

ENGLISH MARTYRS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



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NEWSLETTER

Friday 23rd February 2024

Dear parents and carers

Through this first week of Spring Term 2 we started our reflections on **the Season of Lent**. In our assemblies, we reflected on how this is a time for us to pause and think about how we can become better people and be more ready to listen to the Gospel message.

On Wednesday, our Year 6 pupils took part in workshops led by an architect who is working on the redevelopment of the play area in **Nursery Row Park** which is very close to our school building. This was a great opportunity for our children to contribute and share their ideas about what they would like to see in the local area.

On Thursday, most classes took part in a special Thursday assembly on the **FIZZ FREE FEB challenge**. We now have just one more week of this challenge and hope that a large number of children will see this to the very end.

Today, **Class 5E** led our **Friday Assembly** which included different reflection on this season of Lent and their work on the theme of **Friendship** using the text '**Stig of the Dump**'.

Thank you and have a good weekend.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



The following are some of the important dates to remember:

Monday 26th February

Year 3 Trip to Kew Gardens

Tuesday 27th February

Whole school Mass in church at 9.30 am.

Parents invited

Friday 1st March

Class Assembly - 1L

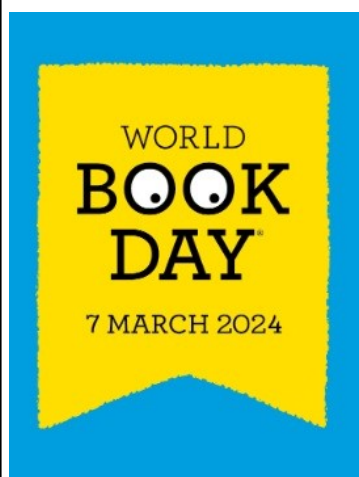
Parents of children in 1L invited to attend in Building 1.

Thursday 7th March

WORLD BOOK DAY

NEWSLETTER ONLINE

For an extended version of our school newsletter please visit our **web-**



WORLD BOOK DAY

We will be celebrating **World Book Day 2024** on

Thursday 7th March

One of the activities we are planning is a

Character Competition.

Children are to dress up as their favourite book character and to be in the chance of winning a prize.

Look out for up coming events soon.

WORSHIP TOGETHER - ASPIRE TOGETHER - EXCEL TOGETHER



HOMework

Please remember that our teachers continue to set Homework for children on **MS Teams**.

A schedule for the week is posted online by teachers every Monday for children to work through during the week. Our normal

homework pattern is as follows:

Mondays - Spelling

Tuesdays - Online Maths

Wednesday - The Wednesday Word

Thursday - Writing task

Friday - Reading task.



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:

Khadija, Louis

Reception:

Godlove, Lorenzo

Year 1:

Valeria

Year 2:

Sarah, Harli

Year 3:

Simone, Canaan

Year 4:

Augusta, Jheison

Year 5:

Steve

Year 6:

Sky-Rae, Dulcie, Alicia, Alisha

Science

We are gearing up for an exciting **Science Week** at English Martyrs' during the **week of 18th March**! This year during Science Week we would like to give our pupils the chance to meet individuals with careers in the scientific field and provide them with the realisation that a career as a science professional could one day be them.

If you are (or know someone who might be) a scientist, researcher, or professional in any scientific or STEM domain, could share a small amount of your time during the week of the 18th of March, and would love to inspire young minds by sharing your journey and expertise, I would love to hear from you! Please do reach out to the front office who will direct your query to me, so that I can contact you.

More details of Science Week will also be coming very soon.

Ms Zammit

Science and DT Lead

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITY CLUBS

Parents of children attending any of our After School Activity clubs need to make sure that the **£10 contribution** is paid using PARENT PAY. When this is not settled places will be withdrawn and offered to other children on the waiting list.



FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

RECEPTION CLASS



In **Reception Class** this week we have started reading our new book **‘TheTiny Seed’** by Eric Carle. The children looked at different seeds and played a game to guess which plant they would grow. We then read the book and looked at the different ways seeds can be planted and that they are not only planted just by humans.

We planted our own seeds and the class are looking forward to looking after their plants and

supporting them to grow.

At circle time we have been discussing what makes a **good friend** thinking about how we can display our school value fairness within our friendships.

The children thought of being kind to one another showing **fairness** by takings using our manners and treating everyone with respect.



CLASS 4G



Class 4G have been working on their new book for this term **Farther**. We have been using picture cues and symbolism within art to make predictions about the text. This is helping us to develop our **inference skills** when listening to the story.

We have learnt what makes an **open question** and a **closed question**. Therefore, we have asked open questions about the book to find out more about the main characters, especially the farther. If we ask an open question we will obtain more detail from the person from whom we are questioning.

CLASS 2E



In 2E this week we have been writing **letters of advice** based on ‘**The Bear under the Stairs.**’

In maths we have been **dividing numbers** and **solving missing number**

problems involving division. We have been checking on our **growing**

plants everyday to make sure they have enough water and sunlight for science. We are continuing to learn about climate

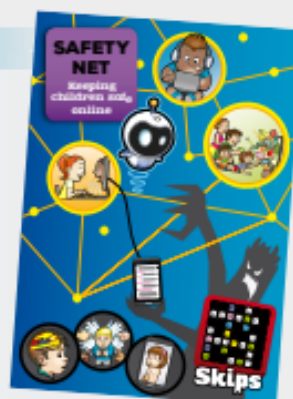
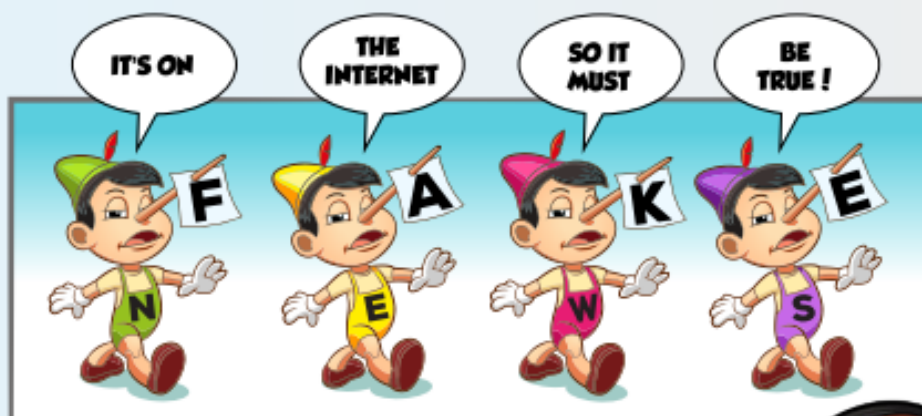


change and we are planning to use our mapping skills to think about how to help the local area. In RE we



have been talking about the importance of **Mass** and all the special items we find in church.

A Parent's Guide to Fake News



scan the QR code with your phone's camera for Parent Guides on how to help keep your children safe online



Don't believe everything you see online!

Young people can very easily be dragged into things without parental guidance and support.

Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: info@skipssed.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with



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



...HEY OSCAR...



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

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