GREET PRIMARY SCHOOL 1892

Friday 9th February 2024
Spring edition no. 3

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers, welcome to the end of term newsletter.

Exhibition

Thank you so much to all of you for joining us at our Art and DT exhibition afternoon this week. The children have produced some fantastic work.

Darrell Wakelam Artist Visit

We were incredibly lucky to have welcomed Darrell Wakelam in to work with some children in Year 3 and Year 4 last week. Darrell is a 3D artist who makes images and sculptures out of cardboard. We tasked him with producing a display for the main hall on the theme of 'Proud to Be a Brummie'. He spent a day working with 60 children and together they produced these absolutely gorgeous images of four iconic Birmingham landmarks.

The creations are now proudly on display in the main hall for all children, staff, parents and visitors to enjoy.

Greet's Art Gallery

We have been working hard on our Art curriculum and developing our children's creative and artistic skills. As part of this ongoing development we have installed our very own art gallery in the lower phase building.

All of the artists on display will be studies by the children during their time with us at Greet.

Parent Workshop

Please see below for an overview of our Wednesday parent workshop themes for next half term.

- Wednesday 28th February - Y3/4 Times Tables (Mrs Shahnawaz)
- Wednesday 6th March - World Book Day (Mrs Holder)
- Wednesday 13th March - Online Safety / Streaming (Mr Haydon)
- Wednesday 20th March - Supporting Your Child's Speech & Language Development (Louise Scrivener - Talk Therapy)

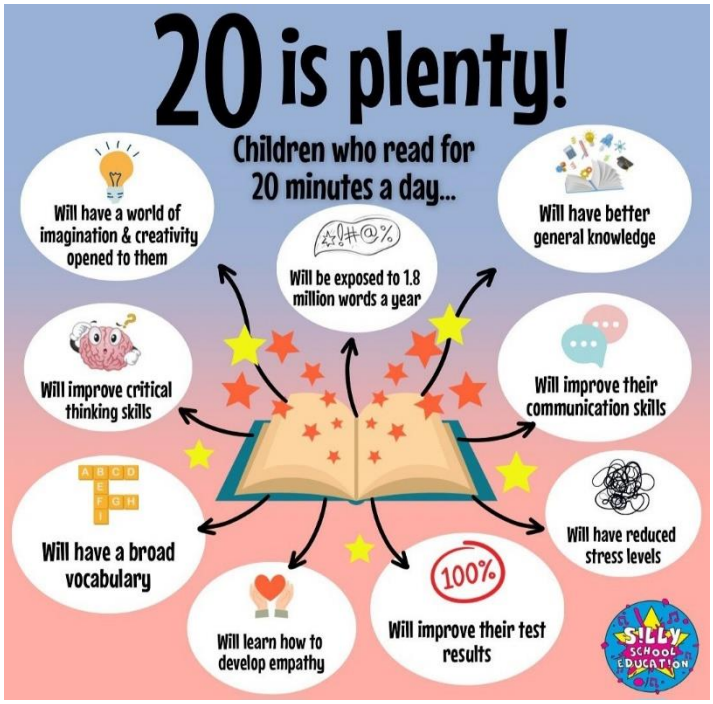
All workshops will take place in the main hall unless otherwise stated. Please come to the doors at the back of the main hall after dropping off your child/children. The staff member hosting the workshop will be there to greet you and sign you in.

Dinner Menus for Spring 2

Our new dinner menus can be found here https://www.greet.bham.sch.uk/school-dinners-and-packed-lunches/ on the school website. You will also find an overview of which menu will be served each week. This page is updated half termly.

World Book Day:

We are celebrating World Book Day on 7th March. More details will be sent out nearer the time.



Half Term Science Project Competition

Please see the poster at the end of this newsletter for details of our competition for International Women in Science Day.

Scholastic Book Fair:

The Scholastic Book Fair will be back in school with us from Monday 11th March until Friday 15th March. Children will be able to spend their World Book Day vouchers at the Fair. Further information will be sent out after half term.

Bromcom My Child At School App (MCAS)

On 19th February 2024 we will be launching our new parent app called **My Child At School (MCAS).**

Downloading the app and logging in
The app is simple to download and access using the email address that you have supplied to us. Please don't try to log in before 19th February 2024. The app is available through the Google Store or Apple Store, just search for **My Child At School app by Bromcom Computers Plc** (please see guide at the end of the newsletter). From the 19th February 2024 we will no longer use the Arbor app.

We will be having **drop-in sessions all day on 19th February, 22nd February, and 23rd February 2024** where office staff will be on hand to help you get logged in.

Greet Attendance

Below are the attendance champions from last week.

Year group	Attendance
Year 5	92.68%
Year 6	91.47%
Year 4	87.52%
Year 2	87.38%
Year 3	86.57%
Year 1	86.35%
Reception	85.97%

Class	Attendance
5DH	97.44%
2NH	95.44%
5HM	94.36%
6SK	92.31%
6SB	92.05%
6SW	92.05%
NPM	91.23%

House points

Congratulations to all the children in **Pinsent** who are our house points winners this week.

1st – Pinsent 2nd – Harewood 3rd – Ali

Key dates section:

Dates for your diary for the first week back

- Monday 19th February - Children return to school as normal - see you at 8:30 in the playground for Wake & Shake!
- Tuesday 20th February - 5WH & 5GA trip to Mount Pleasant Farm
- Wednesday 21st February - Reception Eye Tests with School Nursing Team
    - 2UT & 2RH Boost Reading Workshop in classrooms
- Thursday 22nd February - 5HM & 5DH trip to Mount Pleasant Farm
    - 2NH & 2FP Boost Reading Workshop in classrooms

INSET Days:

Friday 22nd March 2024 (1 day)

Term Dates - Spring 1

February half term: Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February 2024

Term Dates - Spring 2

Children return to school: Monday 19th February 2024

Children finish for the Easter holiday: Thursday 21st March 2024 @ 3.15pm

Easter holiday: Monday 25th March to Friday 5th April 2024

Supermarket Vouchers

We have sent emails to parents / carers containing a link to a £20 supermarket voucher for every child at Greet in Reception to Year 6. Please check your email inbox for an email from Emily. This is to help towards your food shop over the half term holidays.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MONKEY

Also known as Monkey Cool, this platform aims to fill the gap left by Omegle (which has now shut down) by placing users in random video chats with strangers. Participants use their mobile number and Snapchat username to connect to the service, where they can make matches, message other people and join group chats. The mobile version has been removed from the App Store due to safety concerns, but iPhone owners can still access the site via their web browser. The app remains available on Google Play, where its listing claims that Monkey has more than 30 million users worldwide.

AGE RESTRICTION 17+

(although the lack of age verification means that someone younger could easily log in with a fake date of birth)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The app claims to use AI to detect sexual content or activity that violates its policies, along with having a 24/7 moderation team. However, reports in the media continue to indicate that explicit content remains commonplace on Monkey (including sexually graphic or violent material) and is therefore accessible to anybody who uses the app – including those aged under 18.

IN-APP SPENDING

While Monkey is free to download, it nevertheless offers in-app purchases promising to unlock access to premium features. For example, users who wish to make use of 'Knock Knock chat' (Monkey's text-based messaging option), rather than the app's Chatroulette-style random video calling feature, will need to pay to be able to do so.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

The obvious risk in accepting random video chat partners is that users cannot know what or who they will see on their next connection. Talking to strangers is, of course, potentially dangerous – especially for children who might be persuaded to meet up with these people offline. The app lets users find each other by location, increasing the chances of a child being matched with a stranger from their local area.

INTRUSIONS ON PRIVACY

According to Monkey's privacy policy, personal information (such as name, profile picture and date of birth), user-contributed content (any photos, texts, videos and screenshots shared) and each user's browser and IP address are collected. That is a considerable amount of data for Monkey to gather on its users – and all of this information is shared with third parties.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

Even if you're comfortable with your child using Monkey, it's still important to talk about the potential dangers. It's crucial, for instance, that young people recognise the risks that stem from video chatting with strangers; that they understand not to share identifying information (like their street or school name); and that they know what to do if they are exposed to inappropriate content.

RESTRICT IN-APP PURCHASING

If your child is accessing Monkey via an Android device, you can prevent them from making in-app purchases through the device's settings. If you *do* allow your child to use the site, we'd recommend that you enable this feature: young people have been known to spend significant amounts of money in their desire to unlock more features in apps such as this.

REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Monkey states in the safety section of its site that "people are given the power" and that, to a large extent, Monkey is "self-governing." If a user is exposed to sexually explicit or inappropriate content on the platform, they can select the 'police' emoji in the top right corner of their screen to submit a report for Monkey's moderation team to review.

SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Monkey – or that they may have been exposed to inappropriate or distressing content – it's important to watch for potential indications that they've been affected emotionally. They could be unusually irritable or unable to concentrate, for example, or failing to complete their homework or even to eat regular meals.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

The National College

National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about
PERSUASIVE DESIGN ONLINE

'Persuasive design' refers to the techniques that companies employ to influence our thoughts and behaviours when we're on the internet. These approaches can be spotted on websites, in apps and even as part of some video games. Persuasive design means that this content has been deliberately presented in a way that's intended to encourage you to spend your time or money (or both). These methods often prove highly effective at keeping people engaged and invested for longer than we might expect.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

POTENTIAL ADDICTION

In the digital world, persuasive design can make certain activities more addictive and harder to walk away from: some people may begin to feel anxious or irritated without access to their device or their favourite app, for example. It can also often leave users feeling isolated, as – if they spend most of their time on social media – they may start to find it difficult to talk to other people in real life.

MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS

Scrolling online or gaming without regular breaks is proven to be harmful to our mental health. The constant bombardment of news stories (many of them negative), images and influencers' posts can create sensations of unease, uncertainty and FOMO (fear of missing out). Young people can get so immersed in this environment that they become less likely to spot misleading posts.

PROLONGED SCROLLING

Social media can draw any of us – regardless of age – into a continuous pattern of refreshing our screen, following posts and links down rabbit holes or reading countless comments made by others. This aimless scrolling can eat up time which could have been spent on more productive activities. It could also lead younger users into areas of the online world which aren't age appropriate.

SENSORY OVERLOAD

Repetitively scrolling, clicking on links or playing games can create an unending stream of new information and visual stimuli. Put it this way: social media isn't exactly renowned as a carefree, chilled-out environment. Such overstimulation can become too much for young people to handle, resulting in sensory overload and causing them to feel stressed, overwhelmed and exhausted.

COSTLY ADDITIONS

Video games sometimes display offers for downloadable content or loot boxes which can be bought with real money. While these 'microtransactions' temptingly promise to improve a player's gaming experience, most of the time they are money sinks. Young people in particular, excited by the chance of enhancing their game, could spend quite a sizeable sum very quickly indeed.

PHYSICAL CONSEQUENCES

Hours spent sitting and scrolling means far less time moving around and getting exercise: hardly ideal for a young person's physical health. Additionally, prolonged exposure to the light given off by a phone's screen can lead to eye fatigue and discomfort, especially if viewing it in the dark. Extended phone use before bed can also impact on sleep quality, affecting mood and energy levels over the following days.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ESTABLISH LIMITS

Talk to your child about setting some time limits on how long they can use their phone, tablet or console in the evenings or at weekends – or perhaps how often they can go on a specific app, game or website. You could also decide to involve the whole family in creating this shared screen time agreement, making things fair (and healthier) for everyone.

ENCOURAGE MINDFULNESS

Acknowledging any addiction is key in overcoming it – and compulsive scrolling is no different. If anything mentioned in this guide sounds familiar, it could help to have an honest, open chat with your child about how much time they spend online. Get them to think about how often they scroll through social media aimlessly or habitually open it up whenever they have a spare moment.

NIX NOTIFICATIONS

Stop knee-jerk responses at the source by turning off push notifications and alerts. Whether it's a gaming notification or a social media update, these not-so-gentle reminders are designed to catch our attention and lure us back to our device. Switching them off – or even deleting any particularly intrusive apps – can help prevent your child from being reeled back into the online world.

MAKE A CHECKLIST

Considering a list of relevant questions can be an effective way of helping children figure out why they're scrolling on certain sites or consuming particular pieces of content. A checklist can prompt young people to ask themselves if they're learning anything or benefiting from this activity – or if they're wasting their time. Taking a step back can sometimes help us to see things more clearly.

Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings has more than 20 years' experience in the field of relationships, sex and health education (RSHE). As well as delivering workshops and training for young people, parents and schools, she is also a subject matter expert on RSHE for the Department of Education.

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New Parent Accounts – My Child At School

The **MCAS Login** process allows parents to log into the **MCAS** online portal using their **Email Address** and **Password**. Parents can view multiple **Student MCAS** accounts in one place.

- Schools will create a new **User Account** and click on the **Send Generate Password Email** button.
- Parents will receive an email from the school with a link to the **Parent Login** screen.
- Parents will click **Here** to open the **Create Your Password** screen.

Below is an **example email** sent to a parent. **Email invite will be sent on Monday 19th February 2024.**

Hello from MyChildAtSchool.com

A request to setup your MCAS account has been received.

Below are the details to setup your account.

Email - sravani.konidala@bromcom.com

Password - Please click Here to create your login password.

If you did not request these details, please contact your school.

Please do not reply to this email as any received emails are deleted immediately.

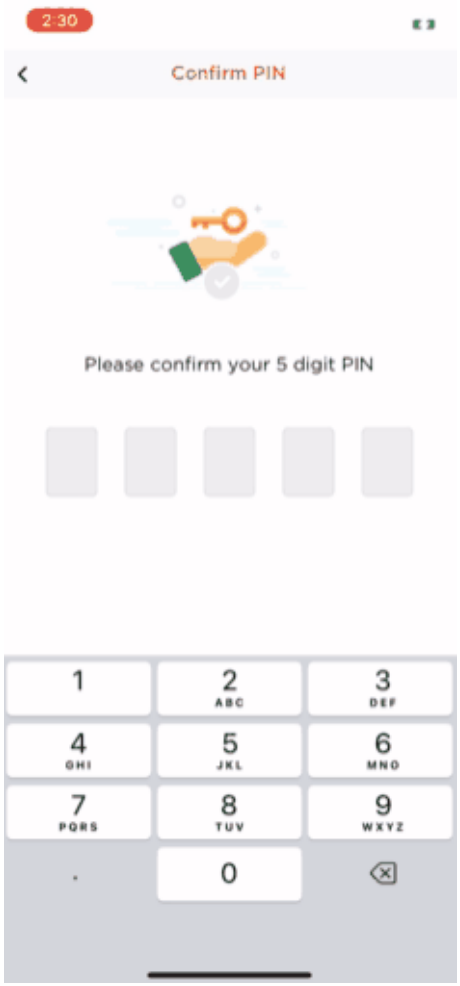
Regards
MyChildAtSchool.com

- Parents will **Enter Password** and **Confirm Password**.
- Parents will then click **Create Password**.

Note: Parents should contact the school if their email address is not recognised.

- The page will return to the **Login** screen.
- Parents will now be able to **Login** using their **Email Address** and **Password**.

Note: If parents have more than one **Profile** using the same **Email Address**, a popup will appear, select the **Profile** they wish to use to continue to the **Dashboard**. Students associated with each **Profile** are displayed on each row. Click on the **Profile**. The **Dashboard** will open for that **Profile**.
Once the password has been created, parents can login from within the web browser type **www.mychildatschool.com** or access the **MyChildAtSchool** mobile phone app, this will open the **Parent Login** screen.



This year, on February 11th, we will be celebrating International women and scientist's day and we want YOU to get involved!

Do you want to learn about the incredible females that have contributed towards science over the years? Do you want to explore the life of Marie Curie, one of the world's most famous scientists, or perhaps you want to learn about the invincible Shark Lady, Eugenie Clark? Well, this is your opportunity. We are calling all children to participate in our research project and create a poster about their chosen female scientist or scientists and WOW us!

What does being a scientist mean to you? Can you name any well known scientists? What fascinating facts can you share about

Closing date: Friday 23rd February.

Prizes are up for grabs!

There will be some exciting prizes available for