

St. Thomas' C.E. Primary School

Newsletter

12.01.24

Happy New Year to you All

A note on worship...

Courage



Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go'

Joshua 1.9

This week we learned that it takes courage to step outside of your comfort zone. No one likes to do things that make them feel uncomfortable. But with some courage, we can overcome this feeling. We looked at what courage is and how we get courage. We also watched a video about Eric Liddell and the courage he had to do something different at the 1924 Olympic Games.



Stars of the Week



**Penelope, Benjamin, Madison, Grayson, Maisie, Chester,
Willow, Brady, Frankie B. and Freddie B.**

Well done to you all!

Events for the Week

Beginning

13.11.23

Monday

Ukulele lessons

Brass Lessons

After school Multi Games for years 3, 4, 5 and 6

Parent's Association Meeting

Tuesday

Keyboard, strings and woodwind lessons

After school football for years 4, 5 and 6

Wednesday

Guitar lessons

After school multi-skills for years 1 and 2

Thursday

After school dodgeball for years 3, 4, 5 and 6

Dodgeball Tournament at Hollingworth Academy

Friday

Oldham Mountain Rescue to visit Amethyst Class

From the office...

- Please ensure that **school dinners** are ordered by midnight on **Sunday** for the following week.
- **Thank you** to those who **remembered** to order school dinners this week. It is very much appreciated.
- Children taking part in **after school sports** need to bring a **PE kit to school** to change into if it is not their usual PE day.
- Please send back **emergency contact cards** to the school office
- **Holiday dates** have been sent to all parents via School Spider
- Please return any **after school activity club slips** back to school on **Monday** morning
- Please return any **Reindeer Run** Sponsor Money as soon as possible. Thank you

Jewellery

There is an increasing number of children wearing jewellery for school. Children can wear a small watch and a single pair of stud ear rings, all other jewellery needs to stay at home. Earrings should be removed at home on PE Days unless they can take them out themselves.

Children with jewellery will be asked to remove it and take it home. We do not want precious items to get broken or lost nor do we want injuries caused by children wearing jewellery.

Thank you for your support.

Parent's Association

There will be a short meeting on Monday 15th January straight after school to discuss the development of the Parent's Association. Anyone interested in finding out more about how it works and what its role is, is more than welcome to join the meeting.

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

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about — SHARING PHOTOS ONLINE

School is often a time chock-full of milestones for your child, and you may well be eager to share their accomplishments with the world. In today's digital age, sharing images of such precious moments on social media is commonplace, and – while that's a lovely thing to do – it does come with some risks attached. Our guide can help parents and carers to consider the potential dangers and make informed choices about safely sharing photos of their children online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INVASIONS OF PRIVACY

Even with the right settings in place, absolutely nothing online is 100% private. Anyone who can view your photos could take screenshots and potentially share them elsewhere. Privacy settings are still important, though, so it's always wise to ensure your social media accounts have them set up; just bear in mind that you can't completely control what happens to anything once it's gone online.

REVEALING PERSONAL DETAILS

Small details in photos can often reveal personal information. Backgrounds can give clues to where you live, for example, while school logos on uniforms, sports kits, or bags could help someone identify which school your child attends. With interactive maps and reverse image searches commonplace online, information like this could easily be misused by an individual with malicious intentions.

MISUSE OF IMAGES

Once something's been shared online, it's almost impossible to get it deleted. Photos can show up in search engine results and be downloaded, manipulated, and shared without consent. There's the potential for someone's images to be used for advertising purposes (which in many cases, isn't illegal) or even more inappropriate reasons, such as cyber-bullying or serious forms of exploitation.

ONLINE GROOMING

Pictures that convey details about your child's interests, activities, or daily routines could arm an online predator with the kind of information they can deploy to gain a child's trust. They might use this knowledge to pretend to be the same age as the child or to have a shared hobby. Essentially, the more a predator knows about a young person, the easier it is for them to invent some 'common ground'.

PRESSURE TO PLEASE

When their parents or carers share notable moments and accomplishments in a child's life on social media, some children may begin to feel an expectation to always meet certain standards, to achieve things, or to behave in ways that are "worth sharing". Knowing that other people (even friends and family) can see these posts on social media might also add to the pressure they're feeling internally.

IMPACT ON DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Every photo of a child posted online contributes to their digital footprint. Young people's lives have never been so closely and publicly documented as they are now, and this permanent online presence could affect a child's future opportunities or the choices they make as they grow up – in addition to influencing how they see themselves and, consequently, their emotional wellbeing.

Advice for Parents & Carers

REVIEW SETTINGS REGULARLY

Make sure your social media's secure in terms of who can view your content or see your location (only family and trusted friends, for example). Privacy settings aren't totally foolproof, but they do make it tougher for strangers to access your pics. Reviewing your settings regularly is also a good starting point for conversations with your child about managing their own social accounts when they're older.

CHECK YOUR PHOTOS

Photos of your child shouldn't provide any clues to where they live or go to school; even a house number, street name, or car number plate could be a giveaway. Cover up or blur out school logos, too. If you really want to share a particular pic, you could post a watermarked or low-res version, which can help to discourage misuse as those images are less appealing to download or reproduce.

CONSIDER OTHER CHILDREN

When taking a group photo, make sure you get parents' or carers' permission to share it on social media. There may be an important safeguarding reason for them not wanting their child's photo posted publicly online, or it might simply not tally with their personal beliefs or cultural background. A quick conversation in advance, just to make sure, is usually hugely appreciated.

THINK AHEAD

Try to consider the longer-term implications of what you post. Would you be happy with that photo being online in 10 years' time? Would your child still be OK with the image when they're older? Once your child is mature enough, you could ask for their consent before posting; it respects their privacy, fosters trust and understanding, and helps them to start thinking about their own online life.

Meet Our Expert

Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with more than 30 years' experience working with children, families, and adults in education, local authority, and mental health settings, both in the UK and internationally. She has developed online safety training for local authorities and foster care agencies across Britain and is the online safety expert for FosterWiki.



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#WakeUpWednesday

Wellbeing



