

EVEN SWINDON SCHOOL



Believe, achieve, inspire



The Blue Kite
Academy Trust

Even Swindon's Fortnightly Update

Friday 9th October 2026



Dear Parents/Carers,

So many exciting things have already been happening this term, both in our classrooms and beyond. We are very proud of how the children have built relationships with each other and with staff in their new classes. They are showing our value of responsibility by looking after their belongings, following classroom routines, helping one another and making sensible choices.

Our Community Baby and Toddler Group this morning was well attended. Please do share the information with family and friends to encourage more people to attend. We are supported by Swindon Borough Council Early Years team, so any questions you have can be answered. The group also gives you and your child time to socialise with others, creating new friendships and supporting one another.

Please keep an eye on the dates for your child's celebration assembly. At the beginning, the Year Leader will share updates and celebrate what is going well before the children arrive at the hall. Don't miss it!

As the weather is getting wetter, please ensure your child comes to school with a coat, as we do still go out to play in all weathers.

The children have been working hard in class. We hope to share their work and information with you during a parent open session in Term 2. More information will follow next term.

The Laser Light show is taking place in school on Saturday 14th November - I hope to see you there - see below for how to buy your tickets.

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofevenswindonprimary/index.cfm#>

Best Wishes,
Rachael Smith
Headteacher

TD days for 2027

School will be closed to pupils on the following days:

Monday 4th January 2027

Monday 22nd February 2027

Friday 25th June 2027

Monday 28th June 2027



Please click to view our calendar on the school website

Safeguarding Information

Safeguarding Contact Information: safeguarding@evenswindon.bluekitetrust.org

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Rachael Smith

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Naomi Sly

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Carol Chard

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Natasha Holmes

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Zoe Pattenden

Absence reporting procedures

Please can we remind you to report **every day your child is absent by 8.30am** either by leaving a message on our absence line - **01793 523041** or by emailing

admin@evenswindon.bluekitetrust.org with the **specific reason** for their absence.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Reporting an absence.



In this newsletter...

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Mobile Phones

We are also a no-mobile-phone site, so please do not use your mobile phones on the school site. This includes when you come in for celebration assemblies and while you are waiting for the children to arrive in the assembly hall. Please put your phones away and use this as an opportunity to network with other parents. Our Year Leaders will be sharing information and messages before children arrive for assembly, and the dates for assemblies can be found on the school website calendar.

Attendance

If your child is unable to attend school due to illness, please ensure you advise us by email or leave a telephone message, on the first day of absence, providing the following information:

- Child's full name
- Class and year group
- Reason for absence, including details of symptoms

You should also advise us on each subsequent day of absence.



Please note that emails notifying the school of a pupil's absence will no longer receive a response or acknowledgement. If we require any further information we will contact you.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Harvest Donations



As part of our Harvest celebrations this year, Even Swindon is delighted to be supporting Swindon Food Collective.

Swindon Food Collective is your local independent food bank that collects and redistributes donated non-perishable food and non-food items to those in need across Swindon and surrounding Wiltshire. They provide help to individuals and families that are finding it hard to feed themselves for a variety of reasons such as low wages, low income, family crisis, delayed benefit payments,

redundancy, bereavement or sickness.

We would be very grateful for any donations you are able to make. If you would like to contribute, please send your donations into school with your child during **the week beginning Monday 12th October**. Donations can be brought to your child's classroom, where they will be collected.

Please see the attached flyer for a list of items which the food bank are currently in need of. We kindly ask that all donations are unopened and in date.

We thank you for your continued support and generosity, as well as supporting our school and local community to demonstrate our value of kindness. Every donation made can make a real difference to families in our community.

Thank you for your support.

The Even Swindon Team



Please support Swindon Food

Bank this

HARVEST

During 2025, Swindon Food Collective provided over 90,000 meals to our local community. Demand continues to rise, each year, so if you are able to, please donate any of the following items this harvest season.

Thank you.

From Swindon, For Swindon.

WHAT WE NEED MOST:

- TINNED MEALS (CURRY, MEATBALLS ETC)
- TINNED MEAT
- TINNED FISH
- TINNED POTATOES
- TINNED VEGETABLES
- PASTA SAUCE
- LONG LIFE MILK
- RICE PUDDING, CUSTARD
- SMALL PACKS OF TEA/COFFEE
- SHAMPOO & CONDITONER
- SHOWER GEL
- TOOTHPASTE
- HOUSEHOLD CLEANING ITEMS



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE EMAIL: HARVEST@SWINDONFOODCOLLECTIVE.ORG

Reception Open Evening

**Reception
Open Evening**



Is your child due to
start school September
2027?



**COME AND
VISIT US:**

20th October 2027 3:30pm-4:30pm

10th November 2026 6pm-7pm

24th November 2026 3:30pm-4:30pm

8th December 2026 3:30pm-4:30pm

To book a visit please email:

admin@evenswindon.bluekitetrust.org

Or call: 01793 523041

**Even Swindon
Primary School**

*We would love to
welcome you to our
school and show
you around*

Believe . Achieve . Inspire



School Disco's - Monday 19th October 2026

We are pleased to announce that our School Disco will be held on Monday 19th October after school. **Ticket sales close 14th October**

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofevenswindonprimary/index.cfm#>

The schedule is as follows:

Reception: 3.10pm - 4.10pm in Churchward Hall - Please collect from the classroom after the disco. Tickets are £2.50, this includes a drink and small bag of sweets

Year 1 & 2: 3.10pm – 4.10pm in Brunel Hall – Please collect from the classroom after the disco. Tickets are £2.50, this includes a drink and small bag of sweets

Years 3 & 4: 3.10 pm - 4.10 pm in Hawksworth Hall - Please collect from the classroom after the disco. Tickets are £2.50, this includes a professional Disco provider. Tuck Shop and Hot Dogs are available.

Year 5 & 6: 4.15 pm - 5.15 pm in Hawksworth Hall - Please collect from Hawksworth Hall. Tickets are £2.50, this includes a professional Disco provider. Tuck Shop and Hot Dogs are available. Children in Reception, Years 1, 2, 3 & 4 should bring their "Party Clothes" to change into for the disco.

Children in Year 5 & 6 will leave school at the end of the school day and then return to school via Pasture Close gate for their disco.

Please be advised that we do not allow mobile telephones to be brought to the disco, so please make sure that your child is aware of this and if on the later disco that it is left at home.

PLEASE NOTE: All children must be collected by a parent/responsible adult after the discos – either at 4.10pm or 5.15pm, regardless of whether they normally have permission to walk home alone. No child will be allowed to leave school without being collected, so when purchasing the ticket for your child, you agree to this and to collect your child on time please.

We look forward to a fun-filled evening of music and dancing.

Culture and Diversity Day - Wednesday 21st October

We are delighted to invite all children to take part in our **Culture and Diversity Day** on **Wednesday 21st October**.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our school community to celebrate the many different cultures, traditions and heritages that make Even Swindon Primary School so special.



Children are encouraged to come to school wearing traditional clothing that reflects their heritage and culture.

If children do not have traditional clothing to wear, they are welcome to come in clothing that they feel best represents them.

Let's celebrate diversity, pride and belonging together and develop our value of respect!

Careers Work

This year, as part of our careers work, we will be exploring a range of different occupations and challenging gender stereotypes. We want to help our children understand that careers are open to everyone, regardless of gender.

As part of this work, we would love to invite parents and carers who work in fields that have traditionally been dominated by the opposite gender to come into school and share their experiences with the children.

If this applies to you, and you would be willing to give a short 20-minute assembly talk, please let the school office know by emailing admin@evenswindon.bluekitetrust.org We would be very grateful to hear from you and would love to celebrate the wide variety of careers within our school community.

Thank you for your support.

Reminder - Tuck Shop is open on Tuesday's for KS2

Reminder that children are not to share money with others, they should bring in their own.

Tuck Shop

***Tuck Shop starts on Tuesday 29th
September.***

All new stock



*All items
50p each
No more
than £1.00
to be given
for tuck
please.*



*Tuck shop will be
on a Tuesday for
Years 3 and 4.
Thursday for Years
5 and 6.*





🦋 All Our PTFA Events Are Now on PTA Events! 🦋

We're excited to let families know that all Friends of Even Swindon Primary School events are now managed through PTA Events.

This includes our school discos, as well as all our other exciting fundraising and community events.

🦋 You can use PTA Events to:

🎫 Book tickets for school discos and other ticketed events

📅 See all our upcoming events in one place

🔊 Find out more information about each event

👤 Volunteer to help at any event where you can

Every volunteer makes a difference! ❤️

We completely understand that family life is busy, and you may not be able to give hours of your time. Even if you can spare just half an hour, every minute helps us put on these events for our children.

Whether it's helping set up, serving refreshments, running a stall, helping at a disco or tidying up afterwards, your support helps make our events possible and creates lasting memories for the children. 🦋

💖 Fancy helping out?

Visit our PTA Events page, take a look at the upcoming events and sign up to volunteer for anything you can help with.

🔗 <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofevenswindonprimary/index.cfm#>

Or contact us on PTA@evenswindon.bluekitetrust.org

Together, we can make a BIG difference! ✨

Thank you to everyone who supports Friends of Even Swindon Primary School. Your time, help and support really does mean so much. 💖



Friends of Even Swindon Primary School
PTFA

Supporting our school,
creating brighter futures

ALL PTA EVENTS are now on PTA Events!

From school discos to all our other exciting events,
everything is run through PTA Events.



SCHOOL DISCOS



EVENT TICKETS



VIEW ALL OUR
UPCOMING EVENTS



VOLUNTEER
& GET INVOLVED

Book your tickets & find out more here: ➡

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofevenswindonprimary/index.cfm#>

See all our upcoming events

We need you!

Even if it's just half an hour...

You can volunteer for any event you want to give time to – even if it's just half an hour. Every minute helps us out in these events and creates lasting memories for the children.

Small amounts of time make a **BIG** difference

Book tickets • See what's coming up • Volunteer • Get involved

♥ Together, we can make a BIG difference! ♥

Cake Sale total



Shop Online & Support your School

♥ SHOP ONLINE & SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL! 🛒

Did you know you can raise money for Friends of Even Swindon Primary School without spending an extra penny?

Simply sign up to easyfundraising and shop online as normal. A percentage of your purchases comes back to our school! 🌟

Every little bit helps us raise funds for the children. ♥

👉 Join us today:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/even-swindon-primary-school>

Thank you for your support! 🙏

SHOP ONLINE & SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL!


easyfundraising
feel good shopping

Did you know you can raise money for
Friends of Even Swindon Primary School
without spending an extra penny?

 Simply sign up to **easyfundraising**
and shop online as normal.
A percentage of your purchases
comes back to our school! 



-  Everyday essentials
-  Fashion & beauty
-  Takeaways & dining
-  Holidays & travel
-  And so much more!

Every little bit **helps!** 

Join us today:
 <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/even-swindon-primary-school>

 Together we make a difference 

 Thank you for your support! 

Rangoli Artists needed



Rangoli artists needed!!



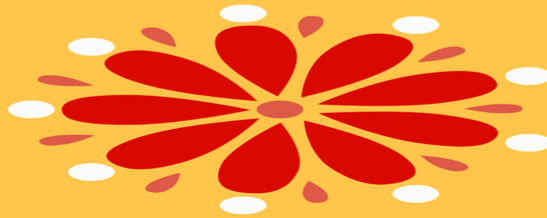
Friday 6th November

Dear Families,

We would love to host a rangoli workshop at our primary school to help our families celebrate Diwali, and we need your help to make it a vibrant success!

Rangoli, a traditional Indian art form, is not only a beautiful expression of creativity but also a significant cultural heritage that we hope to share with our students. We are seeking families who are willing to volunteer their time and talent to demonstrate the art of rangoli during the workshop. Your participation will provide students with a unique opportunity to learn and appreciate this colourful tradition. Whether you're a rangoli expert or simply passionate about the festival of lights, your contribution will be invaluable. Please join us in making this event unforgettable and help us spread the joy and beauty of Diwali to our young learners. Thank you for your support!

Contact: admin@evenswindon.bluekitetrust.org to get involved.





Even Swindon Nursery

Enroll for 2026 - 2027! *



We accept
2-year-old
funding &
30 hours

2, 3 and
4-year-old
spaces
available



Why Choose Us?



✓ High quality education

✓ Secure & stimulating environment

✓ Caring, experienced Staff



Email admin@evenswindon.bluekitetrust.org to be added to our waiting list.



Check out our website for further information - www.evenswindon.co.uk.



Phone 01793 523041 if you have any questions.

**Even Swindon
Primary School**

Believe . Achieve . Inspire



Online Safety

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI CHATBOTS

AI chatbots like ChatGPT, Copilot, Google Gemini, and Snapchat's 'My AI' are now part of daily life for millions of children and young people. Vodafone's research in 2026 found that 81% of 11- to 16-year-olds have used an AI chatbot, and this figure is likely to rise. These tools can answer questions, explain ideas, and generate content, but they're not human and don't always get things right. As their use grows faster than regulation and school policy, it's important for both parents and educators to understand the risks and respond effectively.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

WHAT ARE CHATBOTS?

Chatbots are powered by large language models (LLMs) trained on vast amounts of online data. In simple terms, they work by predicting the next word in a sentence, producing responses that feel natural and conversational. This human-like interaction, especially with the addition of realistic voice features, makes them highly engaging. While this creates useful opportunities for learning and creativity, it also introduces risks surrounding over-reliance, manipulation, and reduced skill development.



INACCURATE INFORMATION

Chatbots generate responses by predicting likely word sequences rather than by checking facts, which means they can present incorrect information with confidence. Often referred to as 'hallucinations', these errors can mislead children using chatbots for homework or research. Because responses sound authoritative and arrive as a single polished answer, they can be difficult to question without prior knowledge.



INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Despite safety measures, chatbots can still produce responses that include violent, sexual, or otherwise unsuitable content. Some users share techniques for bypassing safeguards, and even typical conversations can drift into sensitive topics. Because chatbots are designed to be agreeable, they may not always respond in ways that prioritise a child's wellbeing.



ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Chatbots can quickly generate essays, answers, and ideas, which may encourage children to submit work that isn't their own. While this is an immediate concern, the long-term issue is reduced engagement with learning. When children rely on AI to complete tasks for them, they may miss opportunities to develop essential thinking and writing skills.



EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

Chatbots are designed to be engaging and agreeable, with some acting as companion tools that mirror the user's tone and remember previous conversations. For children who feel anxious or isolated, this can lead to reliance on AI as a substitute for real relationships. Over time, this may affect their ability to manage disagreement, build resilience, and cope with real-world challenges.



DATA PRIVACY RISKS

Most chatbot platforms collect and store user data, including conversations. Children may share personal information such as their name, school, or worries without understanding how it's used. This data may be analysed, stored long term, or used to train future systems, raising concerns about privacy and informed consent for young users.



OVER-RELIANCE ON AI

Regular use of chatbots can lead to cognitive offloading, where children turn to AI instead of thinking independently. Over time, this habit can limit the development of problem solving, creativity, and perseverance. Research suggests that once this reliance is established, it can be difficult to reverse.



Advice for Parents & Educators

START CONVERSATIONS EARLY

Don't wait for problems to arise. Ask children which chatbots they use and what they use them for, approaching the topic with curiosity rather than judgement. Creating open, supportive conversations helps children feel comfortable sharing their experiences and concerns, whether at home or in the classroom.



TEACH CRITICAL EVALUATION

Children need to understand that chatbots generate plausible-sounding responses, not verified facts. Encourage them to check the information against reliable sources and question what they're told. Developing this habit supports their digital literacy and helps them use AI tools safely and effectively.



CHECK AGE SETTINGS

Most chatbot platforms have minimum age requirements and may offer parental controls, though many still rely on self-declaration. Take the time to review platform policies, understand what data is collected, and ensure the appropriate safeguards are in place. Schools should also review which tools are accessible to pupils and how they are used.



WATCH FOR OVER-RELIANCE

Be alert to signs that chatbot use is replacing social interaction or independent thinking. This may include children treating chatbots like people, withdrawing from others, or becoming distressed when access to the chatbot is limited. If concerns arise, respond with calm, open discussion rather than blame, focusing on a healthy social balance and their wellbeing.



Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is an education leader with over 25 years' experience, and a recognised expert on AI in schools. He has led international school groups and now delivers training and keynote sessions on AI for leading education organisations such as HMC, COBIS, NAHT, and The National College.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

See full reference list on our website

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 05.08.2026

FAMILY FOUNDATIONS

With Lighthouse



**A SIX WEEK COURSE
HELPING FAMILIES TO
CREATE A MORE
HARMONIOUS HOME**

WHERE: ABBEY MEADS PRIMARY SCHOOL (SN25 4GY)
WHEN: TUESDAYS 9-10.45AM, 10TH NOVEMBER- 15TH DEC
**WHAT: PRACTICAL IDEAS AND STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT
BEHAVIOUR, RELATIONSHIPS AND HAPPINESS AT HOME**

TO BOOK A SPACE OR FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE
USE THE QR CODE ABOVE OR CONTACT
VDAVID@BLUEKITETRUST.ORG OR
BBRADLEY@BLUEKITETRUST.ORG

Follow our Instagram page for dates of other courses and
general family life tips on @lighthouse_bluekitetrust





The Commonweal School

Centenary Event



Open day at The Commonweal School with displays and archive material from the last 100 years. The event will be in collaboration with the Swindon Society's annual open day. All old and present Commonwealians welcome.

Come and join us for a celebration of the school's history, a chat, a cup of tea and slice of cake...any birthday essential.

17 October

2026

Open

11:00-16:00





6th December 2026
LYDIARD PARK

3K & 5K FUN RUN

All finishers receive a celebratory Christmas themed medal.

Registration opens from 9:30am and event starts at 11am.

www.register.enthuse.com/ps/event/SantavsRudolphRun2026



Scan the QR code to sign up

Sign up at: www.register.enthuse.com/ps/event/SantavsRudolphRun2026

Sponsored by:

Haines Watts

Hillier
Funeral Service



In aid of
Brighter Futures
Supporting great care at Great Western Hospital and Foundation Trust

Practical Strategies

BeU
SWINDON

To support feelings of anxiety in children



15th October- 2-3pm

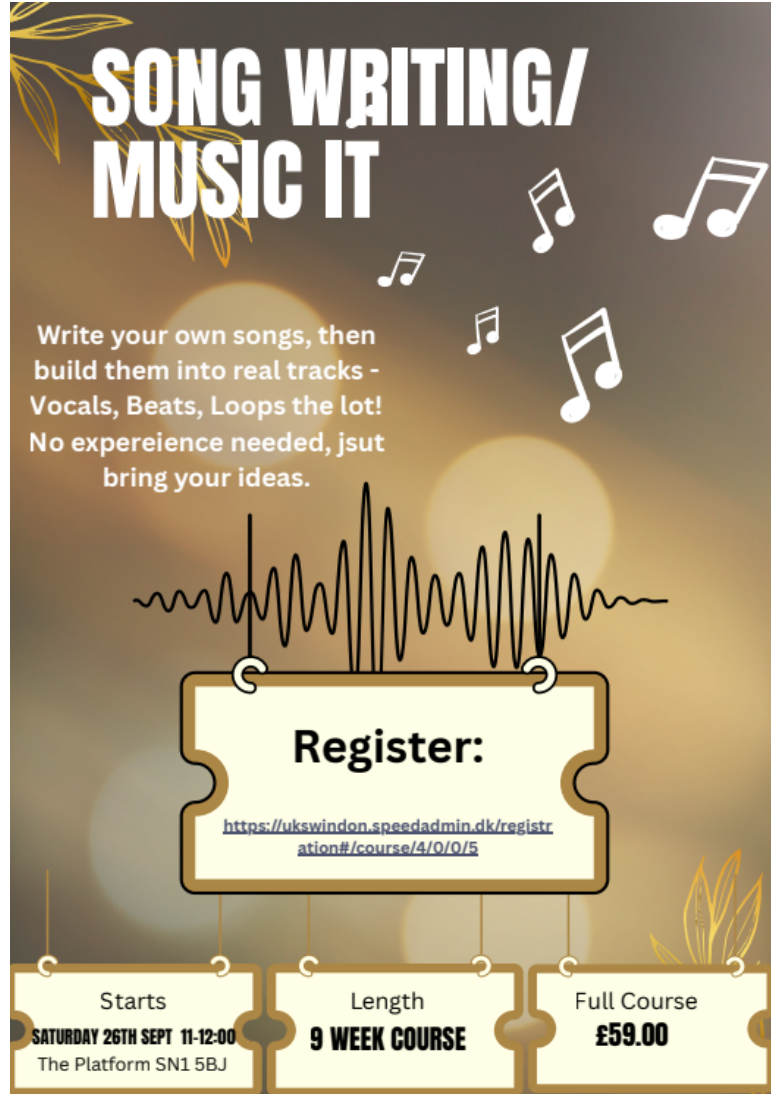


Even Swindon Primary School

A workshop for parents/carers who would like to learn new tools for supporting their children



KS2 Music Tech Course



A hands-on course for students who want to get behind the desk — recording, mixing, beat-making, and producing their own tracks using industry-standard software and equipment.

📅 When: Saturdays, 19th September – December (10 weeks), 10:00 - 11:00am

📍 Where: The Platform, Faringdon Road, Swindon SN1 5BJ

💷 Cost: Just £59.25 for the full course

🎧 **Who: Open to all Key Stage 2 students — no prior experience needed, just enthusiasm!**

This is a brilliant opportunity for students who love music but want to explore the tech and production side — perfect for anyone interested in careers in music production, sound engineering, or the wider creative industries.

<https://ukswindon.speedadmin.dk/registration#/course/4/0/0/5>

Hati Yoga

hati yoga

NEED SOME YOU TIME?

Come and try a Hati Yoga
class this summer. Everyone
welcome - no previous
experience necessary.
First class is free.



classes

GENTLE YOGA
MONDAYS 6PM-
7PM

ALL LEVELS YOGA
SATURDAYS 9:30AM-
10:30AM

YIN YOGA
SATURDAYS
10:40AM-11:40AM

Rodbourne Methodist Hall (next to Aldi)
www.app.ubindi/Wendy.Matthews to book or
message

Every month on the 3rd Saturday @ 11am

Messy Church is a relaxed, family-friendly time of crafts, story & song, and we usually end with a simple lunch together. All are welcome to come along, and it's free.



Dates for 2026

January 17th	July 18th
February 21st	August – No Session
March 21st	September 19th
April 18th	October 17th
May 16th	November 21st
June 20th	December 19th

THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY
EVEN SWINDON
CELEBRATING JESUS LOVING ROSSBOURNE

The Blue Kite Academy Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales,
c/o Ferndale Primary and Nursery School, Wiltshire Avenue,
Swindon SN2 1NX Company Number 09889819



Even Swindon Primary School

www.evenswindon.co.uk

