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Dear Parents and Carers,

Anti-bullying Week Activities

This week started off on Tuesday with children being invited into school wearing odd socks. There was a great mix of long socks, short socks, pictured and patterned socks, fluffy and just plain old socks. The reason behind this is to highlight to children that it is ok to be different and individual. Children enjoyed the chance to wear different socks to school.

The week then involved various assemblies, lessons and workshops about Anti-bullying. In KS2 children discussed choices – and although we are allowed to make our own choices, sometimes these lead to other people being hurt or made to feel different. Their anti-bullying workshops led to them thinking about being in a café where some of them were sat down and wouldn't let anyone else in. Children used the term 'ring leader' who is described as someone who told them not to let anyone in. They worked in pairs to make poses of feelings. They also discussed characters from two books that they were familiar with, *The Boy at the Back of the Class*, and *Wonder* – where in each book the main character is made to feel different.

In KS1 the children were asked a range of questions where they had to decide where on the line they stood. Questions such as 'do you like ice-cream?' 'do you like chocolate?' 'do you like playing on your own?' and 'do you like being mean to others?'

Children across the school have said that they enjoyed the workshops and other activities – here are just some of their thoughts about what they have learned this week:

To show respect

To be kind

No matter on difference still show respect

Always be true to yourself

Make your true colours shine

To be nice

Remember to talk to a trusted adult

Made me think about being kind more often

Made me think about playing with different people sometimes

How not to be a bully

Children in Need

We saw lots of spots in school – on arms, faces, socks, jumpers, t-shirts and so on, as well as many Pudsey onesie's and ears walking around school.

This is what our children have said about Children in Need day and why it is important:

It helps us to think about other children such as:

Some children do not have a safe place to live or a bed to lie in

Some children do not have the same learning opportunities as us

Homelessness

Some do not get much food or only drink

There are lots of children less fortunate than ourselves and days like this help us to think about them more and how we can help them just a little bit

Children need to have what they deserve to have

Every week in assembly we look at the United Nations Rights of the Child – and days like this make us think about what we have and what others don't.



Smartwatches

A gentle reminder that smartwatches are treated in the same as phones and cannot be used in school. Please see the poster at the back of the newsletter regarding smartwatches, as a useful guide to access. Many thanks for your understanding.

Governors Activity this Week

It has been lovely to welcome the Federation Governors into school over the half term for varying events. Governors have completed learning walks of the schools in classrooms and learning spaces from pre-school to Y6 on both school sites. There have been opportunities for Governors to attend Reading Café's and Writing Café's at the schools and have been looking carefully at opportunities for the children alongside the schools budgets and spend.

Thanks go to all Governors for the significant voluntary work for the benefit of all children and staff across the Federation.

Please do consider giving your honest feedback to Governors as a result of the Reading Cafes you attend as we are listening to the voice of your experiences to continue to develop the school.

Please either scan the QR Code or access via this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/Xk8eY9MVqx>



Year 6 Residential

We are delighted that the Year 6 children will this year be participating in a residential visit to London in the summer term. Thank you to everyone for signing up and paying deposits for this truly wonderful experience. The children will really love spending time together at some incredible places; Legoland, an evening theatre show, seeing the key sights of London on a walking tour and going to the Natural History Museum. It will be an incredible experience for everyone 😊

To develop the financial understanding of the children, the school bank will begin on Tuesday 19th November and will be every Tuesday morning until the end of April. Please ensure your child brings their banking card to school along with any payment for their residential trip. The banking card will be marked accordingly once monies have been received at school. We'll update you with photos in next week's newsletter.

Personal Achievements:

Please remember to keep us updated on any personal achievements you would like to be recognised in the school newsletter. Please send these via Class Dojo and we can publish these regularly.

Your child might have learnt to ride their bike; achieved an award for an outside sporting event; or achieved something really special or unique for them. Let us know and we can celebrate with the community.



Reading Café's

Reading Café's started last week and continue this week. This is an opportunity to come into school and enjoy some time reading different materials with your child. There will be opportunities to find out about class reading expectations for individual year groups and the importance of regular reading. Not just from school reading books, but in other forms too. Teas, coffees and biscuits available. School Governors will also be in attendance at many of the sessions too. We are really looking forward to welcoming you into school. 😊



Working Together to Improve School Attendance

Being in school and having the best attendance possible underpins all the many benefits of school for your child, such as their learning, wellbeing and wider development. For some children, attending school every day will be harder than for others. This is why schools, and local councils in some cases, are committed to working together with families to solve problems and support your child's school attendance.

New guidance to schools and local councils mean that students will be better supported to be in school and attend regularly. Schools will be supported to analyse their data and offer assistance to those families who need it quicker.

The Department for Education has amended the framework for the issuing of penalty notices in relation to unauthorised absence. Whilst it is expected that schools support families, if the support is not engaged with, schools will be able to apply for penalty notices to be issued to families for unauthorised absence. This may be due to students arriving significantly late to school, schools not being informed of the reasons for a student being absent, or schools not agreeing with the reason for the absence. In the event of unauthorised holidays in term time, the support element would not be offered.

In addition, the cost of Truancy Penalty Notices has risen to £160 per parent, per child (reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days for a first incidence). If a second penalty notice is issued within a rolling three-year period, the notice is now at the £160 rate. No penalty notice will be issued for a third time. In that event, the absence would be considered for prosecution.

For more details please click [here](#).

Dates coming up:

More dates will be added as the term progresses. Please check the dates coming up weekly too as well as all the dates below.

Date	Event	Year Group	Details / Special Arrangements
Week 3 – National Road Safety Week			
Mon 18th Nov	Reading Café	Gnome Class	2:30pm – please sign in at the school office
Mon 18th Nov	School Nursing	All parents/ carers	School Nursing team on site for bookable appointments regarding your child and any health needs, e.g. toileting, constipation, diet, growth, sleep, etc... Please see information above
Tue 19th Nov	Reading Café	Phoenix Class	2:30pm – please sign in at the school office
Wed 20 th Nov	Reading café	Griffin Class	2:30pm – please sign in at the school office
Thurs 21 st Nov	Roadshow	All classes	Road Safety Show performed by Mr Randini – a fun and exciting way to learn the clear messages of road safety
Thurs 21st Nov	Reading Café	Kraken Class	2:30pm – please sign in at the school office
Fri 22 nd Nov	Reading Café	Centaur Class	2:30pm – please sign in at the school office
Fri 22 nd Nov	Swimming	Y3	Swimming session 9/10
Week 4			
Mon 25 th – Fri 29 th	Assessment Week	Y1-Y6	Assessment week in school.
Mon 25 th – Fri 29 th	Scholastics Book Fair	Whole school	Book fair will be in main school from 3pm – please come and have a look
Mon 25 th Nov	Reading Café	Pre-school	2pm in main school – please sign in at the school office
Tues 26 th Nov	Reading café	Basilisk Class	2:30pm – please sign in at the school office
Fri 29 th Nov	Swimming	Y3	FINAL Swimming session
Week 5			

Mon 2 nd Dec	Workshop	All parents / carers	Parent/Carer evening workshop about gang crime and violence in the community (<i>Only for 18+ participants, no children permitted</i>) This is held at Gatten & Lake Primary School
Wed 4 th Dec	Flu immunisations	Whole school	Flu Immunisations – more information to follow to enable your child to have the flu spray in school this day.
Thurs 5 th Dec	Workshops	Y5 & Y6	Children’s workshops on R.U.D.E (More information to follow)
Week 6			
Fri 13 th Dec	PTA Christmas Fayre	Whole school	2-5pm in the main school
Week 7			
Mon 16 th Dec	Christmas Christingle Service rehearsal	Whole school	Children will go All Saint’s Church to practice for the Christingle Service
Wed 18 th Dec	Jumpers!	YR – Y6	Christmas Jumper Day
Wed 18 th Dec	Dinner	YR – Y6	Christmas Dinner Day – this will need to be pre-ordered
Wed 18 th Dec	Christingle Service	Whole school	All Saint’s Church 6-8pm
Thur 19 th Dec	Christingle Service	Whole school	All Saint’s Church 6-8pm
Fri 20 th Dec	Whole school cinema	YR – Y6	Vintage Cinema
Fri 20 th Dec	Parties	Whole School	Christmas Party Afternoon – wear party clothes to school
Fri 20 th Dec	Term ends	Everyone 😊	Last Day of the term – happy holidays 😊
Winter break – Monday 23rd December – Friday 3rd January			
Week 1			
Mon 6 th Jan	Term starts	Everyone 😊	We look forward to seeing everyone for the start of the Spring Term in school.

10 top tips for safely using SMARTWATCHES

Kids love gadgets, and smartwatches – available to buy from as little as £20 online – make a tempting gift. As with any type of mobile technology, though, smartwatches can pose risks to children unless they're used safely. Receiving unwanted calls, cyber-stalking and distracting a young person when they're crossing the road are all known risks associated with smartwatches. However, these devices can bring plenty of benefits for children and parents alike – so let's examine the pros and cons of smartwatches.

AVOID CHEAP OPTIONS

A quick search online yields a torrent of cheap smartwatches for kids, costing as little as £20. It's wise to avoid this bargain basement tech: it tends to deliver a poor experience with inferior battery life, and it's hard to have faith in the software's safety. There have been cases of smartwatches being hacked to track or contact children; stick to known brands who have a reputation to protect.

CONTROL CALLING

Many smartwatches have the facility to make or take calls. As with a phone, you may want to restrict who your child can call – or be called by. On Apple Watches, you can select trusted contacts who are allowed to ring your child, while other watches' controls vary hugely. Some need to connect to a linked phone for calls, so you may be able to block unknown contacts via that device instead.

BEWARE HIDDEN COSTS

For a smartwatch to allow calls independently (that is, without being connected to a phone via Bluetooth), it will need its own mobile data plan. This might take the form of a tiny SIM card that you slot into the watch – or an eSIM, where the physical card is replaced by software settings. Either way, this will incur an additional monthly cost that you'll need to factor into any buying decision.

ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Apple Watches aren't cheap, but they do offer superb safety features – allowing parents to control calls, messages and emails on the device, as well as a location tracking system that can send alerts if kids wander beyond pre-set boundaries. Their SOS function enables children to contact emergency services instantly if they're in trouble, which simultaneously also alerts parents and carers.

MAKE THEM COOL FOR SCHOOL

Some schools have banned smartwatches, as pupils have been using them as substitute phones. If your child's school does permit them, some devices can be set to prevent distractions in class. For example, Apple's Schooltime feature turns their watches into ordinary time-keeping devices during school hours. The display changes in this mode, showing teachers that it isn't being used for other purposes.

BE MINDFUL OF BEDTIME

Many smartwatches offer sleep tracking, which some (usually older) children use to justify wearing them to bed. However, that also presents a temptation to message friends or check social media late at night, even if their phone is downstairs. Unless there's a valid reason not to, you could encourage your child to remove the watch in the evenings and ensure the charger stays in a different room.

TRACK ITS LOCATION

Both Apple and Android devices have apps which allow you to track a smartwatch's location. They can also initiate an audio alert – avoiding those cushion-hurling panics when a treasured device can't be found at home. If you're planning to track your child's location via their watch, make them aware of that in advance. You could even make it a condition of them getting the watch in the first place.

THINK 'SAFETY FIRST'

Smartwatches are often worth hundreds of pounds, which can make young people wearing one a target for thieves. Advise your child to keep the watch hidden in public (when possible) and not to resist if muggers demand their watch. If you manage to track a stolen device, pass that information to the police: location data isn't always accurate, so you could end up wrongly accusing someone.

STORE MEDICAL INFO

Devices including the Samsung Galaxy Watch and Apple Watch can store the owner's medical details (such as their blood group and any pre-existing medical conditions), potentially giving emergency services access to vital information in a crisis. These devices also have "hard fall" detection, which sends a text message to selected contacts along with a map showing the wearer's location.

USE THEM AS MOTIVATION

If you're worried your child's spending too much time slumped on the sofa staring at screens, smartwatches are great fitness trackers and can be a powerful incentive to get moving. Some devices will alert the wearer if they've been inactive for a long time and encourage them to do some exercise. Many watches record the user's daily step count and measure other health metrics.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *BBC Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and the *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and writes regularly about internet safety issues.



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