



School Newsletter

FRIDAY 26TH JANUARY 2024
Headteacher:
Mr N Lamorte

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MESSAGE FROM MR LAMORTE - HEADTEACHER

The year is passing by at a pace and it's hard to believe we are only two weeks away from being half way through the academic year. We've had a great few weeks in school and the children have really enjoyed watching the chicks hatch out of eggs and seeing them grow and develop. The chicks are seriously cute and are currently residing in 2LT, where they are being cared for wonderfully. Children from all classes have been invited to visit them before they are returned next Friday.



What cute chicks we have in school at the moment!

Year 3 children are having a fantastic time taking part in a Creative Connections programme, which focuses on supporting children to develop their oracy, communication skills and to promote self-expression through the art of storytelling. As part of the project, the children were visited by a representative from the National Theatre and took part in a two-hour workshop in school. During the session, the children were read a story aloud, and they recreated this using scenes through drama, see photos below. The children found this a very enjoyable experience and all were actively involved. Year 3 are now really looking forward to applying what they have learned to their drama performance at Audley Primary School on Wednesday 7th February!



Year 3 drama with the National Theatre

SCHOOL CHOIR CLUB

We have made a priority of doing more singing in school this year, which has been lovely to hear. It has been great that the 'Choir Club' has recently started after school on a Monday for years 3 and 4. Led by Mrs Jones and Mrs Barrow, they held their first session this week, and it was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Children who attend will be sharing what they have been learning with the other children, and helping to teach them new songs.

Wishing you a safe and relaxing weekend.

Key Dates and Information

- Friday 2nd February - Year 5 Trip to the Black Country Museum
- Wednesday 7th February- Year 3 Storyseekers Trip to Audley Primary
- Friday 9th February - Break up for half term
- Monday 19th February - Return to school
- Tuesday 27th February - Parents' Evening 16:00 - 18:30 - Uniform SwapShop
- Thursday 29th February - Parents' Evening 15:30 - 17:30 - Uniform SwapShop
- Tuesday 5th March - 6ST Parent Meetings
- Thursday 7th March - 6JF Parent Meetings
- Friday 8th March - World Book Day - Dress up as a book character
- Friday 8th March - Parent Voice Meeting (all parents/carers invited)
- Thursday 14th March - Year 2 Multiplication Workshops
- Friday 15th March - Red Nose Day - Wear something red and bring a donation.
- Friday 22nd March - Autism Awareness Day - 'Light it up blue' - Wear something blue day.
- Friday 22nd March - Spring Disco
- Monday 22nd April - Year 5 Reading Workshop
- **Thursday 2nd May—School Closed for Voting Day (Open for Year 6)**
- Monday 13th May - Friday 17th May - SATS Week

A Message from Ms Porter

Attendance

Happy New Year & Welcome Back

- Just a friendly reminder that if your child is absent then please notify the office or attendance by 8:30am or at your earliest convenience.
- Please make sure you provide a valid reason for absence.



Competition

- Congratulations to Ahmed in 2PW who won last term's attendance raffle prize of an android tablet.
- **This term's attendance raffle prize is a mystery family day out!**
- To be in a chance of winning then you must have 97% or more attendance by the time the prize is drawn on 21st March 2024. Good Luck!

PANCAKES

8th February 2024
American Pancakes
served with
Lemon and Sugar
or
Chocolate Spread

***Nut free**

E-Safety

One in three 8-year-olds in Britain own a smartphone and that proportion rises to more than 90% by the time children reach 12.

This significant increase – driven by factors both personal (blossoming independence) and practical (the transition to secondary school) – makes it all the more important for young people to know how to use such devices safely.

More than half of parents (52%) surveyed by Ofcom admitted to worrying about their child being bullied via their mobile phone – and with hazards like scams, screen addiction and inappropriate content to consider, that's far from the only risk around.

Please see the guide, to the right, which pulls together some simple but solid smartphone safety tips.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

12 Smartphone Online Safety Tips

FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

The Christmas season has finally arrived and soon many of you will be opening your presents in the hope that Santa has listened to your request for the latest mobile phone or smart device. Owning a mobile phone can be fun, but it's important to use it safely and responsibly. By following our safety tips below, you can make sure that you set up your phone securely, keep your personal information private and enjoy using your phone in the healthiest way possible.

- 1 ALWAYS SECURE YOUR PHONE WITH A PASSWORD**
This will help to keep your private information safe and won't allow others to access your phone without your permission. Make sure your password is memorable and personal to you but something which other people can't guess, and always share it with your parents just in case you forget it.
- 2 DISABLE LOCATION SETTINGS**
This can usually be done from the device's privacy control settings. Disabling location settings means that your phone can't be tracked by others and strangers can't tell where you are when you're using it. It also helps to save battery.
- 3 ALWAYS USE A SECURE WIFI NETWORK**
When you use your WiFi at home usually it is a secure network that only you and your family know the password to. Public networks, like those in coffee shops, can be accessed by anyone which means that people could potentially hack into your device and access your personal information without you realising.
- 4 ONLY PAIR WITH BLUETOOTH DEVICES YOU KNOW**
A Bluetooth connection with another device means that you can send and receive data wirelessly. For example, you could listen to music wirelessly or receive pictures and videos from your friends. However, pairing your phone with a device you don't know means that you could be sharing personal information with a stranger or could leave your device open to receiving viruses.
- 5 ONLY USE APPS WHICH YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH TO USE**
Before downloading any new apps, always check the age-rating of the app. If you need help, ask your parent or carer to make sure that the app is safe for you to use and never download anything which you are too young for as it may contain things that aren't safe for you to see.
- 6 BEWARE OF BECOMING ADDICTED TO YOUR PHONE**
Before downloading any new apps, always check the age-rating of the app. If you need help, ask your parent or carer to make sure that the app is safe for you to use and never download anything which you are too young for as it may contain things that aren't safe for you to see.
- 7 LIMIT YOUR SCREEN TIME**
Using your phone for too long, particularly in the evenings, can make you feel tired at school, affect your concentration, and make you lose interest in other things in life. Only use your phone at certain times of the day and don't use it close to bedtime. You can set a 'screen time limit' via the settings on your phone. This will help you stay fit and healthy and means that you will still be able to focus and perform well at school.
- 8 THINK OF OTHERS WHEN TAKING PHOTOS**
Don't take embarrassing photos of other people on your phone. If other people get access to the photo and share it with more people, it could make that person really upset and treated as a form of bullying. Always be mindful of the photos you take using your camera and who you share them with.
- 9 MAKE SURE YOUR PARENTS SET UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS'**
This means that you will be able to use your phone safely and securely and won't accidentally do things you shouldn't do. The best time to do this is when you get a new phone or device so that you're protected from the very beginning.
- 10 ALWAYS TALK TO YOUR PARENTS IF YOU DON'T FEEL SAFE**
Sometimes, even though your phone is really secure, you might see something you don't like, or someone might contact you who you don't know. If this happens, always tell your trusted adult like your parents, carers, other adult family members or a teacher, all of whom will be able to support you and advise you on what you should do next.
- 11 DON'T TEXT AND WALK**
This might seem like a strange thing to say but it can be dangerous to stare at your mobile phone whilst walking outside alongside busy roads or bicycle paths. In some cases, children have been knocked over by cars or cyclists because they haven't been aware of their surroundings whilst texting or playing games on their mobile devices.
- 12 DON'T SHARE YOUR NUMBER OR YOUR DEVICE WITH PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW.**
Never feel pressured into sharing your phone number with people you don't know and don't lend your phone to strangers or keep it where others could get hold of it. Look after your device and always keep it hidden from sight to avoid it being stolen or broken into.

Wellbeing

15 ways to promote and support Good Mental Health

1. Make sure you get enough sleep
2. Eat healthy food and drink healthy drinks
3. Learn how to relax and switch off
4. Connect with friends and family
5. Learn new things every day
6. Help others when ever you can
7. Exercise each day
8. Talk about your feelings
9. Be mindful and take notice of what is happening around you
10. Be thankful for all the things you have
11. Set goals for yourself and embrace your wishes and dreams
12. Challenge any negative thoughts
13. Learn how to smile more!
14. Ask for help if you have a problem
15. Have fun and laugh!



As parents and carers, there are ways we can support our children to give them the best chance to stay mentally healthy.

As parents and carers, there are ways we can support our children to give them the best chance to stay mentally healthy. Encouraging and guiding a child to think about their own mental health and wellbeing are vital skills you can teach them from a young age.

Please see below for some useful tips and links we can support our children to give them the best chance to stay mentally healthy.

<https://forwardthinkingbirmingham.nhs.uk/pause>

<https://forwardthinkingbirmingham.nhs.uk>

<https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters>

Supermarket Vouchers

Birmingham City Council are providing schools with £20 vouchers to be used during February Half Term.

All parents / carers will be provided with 1 voucher per child once we receive these as a school.

Food Aid

If you are in a position whereby you are struggling to provide meals for yourself or children, please come and see us. We are a food bank referral agency.

The B30 foodbank operates from Friends Meeting House in Cotteridge on Tuesdays and Fridays weekly.

If you feel this service would benefit you please come and speak to Miss Stanley or Mrs Jones in confidence.

What to do if you are worried about a child

We are very lucky that we have such a supportive community, whereby families often contact us directly if they have seen or know something of concern relating to any of our pupils. We appreciate that families and the community are the eyes and ears for vulnerable children so please see below organisations that you can contact directly if you have genuine concerns about the safety and wellbeing of any child.

West Midlands Police - 999 (if the child is in immediate danger)

NSPCC - 0800 800 5000 - Report child abuse

Children's Advice and Support Service (CASS) - 0121 303 1888 or cass@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk

Online Information from the NSPCC for parents can be found at: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Household Support Fund

Household support fund is still taking applications until March 2024. If you have not made an application within the last 12 months please email enquiry@wychall.drbignitemat.org with your contact details and a member of the pastoral team will call you for more information.

Family Hubs Newsletter

Please find the Family Hubs Newsletter here: <https://sway.cloud.microsoft/ihHLXGJaP6CDEQhZ?ref=Link>