

Newsletter



Friday 1st March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a great start to the new half-term. The children have all come back ready to learn and have been demonstrating our PROUD values.

This week, we have had our 'Keep Safe Week' which has focused on the theme of 'No means No'. The children have had their PSHE lessons based on this theme. In addition, our Trust Council member attended an event at Thomas Gainsborough School in Sudbury where this was discussed in more detail, group artwork was produced and thought provoking role-play took place in support of Keep Safe Week. This event is discussed in more detail later on in this edition of the school newsletter.



Our school football team also did us proud this week in the Prestige Sports Football League, with a resounding 6 - 2 win. Please see a match report written by two of the players later on in the newsletter.

Next week, we celebrate World Book Day and are looking forward to seeing pupils and staff members dressed up as their favourite book characters. Please see further information about this later in the newsletter.

We have added key dates for April and May to the upcoming dates table below so please have a look through this and make a note of anything that involves your child's class or year group.

If you have any questions relating to your child, or key messages for your class teacher, please do contact them via a message on Class Dojo, or using admin@placefarm.org.uk.

Wishing you a lovely weekend,

Mrs McConnell
Head of School

Upcoming dates:

March

- 5th March: No school crossing patrol in the afternoon
7th March: World Book Day (further information below)
Reading Café for Rainbow - 9:00-9:30 in school hall
13th March: EYFS share session for parents 9:00-10:00 (further information to follow)
14th March: 1ES visit to Haverhill library
Reading Café for 1ED - 9:00-9:30 in school hall
Spring disco (further information below)
15th March: Easter egg competition (further information below)
19th March: No school crossing patrol all day
21st March: Rainbow visit to Haverhill library
Reading Café for 1ES - 9:00-9:30 in school hall
25th March: Parents' Evening (further information to follow)
26th March: Parents' Evening (further information to follow)
27th March: Year 5 trip to Museum of Zoology
28th March: 1ED visit to Haverhill library
Reading Café for 2LA - 9:00-9:30 in school hall
29th March: Start of Easter Holidays

April

- 15th April: Start of the summer term**
18th April: 2SA Reading Café
25th April: 3SJ Reading Café
4RG visit to Haverhill library

May

- 2nd May: 3KM Reading Café
3rd May: Year 3 trip to Colchester Castle
8th May: EYFS trip to Boydells Farm
9th May: 4RG Reading Café
13th May: Start of Y6 SATs (Monday to Thursday)
23rd May: Class photos
27th May – 31st May – Half term break

Events and Trips this week

2LA Library Visit

2LA visited the library this week. We had a fantastic time looking at all the books on offer.



School Football Match

Prestige Sports Football League

Match Report

This week, the Year 5/6 boys football team played Westfield Primary in a thrilling 6-2 victory for Place Farm.

Please see below for a match report written by the team.

"The first half started quickly with a pass from Drey to Alfie who ran through the defence with ease and pace and finished the attack with a brilliant finish. This started a flurry of attacks which ended in three more fantastic goals scored by Alfie.

The second half began much slower with Westfield fighting back, scoring two goals themselves. This forced a reaction from Place Farm who began to play some flowing football from Kris and Thomas at the back, through to Harry and Daniel in attacking positions. This led to two more goals and a convincing 6-2 win!"



Keep Safe Week

Keep Safe week 2024 had the theme of 'No means No'. During this week, all children took part in a range of PSHE lessons and activities around this theme.



As the Trust Council Representative, Harvey in Year 6, travelled to Thomas Gainsborough School in Sudbury on Tuesday where he met up with the Trust Council representatives of other Trust schools to discuss the theme of 'No means No' and take part in various activities related to this theme, such as art work, drama and thought-provoking discussions.

Here is what Harvey had to say about the day:

"On Tuesday, I went to Thomas Gainsborough and I learned that 'No' is a full sentence and 'No' is enough. We then talked about a pupil

who had recently passed. After that, we made a huge art poster (see images) with everyone's amazing ideas and lovely pictures. Then it was lunch (very nice). We then had a discussion about scams and exploitation. Finally, we did some drama and the focus of this was saying 'No' in our own unique way. At the end of the day, we said our goodbyes and travelled back to Haverhill. I had a phenomenal day and am thankful to have taken part."



Harvey then fed back the key messages of the day to the Place Farm School Council and they then relayed these key messages to their classes.

Celebration Assembly

Congratulations to everyone who received a certificate in celebration assembly this week. We had lots of children receiving their coloured certificates today. We also had children receiving their PROUD certificates as well as an award for outside-of-school achievements in rugby, which we also love to celebrate.



We are also continuing to celebrate maths achievements on tt rockstars. We have six tt rockstars certificates that are presented each week, this week two of the recipients were at swimming when the awards were given out.



Times table knowledge and fluency are so important in many areas of maths. Please continue to encourage your children to use tt rockstars at home. Thank you for your ongoing support with this.

Spring Disco



Spring Disco Thursday 14th March '24

EYFS disco will run during the school day from 2:30pm until 3:00pm. EYFS pupils can wear non-uniform for this day. Tickets cost £1 and will include a snack.

Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 disco will run from 3:40pm-4:45pm. Pupils can bring party clothes to school to change into before the disco. Tickets will cost £3.00 and will include a snack.

Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 disco will run from 5:00pm- 6:15pm. Tickets cost £3.00 and will include a snack.

Children can also bring **up to £3** with them to purchase small items (detailed below). Pupils will need to look after any change during the disco so please try to give them the correct amount of money.

Glow sticks= 50p each

Finger lights = £1 each

Please pay for your ticket on ParentPay.

World Book Day

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

Save the Date!

World Book Day is Thursday 7 March.

This year, children can come to school **dressed as a character from their favourite book**. Please find some easy costume ideas below.

If your child **does not want to dress up**, please send them to school in their **usual school uniform**.

We would like every child to bring in their favourite book so they can share it in class.

Mr Bump or Little Miss Whoops

LITTLE MISS WHOOPS

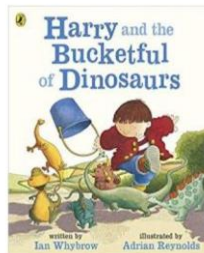


This one is wonderfully simple, and potentially very accurate for those of use with accident-prone children! Mr Bump and Little Miss Whoops are classic characters from the Mr Men series.

What you will need:

- Blue clothing
- Toilet roll for bandages around head and arms

Harry and his Bucket Full of Dinosaurs



Most of us have a bucket somewhere, usually a beach one, and dinosaur toys are popular with most kids. This book is a well-loved one and Harry is an instantly recognisable character.

What you will need:

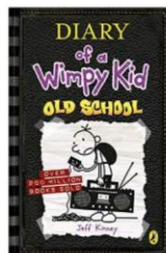
- A bucket to carry
- Toy dinosaurs to put in the bucket (or printed pictures of dinosaurs to stick onto it)

Diary of a Wimpy Kid

Diary of a Wimpy Kid is a book with simple illustrations of its every-day child protagonist, which makes it ideal for easy costume ideas. A kid going to school with a backpack on? Now where have we seen that before...

What you will need:

- Cardboard or paper and a pen for a mask (think stick man; simply draw dotty eyes, and a thin mouth)
- Normal clothes
- Backpack

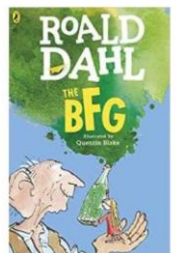


Sophie from the BFG

Sophie is the befriend of giants and a key character in Roald Dahl's famous book, but it's lucky for us she is also a down-to-earth dresser.

What you will need:

- Pyjamas
- Glasses (although you can always draw them on)



Stick Man

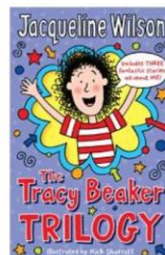
Julia Donaldson's Stick Man is perfect for a last-minute WBD costume, especially if your child has some brown clothes and is fond of the outdoors.

What you will need:

- All brown clothes
- Grab some sticks/leaves on your walk to school for added effect!



Tracey Beaker



Tracey Beaker is the original kid with attitude and her 90's wardrobe is, thankfully, still similar to what kids wear today.

What you will need:

- A red or stripy red shirt
- Curly hair if possible
- Anything denim

PSHE



Spring 2 – Healthy Me

PSHE at Place Farm is taught on a weekly basis. There are six puzzle pieces which are split across the year. This term's puzzle piece is all about Healthy Me. In this Puzzle, the children will learn about how to be and keep safe and healthy. It also discusses what they might need to do to keep healthy and things they should avoid. In KS1, they look into personal hygiene and how to stay safe on the road (Road Safety). In KS2, they look into the effects that smoking and alcohol can have on the body.

Below is a link to a parent version of our PSHE sessions that we teach at Place Farm. You will need to click on the link and type in the code for the year group that your child is in. Then it should take you to the resources we use in our lessons.

Year 1 – 000*-4298

Year 2 – 000*-6930

Year 3 – 000*-6137

Year 4 – 000*-6572

Year 5 – 000*-6038

Year 6 – 000*-6277

<https://jigsawpshe.online/parent>

Fundraising Update



Thank you for all of your support towards fundraising.

Our clothing donation raised £55.55 towards our goal of £5,000.

We have now raised a total of £1,159.55



With some of the money we have raised so far, we are going to purchase new equipment for the cooking room.

We are going to buy frying pans, graters, peelers and child-friendly knives.

These new purchases will help the children to become even more immersed in the DT cooking lessons.

Easter Egg Competition

On **Friday 15th March 2024**, please can each child bring in an Easter Egg. These will be lined up on the playground in class lines. The class with the longest line will win a prize!



The eggs will then be turned into hampers that will be raffled off in the lead up to Easter.

Online Safety

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MONKEY

Also known as Monkey Cool, this platform aims to fill the gap left by Omegle (which has now shut down) by placing users in random video chats with strangers. Participants use their mobile number and Snapchat username to connect to the service, where they can make matches, message other people and join group chats. The mobile version has been removed from the App Store due to safety concerns, but iPhone owners can still access the site via their web browser. The app remains available on Google Play, where its listing claims that Monkey has more than 30 million users worldwide.

AGE RESTRICTION
17+

Notwithstanding the fact of age verification, it is noted that someone younger could easily log in with a false date of birth.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The app claims to use AI to detect sexual content or activity that violates its policies, along with having a 24/7 moderation team. However, reports in the media continue to indicate that explicit content remains commonplace on Monkey (including sexually graphic or violent material) and is therefore accessible to anybody who uses the app – including those aged under 18.



CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

The obvious risk in accepting random video chat partners is that users cannot know what or who they will see on their next connection. Talking to strangers is, of course, potentially dangerous – especially for children who might be persuaded to meet up with these people offline. The app lets users find each other by location, increasing the chances of a child being matched with a stranger from their local area.



IN-APP SPENDING

While Monkey is free to download, it nevertheless offers in-app purchases promising to unlock access to premium features. For example, users who wish to make use of Knock Knock chat (Monkey's text-based messaging option), rather than the app's Chatroulette-style random video calling feature, will need to pay to be able to do so.



INTRUSIONS ON PRIVACY

According to Monkey's privacy policy, personal information (such as name, profile picture and date of birth), user-contributed content (any photos, texts, videos and screenshots shared) and each user's browser and IP address are collected. That is a considerable amount of data for Monkey to gather on its users – and all of this information is shared with third parties.



Advice for Parents & Carers

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

Even if you're comfortable with your child using Monkey, it's still important to talk about the potential dangers. It's crucial, for instance, that young people recognise the risks that stem from video chatting with strangers; that they understand not to share identifying information (like their street or school name); and that they know what to do if they are exposed to inappropriate content.



RESTRICT IN-APP PURCHASING

If your child is accessing Monkey via an Android device, you can prevent them from making in-app purchases through the device's settings. If you do allow your child to use the site, we'd recommend that you enable this feature; young people have been known to spend significant amounts of money in their desire to unlock more features in apps such as this.



REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Monkey states in the safety section of its site that "people are given the power" and that, to a large extent, Monkey is "self-governing." If a user is exposed to sexually explicit or inappropriate content on the platform, they can select the "police" emoji in the top right corner of their screen to submit a report for Monkey's moderation team to review.



SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Monkey – or that they may have been exposed to inappropriate or distressing content – it's important to watch for potential indications that they've been affected emotionally. They could be unusually irritable or unable to concentrate, for example, or failing to complete their homework or even to eat regular meals.



Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented and is leading some cyber safety policies for schools. She has led two national awareness campaigns and worked with the Association for Government Computing to raise awareness and working behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

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WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert: potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

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Advice for Parents & Carers

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CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

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.



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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

FACEBOOK

AGE RATING

13+

With 2.9 billion users, Facebook, owned by the recently rebranded Meta, is the world's most popular social media platform. It encourages interaction with other people by (among other things) adding them as friends, reacting to or commenting on their content, sharing images and videos, posting status updates, joining groups and playing games. Facebook is free, and anyone over 13 can join – but with no age verification, younger children can easily create an account: it's likely your child is already familiar with the platform, even if they don't yet use it themselves.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Facebook's quick reward cycle of likes and comments on shared posts can be hugely addictive, it encourages users to keep returning to post things and increases FOMO (the Fear Of Missing Out), which leads to people checking the app even more frequently and finding themselves endlessly scrolling through content.

CYBERBULLYING

A 2021 Ofcom report found that around one in four UK 12-15-year-olds had been cyberbullied or trolled (intentionally antagonised online). On Facebook, this can happen through private messages (on Facebook Messenger); hurtful comments on their profiles and posts; pages or groups set up purposely to torment a victim; or exclusion from pages or groups.

FUTURE IMPACT

Like most social media platforms, anything posted on Facebook leaves a permanent 'digital footprint'. This can have future consequences for young people: many universities and employers, for example, now review someone's Facebook timeline during the application process.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Just like in the offline world, there are people on Facebook with malicious intentions. Ofcom reports, for instance, that 30% of 12-15-year-olds have received a friend request from a stranger. This sadly, can include individuals seeking to take advantage of impressionable youngsters.

OVERSHARING

Facebook encourages you to post "what's on your mind", but children should be wary of revealing too much about themselves online. Users can give away their location by checking in or using Facebook Live, for example, while some photos can also be traced using file data.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Facebook monitors and removes material like hate speech or extreme political views, while adverts on the platform are now forbidden from targeting under-18s based on their interests. Offensive content isn't always taken down instantly, however, so there's still a risk of children encountering it.

VIDEOS AND STREAMING

Facebook Live lets users stream video live to their friends or watch others' broadcasts. Viewers can comment in real time, which is problematic to moderate. Short, user-created clips called Reels can now also be displayed on profiles and feeds. These video features could contain unsuitable material or allow children to be coaxed into doing something on camera that they wouldn't normally do.

Advice for Parents & Carers

KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

In the settings area, you can choose whether a Facebook profile is public or private. By far the safest option is to switch your child's to private, so they can only interact with people who they are friends with on the platform. Facebook's settings can also prevent your child's personal information (such as contact details, school name or date of birth) from appearing publicly.

ENCOURAGE SAFE FRIENDING

Facebook can help your child to stay connected with the people and the things that they care about. However, it's important for them to understand that they should only accept friend requests from people who they know. The key questions to consider are "has your child met them in person?" and "do they know and trust them enough to feel comfortable accepting them as a Facebook friend?"

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your child watch you using Facebook – this will demonstrate how it can be used safely and appropriately, reducing the risk of them encountering harmful content themselves. Teach them the habit of thinking before sharing anything online and try to follow the same rules that you set for them – so if you agree time limits on your child's Facebook use, then you should stick to them, too.

SAVVY SHARING

Make sure your child realises that what they share online with friends can end up being shared again by others. It's important that they think about what they share online and who they share it with. Facebook's Audience Selector gives users the option to filter who sees what they are sharing, whenever a status is updated, photos are uploaded or anything is posted.

RESPECT BOUNDARIES

Once you've talked about Facebook safety with your child, give them some space and trust them to make smart choices. Make it clear, however, that you're always open to discussing social media if they need to, in the early stages, you could occasionally review your child's social media activity with them to put your mind at rest – but take care not to become reliant on checking it every night.

BLOCK AND REPORT

On Facebook, you're able to report harmful content and block particular people or groups so they can't contact your child or view their profile. Before they start spending serious time on the platform, show your child how these features work and explain why they might need to be used. Facebook's Bullying Prevention Hub offers advice on dealing with harassment on the platform.

Meet Our Expert

Alex Wright is a former Facebook employee and social media expert with more than 15 years' experience in digital media. He has worked with some of the biggest organisations on the planet and has a vast understanding of how social media platforms work and how they engage their audience.



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