Marldon C of E Primary School

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

Dates for the diary:

Friday 4th April
Easter Service at Marldon Church
Last day of Spring Term.

Tuesday 22nd April
Start of Summer Term

With Spring term rapidly drawing to a close, spring finally feels like it has arrived! It has been great watching the children play on the field and listen to them sharing what they have been up to in the sunshine.

And what a busy term it has been! With visits, visitors, festivals and competitions, please read on to see what we have been up to

Trips and visitors:

As a school we are always looking for opportunities to bring learning to life using trips and visitors to help create memorable learning experiences.

Year 6 started the month off with a Viking Day. The children enjoyed dressing as Vikings and attending workshops led by 'Blast from the Past'. The day gave them an experience of what it would have been like as a Viking travelling, invading and settling in a new land.

Year 1 and Year 4 travelled to the National Marine Aquarium to extend their learning about Habitats and Biomes. The children attended workshops exploring each area of learning as well as getting the opportunity to see some of the amazing water life in the rivers and seas around us.

Rev. Jane dropped in to visit Venus Class to talk about Easter and to introduce their topic about 'Why is Easter Special.'

Year 6 have also been visited by Marldon Pre-School and have been enjoying some shared reading as well as learning the words to some of our Easter songs in preparation for joining us at our Easter Service.

Work Showing and Parent's Evenings:

It was fantastic to see so many of you dropping in for work showing and seeing your children share their work with you. They work so hard through the year and are so proud of what they achieve - thank you for helping them celebrate this.

It was also great to see parents evenings so busy, I just wanted to remind you if you were unable to attend or if you had any thing you wanted to discuss further please do not hesitate to contact the school office who can help arrange a time to do this.

Sports Festivals:
We have been lucky enough to join several local festivals over the last month:

8 Year 5 Basketballers visited Churston Grammar School to represent the school in a Torbay Tigers Schools Basketball event. The children played non stop for an hour and a half in 4 a side games against Kingsash Academy and Whiterock Primary School. As always the competitiveness, team work and most importantly sportsmanship shown was exemplary with the team only losing one match all evening. Well done Year 5!

Alongside this football teams from across KS2 have taken part in Achieve 4 All Football tournaments at South Devon College. The teams played against other Federation Schools as well as Oldway. Again, across all of the teams, the sportsmanship and team work were impeccable and it was a joy to watch children support one another and never give up. Well done!

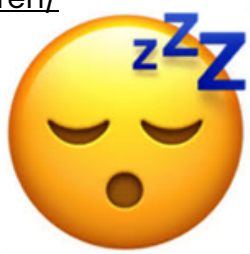
Online Safety:

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

A message from Mrs Alix Harding, our Federation Mental Health Lead:

Sleep plays a crucial role in your child's mental health and overall well-being. When children get enough rest, it helps them feel happier, more focused, and better able to manage their emotions. Creating a peaceful bedtime routine, limiting screen time before bed, and ensuring a calm, quiet environment can make a big difference. If your child is having trouble sleeping, please know you're not alone. There are helpful resources and gentle strategies available to support you, and you can find more information at:

https://www.theyarethefuture.co.uk/sleep-problems-children/



Your child's well-being matters, and getting the right sleep is an important step in caring for it.

As always, I end my newsletter by reminding you that if you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to catch me at the school gate.
Fingers crossed the good weather stays and we can enjoy our Easter break. We will look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 22nd April.

From everyone at Marldon, have a relaxing Easter holiday.

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

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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