Marldon C of E Primary School

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

Dates for the diary:

Tuesday 7th July:
Venus clas trip to Orchard Forest School at Lupton House.

Friday 10th July:
Year 2 Camp

Monday 13th July:
Venus class visit to Paignton Fire Station

Tuesday 14th July
Year 4 Afternoon Tea

Wednesday 15th July
Year 5 & 6 Performance

Thursday 16th July
School Disco

Monday 20th July
Year 6 to Skern Lodge

Thursday 23rd July
Year 6 Leavers' Service
Last Day of Term

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As we head into the final few weeks of the school year, I would like to thank all of our families for their continued support, particularly during the recent spell of very hot weather. Your understanding and help in ensuring children came to school prepared for the heat, with water bottles, hats and sun cream, was greatly appreciated.
We now have an exciting few weeks ahead, with lots of special events, celebrations and opportunities for the children to enjoy before the summer holidays. We look forward to sharing these memorable moments with you and finishing another successful school year on a high.

Sports day:

What a fantastic Sports Day we had! Foundation and Key Stage 1 got the day off to a brilliant start with a fun-filled morning of races and activities, before Key Stage 2 took to the field for an exciting afternoon of competition.
It was wonderful to see so much teamwork, determination and excellent sportsmanship from all of our pupils. The encouragement and support shown by the children for one another truly reflected our school values.
A huge thank you to all the parents, carers and family members who came along to cheer the children on. Your support helped make the day such a special occasion.
After all the points had been counted, we are delighted to announce that Rose House were our overall Sports Day champions. Congratulations to everyone in Rose House!
Well done to all of our pupils for taking part and giving their very best, and thank you to everyone who helped make the day such a success.

Trips, Visits and Enrichment:

One of the highlights of this half term has been the fantastic range of trips, visits and enrichment opportunities our children have enjoyed. These experiences help bring learning to life and create lasting memories beyond the classroom.

Our Year 1 children had a wonderful day at Lupton Forest School, where they explored the outdoors, developed new skills and enjoyed learning in a natural environment.

Year 5 stepped back in time during an exciting World War II workshop, complete with a special visit from Winston Churchill! The children immersed themselves in history, gaining a deeper understanding of life during the war through engaging, hands-on activities.

Some of our adventurous Year 6 pupils had the opportunity to experience scuba diving at Kingsteignton Swimming Pool. It was an unforgettable experience that challenged them to try something completely new while building confidence and resilience.

Groups of Year 5 pupils had the opportunity to visit River Dart Country Park, where they experienced kayaking and canoeing with CRS Adventures. It was a fantastic opportunity to develop teamwork, resilience and confidence while enjoying the outdoors.

Meanwhile, Years 3 and 4 visited South Devon College for an inspiring STEM Day, taking part in a range of exciting science, technology, engineering and mathematics activities that encouraged curiosity, creativity and problem-solving.

We are also incredibly proud of our Year 6 children, who have been wonderful ambassadors for our school by visiting local nurseries and pre-schools. They have supported younger children with reading and helped at sports days, showing kindness, responsibility and excellent leadership throughout.
A huge thank you to all the staff and volunteers who have made these opportunities possible. These experiences enrich our curriculum and give our children the confidence to learn, explore and grow in so many different ways.

Reports and Drop in:

Following the distribution of your child's school report last week, we would like to remind parents and carers that our Parent Drop-In will take place on Monday 6th July, 3:30–4:30pm. This is an opportunity to look through your child's work, celebrate their progress and have an informal catch-up with their class teacher. Please note that Year 5 parents will have their drop-in session on Tuesday 7th July, also from 3:30–4:30pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Online Safety:

With most children today having their own phones, computers and other devices, it's vitally important that parents and educators know how to keep young people protected while using them. Between targeted adverts, age-inappropriate content, and other online safety concerns, it can sometimes feel overwhelming to keep on top of.

Parental controls, present on most devices and several apps, can make this job significantly easier – but a certain amount of knowledge is required to use them effectively. This online safety guide will provide you with the information you need to activate and maintain parental controls on children and young people's devices.

Please see the attached guide for ore information.

A message from Mrs Alix Harding, our Federation wellbeing lead:

As the summer holidays approach, many families look forward to spending more time together and taking a break from busy routines. Action for Happiness is a wonderful wellbeing charity that promotes kindness, compassion, and positive wellbeing habits that can benefit both children and adults.

Their free Jump Back Up July calendar offers simple daily activities designed to boost resilience, encourage positive thinking, and strengthen family connections. By taking part in these small, meaningful actions, families can support their mental health and wellbeing together, while making the most of the summer holidays. Useful links:

Action for Happiness:
https://actionforhappiness.org/ Jump Back Up July Calendar:

Wishing all our families a happy, restful, and wellbeing-focused summer break!

As always, I would like to end my newsletter by reminding you my door is always open. If you have any questions or worries please catch me at the gate, call the office or email the school.

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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

USING AND REVIEWING PARENTAL CONTROLS

Phones and computers are essential parts of children's lives, but with unfettered internet access comes a multitude of risks. While not foolproof, parental controls can help with this; filtering out inappropriate content, limiting the ability to spend real money, capping screen time and generally making devices safer for young people.

1 KNOW THE TYPES

While parental control software can apply to an entire device, it also pays to know about options on individual apps and websites. TikTok, for example, has Restricted Mode for limiting unsuitable videos, while Snapchat lets you keep an eye on who a child has been talking to. Check the settings of any new app young users want and review your options.

2 COVER ALL DEVICES

Knowing what parental controls cover is crucial, as remaining unaware can run the risk of 'blind spots' in the device's safety measures. Controls on a phone will apply whenever a child's on that device, for instance – but you'll want to ensure that parental controls are set up across any laptops, tablets and potentially other phones, too. Remember, buying a new device may require you to set everything up again.

3 DON'T NEGLECT SHARED TECH

While children often have their own devices, if you have a shared family computer or tablet, for example, you'll need to make sure that's not a weak point in your safety measures. Parental controls for your router, that cover everything connected to your Wi-Fi, are one option – or you can just be thorough with each device and online account. Just ensure that unprotected laptops, phones and tablets are password locked.

4 CONSIDER TIME CONTROLS

Even safe internet content can be harmful if it's viewed in excess. Not only are certain apps addictive enough to distract from other duties, but late-night usage can badly disrupt sleep, which is vital for adolescent brain development. Most parental controls offer some kind of time limit – either blocking access at certain hours or capping the number of minutes it can be used per day – so be sure to consider these.

5 BLOCK APP SPENDING

Seemingly free apps can sometimes include microtransactions: purchases that can be made using real money. While plenty of developers implement these fairly, some companies attempt to manipulate children into paying for additional features or content, which can soon add up to hundreds of pounds if a child gets carried away. Thankfully, iOS and Android's settings allow you to block in-app purchases, preventing any huge bills.

6 NO CONTROLS ARE PERFECT

Parental controls can be very useful, but they're far from infallible. Some unpleasant content can and unfortunately *will* slip through the net, so remember that setting up these measures isn't a substitute for taking an active interest in young people's digital lives. Talk to them, and make sure they're aware of the risks of the internet as well as its benefits.

7 MIND THE GAPS

There'll undoubtedly be *some* gaps in parental controls, no matter how thorough you intend to be. For example, if you use router-level parental controls, bear in mind that these won't cover WiFi outside the home. For that reason, it's important to keep an open dialogue with children about the many unpalatable aspects of social media and the web.

8 KEEP THINGS SECURE

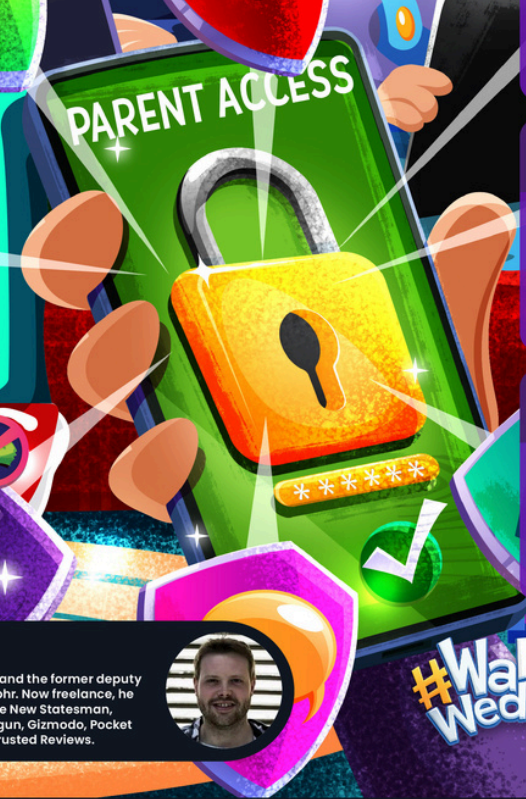
Some children can react poorly to parental controls and feel tempted to circumvent them. It's important to ensure that the passwords to these settings remain unknown to children, otherwise they can easily modify the restrictions without you knowing. Similarly, make sure your phone isn't left unlocked and unattended.

9 REVIEW CONTROLS REGULARLY

Parental controls shouldn't be a 'set and forget' deal. Not only can parental summaries provide you with a frequent overview of a child's digital life – to let you spot any warning signs – but companies often add new features, and some of these may be useful to enable (or disable). Regularly checking in ensures that if a child *has* found a way to wiggle out of the controls, you'll be the first to know.

10 KNOW WHEN TO LET UP

The parental controls you install on a computer for a seven-year-old probably wouldn't be appropriate for a child of 16 – and as young people approach adulthood, bubble wrapping the internet can do more harm than good. Consider relaxing parental controls as children get older, so they can learn to manage the risks of the internet themselves, without so many training wheels.



Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist and the former deputy editor of technology and internet culture website Alphr. Now freelance, he has contributed articles to publications including the New Statesman, CNET, the Evening Standard, Wired, Rock Paper Shotgun, Gizmodo, Pocket Gamer, Stuff, T3, PC Pro, Macworld, TechRadar and Trusted Reviews.

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ARTICLE 28 - Every child has the right to an education