

Newsletter February 2022

Next week we will be focusing on e-safety and talking more about the messages we hear from Buddy in the NSPCC 'Speak out Stay Safe' assembly on Monday.

We know children are excited about spending time online and many children are incredibly competent when using devices. There are many benefits to technology for young children including development of fine motor skills, developing hand to eye co-ordination as well as plenty of fun games that reinforce literacy and maths concepts.

However it can also be difficult to know how to keep children safe online, the advice below comes from thinkuknow and the full article can be found here:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/keeping-your-under-five-safe-online/>

What can I do to support my under 5?

There are lots of things you can do to support your under 5. This is not a complete list, but a range of strategies you can use to improve your child's online experience:

- 1. Explore together:** Explore your child's favourite apps and websites with them. This can be a fantastic way to find out what your child enjoys doing online, as well as having fun and learning together.
- 2. Talk to your child about their online experiences:** Start and continue regular conversations with your under 5 about what they enjoy doing online, introducing online safety messages. These conversations can be a great way to reinforce the message that if your child sees anything online which makes them feel worried, they can tell you or another adult they trust.
- 3. Supervise your under 5 while they're online:** Keep the devices your child uses in communal areas of the house such as in the living room or kitchen where an adult can supervise. Children under 5 **should not** access the internet unsupervised in private spaces, such as alone in their bedroom or bathroom.
- 4. Parental controls:** Make use of the parental controls available on your home broadband and any internet enabled device in your home. You can find out more about how to use parental controls by visiting your broadband provider's website, or by viewing advice/step-by-step guides available on the *internet matters site*.
- 5. SafeSearch:** The use of 'SafeSearch' is recommended for use with young children. Most web search engines will have a 'SafeSearch' function, which allows you to limit the material your child can see when they're online. Look out for the 'Settings' button on your web browser homepage, which is often shaped like a small cog. It is important to understand that no 'SafeSearch' function is 100% effective, and this cannot be used alone to protect your child from being exposed to age inappropriate material.

Psalm 119 (105) "Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path."

6. Set boundaries: As a family you can agree a set of rules, such as locations in the house where devices can be used, times of day your child can use devices, or which age appropriate apps or websites they can access. On devices you do not wish your under 5 to access, use passwords and keep these out of reach of your child.

7. Lead by example: Modelling the digital habits you expect from your child (for example, no tablets during meal-times) can be an effective way of supporting young children to develop their own positive digital behaviours from an early age.

World book day

World book day this year is **Thursday 3rd March**. The theme this year is 'you are a reader'. We invite all children to come to school that day dressed as their favourite character from something they enjoy reading, this could be a comic or a non-fiction book as well as characters from stories. Please also bring the book or comic as well and we will share as many as possible during the day.

Parent consultations:

Staff are looking forward to meeting with you in March to discuss your child's progress. As in the autumn term we will offer a mix of both face to face and zoom meetings. Sign-up sheets will be available from 7th March

Pre-School: Wed 16th March
 Reception: Mon 14th March
 Year 1: Mon 14th March
 Year 2: Wed 16th March



Each half term Coach Ben and Coach Katie award certificates for both the star performer and the most improved player. Last half term the focus was hockey and the awards go to:

Most improved
 Mati- Yr2
 Pippa- Yr2
 Sonny-Yr1
 Louisa Yr1
 Alex Yr R
 Bella Yr R

Star Performer
 Prim-Yr2
 Henry Yr2
 Sienna Yr1
 Dom-Yr1
 Emilia-Yr R
 Arlo-Yr R

Value: Perseverance

This week our worship team led us in collective worship encouraging us to think about the value of perseverance. They told us the story of the 'Little Red Hen'. They did some fantastic acting complete with voices to help us understand the story, they then invited us to join them in some prayers. Well done worship team we are very proud of you.

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A reminder that our you can explore this value at home using the attached link [Values at home-Perseverance](#)

Vision: Reach out

Last Friday our school council undertook their first ever litter pick in the local area. They were surprised by how much they found in just the Coombs and surrounding area. They are asking all families to please be careful not to drop any litter at the start and end of the day.



Vacancies

We still have two open vacancies details can be found below or on our website:

Maternity cover teaching assistant role

<https://www.eteach.com/job/teaching-assistant-1202798>

1:1 support assistant

<https://www.eteach.com/job/ks1-learning-support-assistant-1204197?lang=en-GB&frmsrh=Y>

Dates for your diary:

9th February PTFA Cinema event

14th-18th February Half term

21st February INSET day-school closed to all children

Week of 14th March parental consultations (for details see above)

3rd March World Book Day

17th March Bubbles and balloons workshop

23rd March-28th Book fair

24th March Full Governing Body meeting

1st April 1.15pm End of term