

Send Church of England Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Marianne McDonnell



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SPRING TERM

DATE: 22ND MARCH 2024

A NOTE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Families,

Music, Sports and Prayer have been key themes in school this week. We were treated to a lively concert by our RockSteady band members this week with a medley of hits including the ever popular 'Shake it off'. The talent on display was amazing - some definite pop stars of the future! There was also some wonderful singing and performing during our Y1 assembly this morning when Willow and Elder Classes shared their learning about The Great Fire of London with us.

On Wednesday, Year 4 led a Lenten Service at St Mary's Church, Send and they were joined by our Y5 classes. Our Y4s led us in a prayerful reflection on the stories and themes of scripture throughout Lent. Thank you to all the parents and family members who joined us for these occasions, it is lovely to welcome you to share time with the children in this way.

There have been lots of sporting activities happening in and outside of school over this and last week. Please see below for all the team news! Thank you to the staff who give up their time to organise and supervise children at these events and the parents who support us with attending also.

This is the last weekend for parents to share their ideas about homework in our [survey](#). Please do take a moment to complete this if you haven't already. Term dates for next academic year (September 2024 to July 2025) were sent out this week, but please see below for a reminder.

Finally, don't miss the PTFA 'Tigers at Teatime' event which promises to be great fun. The PTFA give such valuable support to our school, for which we are very thankful. Please do support them if you can.

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,

Mrs Marianne McDonnell

Headteacher

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES:

Monday 15th April - INSET Day, School closed for children ****This is a new date****

Tuesday 16th April - Children return to school

Thursday 18th April - Y3 & Y4 XC at Boxgrove, hosted by Boxgrove @ 4pm

Saturday 20th April - Y5 & Y6 Tormead Netball Tournament 8.30am -11am

Tuesday 23rd April - Y5 Football Tournament @3.45pm -5.30pm

Friday 14th June - NO INSET DAY but school closes at **1.15pm** for teacher conferencing

****Change of time****

THIS WEEK'S AWARDS:

Star of the Week:

(Awarded for effort and work in class)

N - Miles

R - Chestnut - Jonas & Freya

R Conker - James & Sophia

Y1 Elder- Rosie & Zac

Y1 Willow - Toby & Abbie

Y2 Birch-

Y2 Cherry - Alfie & Frank

Y3 Fir - Ayra & Caleb

Y3 Elm - Cillian & Layla

Y4 Maple-

Y4 Cedar-

Y5 Beech- Sofia & Archie

Y5 Pine - Luca & Josh

Y6 Oak - Ella & Kai

Y6 Sycamore - Betsy & Oli

Values Champion:

(Given to children for demonstrating our school values)

R Chestnut - Mira

R Conker- Chester

Y1 Elder - Cody

Y1 Willow - Asher

Y2 Birch - Robert

Y2 Cherry - Cara

Y3 Fir - Harriet

Y3 Elm - Whitney

Y4 Maple -

Y4 Cedar -

Y5 Beech - Fearne

Y5 Pine - Indira

Y6 Oak - Alicia

Y6 Sycamore - Cyrus

Email: info@sendcofe.co.uk

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TERM DATES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2024/2025

Autumn Term 2024

| | |
|---|--|
| 02.09.24 | INSET DAY - school closed for children |
| 03.09.24 | INSET DAY - school closed for children |
| 04.09.24 | Children in Y1-6 return to school / Stay & Play sessions for new entrants to Year Reception (Please see website for settling in arrangements for our new Reception and Nursery children) |
| 28.10.24 to 01.11.24 OCTOBER HALF TERM HOLIDAY | |
| 20.12.24 | School closes for the end of term at 1.15 pm |

Spring Term 2025

| | |
|--|--|
| 06.01.25 | INSET DAY - school closed for children |
| 07.01.25 | All children return to school |
| 17.2.25 to 21.2.25 - FEBRUARY HALF TERM HOLIDAY | |
| 04.04.25 | School closes for the end of term at 1.15 pm |

Summer Term 2025 (there is one additional INSET Day in this term tbc)

| | |
|---|---|
| 22.04.25 | INSET DAY - school closed for children |
| 23.04.25 | All children return to school |
| 05.05.25 | May Bank Holiday - school closed for children |
| 26.05.25 to 30.05.25 - MAY HALF TERM HOLIDAY | |
| 22.07.25 - | School closes for the end of school year at 1.15 pm |



Tigers at Teatime!

On **Thursday 25th April from 4:30–6:00pm** children in nursery – year 2 are invited to be just like Sophie and come out in their pyjamas and with their teddies for tea.

The children will enjoy a grr-ific story, crafts and games whilst enjoying a warming cup of hot chocolate and a cake.



Tickets are **£5** and can be purchased until Friday 19th April by clicking the link below.



<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/sendprimary/>

SEND'S GOT TALENT

There has been lots of talent this week, including our Science Crew and Netball and Football teams as well as activities out of school. However as our normal celebration assembly was replaced with Y4s marvellous class assembly we will celebrate these next week.

Y5 & 6 Science Team at Hoe Bridge School



Children in Y5&6 were invited to Hoe Bridge school to take part in a Science workshop with other local schools. *"We made paper helicopters and dropped them from a ladder. We made a diagram of the helicopter and labelled it. We came 4th out of 17 schools!. We got cookies as a treat and it was really fun."* Joey

Well done to our two teams:

Y6 Team - **Joey, Rocco, Riley, Isla, Lorelei, Maddie,**

Y5 Team - **Fraser, Frankie, Billy, Helena, Evie, Florence**

Y5 Netball Team



Our Year 5 netball team did brilliantly at a tournament hosted by George Abbott coming home with a 3rd place medals! Well done to **Evie W, Frankie, Evie F, Isla W, Isla R, Josh, Amelie and Mary!**

Y6 Football Team



Rain didn't stop play for our Y6 Football team in their local schools tournament. They played with energy and commitment in all their games. Well done to **Orin, Ava, Lorelei, Tyler, Earta, Olivia, Alicia, William, Cyrus and Riley.**

Y3 & 4 Tag Rugby Festival



Year 3 & 4 enjoyed learning some new rugby skills with the Old Guildfordians this week before playing some friendly games with other schools. Well done **Rafferty, Elliot, Nathan, Cillian, Bertie, Sebastian, Matilda, Nathan Remy, Eliza, Josh Ben** for your great sportsmanship:

Cross Country



Congratulations to our Cross Country team: **Avner, Orin, Evie, Eva, Jackson, Isla and Oscar and Eve** (not photographed) who were fantastic yesterday! They ran approx 2k at Pewley Downs. Well done all.

Online Safety Update

We have been made aware of children playing and watching the game 'Poppy Playtime' at home.

Poppy Playtime (and its copycats) has been around since 2021/2022, and is a horror/puzzle game which involves the player investigating an abandoned toy factory to solve the mystery of what happened.

It is available on PC via Steam and at a cost of £3.99 however there is free related content available on other platforms such as YouTube and TikTok as well as copycat versions available through Roblox and Minecraft.

The game does not appear to have any age restrictions however the developers have recommended for players age 8+. Please be vigilant with your child's online activity.

The game is designed to appeal to young children however some of the imagery may be frightening to them and the style of gameplay could increase feelings of anxiety or stress. The game isn't gory but uses child friendly toys in frightening ways which could make young children scared of things they have previously felt comfortable with.

How can you help?

If you become aware of your children playing this game then:

- Reassure them they are safe
- Talk to them about what they have seen online and how this has made them feel
- Encourage open and on-judgemental discussions with young children about what they are seeing online to give reassurance that they can talk to you if they have seen something of concern.

If you have any concerns about your child or need advice or support, please email

dsl@sendcofe.co.uk.

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. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEAL WITH UPSETTING CONTENT

A Guide for Parents and Carers

Raising children in the digital age seems to be getting tougher, with the world currently experiencing so many uncertainties. From the continuing impact of COVID-19 to the war in Ukraine, right now children across the globe can scarcely go online without being exposed to unsettling stories, images and ideas. Reassuring a concerned child can be difficult, especially when bad news feels omnipresent. We've put together some advice to help you in discussing upsetting events with young ones.

- FIND OUT WHAT YOUR CHILD KNOWS**
There are many ways that children are exposed to upsetting content in the media, both online and offline. Before swamping your child with information, find out what they know already. Show them you're interested in what they have to say, practice active listening and try to gauge how much your child has been impacted by what they have seen.
- RIGHT TIME, RIGHT PLACE**
Starting a conversation about upsetting content probably isn't the best idea when your child is studying for an exam or about to go to bed. Choose a time when they're relaxed and open to talking, to make sure you have their full attention. Remember, these conversations can become emotional, so choose somewhere your child feels safe and comfortable.
- KEEP IT AGE APPROPRIATE**
With younger children, try and keep the conversation more general and avoid leading questions and complex detail. You can go slightly deeper into the specifics with young teenagers but keep monitoring their emotional response. With older teens, you can be more open about the realities and consequences of what is happening – but again, do stay aware of their emotional state.
- EMPHASISE HOPE**
Upsetting content can make us feel angry, scared. Upsetting content can make anyone feel angry, scared, sad or overwhelmed. Try to find stories of hope, generosity and strength related to the content you're discussing. Children often feel reassured when they know they can do something to help, so encourage your child's sense of control through activities which make them feel they're positively impacting the events they're concerned about.
- MONITOR REACTIONS**
All children react differently, of course, and young people might not directly say that they're scared, angry, anxious, confused or uncomfortable. Emotional reactions are natural when discussing upsetting topics, so take note of your child's body language and reactions. Allow them to express their feelings in a non-judgmental space and try to stay mindful of how they might be feeling.
- CONSIDER YOUR EMOTIONS**
It's not only young people who find upsetting news difficult to process: adults also have to deal with strong emotions in moments of stress. Children develop coping strategies by mirroring those around them, so staying on top of how you appear to be regulating your emotion on the outside is important for supporting your child through worrying times.
- SET LIMITS**
Managing screentime and content can be difficult at the best of times, but especially in unusual or stressful periods (at the start of the pandemic, for example). It's virtually impossible to keep children away from upsetting content completely, but it's important to try and at least limit exposure by using parental controls, talking about the dangers of harmful content and enforcing screentime limits.
- TAKE THINGS SLOWLY**
Try not to overwhelm your child with information all at once; instead, take the discussion one step at a time. You could make the first conversation a simple introduction to a potentially upsetting subject and then wait until your child is ready to talk again. Opening the door to the conversation and demonstrating that your child can talk to you about this type of issue is a vital first step.
- ENCOURAGE QUESTIONS**
Online, troubling images, posts, videos and stories are shared across multiple platforms, many of which your child might access. Even if the content is actually inappropriate, encourage your child to discuss what they saw instead of being angry at them for seeing it. Children are still learning that not everything online is accurate – you want to be their ultimate source of information, not their device.
- FIND A BALANCE**
There's often a tremendous compulsion to stay right up to date with events. Our phones frequently send us push notifications urging us to read the latest article or view the most recent video on social media. It's essential to remind your child that it's healthy to take regular breaks, and to focus on positive events instead of doomscrolling and risking becoming overwhelmed by bad news.
- BUILD RESILIENCE**
News has never been more accessible. While our instinct may be to shield children from upsetting stories, it's important that they're equipped with the tools to manage this content when they are exposed to it. Talk about upsetting content more generally with your child and emphasise that they can always tell you or a trusted adult if something they see makes them feel uneasy.
- IDENTIFY HELP**
It's hugely important that children know where to find support if they encounter upsetting content online. Encourage them to open up to an adult that they trust, and make sure they're aware of who their trusted adults are. It is essential that children understand that they're not alone, and that help is available if and when they need it.

Meet Our Expert
Cayley Jorgensen is the director of FaceUp South Africa, which is a reporting system that is currently being used by schools and companies to fight bullying around the world. FaceUp helps give a voice to bystanders by encouraging them to speak up and get the help they not only want but need.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

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