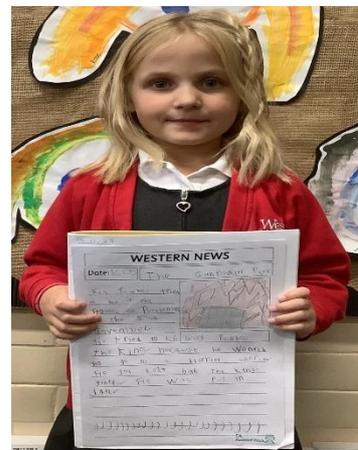
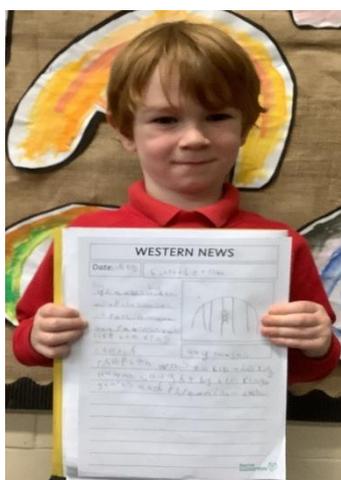
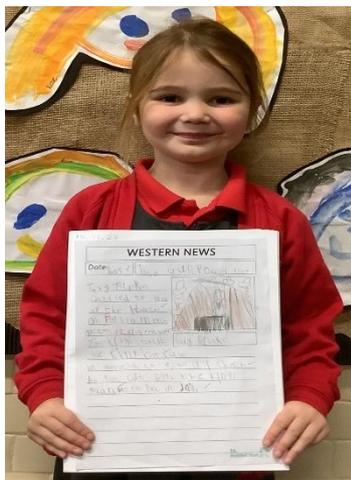
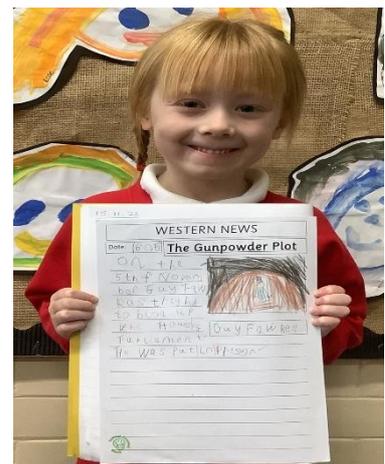
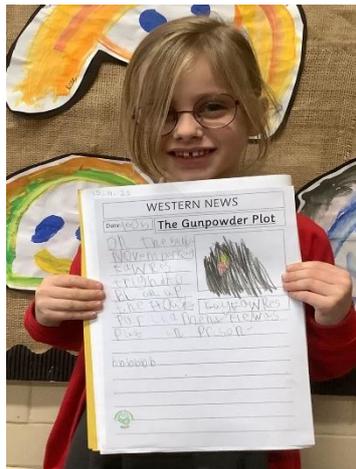
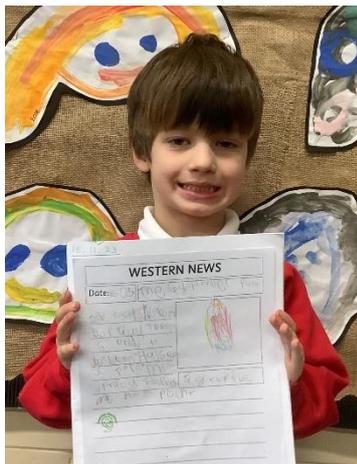
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## Year 1

As promised, here are our wonderful newspaper reports written as if we were in 1605. We worked incredibly hard on them to ensure the newspapers included a headline, text that answered who, what, where, why and when, a picture and a caption to match!

After the newspapers had been written, the children became news reporters and had a go at reading their newspaper aloud. The children did this very confidently and were brilliant. Great work Year 1.



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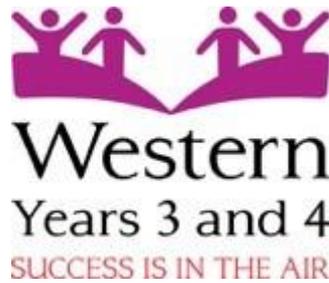
## Year 2

Poor old Paddington isn't having much luck and has once again asked for help from Year 2. This time Paddington needed Year 2 to investigate a range of materials to help him decide which one would be best to wrap his sandwich in. We tested tin foil, cling film, and even tissue paper! The children put each material through the water, oil and rip test and made observations about how the materials reacted. Thankfully, we think we have found the perfect wrapping for Paddington's sandwiches.

Paddington has his perfect wrapping, now he needs the perfect bread! This week Year 2 created their own design briefs thinking carefully about what Paddington would want in a loaf of bread. The children also had to think about the shape of their bread, and we all had a go at shaping dough. We tried shaping it into traditional rolls, knots and we even challenged ourselves with plaiting.



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Year 3/4

In science, Year 3/4 have been working on an investigation. We created a fair test by using the same amount of water in each jar and placing the jars in the same place, in the classroom. The only difference was that one had a lid and the other one didn't. Over a period of a week, we have observed and measured the level of water in the two jars. Here are our results:



Science  
07.11.23  
Investigation  
What we did  
We filled two jars with the same amount of water, then we marked the level of the water. We placed two jars side by side on the window sill, everyday, we will check the levels of the water and see what will change, and what doesn't change.  
My prediction  
I believe that the water in the jar without a lid, will heat up and evaporate more, because the gas (water vapour) will run out of the jar, it will escape.  
What happened  
The level of water in the jar with the lid, surprisingly appears to have the same amount as it had at the start. The level of water on the jar without the lid, has actually reduced significantly.

What we found out  
The heat from our classroom heated up the water from our both of the jars. The heat turned the liquid into a gas called water vapour. When the jar with the lid got heated, it rose up but the lid was blocking it so I couldn't escape. So it forms tiny droplets and falls back, and the jar without a lid evaporated, & then all the water escaped into the room.

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In computing, we have been doing some programming, using Logo to instruct a turtle to draw some capital letters. We had some really good results when we ran the programs:

Instructions:	
1.) fd 200	
2.) rt 90	
3.) fd 200	
4.) lt 180	
5.) fd 400	
6.) bk 200	
7.) lt 90	
8.) fd 350	
9.) rt 50	
10.) fd 50	
11.) rt 40	
12.) fd 100	
13.) rt 50	
14.) fd 50	
15.) rt 40	
16.) fd 50	

In

Playground

```

1 fd 200 rt 90 fd 200 lt 180
2 fd 400 bk 200 lt 90 fd 350 rt 50 fd 50 rt 40
3 fd 100 rt 50 fd 50 rt 40 fd 50
    
```

1.) Fd 200	
2.) Lt 90	
3.) Fd 100	
4.) Rt 180	
5.) Fd 200	

```

1 Fd 200
2 Lt 90
3 Fd 100
4 Rt 180
5 Fd 200
    
```

In English, we are enjoying doing some book reviews. Over the next few weeks, we will be using an app called Halo to do some reviews for younger children. Here is a photo of one of the Year 3/4 children orally rehearsing her book review, before she uses Chatterpix and Halo to produce a review of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*:



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## Year 5/6

*Year 6 netball tournament on Tuesday*

Some of our year six pupils did an excellent job on representing Western at Rossett for a netball tournament and managed to come 2nd!

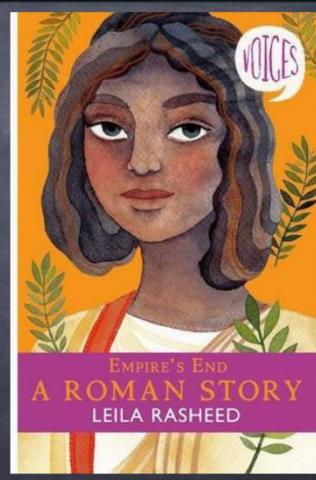
Amazing congratulations to the team who are in the photos below:



In our English lessons this week, we have been focussing on a new book:

This half term, we will be reading this book.  
What clues can you get about it from the front cover?

Discuss in pairs what the story could be about, who might enjoy it, what can you physically see on the front cover?



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We have been answering lots of comprehension questions about the story and thoroughly enjoyed reading about the Roman invasions from another perspective.

15.11.23 VIPERS questions

1. ~~After~~ 235 AD ✓
2. A gold ring, A scrap of blue silk, A bracelet, A golden pot. ✓
3. The ship was sinking - because of a storm. ✓

1. ~~It's a god~~ The end of an era Countries have been conquered ✓  
2. A heir is a person daughter daughter that takes their place. ✓

15.11.23 Vipers Questions

- 1) 235 AD ✓
- 2) A prayer for a child's safety ✓  
A gold ring with two Greek letters ✓  
A scrap of blue silk stained by sea water ✓  
A British shore maid black jet bracelet ✓  
A small gold pot ✓
- 3) the ship sank ✓

4) Vocab we need to know

- 1) a big group of people. ✗

We are very proud for the way in which all our pupils have conducted themselves this week whilst carrying out some tests. They have approached the challenge with positivity, determination and resilience. Well done to all!

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## Open Week Helpers

Last week we held our annual open week for prospective parents and carers for 2024. The Y6 children represented the school brilliantly and showed the visitors around in pairs. All the feedback from our visitors was fantastic and everyone commented on how great the children had been. We also had some follow up emails to thank the children for their efforts. Thanks to all our amazing Y6 volunteers.

*"Just a quick note to thank you for the open day this morning. We would especially like to thank our guides. The information they shared with us was fantastic and they were a credit to the school. They were articulate, relaxed, friendly and able to answer all our questions. Great advocates for Western."*

*"Thanks for your time today. We had a great time visiting the school. I'm emailing to feedback regarding our amazing tour guides who showed us around. Both girls were incredibly helpful, polite, and articulate. They are a credit to your school and were a significant factor in the positive impression we left with. Please pass on our compliments."*



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## Art Success team

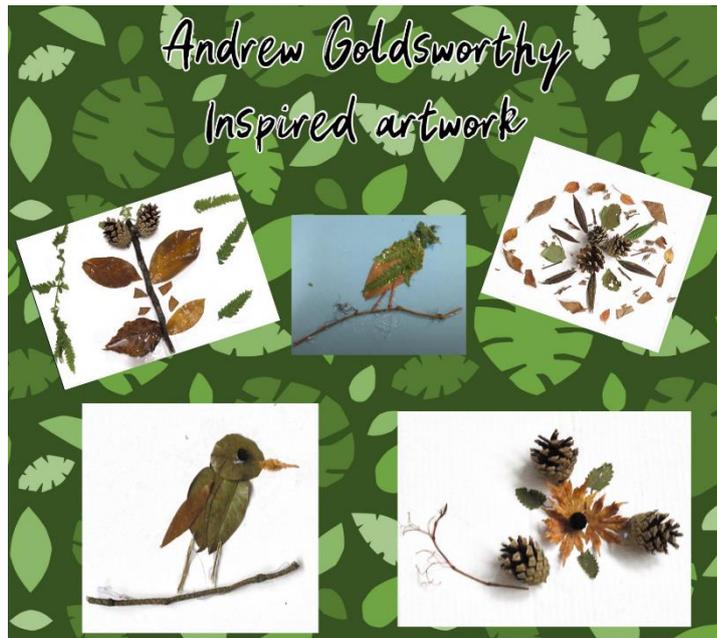
This week the Art Success team have completed the Elf Advent doors which will be displayed in The Pinewoods.

The children collaborated to bring individual elements of their own designs, to create cohesive and shared final pieces, whilst displaying their artistic skills. Well done everyone!



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## Earth Squad



## Andrew Jones Christmas Card Competition

Our local MP Andrew Jones has written to ask if children would like to take part in his annual Christmas Card design competition. The winning entry will receive a framed copy of their design. The rules are as follow:

- Entries must be made on one side of A4 paper or card.
- Judging will be based on creativity, use of colour and Christmas cheer.
- Each child may only submit one entry.
- Children should clearly write their full name, age, class teacher and school on the back of their entry.

If your child would like to take part please send in their entry by Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November. The winner will be selected by the Charter Mayor of Harrogate, Councillor Michael Harrison.

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## PTA News

A big thank you to everyone who donated books last week; a lot of wonderful books were received and will be used to replenish the school's libraries and reading corners. Any leftover books will be sent to support a school in Leeds.

### Christmas Tree and Decoration Sale

On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December from 10am to 1pm, we will be holding the annual Christmas Tree sale. Real trees will be available in the carpark at **Harrogate Grammar School** in a range of sizes from 5ft to 8ft. All our trees are supplied by Stockeld Park and will be available pre-wrapped and ready to take home.



We also have some beautiful wreaths and other decorations for sale too!

You will be able to purchase trees on the day, but did you know you can pre-order your tree or decorations via our website? If you are unable to collect on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, you can purchase via the website beforehand, and we will be making deliveries on the evening of Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December for a small charge.

### Christmas Fair

On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December from 1pm to 3pm is the fantastic Western Primary Christmas Fair in the school playground.

There will be fun things for all the family, including an amazing raffle and tombola, plus activities for the children including painting a decoration, making reindeer food and naming the teddy.

Tickets are £2 and will be available from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

Posters will be going up about both events - if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us ([ruth.cotterell@westernprimarypta.org](mailto:ruth.cotterell@westernprimarypta.org))



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## ONLINE SAFETY

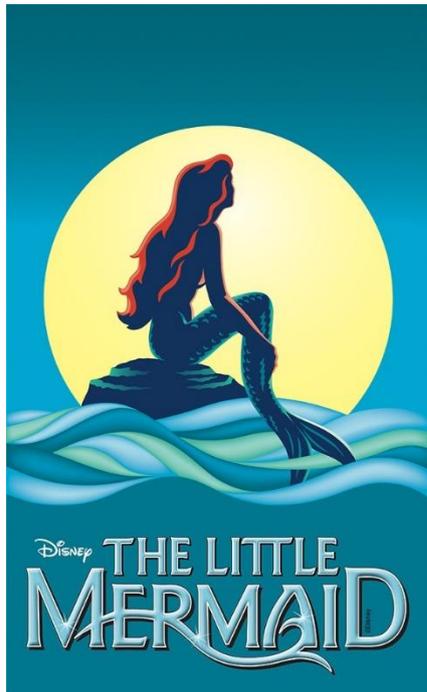
### Parents' guide to WhatsApp

As one of the most popular messaging apps used by all age ranges and around 2.7 billion monthly users, WhatsApp has been adding new features over the last year or so which some parents may not be aware of. Internet Matters have put together a really good 'how-to' guide for parents which you can access [HERE](#).

### Parents' guide to Snapchat MyAI

Chatbots are springing up everywhere now, including within apps that children and young people use, and there have been some concerns over the ethics, the information and guidance that is being given by the chatbot and more, particularly in relation to guidance that is age appropriate, privacy concerns and misinformation.

Wayne Denver has put together a really useful updated article for parents explaining what the chatbot is, how it works, the issues and some tips for parents. You can find the article [HERE](#).



Come and join the students of St. Aidan's Church of England High School, Harrogate at our major school production this November as we present: Disney's The Little Mermaid the Musical.

Join us for a magical musical adventure with some of Disney's most beloved characters. Will Ariel the mermaid find true love with Eric, or will the evil sea witch Ursula trap her voice and soul forever? Featuring all the songs from the beloved original animated movie and a script full of charm and wit, this is a production that will bring joy to all. Suitable for all ages of humans, merfolk and other sea creatures!

Performances in Constance Green Hall, St. Aidan's on:

Wed 22 Nov at 7pm  
Thu 23 Nov at 7pm  
Fri 24 Nov at 7pm  
Sat 25 Nov at 2pm, Matinee  
Sat 25 Nov at 7pm

The box office for tickets to the show can be accessed by visiting the school website [www.staidans.co.uk](http://www.staidans.co.uk)



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