



<https://societywithoutabuse.org.uk/new-look-and-direction-for-swindons-domestic-abuse-specialists/>

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to Spring Term 4 – we are looking forward to brighter and drier days! We hope that we you all had a nice half term break. Term 4 is only 6 weeks long; we break up on April 4th and return on Tuesday 22nd April – just after Easter Monday. Please remember that we have another closure day towards the end of this term on Friday 28th March.

This term we begin work with HOPE, who support and educate children about positive relationships. Staff will be trained on issues regarding Domestic Violence and the impact on children. Heidi Starling from Society Without Abuse (SWA – formerly known as Swindon Women's Aid) will be offering free and confidential drop-in sessions for any adult who wishes to discuss the impact of domestic harm on themselves or on a loved one. These dates are 4th March and 1st April – 08:30-09:30, just come to the office and ask to see Heidi (no appointment necessary).

Our 6 pupils will be attending a session this week with UTURN from Swindon Council looking at the dangers of drugs and alcohol use – this includes vaping.

We have also been concerned about many of our older pupils online use on apps that they are not old enough to access. These include TikTok, Snapchat & Instagram and we support Light House with the statement regarding Squid Games: *'Please be aware of what your child is watching as a lot of the clips are taken from the original show and shared on YouTube shorts and TikTok (another app that none of our children should have access to!). We appreciate parents working with us to ensure the safeguarding of all children in accessing appropriate things only.'*

The below statements are taken from the social media account pages regarding age limits.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/social-media-guides>

TikTok - TikTok is available for people 13 years and older.

SnapChat - Teens must be at least 13 to create a Snapchat account. If we become aware that an account belongs to a person under 13, we terminate their account from the platform and delete their data.

Instagram - Instagram requires users to be age 13 or older. The platform uses AI and partners with the company Yoti to verify ages, requiring teens to confirm their age with a video selfie or ID.

YouTube - You must be at least 13 years old to use the Service; however, children of all ages may use the Service and YouTube Kids (where available) if enabled by a parent or legal guardian. If you are under 18, you represent that you have your parent or guardian's permission to use the Service.

On a final note, I would just like to update you with staffing news at Covingham Park. As you may be aware, Mrs Rice has been absent through ill health for some time this academic year. She has made the decision not to return to Covingham Park and to prioritise her health and well-being. I am sure that you all join with us to wish her well and all the best for the future. Mrs Rice will be in touch about visiting pupils and staff before she leaves us at the end of April. Mrs Hughes will continue with Hazel class until the end of this academic year.

Mrs J C Andrews

Headteacher



The Lighthouse Team will be visiting Covingham on **24th April, 22nd May, 26th June and 17th July.**

Please let us know if you would like an appointment time with one of the team to discuss specific issues relating to your child.

Lighthouse can help parents by providing advice and support on a range of children's issues such as eating, sleeping, behaviour, anxiety etc. Please remember that these appointments are not with our school SENDCo.



Swindon Safeguarding Partnership is supporting this safeguarding initiative. We want to raise awareness about the information and resources available to support children, adults, parents, carers and professionals to Stay Safe Online.

The theme for 2025 is - Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online.

Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online

- The UK Safer Internet Centre has provided a range of information and resources for young people including how to protect themselves and others, as well as what support is available to them. There is also information for parents/carers and professionals.
- Everyone is vulnerable to scams either online or via other methods, such as doorstep and mail scams.

10 Golden Rules to prevent fraud and outsmart scammers

1. Be Sceptical: Treat all "too good to be true" offers with suspicion. Remember, there are no guaranteed get-rich-quick schemes.
2. Take Your Time: Don't agree to offers or deals immediately. Insist on time to seek independent or legal advice before making decisions.
3. Verify Credentials: Before handing over money or signing anything, check someone's credentials and their company's legitimacy.
4. Money Caution: Never send money to unfamiliar or untrusted individuals, whether in the UK or abroad. Use payment methods you're comfortable with.
5. Guard Personal Details: Never share banking or personal information with strangers. Safeguard this valuable data.
6. Direct Website Access: Always log on to websites directly rather than clicking links in emails.
7. Seek Independent Evidence: Don't rely solely on glowing testimonials. Look for solid, independent proof of a company's success.
8. Consult Professionals: If an offer involves money, time, or commitment, seek independent or legal advice.
9. Report Scams: If you spot a scam or have been scammed, report it promptly. There's no shame in being deceived; reporting helps prevent others from falling victim.
10. Get Help: If you suspect a scam, contact Action Fraud at 0300 123 2040. If you know the suspect or they're nearby, call 101.

WHEN?	WHO?	WHAT?
NEW EVENTS IN RED		
24/02/24	All	SCHOOL CLOSED – teacher training day
25-26/02/25	All	West End in School workshops – every class
25/02/25	TBC	Girls football match
26/02/24	Yr 3 - Birch	Swimming
27/02/25	Yr 3 - Cedar	Swimming
27/02/25	TBC	Girls football match
28/02/25	Yr 6	UTURN – Drug and alcohol awareness session
04/03/25	All	SWA confidential drop-in session with Heidi
04/03/15	TBC	Girls football match
05/03/25	Yr 3 - Birch	Swimming
06/03/25	All	World Book Day – further details to follow – see DOJO message from Ms Wood
06/03/25	Yr 3 - Cedar	Swimming
06/03/25	TBC	Girls football match
10/03/25	All	Science week – further details to follow
11/03/25	TBC	Girls football match
12/03/25	KS2	Junior Music Festival – further details to follow
12/03/25	Yr 3 - Birch	Swimming
13/03/25	A.M	Lighthouse parent meetings – please let the office know if you would like an appointment
13/03/25	Yr 3 - Cedar	Yr 3 - Cedar
13/03/25	TBC	Girls football match
17/03/25	Maple class	Easter cracked open
18/03/25	TBC	Girls football match
19/03/25	Rowan class	Easter cracked open
19/03/25	Yr 3 - Birch	Swimming
20/03/25	Yr 3 - Cedar	Swimming
20/03/25	TBC	Girls football match
24/03/25	All day	Author visit
24-27/03	Yr 4	‘Bikeability’ – further details to follow
25/03/25	TBC	Girls football match
26/03/25	Yr 3 - Birch	Swimming

27/03/25	Yr 3 - Cedar	Swimming
27/03/25	All	School Disco – FoS information to follow
28/03/25	All	SCHOOL CLOSED – teacher training day
01/04/25	All	SWA confidential drop-in session with Heidi
01/04/25 3:30 – 6:45	All	Parent's evening – NOT YEAR 6
02/04/25	Yr 3 - Birch	Swimming
02/04/25 - pm	Rock Steady pupils	Rock Steady Concerts
03/04/25	TBC	Girls football match
03/04/25	Yr 3 - Cedar	Swimming
03/04/25	All	NO CLUBS
03/04/25 3:30-7:00	All	Parent's evenings – NOT YEAR 6
04/04/25	All	End of term

