

Sherborne St John CE Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 22nd September 2023



Message from Miss Jolliffe

It has been a windy and wet week for the children but they have been working hard in their lessons and playing so nicely out on the playground. I love visiting lessons and hearing the children tell me with so much enthusiasm what they have been learning about. Our Year 6 children are already building strong friendships with their new Reception buddies. Our school is full of very caring young people!

On Tuesday, we also welcomed Rev. Stewart into school to spend some time with the children at lunchtime. We hope to make this a regular thing so that all children get to know him well and are given the opportunity to spend time talking and reflecting on their faith if they want to.

Our dates for tours are now available for any prospective parents. Please let them know that they can book by contacting the school office. We will be hosting 3 dates which include a presentation with myself and then a tour with our Year 6 Ambassadors. For anyone that cannot make one of the dates, individual tours will be available.

Have a lovely weekend.
Miss Sarah Jolliffe.

School Council

If your child is in Year 2 up to Year 6, they are being given the chance to apply for a role on our school council.

If your child is interested, they will bring home an application. Please help your child to complete this. Next week, they will present to their classes and a democratic vote is held to decide on two councillors for each year group.

I am looking forward to finding out who our new councillors are and working with them over the course of the year.

Christmas Boxes

You have received an email this week about the Shoebox appeal. You are always so generous with this charity event and the children love our tradition of passing each present along a line that weaves through the whole school.

Boxes are available for collection from Wednesday.

Coats

We definitely saw a change in the weather this week so it seems timely to remind you that your child does need a coat in school. We try to get your children outside for fresh air whatever the weather so please make sure that they have a warm coat in school each day.

Key Dates:

26.09.23: Class 3 swimming
 26.09.23: Rearranged parent meeting for Class 1 and 2- straight after school
 02.10.23: Flu vaccinations
 03.10.23: Class 3 swimming
 10.10.23: Class 3 swimming
 11.10.23-13.10.23: Class 4 residential
 16.10.23: Whole school PSHE workshops

17.10.23: Class 3 swimming
 18.10.23: Harvest festival at Church 2.15pm (all welcome to attend)
 19.10.23: Individual photos
 23.10.23-27.10.23: Half term
 30.10.23: INSET day
 31.10.23: Back to school
 07.11.23: Class 4 swimming begins
 14.11.23: Class 4 swimming
 17.11.23: Children in Need cake sale

Reception

This week the children have met their Year 6 buddies and have been able to spend time with them at lunchtime. In class they have been enjoying the story of 'The three little pigs' and they love their PE lessons with Mr Moria.

Year 1 and 2

Year 1 and 2 did some amazing artwork this week. I was invited to view gallery of dinosaurs sketched from observation. They were amazing and wouldn't have looked out of place in the Natural History Museum.

Class 3- Year 3 and 4

In science this week, Class 3 have been learning about electricity. They have explored how circuits work and started to think about what it means if a circuit is not complete.

Class 4- Year 5 and 6

As I write, I can hear Class 4 in their music lesson with Mr Halls. They are learning to play the ukelele and they are having so much fun and it sounds great! I am already looking forward to the end of term performance.

Class 1 and 2 Parent Workshops

Thank you for your understanding earlier in the week when we needed to postpone the new to Reception and Year 1 and 2 phonics meetings. This was not an easy decision but it was taken with the best interests of parents and staff at that time.

The meeting has been rearranged for straight after school on Tuesday 26th September.

Miss Greenwood will meet with Reception parents in Class 1. Mrs Johnston will meet with Year 1 and 2 parents in the hall.

Miss Jolliffe will look after any children or siblings if needed in Class 2.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Collective Worship



At the start of every year, we revisit our values in the first half term of worship.

Our focus this week has been Trust.

Our Bible verse this week has been John 14 v6 and John 8 v31-32.

What is truth? Jesus says to us: He is the truth and the way and the life. And the truth will set you free.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
16+

In UK and Europe;
rest of the world 13+

With more than two billion active users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. This privacy issue has been in the spotlight recently, as the UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging; WhatsApp is unwilling to do so and has reportedly considered withdrawing its service in the UK should this legislation go ahead.

...MSG ME...

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency'. Plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user that they want to message. If your child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that your child might be added to a group chat (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people that they don't know.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allows news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "Forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original... and might not be entirely factual, either.

ONLINE

'VIEW ONCE' CONTENT

The facility to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate images or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't re-open them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this 'disappearing' content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing increased privacy.

CHAT LOCK

Another new option allows users to store certain messages or chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind a passcode, fingerprint or face ID authentication. The risk here is that this function creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content that they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of (such as age-inappropriate material).

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child's safe on the way home, for example. However, anyone in your child's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

Advice for Parents & Carers ...TYPING...

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage your child to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider, for example, whether the message sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change your child's WhatsApp settings (go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups') to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval: you can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...'. Additionally, if your child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

THINKING BEFORE SHARING

Help your child to understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content to then be shared more widely (even publicly on social media). Encourage your child to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Some parents like to check in with their child about how they're using WhatsApp, explaining that it will help to keep them safe. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of chats that are in there, who they're with and why your child wants to keep them hidden. Also, if your child has sent any 'view once' content, you could discuss their reasons for using this feature.

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 sending behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



...HEY OSCAR...



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

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