

ENGLISH MARTYRS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



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NEWSLETTER

Friday 6th October 2023

Dear parents and carers

We have now started the month of **October**. In our Prayer and Liturgy assemblies we focused on the Prayer of **the Rosary** which we are now praying regularly in the mornings this month.

This week all classes have started their work on **Black History Month**. We are focusing on this year's theme: **Saluting our Sisters**. We will be celebrating all our children's work through an **exhibition** you will be able to visit on **Friday 20th October**.

On Tuesday, Year 6 children took part in **Science workshops** led by a group of English Martyrs past pupils who are now attending **Notre Dame Secondary school**.

Today **Class 4J** led our Friday **class assembly** in which they shared aspects of their recent learning including the Romans in Britain, the Bible and so much more.

Thank you and have a good weekend.

ATTENDANCE PERCENTAGES THIS WEEK

Well done to **Year 6** pupils who registered the highest attendance percentage this week - very close to 100%

YEAR GROUP	ATTENDANCE
Reception	96.1
Year 1	97.3
Year 2	95.5
Year 3	94.6
Year 4	96.6
Year 5	96.4
Year 6	98.2

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



The following are some of the important dates to remember:

Monday 9th October
Year 2 - Trip to the Horniman Museum

Friday 13th October - 9.05 am
Class Assembly - 6M
Parents of children in 6M invited to attend in Building 1

Monday 16th October
Class 6M - Trip to Southbank Gallery

Friday 20th October
Black History Month Exhibition
All Parents' invited

Friday 20th October
Year 5 - Trip to the Science Museum

Friday 20th October - 9.05 am
Class Assembly - 2E
Parents of children in 2E invited to attend in Building 1

Monday 23rd October
Beginning of Half term week

WORSHIP TOGETHER - ASPIRE TOGETHER - EXCEL TOGETHER



ONLINE SAFETY

Nowadays our children are exposed to a number of **social media** platforms that are not appropriate for their age.

One of these apps is **WHATSAPP**. Have a look at page 4 of this newsletter to find out more about how to make sure we are all using social media in a safe way.



Please make sure you always monitor what your children are accessing on laptops or mobile phones in order to ensure they are always safe online and away from any potential danger.

BREAKFAST CLUB AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Parents who are interested in applying for a place in either of these clubs can collect a registration form from the school office or download one from our school website. (see link - [Breakfast & After School Club \(englishmartyrsrprimary.co.uk\)](http://Breakfast & After School Club (englishmartyrsrprimary.co.uk)))

Breakfast club is from 7.40 am. while our After school club runs from home time until 5.30 pm each day.



Tuesday 10th October at 9.05 a.m.

Topic: PHONICS

This is a 30 minute session for parents to find out more about ways how they can support children with phonics practice at home.



CORE VALUE - AUTUMN 1

Our Autumn Term 1 core value is **FAITH**. This is about believing in God and showing this in what we do in our everyday life.

Are you a person who shows strong Faith

Every week our Mid-day meals supervisors award stars to pupils who show our school values during lunchtime breaks. The following are the names of our Star children for this week.



Nursery:

Charlotte, Louis

Reception:

Kane, Dion, Chloe

Year 1:

Flourish, Sami

Year 2:

Chanelle, Nzola

Year 3:

Simone, Fikayo

Year 4:

Gideon, Leah, Jheison

Year 5:

Sabrina, Michaela, Lorianne

Year 6:

Hadiya, Anisha, Sean



CLASS 1K



In 1K this week we have been reading a book called '**Beegu**' by Alexis Deacon. From the book we have been creating our own aliens, describing them and where they live. In maths we have been learning how to add using our **number bonds to 10**.

During science we have been looking at the changes that happen in



autumn before our local area walk. In RE we have been looking at the creation story. In Art we are looking at using different materials and styles to create **self portraits**.



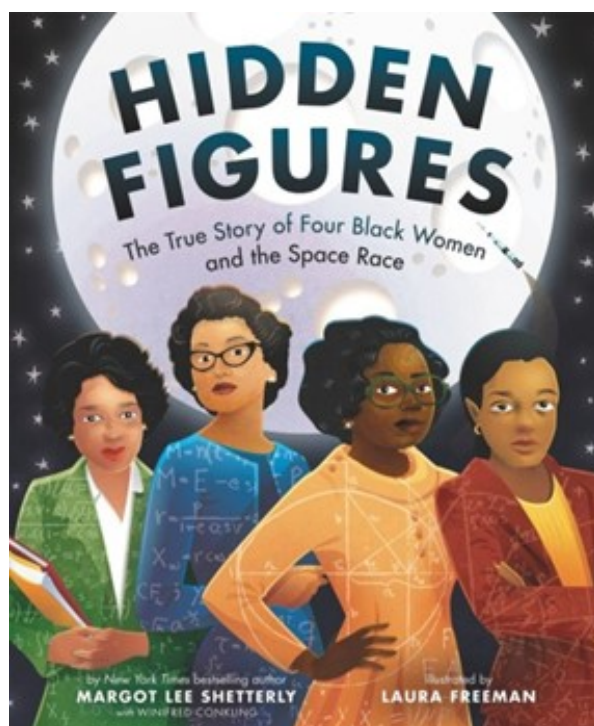
CLASS 5E

This week, 5E have begun their work to celebrate **Black History Month**. As this year is about "saluting our sisters", the children reflected on black women in their lives and designed trophies for them.

Many children recognised their mothers and some celebrated their teachers.

In Reading, year 5 have been finding out about how the women in '**Hidden Figures**' overcame prejudice and achieved amazing successes because they believed they could.

Meanwhile, in science, we have been exploring **forces** - last week the children explored air-resistance.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
16+
In UK and Europe;
rest of the world 13+

...MSG ME...

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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.

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 safety 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, the 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.



...HEY OSCAR...

NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://blog.whatsapp.com/an-open-letter> | <https://faq.whatsapp.com/1070/8000582332> | https://faq.whatsapp.com/1090000000046/helpref-hc_1na | <https://www.whatsapp.com/security> | <https://blog.whatsapp.com/chat-lock-making-your-most-private-messages-even-more-private> | <https://www.dailymail.com/tech/whatsapp-scams>



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EPEC Being a Parent Together:

This 10 week online course helps co-parents learn practical skills for everyday life.

For co-parents with children aged 2-11 years.

Starting Thursday 5th October 2023

Dads and Mums want the best for their children, and sometimes it can be hard to agree about how to parent our children. This course, delivered by parents who have already benefited from this learning with their own children and families, will help you be the best for your children, whether you are living together or apart. Both parents need to attend and the group will help you to work together for your children. This course includes:

- Looking after yourselves as parents
- Recognise and manage your children's emotions
- Learn positive parenting strategies
- Support your children's resilience
- Work together as a team to support your children

For more information, please contact Claire Gager at Southwark Family Early Help Parenting Team;

07547 659 646

[Claire.gager](#)

[@southwark.gov.uk](#)

"It's been such a beneficial course for both of us, not just as parents but as individuals"