June 2024 Newsletter

Marldon C of E Primary School

'Within the love of God, working together, growing together, for all to flourish.'

Dates for the diary:

Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd July:
Year 6 KEVICC transition days.

Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th July:
Year 6 transition days at Coombeshead College.

Thursday 4th and Friday 5th July:
Year 6 Transition for Torbay Schools.

Friday 5th July:
Year 4 Swimming.

Friday 12th July:
Year 4 Swimming.

Tuesday 16th July:
Year 5 and 6 Performance dress rehearsal.

Wednesday 17th July:
14:00 and 18:00 - Year 5 and 6 Performance.

Thursday 18th July:
PTFA Leavers Disco.

Friday 19th July:
Final Year 4 swimming.

Monday 22nd - Wednesday 24th July:
Year 6 Skern Lodge Residential.

Friday 26th July:
Final day of School year.
Leavers' Worship at Marldon Church

What a fantastic (and busy!) month June has been; with school trips, visitors and events happening throughout. This months newsletter gives a snapshot of some of these events but don't forget to check out the class blogs to find out more.

Christian Value:

This half term our focus value is justice. In worship and in class the children will be learning about what justice is and how it is used to ensure we can flourish in our lives. As always, each week classes will nominate 2 justice champions to be celebrated in our values worship.

Right of the Month:

Each month we focus on a different article from the UNICEF Rights For Children charter. This month we have explored Article 22 - You have the right to special protection and help if you are a refugee. A refugee is someone who has had to leave their country because it is not safe for them to live there

Sports Day:

I must start by saying thank you to Mr. Youd who organised such a fantastic day. It was great to see the children supporting each other and working together to collect points for their teams and to see such fantastic sportsmanship and smiles throughout the day. Congratulations to Shamrock House who where our eventual winners and who have celebrated with a non-school uniform day today.

School Choir

We are really proud of our school choir who performed as part of the Blossoms Summer concert at the Palace Theatre. The children sang beautifully and we enjoyed a wonderful night of song and music.

Trips and Visitors:

As I said at the start of this newsletter, it has been a busy few weeks for trips and visitors. Year 1 have visited Lupton House Forest School, Year 3 had a visit from Newton Abbot Museum, Y4 had an amazing experience watching The Adventures of Doctor Doolittle at the Minack Theatre and Year 2 hugely excited for their overnight camp tonight.

New Starters:

It has been fantastic to welcome our 2024 starters to school, who have been joining us on a Wednesday afternoon as part of their transition. These sessions have allowed the children to start to explore and familarise themselves with the school as well as begin to get to know the school staff and routines.

Class Photos:

Just a reminder that the dead line for ordering your child's class photo from Tempest is Thursday 4th July. Please follow the link shared with you to do this.

Our schools celebrated Mental Health Awareness week in the week before half term.

The theme was Movement and Mood and how moving our bodies has a direct positive impact on our mental health. The children participated in assemblies about this and our mental health champions/ambassadors delivered some important information about movement and the release of endorphins in our bodies!

For more information on how movement can support our children's mental wellbeing, please check out the following links:

https://www.theyarethefuture.co.uk/movement-activities-children/

https://www.theyarethefuture.co.uk/mental-health-benefits-of-yoga-for-young-people/

Online Safety:

Keeping children safe online is a challenge especially with the pace of change within the world of technology. One of the most popular sites that we hear children of all ages talking about is YouTube. Attached to this newsletter is some useful information about the site to help you ensure that you have all of the controls in place to keep your children safe when they are using this site online.

Planned Absence:

Please remember that you must notify school of any period of planned absence. This needs to be done through collecting and completing an S2 request form from the school office. At this time, can I also remind you that we are only able to authorise requests if there are 'exceptional circumstances.'Devon County Council's advice is that we must be extremely cautious about approving any requests if a pupil's education is likely to be significantly impacted upon.

It is important that these forms are handed in with adequate time to respond as any unauthorised absence will likely result in a penalty notice or court summons being issued to each parent for each pupil affected.

As always if I can be of any help please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Jon Arnold
Head of School

ARTICLE 28 - Every child has the right to an education

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTUBE

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows YouTube. The Google-owned site lets anyone upload videos to be shared around the world, and as a result, it's an incredible resource with instant free access to material covering every conceivable topic. But with over 500 hours of video uploaded every minute, not all of it will be appropriate for young eyes.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate content. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but it can also lead to binge-watching and screen addiction – especially if 'auto-play' is active. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

RADICALISATION

YouTube's algorithm tends to promote content that's getting the most traffic – a lot of which can be quite extreme. This can be fine for harmless topics, but YouTube isn't regulated like television, and that means that conspiracy theories, fake news and hateful ideologies can occasionally surface to warp impressionable minds all too easily. Remember – the more they watch, the more they'll be recommended.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as message other users directly. Connecting with strangers online can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, cyberbullying and – in the worst cases – online predators. If a child is creating content themselves, this can increase the likelihood of them becoming a target.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends and challenges, some of which are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may cause physical or emotional harm children who watch or copy them. The painful 'salt and ice challenge' – where people use these two ingredients to burn their skin – is just one of many examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

The comments sections of popular content creators regularly have scammers posing as that influencer, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and often offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users aren't who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Educators

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

18 CENSORED

For older children, Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate material (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence, and sexual content) to underage viewers. To prevent children from chancing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that they use to access YouTube. It's worth also turning the auto-play feature off, to prevent YouTube's algorithm automatically recommending something inappropriate.

TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows parents and carers to monitor what their child is watching, uploading, and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches, and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives a parent or carer oversight of how their child uses sites like YouTube and helps to ensure that they are only accessing appropriate content.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them under 18. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course. You may want to keep an eye on how children interact with this material – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand what they're interested in. Remember that creators often share content outside of YouTube, so don't ignore their web presence elsewhere!

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS

It's possible to sidestep most inappropriate content completely via Google's own YouTube Kids app for Android handsets and iPhone. This lets you filter content by "preschool" (4 and under), "younger" (ages 5 to 8) and "older" (ages 9 to 12). This isn't a perfect substitute for personal supervision, as the app's filtering system is automated, and Google can't manually review all videos.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that a child is subscribed to can be hidden. If the child is only uploading videos set as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases. For example, users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch. If you'd like to avoid children purchasing content online, limit their access to online payment methods. Many parents have discovered the hard way that a child happily consuming a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.

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