

St. Thomas' C.E. Primary School

Newsletter

5.05.23

A note on worship...

Service



This half term our theme for worship is 'Service'

We have spoken a lot this week about the service of King Charles III on the lead up to his Coronation and his role as the Head of the Church of England. We explored the work of the Prince's Trust, his devotion to environmental and conservation causes, particularly his work around training people in traditional crafts.



Stars of the Week



**Elsie Th, Theo, Amelia B-W., William, Penelope, Scarlett F.,
Heidi, Dougi, Bradley, All of the year 6's, Rian and Esme
B-W.**

Well done to you all!

Events for the Week

Beginning

8.5.23

Monday

Bank Holiday – School Closed

Tuesday

Keyboard, strings and woodwind lessons

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

Wednesday

Guitar lessons

Swimming for Emerald class

Athletics Club for Y4 & 5 (4.15pm finish)

Thursday

Friday

Brass lessons

From the office...

- Please ensure that school dinners are ordered by midnight on Sunday for the following week
- Check Wisepay for upcoming **school trips** – Amethyst, Emerald and Sapphire classes.

Wellbeing

Outdoor Activities for Mindfulness

www.thepathway2success.com

- Gardening**: Illustration of a small green seedling with two leaves growing out of a mound of brown soil.
- Taking a Walk**: Illustration of a pink and white sneaker.
- Blowing Bubbles**: Illustration of five blue bubbles of various sizes.
- Watching Wildlife**: Illustration of a brown and green duck.
- Watching Clouds**: Illustration of a large, fluffy white cloud.
- Going on a Scavenger Hunt**: Illustration of a magnifying glass with a black handle.
- Mindful Breathing**: Illustration of a yellow smiley face with its eyes closed and arms outstretched in a meditative pose.
- Drawing with Sidewalk Chalk**: Illustration of three pieces of sidewalk chalk in yellow, purple, and blue.
- Reading Under a Tree**: Illustration of a red apple with a green leaf and a small book on top of it.
- Walking Barefoot**: Illustration of a human foot.

Clipart by Kate Hadfield & Ashley Hughes

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 for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

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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#WakeUpWednesday

Weekly class round up!

Opal

It's been a busy week for the children in Opal class. They have been comparing 'Stig of the Dump' the book to the TV series and they have discovered that there are a lot of differences between the two. In maths they have started working on fractions of quantities and ordering fractions on a number line. The children have started their geography work on rivers by looking at the features of a river. In R.E. the children of Opal class are continuing to look at places of worship. They also found time to decorate 150 fairy cakes for our coronation party.

Emerald Class

The children have had a really good week in maths whilst getting to grips with decimals and counting in tenths and hundredths. In science they are learning about states of matter – the properties of solids, liquids and gases. In English they have been focusing on the character development of the lead character from their text. They have gone 'off-topic' in history this week and had a special lesson comparing the coronations of Queen Elizabeth II and King Charles III in recognition of the King's coronation this weekend. The focus for P.E. is now cricket and the children are continuing their work on churches, learning about the first church of St. Peter.

Sapphire Class

The year 6 children in Sapphire class have been busy going through some last minute revision for their upcoming SATs tests. This week they have also studied the role of a monarch and royal duties as part of their work around the King's coronation. In geography, they have moved onto learning about biomes. They are building on their work in year 4 in computing as they develop their coding skills. The children are continuing their line dancing journey in P.E.

As part of their R.E. work, they are investigating Mosques and comparing them to a church, ready for their visit to the Neeli Mosque in a couple of weeks' time.

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.

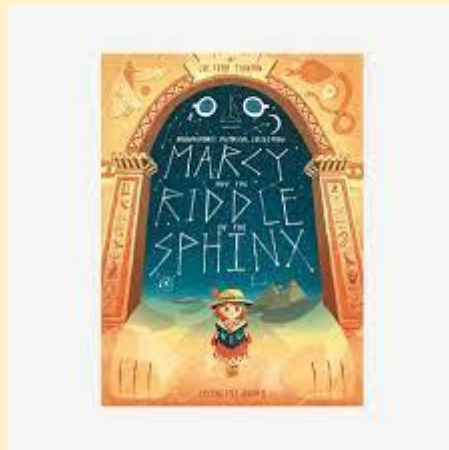
Key Stage 1

'Rhythm of the Rain' by Grahame Baker-Smith



Key Stage 2

'Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx' by Joe Todd Stanton



Travelling Books

We are pleased to announce that we start our Travelling Books project today. Two children from Amethyst, Ruby and Opal classes will be given a 'Trunk' suitcase to take home over the weekend.

In the suitcase is a book to share, a journal, blanket, a soft toy, a sachet of hot chocolate and a small packet of biscuits. The idea is that parents share the book with their child in a comfortable setting and enjoy a shared experience of reading together. The children then record in the journal their experience of the book.

There are further ideas of how to share the book and fill in the journal in the suitcase.

We hope that this provides a positive experience for our families and goes a little way to develop a love of reading amongst our children.

