



January 2023 Newsletter



Happy New Year! We hope that everyone has had some time to relax and recharge and that the children are excited to be back at school. January can feel like a long and sometimes challenging month following the excitement of December so we have lots planned in school to keep everyone busy. We were very pleased to see how many people have been attending our drop-in sessions and have planned some more for this term. We also have plans for some morning reading sessions, so look out for this information soon!

Mrs Lizzie Jackson

Times Table Rockstars

In the summer term, all children in Year 4 will take part in the Multiplication Tables Check, which is a statutory assessment to ensure that children have a secure recall of the times tables 2 to 12. In order to support our children with this, we subscribe to the Times Tables Rockstars programme which gives children the opportunity to practise their recall using a simple app. All children from Year 2 upwards have a log in for the app and we would strongly encourage them to practise as often as possible. It can take as little as 2 minutes to complete one of the challenges and it allows the children to collect points for their rockstar characters. Last term we held a TTRS competition and were thrilled to see how many of the children have already been practising at home



Drop-in sessions

We have loved hosting our class drop-in sessions and would like to invite you to another session this term. The theme will be different in each class but there will be lots of opportunities to get involved with different activities. We look forward to seeing you!

Reception	March 28th 2pm
Year 1	March 23rd 2pm
Year 2	March 22nd 2pm
Year 3	March 15th 2pm
Year 4	March 21st 2pm



Phonics session



Mrs Hunter is hosting a phonics session for any parents in Year 1 who would like to find out more about how we teach phonics using the Read Write Inc programme and how you can help at home. There will be the opportunity to look at the resources we use and there will be some helpful handouts. This session will take place at **2pm on Thursday 26th January**.

Swimming lessons

Year 3 will start swimming lessons on Friday 13th January. All children must bring suitable swimwear (one piece swimwear for girls) and a towel in a bag as well as wear a warm coat for the journey. Parental contributions will be £4.00 per week which will cover part of the cost of the transport. The additional cost of transport and the cost of the lesson will be subsidised from the school PE budget as we recognise this is a key life skill. The payment and parental consent are now set up on Eduspot.

PE

A reminder that on PE days children are encouraged to come to school in their PE kits. This should consist of their school t-shirt and jumper, dark (black/grey/navy) joggers/shorts and suitable footwear. Earrings should not be worn on PE days.



Reception	Thursday and Friday
Year 1	Thursday and Friday
Year 2	Tuesday and Friday
Year 3	Tuesday and Friday (swimming)
Year 4	Tuesday and Friday

Year 4 Residential

Please can you ensure that all payments for the forthcoming residential trip are paid through Eduspot. The payment dates are requested by the company and are not determined by school. If you have any difficulties in paying by the specified dates, please get in touch with us as soon as possible.

Contact details

Please can you ensure that if you change your contact number, work number, address or want to change your list of people on the contact list, that you let school know as soon as possible. If we need to get in contact with you for any reason, it is important that these details are up to date.



If we are unable to make contact with the first person on the contact list, then we will work our way through the other names and numbers. Therefore, if you would like to add or remove someone from this list, please let us know. Likewise, if your email address has changed or you find that you are not getting emails from school, please contact the office and we will sort this for you.

Special Dinner Day – Thursday 19th January

Our children love our “Special Dinner” days and this term we are offering our ever popular “Italian Extravaganza” dinner on Thursday 19th January at the cost of £2.20. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to universal free school meals, therefore don’t need to pay (but parents have to email the office if usually having packaged lunches). To book, please email the office and top up your child’s Eduspot account with correct funds.

[If your child normally has a school lunch each day, you do not need to do anything.](#)

Italian Extravaganza Menu

Pizza wraps

Mozzarella Sticks

Potato Smiley Faces

Peppers and cucumber mix

Italian Gelato

Attendance

The overall attendance for the end of the autumn term was 91.5%. Unfortunately, this is well below our school target of 96%. We are aware that much of this absence has been due to illness and this is unavoidable. In order to help us to avoid the spread of illness we continue to encourage high levels of hygiene in school and request that children who have been sick or have a stomach bug do not return to school until 48 hours after their last bout of sickness/diarrhoea. The following advice from the NHS can be helpful when deciding whether

or not your child is too ill to come to school. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Reception 87%

Year 1 91%

Year 2 93%

Year 3 94%

Year 4 93%

Well done Year 3!

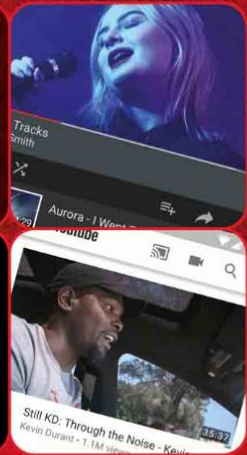


Online Safety

With many children receiving electronic gifts for Christmas, there is never a better time to discuss online safety with them. We continue to receive information about inappropriate websites and YouTube videos and we recognise what a minefield this can be. The following information may be of some use in helping to avoid the children from seeing things that are not appropriate for their age.



YouTube is a video sharing site/application that enables you to upload, view, rate, share and comment on a wide variety of videos. Consisting of a huge resource of information, advice and entertainment, YouTube now has 1.9 billion logged-in monthly users who watch a billion hours of video daily. Most of the content on Google-owned YouTube is uploaded by individuals, but organisations and media companies also offer some of their content via this platform.



AGE RESTRICTION
13+



What parents need to know about YouTube

SPENDING A PREMIUM
YouTube Premium (formerly YouTube Red) is a new paid streaming subscription service in the UK, offering a three-month free trial to tempt viewers into a £12-per-month plan. This includes the ability to download videos, stream videos with the app in the background, gives exclusive access to original content and a separate music streaming service and gaming app.

DANGEROUS 'CHALLENGE' & VIRAL VIDEOS
On YouTube, 'challenge videos' are shared quickly and can be very dangerous. One person may post a video of themselves doing something unusual like eating a hot chilli or jumping in a river and before you know it, the video goes viral and everyone wants to join in and share their videos. The speed in which challenge videos spread across the Internet makes it difficult to keep up with the latest ones.

SHARING VIDEOS
As well as watching videos, many children are keen to share their own videos online, emulating their YouTube heroes, such as Stampy or DanTDM. However, if they post something on YouTube, they may later regret it or feel embarrassed about what they have shared. There is also a risk that they will receive hurtful or negative comments regarding not only their content, but also their appearance. YouTube's comment section is infamous for being one of the most opinionated on the Internet.

IN-APP MESSAGING
When your child is logged into their Google account and browsing the YouTube website, they can share and talk about videos with their friends using the chat bubble. This can be found at the top right of the desktop site or through in-app messaging on their mobile or tablet. When they tap on the 'Friends' icon, they have a list of suggested people from their contacts - which can be any contact they've had on Google or somebody who has sent them an invite link.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE VIDEOS
As YouTube is the biggest video sharing website in the world, there is content available for all ages, meaning that some content will not be appropriate for your child. If you think that content is unsuitable, there is a flagging feature to submit it for review by YouTube staff, but you will need to be aware that just because video is not appropriate for a younger audience, it may not violate YouTube's policies. YouTube has mechanisms in place to automatically remove explicit and harmful content, yet offensive content may still slip through.



Top Tips for Parents



TURN ON 'RESTRICTED' MODE
'Restricted Mode' is an optional setting you can use to help screen out potentially mature content you may prefer your child not to see. Restricted Mode works on the browser or device level, so must be turned on for each browser or device your child uses. To do this, follow these steps:

Desktop:	Mobile:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Go to the bottom of any YouTube page and switch 'Restricted Mode' to 'ON'. To make it more difficult for this to be turned off, you will be given the option to lock restricted mode onto your browser. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tap the three vertical dots at the top-right on the screen and press, 'Settings'. Click on 'Restricted mode filtering'. Press 'Restrict'.

Please note that you can't 'lock' restricted mode on a phone in the same way that you can on a desktop. You will need to turn this on each time your child uses it.

CREATE A FAMILY GOOGLE ACCOUNT
By having a shared family Google account, checking the history will enable you to see exactly what your child is watching and sharing on YouTube. To see the history on a computer, on the right hand menu under the Library section, click 'History'. On mobiles, the viewing history can be found by clicking on the 'Library' tab.

BLOCKING ACCOUNTS
When using YouTube, there may be instances where your child receives negative comments. If somebody's giving your child a difficult time, here's how to block them and prevent future comments and replies:

- Go to their channel/account by clicking on their name.
- Click on 'About'.
- Tap the dropdown box with an image of a flag on it.
- Press 'Block user'.
- Tap 'Submit'.

MONITOR WHAT YOUR CHILD IS WATCHING/POSTING
The only way to truly know what your child may have been watching is to regularly monitor them. You can do this by checking their viewing history. YouTube videos can also be easily downloaded, so it is important that your child understands the associated dangers of content they are uploading and that it could harm their online reputation in the future. Show them how to set their videos to private or choose a small network of YouTubers to share with. To get started, your child can use YouTube Studio which offers learning modules on creating a YouTube channel, however, you should encourage them not to use their real name.

NEW FEATURES
DIGITAL WELLBEING
YouTube has launched a tool called 'Time Watched' that allows you to see how long has been spent on the platform. Once you have discovered how much time has been spent on the app, there is the option to set a time limit. Once the limit is reached, a reminder will pop up on the screen. You can also disable sounds and vibrations to help resist the urge to check for notifications.

OPT FOR A FAMILY PREMIUM PLAN
A YouTube family Premium plan may be a cost-effective option if you have more than one child. For £17.99 a month, it allows you to share a YouTube paid membership with up to five other family members - aged 13 and older - living in the same household. As the account holder, or family manager, you must create a Google family account.

MANAGING IN-APP MESSAGES
If your child is accessing YouTube via your account, bear in mind that they may be contacted by Google contacts who are complete strangers to them. You can remove someone from the suggested contacts list by pressing and holding the person's name and tapping on the red 'x'.

POPULAR YOUTUBE GAMERS
There are hundreds of YouTube accounts which show other people playing and commenting on games. These are called 'Let's Play' videos. While YouTube can be a great resource for hints, tips and news for games, it is a good idea for parents to keep a close eye on what YouTube gamers are posting. Often, the games they are playing will contain strong language and violence. A few examples of popular YouTube gamers for you to have a look at are:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stampy Yogscast Lewis & Simon PewDiePie EthanGamer Markiplier 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PopularMMOs Captainsparklez Jacksepticeye LtCorbis Dan TDM
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SOURCES: <https://www.thesun.co.uk/tech/6702517/youtube-porn-videos-roblox-sex-games-watch-online/>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x-fnrtP96M>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L2xuy7hc-hc>, <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5126833/Terrifying-truth-child-watches-YouTube.html>, <https://www.todaysparent.com/family/crazy-youtube-challenges-kids-are-doing/>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4yek0Jb0sBg>, <https://tocaboca.com/magazine/common-sense-media-youtube/>, <http://familytech.com/so-your-kid-wants-to-start-their-own-youtube-channel/>, <https://www.laptopmag.com/articles/block-someone-youtube>, <https://www.youtube.com/intl/en-GB/yt/about/brand-resources/#logos-icons-colors>, <https://www.common-sense-media.org/blog/popular-youtube-gamers-kids-cant-get-enough-ofStamp>

Key Dates Spring 2023

Below is a list of key events happening in school over the next term. There may be some changes and additions as the term goes on so please keep an eye out for emails and Facebook posts. We will endeavour to give as much notice as possible of any changes to these dates or times.

January 2023

- 9th School reopens for all pupils
- 13th Swimming starts for Year 3
- 19th 'Italian Extravaganza' Special Dinner Day
- 22nd Chinese New Year
- 26th Phonics drop in session
- 31st Year 4 Clarty Commandos trip

February

- 2nd Year 4 Bikeability
- W/b 6th Parents' Evening appointments
- 13th KS1 Beach Day
- 15th KS2 Beach Day
- 17th Last day of half term
- 20th - 24th School closed for half term
- 27th School closed for teacher training day**
- 28th School reopens for all pupils

March

- 2nd World Book Day
- 15th Year 3 drop in session
- 17th Red Nose Day
- 21st Year 4 drop in session
- 22nd Year 2 drop in session
- 22nd KS2 Beach Day
- 23rd Year 1 drop in session
- 27th KS1 Beach Day
- 28th Reception drop in session
- 29th - 31st Year 4 Residential trip to Dukeshouse Wood
- 31st Last day of term

April

- 3rd - 14th School closed for Easter holidays
- 17th School reopens for all pupils