

PARENT BULLETIN

Thursday 1st October 2026

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE TO OUR LATEST SCHOOL NEWS

Key Notices for the Week Ahead

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reporting student's lateness and absence

A reminder that the most effective ways to report your child's absence or lateness to school are, to:

- Leave a voicemail on the absence line (Option 2 and then Option 1)
- Email attendance@spwt.net

We have a feature on Arbor where parent reporting an absence via voicemail will automatically get logged onto Arbor with a copy of the voicemail. This will allow them to be processed more efficiently.

Arbor App

We would like to remind all parents and carers to sign up to the Arbor Parent App.

The Arbor Parent App provides quick and easy access to live information about your child, helping you stay up to date with key information and school communications. It is a convenient way to access information and manage any day-to-day queries you may have.

If you need support setting up the app, please contact the school office. For any further support please contact admin@spwt.net

Here are this weeks key updates and reminders:

Year 9 Mid Year Assessments- 16/10/26-23/10/2026

Year 9 Students will be completing their Mid-Year Assessments from Friday 16 October to the end of half term. Topic lists and assessment timetables for student revision will be handed out in school this week and uploaded to the Y9 Teams platform. Please support your child with independent study to prepare for assessments.

Supporting with Homework: Weekly Tip

The 5-Minute Recall

Before starting a task, have your child spend five minutes writing down everything they already know about the topic to activate prior knowledge.

Supporting Reading: Weekly Tip

Encourage Creative Writing

Our First Story creative writing programme runs from early October, and every student above year 7 is welcome to join. Ask your child to speak to the librarian if they fancy becoming a published writer by the end of the year. Even if they don't want to join the programme, writing a diary or stories regularly is a great way to develop writing skills, so making sure they have a notebook is a good way to start.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TRACKING DEVICES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Bluetooth tracking devices like Apple's AirTag and Samsung's SmartTags have exploded in popularity, with millions sold each year. These small tools help people locate their lost items, but their discreet design has also made them attractive for more sinister purposes. From stalking to bullying, tracking devices present unique risks that trusted adults need to understand and address.

STALKING AND HARASSMENT



Because of their tiny size and unassuming appearance, tracking devices can easily be hidden in bags or clothing. They've been used to monitor individuals without their knowledge, with a lawsuit in the US labelling AirTags "the weapon of choice of stalkers and abusers". In the UK, use of tracking devices in coercive control and stalking cases reportedly rose by 317 percent between 2018 and 2023.

TOOLS FOR BULLYING



Tracking devices could allow bullies to follow or locate their targets even outside of school. This makes it difficult for children to find refuge, potentially extending the trauma of bullying into spaces – like home – that should feel safe and secure.

FALSE ACCUSATIONS

Because tracking devices are linked to user accounts, they could be misused to "prove" ownership of someone else's possessions. Someone could, for example, plant a tracker on another person's belongings to falsely claim them as their own.

INVASION OF PRIVACY

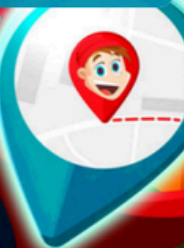


These devices are designed to share location data with the user via other people's phones, which can unintentionally broadcast someone's movements without their consent. This makes them vulnerable to being monitored by strangers without realising.

DIFFICULT TO DETECT



Many tracking devices are designed to be discreet, but that also means they're easy to hide. Without proactive checking or the right tech to detect them, children and young people might not realise they're being tracked.



Advice for Parents & Educators

WATCH FOR WARNING SIGNS

If a child's peers always seem to know their location – whether in person or hinted at online – it could be worth checking for tracking devices. Some, like AirTags, will eventually make a noise if separated from their owner. Listen out for a chirping sound.

CHECK LIKELY HIDING SPOTS

Common places where trackers may be planted include jacket linings, bag seams, pockets, or under bike seats. If you find one, take a photo of the serial number before disposing of it – this could help police trace the account it's linked to.

USE DETECTION APPS

Apple devices running iOS 14.5 or later will notify users of unknown AirTags nearby. Android users can install Apple's 'Tracker Detect' or the third-party app 'AirGuard' to scan for tracking devices from various manufacturers.

HAVE THE CONVERSATION

Talk to your child about what tracking devices are, what signs to look out for, and how they might be misused. Emphasise the legal consequences of using them to prank, harass, or monitor someone.

#WakeUpWednesday

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