

St. Thomas' C.E. Primary School

Newsletter

24.03.23

A note on worship...

Justice



Our purpose is to do what is right, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of one another'

2 Corinthian 8:12

Sometimes the easiest thing is to jump to conclusions. Seeking out the whole story is the right thing to do, but not always the easiest thing to do. In worship this week, the children listened to a conversation between Barney and Bella – our two worship puppets- in which Barney jumped to the wrong conclusion. When we don't know the full picture it is easy to get things very wrong.

Mrs Stewardson shared with the school on Tuesday, the prayers that had been written by our new prayer group which met with Reverend Janet and Mrs Stewardson.

Miss Hobbs led the worship on Thursday, with a focus on fasting – comparing Ramadan with Lent.



Stars of the Week



**Rowan, Daisy, Hector, Daisy, Toby S., Zac H., Maddie,
Liam, Joseph, Benjamin, Hannah and Lola-Rose.**

Well done to you all!

Events for the Week

Beginning 24.3.23

Monday

Ukulele concert for parents (Ruby Class) – 10.00am

Ukulele lessons and Choir after school

Autism Acceptance Week begins

Tuesday

Bags to Schools Collection Day

Keyboard, strings and woodwind lessons

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

Wednesday

Easter Bake off and Cake Sale

Autism Acceptance Activity Day – children to dress in specific colours

Guitar lessons

Swimming for Emerald class

Athletics Club for Y4 & 5 (4.15pm finish)

Thursday

Selected children to go to Greenbank School in connection with Autism Acceptance week

Friday

Marland Hill Children to visit (linking schools)

Easter Service in Church from 2.15pm

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.
- Please ensure all payments are up to date as it is the end of the financial year. Thank you

Wellbeing

HOW TO PROMOTE POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH IN YOUR CHILD



BE A ROLE MODEL

How you handle your challenges and uncomfortable feelings influences how your child learns to respond to their own.



LIMIT SCREEN TIME

Don't let electronics get in the way of developing a deep connection with your kids. Limit screen time for your kids and for yourself.



STOP HELICOPTERING

Hovering too closely limits your child's development by not letting them learn how to handle disappointments or overcome struggles.



TALK TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT THEIR FEELINGS

Being able to share their feelings in a healthy, productive way is essential for kids' good mental health.



FOCUS ON THEIR PHYSICAL HEALTH

Diet and sleep can contribute to children's mood, attention span, anxiety levels and general behavior.



ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE

Praise your child for their efforts, not only their successes, so they develop a positive sense of self even when they're struggling.



LET THEM KNOW MISTAKES ARE NORMAL

Let your kids see your own errors so they realize everyone makes mistakes sometimes and it doesn't define a person's worth.



Internet 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 issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Ten top tips for STRONGER PASSWORDS

Passwords continue to be the most common way to prove our identity online. A combination of a username and a password known only to the user provides access to our online accounts and data – and hopefully keeps unauthorised individuals out. As a security measure, though, passwords are relatively weak. People are often predictable in how we choose our passwords, for example – making them less secure. With increasing volumes of usernames and passwords being leaked online, what can we do to keep our data more secure? Here are our top tips for stronger passwords.

BE UNPREDICTABLE

We often choose passwords which are easy to remember, featuring the name of our favourite sports team or favourite film, for instance. Those are predictable passwords. Cyber criminals will routinely try various combinations of passwords relating to sports teams, actors, musical artists and the like – and they often focus on these during major sporting events or around high-profile movie releases.

AVOID GETTING PERSONAL

Many of us use passwords relating to our family, such as children's names or favoured holiday destinations. The problem here is that we also typically post about our holidays and our family on social media – making that information potentially visible to cyber criminals and supplying them with clues which could help them in narrowing down possible passwords we might have set.

NEW PLATFORM, NEW PASSWORD

Where cyber criminals gain access to an online service through a data breach, they often use the data they've stolen to try and access the victim's other accounts. This is because the criminals know that, for convenience, people often use the same password across different services. When we reuse passwords, our security is only as strong as the weakest site where we've used it.

LONGER IS STRONGER

Our passwords are often stored by online services in an encrypted format, in case the service suffers a data breach. The strength of this encryption, however, is dependent on the length of the password you've selected. If your password is only a short one, cyber criminals are significantly more likely to be able to break the encryption and identify your password.

CHECK SOCIAL MEDIA VISIBILITY

Staying up to date with friends and relatives on social media is part of everyday life now. We need to ensure, though, that we limit who can see our posts via each platform's privacy settings. It's also wise to consider what we're posting and if it's really safe to share online. If we restrict what cyber criminals can see, we reduce the chance of them using that information to identify our passwords.

CCTV
IN OPERATION

'DOUBLE LOCK' YOUR DATA

It's possible that cyber criminals may eventually discover your username and password. Enabling multi-factor authentication (MFA) on your accounts, however, reduces the chance of them obtaining access to your data, as they'd also require a code which is provided via an app, SMS message or email. MFA isn't infallible, but it does definitely provide extra protection and security.

DELETE UNUSED ACCOUNTS

Data breaches occur when cyber criminals gain access to an online service and all the data contained within it – including usernames and passwords. Whenever you stop using a service, it's wise to make sure that you delete your entire account and not just the actual app. If the service no longer has your data, there's zero risk of it being leaked should they suffer a data breach in the future.

TRY PASSWORD MANAGERS

Even though most of us have numerous online accounts to manage these days, it's advantageous to avoid password re-use. Specialist password management software (like Dashlane or OnePassword, among others) can help by storing a different password for every online service that you have an account with: the only one you or child will need to remember is the single master password.

GET CREATIVE

The British government's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) recommends the "three random words" technique. This method helps you create a password which is unique, complex and long – yet which is memorable enough to stay in your mind ("FourBluesShoes", for example). The NCSC website, incidentally, also offers plenty of other useful information relating to personal cyber security.

STAY VIGILANT

The best way to protect your accounts and your data is to be vigilant and careful. If you receive an email or text message that's unusual or unexpected, treat it as suspicious until you're able to verify whether it's genuine and safe. Starting from a position of vigilance and caution will reduce the likelihood of you or your child being tricked by a malicious email, text or phone call.

Meet Our Expert

A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.



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#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/>



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Weekly class round up!

Amethyst Class

The children recapped all of the sounds they have been learning in phonics. In maths the reception children have continued with their number bonds to 10 and the year 1 children are continuing with measures. Their new English text is called 'Hedgehog Bakes a Cake', so they have written recipes and will be baking cakes too! The children have spent time learning about Ramadan and there are some lovely Ramadan lights in their classroom.

Ruby Class

Ruby class have been learning about The Royal Albert Hall in history, writing a non-chronological report in English and they have begun to look at the Easter story in R.E., starting with Palm Sunday.

Opal Class

The children in opal Class have been busy writing Newspaper reports in English and continuing their work on measures in maths (with some assessments too). You may have seen their video on Facebook that demonstrates their dance work in P.E. They have been learning about the features of mountains in geography and The Beaker People in history. In French, Opal class have been continuing their work on naming fruits.

Emerald Class

Fractions has been the focus in maths lessons for the children in Emerald class and in English they have been writing their own versions of the 'Just So' stories. Geography is all about the water cycle and coastal erosion. Mrs Robinson has been teaching them about coding during their computer lessons.

Sapphire Class

On Monday the year 6 children took a trip to the Bridgewater Hall to attend a workshop and see a performance of Street Opera. This was aimed at year 6, 7 and 8 children. They have covered a lot in maths this week including: radius and diameter and time word problems. The children have been writing speech correctly during grammar lessons, looking at the language of hymns in R.E. and developing their hockey skills during P.E. with Mr Edwards.

Most of the children helped to plant over 200 trees on our school field. Most are to make a hedgerow at the bottom of the field along the far side and some trees were planted in our forest school area. We would like to thank the climate department at Rochdale Council for funding this project. Sarah and Michael from the council worked with our children to discuss climate change and the impact trees have on the environment, including their role in flood defences.

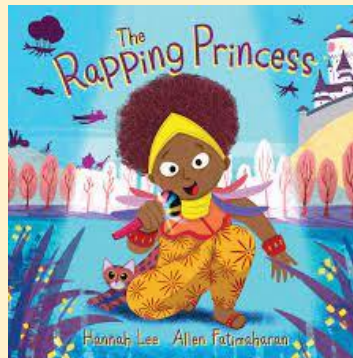
Photographs can be viewed on the school website

Book Recommendations

Each week we are going to be recommending 2 high quality children's books to help you when trying to choose books for your child.

Key Stage 1

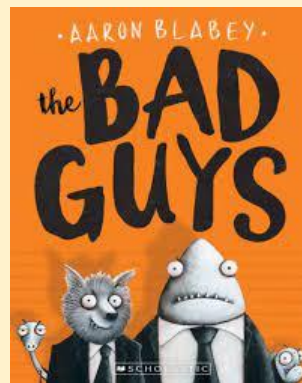
'The Rapping Princess' by Hannah Lee



This is a modern take on a fairy tale. Shiloh, the main character wants to sing, but she realises her voice is for something else!

Key Stage 2

'The Bad Guy Series' by Aaron Blabey



These are funny books and hold the attention of young readers. They have great illustrations and are a reminder that reading is fun.

Attendance Trophy



Amethyst Class – 99.17%

Ruby Class – 96.9%

Opal Class – 98.57%

Emerald Class – 90.94%

Sapphire Class – 98.71%

This week's winners are **Amethyst Class for the second week running!** – well done

Good News!



This week we are pleased to announce that we have received two grants for school.

The first is from the English Hub and is for £6000. This money is to buy new reading books that match to our Song of Sounds Phonics Programme. After Easter, all of our younger children will be moved from their current reading books, to these new ones.

The second grant is from the Bookmark Reading Trust, who have given us £5000 to improve our resources for developing a love of reading and increase the children's knowledge of authors and books.

Some of this money is going to be spent on a home/school reading project, which we hope to start soon after Easter.

Upcoming events

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

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

17.4.23

School reopens after the Easter Break

Parent's Association



The **Mother's Day Afternoon tea** event was a sell out! Thank you to everyone who supported this event. This raised **£610 for our school**.

A bingo night is planned for **Friday 28th April** and there is going to be big twist to the **summer fair** which is planned for **Saturday 15th 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.

Easter Events



Great Easter Bake-off

If you would like to take part, please send a homemade cake with an Easter theme into school on the morning of **Wednesday 29th March** for our Bake-off competition. Cakes will be judged on appearance, originality and creativity. These can be made by adults and/or children. All cakes will be sold off at the end of the day to raise funds for school.

Easter Bonnets

Children in reception, year 1 and year 2 are invited to take part in our annual Easter bonnet parade on **Thursday 30th March**. There will be some small prizes for creativity and child participation in the making of them. All children will get a gift for taking part.

Decorated eggs

Children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are invited to take part in our egg decorating competition. Eggs must be hard boiled eggs. Entries should be brought into the school hall on the morning of **Thursday 30th March** for judging. Prizes will be awarded based on child's input, originality and effort. All children taking part will be given a small gift.

If your child would like to take part, but you are struggling for resources, please speak to the school office staff, who may be able to help.

