



# Soundwell Academy

*Soundwell Academy Newsletter*  
2025/2026 - *Term 3*



## CONTACT US:



Telephone: 0117 4280 505



Midsomer Norton  
Schools Partnership



Email: [Info@soundwell.mnsp.org.uk](mailto:Info@soundwell.mnsp.org.uk)

## FOLLOW US:



@Soundwell\_Acad



@SoundwellAcademyMAT

St Stephen's Rd  
Soundwell  
Bristol  
BS16 4RL



**Ofsted**

Good  
Provider

**Belonging, Kindness, Honesty, Resilience**



# Term Dates & Inset Days

## Soundwell Academy Term Dates 2025 to 2026

Term 1: Mon 1st Sept 2025 to Fri 24th Oct 2025

Term 2: Mon 3rd Nov 2025 to Fri 19th Dec 2025

Term 3: Mon 5th Jan 2026 to Fri 13th Feb 2026

**Term 4: Mon 23rd Feb 2026 to Thurs 2nd Apr 2026**

Term 5: Mon 20th Apr 2026 to Fri 22nd May 2026

Term 6: Mon 1st Jun 2026 to Tues 21st Jul 2026



### Inset Days 25-26

- Mon 1st September 2025
- Tues 2nd September 2025
- Fri 24th October 2025
- Mon 5th January 2026
- **Thurs 2nd April 2026**
- Fri 26th June 2026
- Monday 20th July 2026
- Tues 21st July 2026



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## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents, Carers, and Students,

As we reach the conclusion of Term 3, I would like to share my sincere thanks with our entire school community for what has been a productive and positive term.

It has been a pleasure to observe the steady progress of our students over the past few weeks. Across all year groups, we have seen a wonderful commitment to learning and a genuine sense of cooperation in the hallways and classrooms alike.

To our staff, thank you for your continued dedication and hard work. To our families, thank you for your ongoing support and for the vital role you play in our school's success.

I hope you all have the opportunity to enjoy a safe and restful break. We look forward to seeing everyone return refreshed and ready for the start of Term 4 on **Monday 23rd February 2026**.

Warm regards,  
Craig Abbs  
Headteacher  
Soundwell Academy

# SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)



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## What is AI?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is technology that allows computers to “think” and make decisions a bit like humans through 'machine learning' where it analyses massive amounts of data to find patterns and make statistical predictions. It powers everyday tools children may already use, like voice assistants Alexa/Siri, chatbots, or apps that recommend videos and games.

## What Parents Need to Know

- Children may not spot risks: AI can sometimes give wrong or inappropriate answers, even if it sounds confident.
- Privacy matters: Some AI tools collect information children share, so it's important to supervise use.
- AI can pretend to be human: Chatbots may sound friendly or persuasive, but they don't have feelings or judgment.
- Learning impact: AI can help with homework, but children still need to think for themselves and not rely on it fully.
- Bias and fairness: AI learns from data online, which means it can reflect stereotypes or unfair ideas.

## Your Role as Parents

- Talk to your child about what AI is and how it works.
- Encourage them to ask questions if something feels odd or confusing.
- Guide them to use AI tools safely, just as you would with the internet or social media.

## The "Big Three" Safety Tips

To stay safe and keep "Human Intelligence" at the forefront, remember these rules:

- ▶ Check the Facts: AI is a "confident liar." Always cross-reference important information with a reliable source.
- ▶ Privacy First: Never feed personal details (addresses, full names, or private photos) into an AI tool.
- ▶ Academic Integrity: Using AI to write an entire essay is plagiarism. Using it to help structure your own thoughts is a skill.

## Trusted Resources for More Information

- [NSPCC - AI Safety Tips For Parents](#)
- [Safe AI for Children - Quick Guide for Parents](#)
- [Cyber Trust - AI & Online Safety Guide for Parents, Guardians, and Teachers](#)
- [UNICEF - Generative AI: Risks and Opportunities for Children](#)
- [UK Department for Education - Safe Use of Generative AI in Education \(Module 3\)](#)



# SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT: DEEP FAKES



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## What are Deepfakes?

A deepfake is an image, video, sound, voice, or GIF which has been manipulated by a computer to superimpose someone's face, body or voice onto something else. This could be done with or without the subject's consent.

Deepfakes have become popular due to the accessibility of mobile and computer-based apps. This means users without sophisticated technological skills can easily access, create, and distribute deepfakes.

Deepfakes can be produced using computer and mobile apps to upload images from a user's camera roll. The quality of deepfakes can vary depending on the sophistication of the tech used and the skills of the creator. However, the standard of the deepfake produced will rarely matter compared to the potential harm it may cause when used to harass, bully, or abuse a victim.

## How to Spot a Deepfake

Deepfakes can vary in their quality and professionalism. Some will be quite obviously fake. For others, it can be tricky to spot whether they are real or not. Here are some tell-tale signs to look out for:

**Glitches**– There are typically signs if you look closely at the video itself. Is there rippling, pixelation or blurring around key facial features, like the neck, eyes, or mouth? This may become more obvious when a person moves, blinks, or turns their head or body.

**Audio**– There may be an indication that lip movements do not match what you are hearing. Look closely for natural mouth movements.



## Advice

- **Learn**– The best way to help protect children from deepfakes is to educate yourself. Share this guide to deepfakes with other parents and safeguarding professionals to help spread the word.
- **Talk**– Discuss deepfakes and the importance of image consent with the children in your care. Ensure they know why they should ask someone before using an image of them to create a deepfake or manipulated picture.
- **Check**– Make sure all the devices your children own or have access to have the best safety settings enabled. Speak to the children in your care about their safety and privacy settings online. You should also check that they limit public access to their social media images. Visit the [Safety Centre](#) for further help and guidance.

internet  
matters.org

**What can I do if my child has viewed, or featured in, synthetic harmful content? [Report Harmful Content \(CLICK\)](#)**



# BIKE MECHANICS & MAINTENANCE WITH WAYNE!



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During the first terms of the school year we've had a great time maintaining, building and occasionally breaking bikes during the Bike Maintenance sessions.

Wednesday afternoons have become a fun and vibrant way of learning new skills, developing relationships and teaching road safe bike handling. I've really enjoyed getting to know the students. Being involved in the development of their riding ability has been a joy.

During the school Bike sessions we're planning to extend the building and maintenance of a small fleet of bikes for the children to use at school.

Several bikes have been donated to students to take home. I'm really proud to allow them to have the social mobility that is so important as they move forward in life.

If anybody has any unwanted bikes that could be used here, please get in touch. Equally, if you have a broken bike at home that requires fixing, there is the potential capacity to do it here at Soundwell.

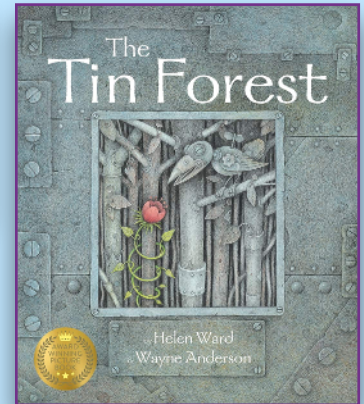


# CLASS 3SB

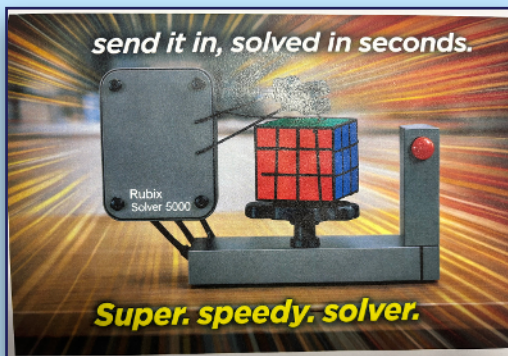


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This term 3SB have learned all about inventors and inventions including Bristol's Frys chocolate which we attempted to recreate ourselves!



In English we read the Tin Forest by Helen Ward and Wayne Anderson. We then wrote some amazing adverts for cracking contraptions inspired by Wallace and Gromit. Some students even created their own designs such as Emmett's Money-a-tron and the Rubik Solver 5000 from Reggie!



**SOCCAMATIC**

Just Kick It!

Are you fed up of kicking the ball? Do you want to be crazy at goal keeping like Noor? Tired of practising alone? Upgrade your skills with the Soccamatic!

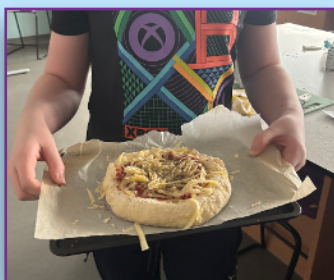
This is why you need the soccamatic

It's the fastest machine to kick a football in the world.  
It can help you be the best goalkeeper in the world by letting the cannon hit the ball in the net.  
It can help you up grade your skills and confidence like Ederson, Donuramma, Courtous!

If you want to get better at being a goal keeper go to [Soccamatic.com](http://Soccamatic.com) to unlock your aura.



We have cooked some delicious food including pizzas from scratch, improved our multiplication and division knowledge in Maths and learned a lot about wellbeing and safety in the community through PSHE and Life Skills.



We are really proud of all the students' efforts and readiness to learn. Well done **Dexter** for an amazing 95.5% attendance across the whole year so far and for improved attendance for everyone in class.

# Well Done!



# CLASS 2LC



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2LC finished their term 3 learning about inventions with a trip to Aerospace. There, they got to explore Concorde, find out about how planes were made and have changed over time, as well as getting to design, make and test their own gliders! It was a fantastic end to a term where they have also designed and built their own bridges, designed their own chocolate bars and written adverts for a magnificent museum of inventions. A special shout out goes to Sarah for always being so engaged in her learning and showing such enthusiasm and resilience as a learner!



# ATTENDANCE



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## Illness and reporting absence

Sometimes a child will wake up in the morning saying that they feel unwell. Whilst we do encourage children to come to school even if they 'feel a little unwell' we do not want any child who is genuinely ill to come to school. Always try and send your child to school if they are a little 'under the weather', for example, with a runny nose, headache, tummy-ache. The school will always contact you if your child is unwell, which is why it is vitally important that we have your correct contact details.

If your child is genuinely ill then they will need to remain at home. Please contact the school office or leave a message on our answer-phone service before 8:45am with a reason for the absence - specific details are required - 0117 4280505.



If you are unable to call then you can report an absence with details of the reason using this email address:

[attendance@soundwellacademy.org.uk](mailto:attendance@soundwellacademy.org.uk)

If you are unsure as to whether your child can attend school please contact your doctor, speak to the school office or access this link for advice.

[Is my child too ill for school?](#)

**Absence calls must be made to the school EACH day that your child is absent.**



**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

## **Useful contacts: Follow links or ring numbers below for support**

[Young Minds: supporting children and young people's mental health](#)

[Mind: adult mental health support and information](#)

[Refuge: domestic abuse support](#)

[Saneline: Emotional Support: 07984 967 708](#)

[Bristol Mindline: 0300 123 3393 \(in the day\); 0800 808 0330 \(after 7pm\)](#)

## **Local authority contacts if you have safeguarding concerns about a child:**

### **BANES**

Call Children's Social Work Services on 01225 39 61 11 or 01225 47 79 29 (weekdays, 8.30am to 5pm, except Fridays when closed from 4.30pm).

### **Bristol**

Contact the First Response Team on 0117 903 6444. When offices are closed call the Emergency Duty Team on 01454 615 165.

### **South Glos**

Report concerns about a child on 01454 866000-Monday to Thursday 9am-5pm; Friday 9am - 4.30pm. 01454 615165-Out of hours and at weekends.

### **Somerset**

Report concerns about a child on 01275 888 808.