



NEWSLETTER

It's hard to believe that there are only two weeks left until we reach February half-term and the half way stage of the academic year.

CROSS COUNTRY

The first local school's sporting event took place last week. Harry, Teddie, Elliot and Henry represented the school at the Year 5 and 6 Cross Country held at Tanworth. Our team performed very well and Mrs Woods was very impressed with their attitude and resilience—the course was a challenging one and everyone was determined to complete it. Well done to Harry who came eighth in his race and has qualified for the County trials to be held in February. Teddie finished ninth in the Year 5 race and is first reserve.

Thank you to Mrs Woods for organising the team and all the parents for their support.



Our next sporting event will be the Indoor Athletics which takes place on Friday 10th February. We will be taking all of Sycamore class to this morning event. If anyone can spare time to help out please speak to Mrs Wood.

BEECH HUT

Ms Barnett and Mrs Hartwright have been completing some wonderful work with the children who attend the Beech Hut. This week they have been creating Arctic craft creatures.



Can we politely ask parents to collect children from the Beech Hut by 5.30pm as staff are only paid to work until then.

Parents can make arrangements in advance to collect at the later time of 5.45pm for an additional charge of £3 per child. This is to cover staffing costs. Children who are picked up late will also be charged an extra £3 for each 15 minutes.

3rd February 2023

STARS OF THE WEEK

Friday 27th January

Theme – PE

Well done to: Freddie, Thomas, James, Ava, Hannah, Ollie, Harry, Jacob, Tommy, Hughie, Teddie, Harry, Henry and Elliot.

Friday 3rd February

Theme— Friendship

Well done to: Arthur, Archie, Bella, Ella, Charlotte, Annabelle, Jack, Megan, Teddie and Nicola.



WORK FROM THE CLASS ROOM

The children are now fully engrossed in this term's topics.

Oak class have been "visiting" different parts of the world as part of their Ticket to Ride topic. Last week they celebrated the Lunar New Year by making lanterns and learning about China. This week they are in South Africa.

They have also been developing their co-ordination and balance in their weekly Gymnastics lessons.

Willow have made a wonderful start to their topic on the Fire of London. They have used paintings and story books to learn about London in 1666 and sequenced the story of the fire. In English they have written their own Fire poems using a range of impressive vocabulary.



SCAN ME



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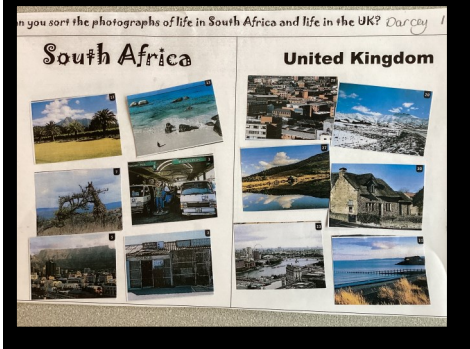


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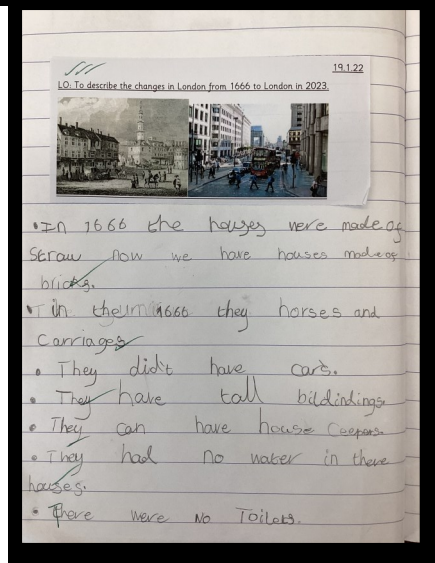
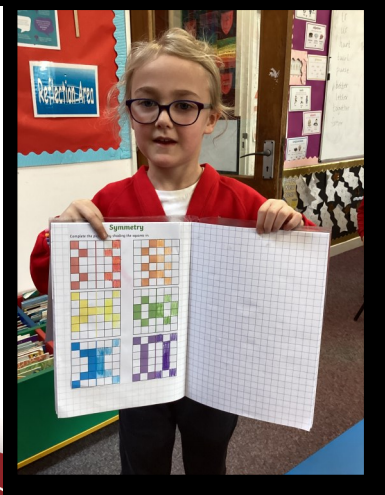
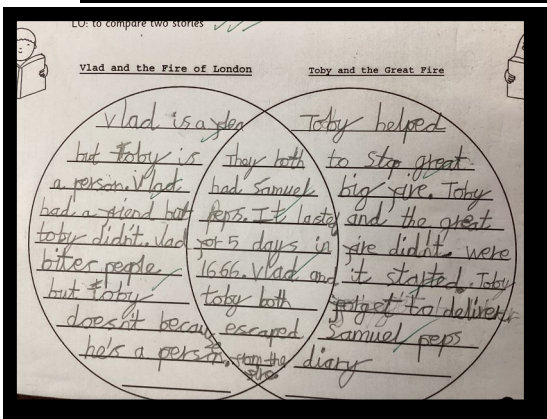




Oak class showing their gymnastic skills and sharing some of their work.



A small sample of some of the work children in Willow class have completed.





NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL UNIFORM

A polite reminder that children should be wearing the correct uniform. Children in Key Stage 2 should be wearing ties, long hair should be tied back and children should not wear jewellery, except for a watch and small stud earrings. Can I also ask that parents ensure children bring a coat to school.

We have a number of new sweat shirts, and cardigans with the old school logo that have been given to the school by NSC shop in Alcester. Parents are welcome to buy these for a small donation to school fund.

YEAR 2 SATS

Thank you for the positive comments from the parents who attended our meeting yesterday. I know many of you found it very helpful. We have sent a copy of the slides to all parents via Studybugs, as I know some people were unable to attend.

FOREST SCHOOL

Many of you will have noticed that work has begun to develop the site at the end of the playground. I would like to thank Mrs Cooke for all her hard work and parents and grandparents for their kind donations. We are still keen to acquire old kitchen pots and pans and kitchen utensils such as spoons,



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potato peelers and ladles.

ONLINE SAFETY

We have been made aware that a small number of children are playing a game called Poppy Playtime. This features frightening images, themes and songs that are paired with toys. It is recommended for children aged 12 or over. The character can also be seen in films streamed on platforms including YouTube and TikTok.

Next Tuesday is Safer Internet day and the theme for this year is **'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online'**. Attached to the end of the newsletter is useful guidance about how to talk to your child about their online use.

BOOKS FOR HOME

Own Books is a charity, that give away books that have been donated, to children of all backgrounds and ages. They believe passionately in children having books at home, sharing and enjoying them with their siblings and families



GIVING ALL CHILDREN THE ENJOYMENT OF BOOKS

We have recently had a delivery of books from the charity. Our school library leaders will be organising sessions next week when children can select a book to take home and keep.

ATTENDANCE

After a positive start to the new year, with whole school attendance above 96%, our attendance has fallen for the second week in a row and last week was 94.2%. Chestnut and Sycamore led the way with 96.4% and 96.3% .

Can I reiterate the importance of children arriving at school on time. Phonics and spelling lessons start at 9am every day, so children who arrive late will be regularly missing these lessons and this will lead to gaps in their learning.

I hope you have an enjoyable weekend. The next newsletter will be on Thursday 16th February.

DATES for this half-term

07/02/23– Safer Internet day

10/02/23—Sycamore class at Indoor Athletics Competition

13/02/23—Last swimming session

16/02/23—NEW DATE Break the Rules day/Parents' Celebration Assembly at 2.40pm

16/02/23—BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM

17/02/23—Teacher Training Day

27/02/23—Children return to school

27/03/23—Empathy Week

2/03/23—World Book Day

8/03/23—PARENTS EVENING



SCAN ME



Tips for Encouraging Open Discussions about DIGITAL LIVES

The online world is an entirely familiar and commonplace part of life for today's children and young people, far more so than for previous generations. There are many positives to children being able to access online materials, so it's important not to demonise the internet, games and apps, and limit the benefit of their positive aspects. At the same time, we do have a responsibility to educate children about the hazards they may encounter online (just as we would about real-world dangers) so it's essential that we don't shy away from talking to them about the complex – and often sensitive – subject of what they do and what they see when they're online.

Here are some suggestions for kicking off conversations with your child about their digital life ...

MAKE YOUR INTEREST CLEAR

Showing enthusiasm when you broach the subject signals to your child that you're keen to learn about the positives of their online world. Most children enjoy educating adults and will happily chat about what they use the internet for, or what games and apps they're into and how these work. Asking to see their favourite games and apps in action could help you spot any aspects that may need your attention – such as chat functions which might require a settings adjustment to limit contact with strangers. Keep listening even if your child pauses for a long time; they could be considering how to phrase something specific, or they may be gauging your reaction.

BE OPEN AND HONEST, APPROPRIATE TO THEIR AGE

At various stages, children and young people become curious about puberty and how their body changes; about relationships; about how babies are made; and about sexual health. If your child knows that they can discuss these sensitive subjects with you, they tend to be less likely to go looking online for answers – which can often provide them with misleading information and, in some cases, lead to them consuming harmful content. Don't worry if you don't immediately know the answers to their questions – just find out for yourself and go back to them once you have the facts.

REMINDE YOUR CHILD THEY CAN ALWAYS TALK TO YOU

In my role I work with many children and young people who admit being reluctant to tell a trusted adult about harmful content they've viewed online, in case it leads to having their devices confiscated. Emphasise to your child that you're always there to listen and help; reassure them that if they do view harmful content, then they are not to blame – but talking about it openly will help. Children shouldn't be expected to be resilient against abuse or feel that it's their job to prevent it.

KEEP TALKING!

The most valuable advice we can give is to keep talking with your child about their digital lives. You could try using everyday situations to ask questions about their online experiences.

DISCUSS THAT NOT EVERYTHING WE SEE ONLINE IS REAL

Here, you could give examples from your own digital life of the online world versus reality – for example, those Instagram posts which show the perfect house: spotlessly clean, never messy and immaculately decorated. Explain to your child that there are many other aspects of the online world which are also deliberately presented in an unrealistic way for effect – such as someone's relationship, their body, having perfect skin and so on.

TRY TO REMAIN CALM

As much as possible, try to stay calm even if your child tells you about an online experience that makes you feel angry or fearful. Our immediate emotions frequently influence the way we talk, so it's possible that your initial reaction as a parent or carer could deter a child from speaking openly about what they've seen. Give yourself time to consider the right approach, and perhaps speak with other family members or school staff while you are considering your next steps.

CREATE A 'FAMILY AGREEMENT'

Involving your whole household in coming up with a family agreement about device use can be immensely beneficial. You could discuss when (and for how long) it's OK to use phones, tablets, consoles and so on at home; what parental controls are for and why they're important; and why it's good to talk to each other about things we've seen or experienced online (both good and bad). Explaining your reasoning will help children to understand that, as trusted adults, we want to make sure they are well informed and kept safe. Allowing children to have their say when coming up with your family agreement also makes them far more likely to stick to it in the long term.

Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings of RAISE (Raising Awareness in Sex Education) has almost 20 years' experience delivering relationships and sex education and training to schools, colleges and other education providers. A published author on the subject, she also advises the Department of Education on the staff-training element of the RSE curriculum.



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