

St. Thomas' C.E. Primary School

Newsletter

07.07.23

A note on worship...

Truth



'Speak the truth in love.'

Ephesians 4:15

This week we explored the theme of speaking the truth for the right reasons. Sometimes it is much easier to tell our friends what we think they want to hear, rather than what they need to hear. This could be down to not wanting to hurt or upset our friends, but by doing this, we are not really showing them the love that we should. Sometimes our friends need to hear the truth, particularly when it comes from a place of love. Our puppets, Barney and Bella made an appearance with Barney asking Bella for advice about telling his friend the truth. The children always enjoy a Barney and Bella story.



Stars of the Week



Last week's stars are also included on this list.

**Ruby, Natalie, Anna C., Ifeoluwa, Teddy, Benjamin, Louie,
Lillie S., Elise and Keegan**

Events for the Week

Beginning

10.07.23

Monday

Ukulele lessons

Swimming Gala

Tuesday

Emerald and Ruby class – Music festival

Keyboard, strings and woodwind lessons

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

Sapphire performance of Pirates of the Curry Bean (2.00pm and 6.00pm)

Wednesday

Swimming for Emerald class

Athletics Club for Y4 & 5 (4.15pm finish)

Thursday

Emerald Class visit to Marland Hill (linking schools network)

Chocolate Donation day

Friday

Brass lessons

Sapphire trip to Blackpool

From the office...

- Please ensure that school dinners are ordered by midnight on Sunday for the following week.
- Please check Wisepay accounts for outstanding trip payments and music lesson payments.
- We have large amounts of lost property. These will be put in the playground after school for parents to look at and claim.

five things
Mindfulness Activity

5 things you can see



4 things you can feel



3 things you can hear



2 things you can smell



1 thing you can taste



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 www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

RUMBLE

AGE RESTRICTION
12+

on the App Store;
Teen+ on Google Play

A video-sharing platform designed as an alternative to YouTube, Rumble is the epitome of a 'slow burner' in digital circles: it was initially launched in 2013, but it's only in the last two or three years that it's begun to gain serious traction. Much of Rumble's recent growth has stemmed from its association with Truth Social, the platform founded by former US President Donald Trump. Rumble's content frequently reflects some intense political viewpoints; this can often affect the way it approaches topics and has occasionally caused the platform to venture into controversial territory.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS

The company which developed Rumble is also responsible for hosting Truth Social, the often contentious news and social network founded by Donald Trump. Indeed, Rumble's content often reflects the ideas of one group of US voters, who have embraced it as an alternative to more mainstream social media. Many parents may feel that such an overtly political platform isn't suitable for young people.

PROVOCATIVE CONTENT

Rumble prides itself on championing free speech, with its CEO declaring the platform "immune to cancel culture". Many of Rumble's highest-profile content creators – such as Andrew Tate and Russell Brand – are well known for sharing opinions which are often described as extreme. While adults might be equipped to treat this content objectively, much of it may not be appropriate for a young audience.

INAPPROPRIATE MATERIAL

In very simple terms, Rumble works a little like YouTube but with far fewer censors and restrictions being applied to its content. If age-inappropriate material or potentially harmful misinformation is trending on the platform and being shared among more mature users, there's a distinct possibility that Rumble's algorithm may also recommend that content to a child.

CONTROVERSIAL FIGURES

Many of Rumble's best-known accounts are owned by individuals who have previously been banned from other social media platforms. There could, of course, be a variety of reasons behind this – but it almost certainly increases the chances of your child coming across content on Rumble which probably wouldn't be deemed acceptable on other similar platforms.

SENSITIVE TOPICS

In recent months, some prominent Rumble influencers have expressed uncompromising views on sensitive subjects such as gun control, abortion, LGBTQ issues and more. With many Rumble accounts tending to display a noticeable political bias, the concern would be that young people using the platform may not always be presented with an impartial perspective on these important and complex topics.



Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK ABOUT POLITICS

Rumble *does* have a team of moderators, but the nature of the platform means that some permitted content is likely to be controversial and highly subjective. That possibility might make many parents uncomfortable – but if your child *does* view (or hear about) something provocative on Rumble, it can still provide a useful opportunity to discuss politics at home in a safe, relaxed environment.

CHECK UP REGULARLY

Like any video-sharing platform, there's a chance that Rumble might suggest inappropriate content for your child. There may be an algorithm issue – or it could be that the recommendations are based on videos they've previously viewed. If your child uses Rumble, you might consider a chat with them about which accounts they follow and what type of content is suitable for their age.

RESEARCH ALTERNATIVES

No video-sharing platform is totally free from potentially harmful content, of course – but the number of prominent account holders on Rumble whose output has previously been banned from similar services is certainly a cause for concern. If your child is becoming interested in influencer culture or politics specifically, you could perhaps research more family-friendly platforms together.

DISCUSS IMPARTIALITY

Many prominent Rumble accounts wear their political leanings firmly on their sleeves. As a result, it can be tricky for impressionable young people to appreciate both sides of any given debate. If your child is old enough to use Rumble, you may feel that a discussion of some things they've seen might be prudent – if so, be prepared from some complex (and possibly lengthy) conversations!

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.pewresearch.org/journalism/2022/06/06/prominent-accounts-on-alternative-social-media-sites-mostly-are-individuals-not-organizations/>

Staffing Changes

Further to last weeks' notice regarding the staffing changes, we are also saying goodbye to Mrs Finch and Mr Edwards.

Mrs Finch joined St Thomas' just over two years ago as a teaching assistant supporting one of our children to access school. Since she joined us, Mrs Finch has worked hard to qualify as a teacher, whilst still working at St Thomas'. She has accepted her first teaching job at Springside Special school. Mrs Finch is always willing to get stuck in, has served on the Governing Board and on the Parents' Association. Mrs Finch has been an excellent addition to the St. Thomas' team, and we will miss her.

Mr Edwards has been our sports coach for the past two years. In addition to teaching PE, Mr Edwards has supported children through a mentoring programme. Mr Edwards is off to Australia for a new adventure. We will miss Mr Edwards and all he does for the children of St. Thomas'.

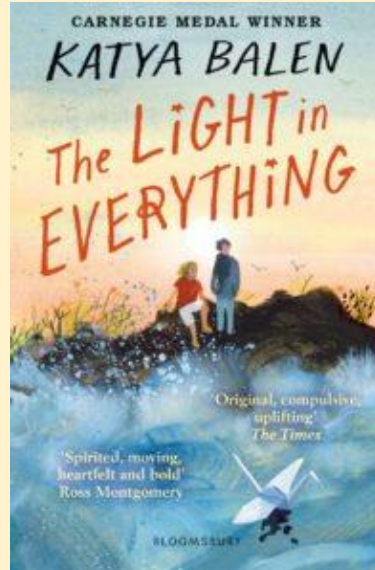
Mr Edwards works for a company called One Goal. We have been working with One Goal for nearly 10 years to deliver sports education. From September, One Goal are no longer supporting schools with physical education. Instead, the teaching staff will be delivering all P.E. lessons. The sports premium grant that schools receive will be spent on providing daily after school sports clubs and daily lunchtime sports provision, alongside learning to cycle lessons and playground leaders initiative. In addition we will be improving our resources for playtimes and PE lessons.

We will be saying goodbye to all the staff at the leaver's service on the afternoon of Friday 21st July from 1.30pm in the church. All are welcome.

Recommended Books



This book takes the reader deep underground below the city to show what is under our feet. The book covers the subjects such as geology, archaeology and natural history. It has a fold out style which extends to 2.5 metres in length!



For 9 years old and above.

Tom and Zofia are as different as they are mistrustful of one another. Tom is introverted and thoughtful, while Zofia is loud and vivacious. They are brought together when their parents move in with one another. Both of them must learn to get on whilst also dealing with the real risk that they might lose their newly born sister. A memorable story of blended families.



Congratulations to all our winners at this year's sports day. Despite a bit of a wet start, the morning went well and all of the children had a great time. We even had the time for parents to race.



Saturday 15th July

11.00-2.00pm

Preparations for our annual summer fair are underway. There will be lots of stalls including: bottle tombola, chocolate tombola, teddy tombola, home made cakes, bottle flip, guess the name of the teddy, find the treasure on the map and the opportunity to throw a wet sponge at the head teacher is back! The barbecue will be lit and this year we will be selling homemade samosas too!

We are collecting soft toys for the teddy tombola and are asking for donations of chocolate to come into school on Thursday. Home made cakes can be sent into school on Friday or Saturday morning.

Year 6 children have been asked to volunteer to help run stalls. If they can, please write a short permission letter to school.

Any small business can purchase a table at the fair for £15. Please contact the school office for details.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Weekly Round up

Amethyst

Amethyst class have been learning the letter names and the capital letters to go with the lower case letters. In maths the year 1 children have been working with money, whilst the reception children have focused on capacity. In English all of the children have created a story using Tales Toolkit. Their topic this half term is all about the United Kingdom and in PSHE the children have been learning about basic first aid.

Ruby

In English, the children have been continuing their work based on the book 'Ossiri'. They have worked on using imperative verbs and time conjunctions within instructions. This work is supporting their design technology as they are writing instruction on how to make musical instruments, before making the instruments next week (please send in small boxes; tissue box size, clean tin cans, long cardboard tubes ie kitchen rolls/gift wrap and jar tops if you have any please). In maths they looked at greater and less than alongside multiples. The children completed a science investigation about shaping materials.

Opal

In English, the children have been reading 'The Village that Vanished'. They have been exploring the thoughts and feelings of the characters and built model villages based on the story. The main focus for maths this week has been time, with some problem solving. The children have had great fun exploring magnets in science.

Emerald

The children have been writing in the style of 'Fly, Eagle, Fly'. A story set in Africa. In maths they have focused on geometry (angles, polygons and symmetry). In their science lesson, the children have been studying the water cycle. For history, the children are learning about the Vikings, with a focus on trade this week. They have also been looking at the power of singing during worship as part of their RE work, keeping safe during the summer in PSHE, variables in coding during their computing lessons and writing in French about the Romans!

Sapphire

The children in Sapphire class have spent much of the week rehearsing for their production of 'The Pirates of the Curry Bean' which they will be performing to parents on Tuesday. The year 6 children have also visited their new schools this week. They all came back very excited and eager to begin the next stage of their journey.

