

# St. Thomas' C.E. Primary School

## Newsletter

10.03.23

### A note on worship...



'Learn to do right. Seek justice'

Isaiah 1:17

This week the children were asked to think about wisdom and how sometimes there are two sides to an argument and it isn't always easy to figure out what the right action is. Deciding what the right thing is can take time. Making the right decision, takes empathy – walking in someone else's shoes, not taking sides and not jumping to conclusions. We can always ask for God's help in giving us a clear head in order to think to be able to come to a just decision.

Our Courageous Advocate of the week was Rosa Parks, a black American lady who helped to create the civil rights movement when she stood up for the injustices that were all around her. She was very courageous when she refused to give up her seat on a bus for a white man to sit down. At the time, all black people had to stand up if white people needed a seat on a bus in Alabama, 1955. This led to a yearlong bus boycott, and eventually the law was changed to remove bus segregation.



## Stars of the Week



**George, Abigail, Zack T., Charlotte, Chester, Brady,  
Emily, Teddy, Joseph, Eira, Heidi D., Reggie and  
Freddie P.**

Well done to you all!

## Events for the Week

### Beginning 13.3.23

#### Monday

Emerald class reading with parents (8.45am)

Ukulele lessons and Choir after school

Parent's Evening

#### Tuesday

Class Photographs

Keyboard, strings and woodwind lessons

After school multi skills for Y1, 2 and 3 (4.00pm finish)

Parent's evening

#### Wednesday

Opal Class Book Breakfast (Parent's Invited)

Guitar lessons

Swimming for Emerald class (expected to be back at school at 3.30pm)

Coffee Afternoon at 2.00pm.

Athletics Club for Y4 & 5 (4.15pm finish)

#### Thursday

#### Friday

Afternoon Tea

## From the office...

- Please ensure that school dinners are ordered by midnight on Sunday for the following week
- A suggestion box will be available in the school office for parents to post any suggestions they may have for school. These could be ideas about newsletter content, suggestions for timings of parent's evening, workshop content, homework etc.

## Attendance Trophy



Amethyst Class – 92.92%

Ruby Class – 96.55%

Opal Class – 97.86%

Emerald Class – 91.87%

Sapphire Class – 97.19%

This week's winners are **Opal Class** – well done

## Wellbeing

Children often go through stages when they worry about things. This is a normal part of growing up. However, some may need a little more support.

### SUPPORTING A WORRIED CHILD

- **Be curious:** Ask open questions and actively listen to understand more about your child's thoughts and feelings.
- **Normalise and validate their feelings:** This means letting them know that what they are feeling is normal, other people feel the same way and that there is nothing wrong with their feelings.
- **Help them limit exposure to media:** If they are younger, this might include reducing their exposure to the news.
- **Create a plan around transitioning:** Planning can help alleviate some anxiety, especially fear of the unknown. Having a plan for the first day of school can help.
- **Take small steps to re-integrate into society:** Some fears can be alleviated with small, controlled exposures.
- **Problem-solve any concerns together:** Talking through strategies together can help your child improve their problem-solving skills and feel more empowered.



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 devices which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about iPADS

Apple debuted the first iPad in 2010, kickstarting the tablet market, and it remains the best-selling tablet to this day. Although Apple doesn't offer a child-specific version, iPads are hugely popular with youngsters due to their ease of use and endless choice of apps. There's a selection of models, with different-sized screens and distinct features – including the standard iPad; the iPad Air; the iPad Pro; and the iPad mini. Thankfully, they all offer parental controls so you can regulate how your child uses the device ... and how long they spend on it.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### PHYSICAL DAMAGE

While some tablets (such as the Amazon Fire Kids editions) come with rugged shock-proof cases, iPads aren't built for rough and tumble. They're also more expensive than most other tablets, and any damage your child's iPad suffers could be costly to repair. Buying a child-friendly case and screen protector for the device could be a wise move, especially if it's being used by younger ones.

#### SCREEN ADDICTION

Like most digital devices, tablets have the potential to become quite addictive. You might find your child spending too long staring at their iPad, which could lead to irritability, mood swings and a loss of interest in more important tasks. If this happens, be sure to visit the built-in screen time settings and ensure you limit how long they're able to spend on the device each day.

#### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

18  
CENSORED

Even if it would never occur to your child to go searching online for age-inappropriate sites, apps or information, there's always a possibility that something unexpected – perhaps a video that auto-plays or content incorrectly suggested by an algorithm – could appear on their tablet and upset them. You can help prevent this by adjusting the content settings (see our 'top tips' section below).

#### SIRI SUGGESTIONS

The parental controls built into iOS (the fundamental operating system of Apple devices) enable you to block access to most age-inappropriate content – but your child could potentially still bypass these restrictions (either accidentally or deliberately) by using Siri, Apple's voice-activated digital assistant. To avoid this, toggle the 'Ask Siri' functions to 'off' in the iPad's settings menu.

### Advice for Parents & Carers

#### ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Before letting little ones loose on an iPad, it's a good idea to set up Family Sharing, as this lets you utilise the parental controls to manage exactly how your child is able to use the device. You can do this fairly easily by going into the iPad's settings; once there, you'll be able to add an existing Apple account (if your child already has one) or set one up from scratch.

#### APPLY SOME LIMITS

The 'Downtime' function allows you to tell the iPad to lock itself at certain periods (at mealtimes or before bed, for instance), while 'App Limits' removes access to certain apps once they've been used for a specified length of time each day. The iPad can display a reminder when these limits have nearly been reached, letting your child mentally prepare for the end of their gaming or viewing time.

#### STOP ACCIDENTAL SPENDING

To empower your child with an increased sense of freedom on their device (without giving yourself something else to worry about in the process) you could enable the iPad's 'Ask to Buy' feature. Whenever your child tries to download or buy an app, game or product, the iPad sends you a request to approve (or deny) it. This option only becomes available if you've set up Family Sharing.

#### SET CONTENT AND PRIVACY RESTRICTIONS

The parental controls can stop the iPad from displaying explicit or age-inappropriate content (in apps like iTunes and Safari, for instance) when your child is signed into their account. You'll also be able to restrict the capacity to download and install apps, and you can specify permissions which prevent children from changing the iPad's privacy settings once you've selected them.

#### TRACK IT DOWN

Just like the iPhone, Apple's iPads have 'Find My' software to help you locate your child's iPad – or indeed, any linked Apple devices that have gone AWOL, including phones, watches and AirPods. If you enable 'Find My' in the settings menu, it will display the last known location of an iPad that's been misplaced, as well as giving you the option to lock a missing iPad that you suspect has been stolen.

#### Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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#WakeUpWednesday

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## Parent's Association



There is going to be a **Mother's Day Afternoon tea event on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March**. There are to be two sittings, one at 2.00pm and one at 3.30pm. This is a very popular event. Tickets are available via Wisepay.

**A bingo night** is planned for **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April** and there is going to be big twist to the **summer fair** which is planned for **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July!**

Recently the funds raised by the Parent's Association have paid for coaches for school trips, paid for the outdoor lighting and for the new blinds in the school hall and in Sapphire class. The support of the parent's association is invaluable to school and the money raised benefits all of our children now and in the years to come.

## Weekly class round up!

### Amethyst Class

Amethyst class have celebrated the Hindu festival of Holi with a colour run on Wednesday. They had a fabulous time. In English they have focused on story telling through 'Tales toolkit'. Their new phonics sound this week was 'oi'. On Tuesday, the children were investigation portable snacks as part of their DT work with Mrs Robinson.

### Ruby Class

Ruby class are learning how to write a non-chronological report based on their text, 'Moth' in English. This week's maths has been about Pictograms and tally charts for year 2s and year 1 children are continuing their work on numbers up to 50. They have been continuing their science work on plants and history has been about Queen Victoria. Hector was able to tell me that they have been learning about Victorian inventions too – the telephone and the modern railway.

### Opal Class

In English the children wrote a diary from the point of view of the snail in 'The Snail and the Whale'. Maths was all about length and weight. In history the children were exploring what was happening in the rest of the world whilst it was the Bronze Age. R.E. was all about what it means to be victorious. In science the children were investigating how different types of rocks are formed - igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic. Opal class are working on a special art project with Mrs Robinson. This project is for Earth day and their work will be displayed at Number 1, Riverside, in the town centre.

### Emerald Class

The children have been retelling 'How the Whale got his Throat' in English, continuing with their times tables work in maths alongside fractions. History has been about the Anglo Saxons and their beliefs (paganism) and science has seen the continuation of work on how animals adapt to their environment. In DT with Mrs Robinson, emerald class been investigated frame structures.

### Sapphire Class

Year 6 children have been learning how to answer challenging maths questions that appear on SATs tests alongside scale factors, multiples and finding the mean. In English they have continued their work on poetry using the book 'Cosmic Disco'. In science they have focused on scientific questions through the online Explorify programme. In DT the children are learning about architecture and the architect Zaha Hadid.



## Upcoming events

Most events are on the school's website on the events page.

### **13.3.23**

Parents evening 3.30pm-6.00pm

Parents' reading for Emerald class 8.45am-9.10am

### **14.3.23**

Class photograph day

Parent's evening 6.00pm-8.00pm

### **15.3.23**

Parent's coffee afternoon 2.00pm

### **17.3.23**

Mother's Day afternoon Tea

### **20.3.23**

Tree planting day

Year 6 visit to the Bridgewater Hall

### **24.3.23**

Opal Class Brass concert

### **27.3.23**

Autism Awareness week

### **28.3.23**

Bags to schools collection

### **29.3.23**

Great Easter Bake off and sale

Autism awareness day – children dress up in allocated colour

### **30.3.23**

Easter Bonnets and Eggs

### **31.3.23**

Emerald class linking schools event

Easter Service in church from 2.15pm

School closes for the two week Easter holiday



