Newsletter 20

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we have Safer Internet Day this week, there is a lot of information in this newsletter about how you can help your children at home with this important area of their safety and well-being. With half term approaching next week, why not plan a tech detox day where children and adults agree to stay off screens all day, planning a day full of ‘no-tech’ activities!

**Charity Day – Wear purple, red or blue to raise money for Children with Cancer Uk and Teddy20 – Friday 9th February £1**

Our Rotakids committee are organising this event to raise money for the two charities, one local and one national. Purple is not a colour that we all have in our wardrobes, so the children decided to include red and blue in the dress code as well. On the day, children will have an art activity where they create a piece of art with a purple theme.

**Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 6th February**

On Tuesday 6th February we will be joining schools and youthorganisations across the UK in celebrating Safer Internet Day 2024.Safer Internet Day is a global campaign to promote the safe andresponsible use of technology, which calls on young people, parents,carers, teachers, social workers, law enforcement companies, policymakers and more, to help to create a better internet.

This year the campaign will be focusing on change online, this includes covering:

• Young people’s perspective on new and emerging technology

• Using the internet to make change for the better

• The changes young people want to see online

• The things that can influence and change the way young people think, feel and act online and offline.

Using the internet safely and positively is a key message that we promote in school, and celebrating Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity for us to re-emphasise the online safety messages we deliver throughout the year. We would be delighted if you could join us in celebrating the day by continuing the conversation at home. To help you with this, the UK Safer Internet Centre have created some free activities

and information for parents and carers which are available at:

saferinternet.org.uk/SID-parents

Whether you have 5 minutes to start a conversation or hours to spare,

there are top tips, quizzes and films which you can use at home with

your child. If you have any concerns or questions about keeping your child safe

online, please do get in touch with your child’s class teacher.

These top tips have been written for you (parents and carers) by the Safer Internet Centre to help you support your child to stay safe and happy online.

**Inspire change by modelling how to be safe online**

Just like in their offline lives, children need role models online too. Set clear and fair expectations about how the whole family should use the internet and technology, and demonstrate these yourself. A Family Agreement is a great way to start conversations and put your ideas down on paper, to refer back to later and adapt as your child and your family’s internet use changes.

**Make a difference by having regular discussions about the online world**

Having regular and open conversations with your child about their use of technology and the internet is the best way to stay up to date, not only with changes in the online world, but also with what they are doing and seeing online. Starting these conversations can sometimes feel daunting, but they can help you feel more informed and show your child that you are taking an interest in their online life. Not sure where to begin? Use the tips and conversations starters in our “Let’s Talk About Life Online” resource.

**Manage influence by researching the content and games your child enjoys the most**

Giving young people the opportunity to talk about their life online, and enjoying online content together, can be a great way to gain an insight into the content they are viewing. Our ‘Parents and Carers Resource Sheet’ is a great tool that you can use to research any websites, apps and games and find out more about specific content.

**Navigate change by knowing where to go for further support**

If your child needs help, it’s important you know where to go for further support. Using the report and block buttons, websites such as ‘Report Harmful Content’, and other safety tools is a great starting point. It can also be useful to discuss any concerns or worries with your child’s school as they may be able to offer further advice and guidance. It can also help to talk to other parents and carers who may have experienced something similar.

**Top Tips parents and carers of under 7s**

These top tips have been written for you (parents and carers) to share, and talk about, with your children. It’s never too early to talk about life online!

**Inspire change by spending time online together**

As your child starts to spend more time online and on devices, there will be opportunities for them to interact with others, make decisions and see a wide variety of content. Spending time with your child online together is an important part of them learning how they should behave and what to do if they are ever worried, upset or unsure about something on the internet.

**Make a difference by having regular discussions about the online world**

As your child learns about the internet, they will likely have lots of thoughts and questions. Having regular discussions with your child gives them opportunities to tell you about the things they like doing online, as well as any concerns and worries they may have. A great time to have these conversations is whilst you are spending time online as a family.

**Manage influence by being aware of the different things which engage your child online**

Your child might be influenced by a range of different things when online, such as exciting adverts, their favourite characters, and even by their friends. Not all influence online is negative, but it is important to be aware of what is engaging your child online and the impact this could have on them as they get older. Balance online influences with your own and your child’s thoughts by talking about what they see and hear.

**Navigate change by having a clear picture of your child’s developing interests**

As your child grows up, their interests and hobbies will constantly change, and the things they are doing online are no different. Something they liked yesterday may be something they’ve lost interest in today. It is important to be curious and stay up to date with the games, apps and sites they are using and the safety settings available, so that you can help keep them safe as they start to explore the online world more.

**Snowdrop Art exhibition and competition – named entries from children of all ages by Thursday 8th February**

We have been asked to encourage the children to create pieces of art based on snowdrops to go into an exhibition in St James Church as part of the famous Shaftesbury Snowdrop Festival. The exhibits will be celebrated in a special **Snowdrop Family Service in the church on Sunday 18th February at 4pm (including tea and iced buns at the end!)**, to which you are all invited. It’s going to be a very child-centred and interactive service, please do go along with your children. Any medium can be used for the piece of art, it just has to feature snowdrops and have your child’s first name and age on the front. The display in the church will be put up on Friday 9th February.

**Half term Forest School Day**

Our Forest School partners are putting on a Forest School Day on Fontmell Down during February Half Term.

Here is the link if you wish to book. There are a few spaces left.

[Fontmell Down Half Term Forest School FRIDAY 16th February 9-3 - Booking by Bookwhen](https://bookwhen.com/forestyogiminds/e/ev-sxf1-20240216000000)

**Sports Day Dates**

In the summer term, we will have our Sports Days for Key Stage One and Key Stage Two as follows:

KS1 – (Years R, 1 and 2) – Monday 17th June 1pm-3pm (reserve date 24th June)

KS2 – (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) – Tuesday 18th June 1pm-3pm (reserve date 25th June)

The KS2 children also have their Field events in the morning, but these are not open to spectators.

**Forest School – Wednesday afternoons**

Year 1 start their three weeks of Forest School this Wednesday,  followed by Year 3 for two weeks from 6th March and Year 4 for two weeks from 20th March taking us up to Easter.

Children need to have trousers and long sleeved tops, wellies and a waterproof coat (with overtrousers if they have them). The Forest School philosophy is to wear the right clothing to go out in all weathers.

Michael Salisbury, Head teacher

**TERM DATES 2023 – 2024**

Autumn Term

Inset Day                                                        Friday 1st September 2023

Inset Day                                                        Monday 4th September 2023

Children start back                                       Tuesday 5th September 2023

Autumn Half Term                                        Monday 23 October – Friday 27 October 2023

Autumn term ends                                       Friday 15th December 2023 (1pm pick up if you can)

Christmas Holidays                                       Monday 18th December – Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Spring Term

Inset Day                                                        Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Children start back                                       Wednesday 3rd January 2024

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

Spring Term ends                                          Thursday 28th March 2024

Summer Term

Summer term starts                                       Monday 15th April 2024

May Day Bank Holiday                                  Monday 6th May 2024

 Summer half term                                          Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May 2024

Summer term ends                                        Friday 19th July 2024

Inset Day                                                          Monday 22nd July 2024

Inset Day                                                          Tuesday 23rd July 2024