

Woodchester Endowed Church of England (VA) Primary School News

Our church school community seeks to inspire children and adults to love, learn and flourish together so we may become everything God has created us to be.

Christian Value– Truthfulness

Friday 26th April 2024

'Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many' (1 Corinthians 12; 14-16)

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are so fortunate to have wonderful grounds for our children to play and learn in but these grounds do not take care of themselves! Last weekend in the glorious spring sunshine, a group of parents dug, cut, planted and weeded whilst FOWES offered tea and biscuits for the workers. A huge thank you to all those who gave up their time on Saturday to be part of the Forest School spring tidy. We really do appreciate you giving up your time to help us. Help is always wanted so do please let us know if you can help with our garden and Forest School area.

It is not just Forest School that has been receiving some care. Mike from the Parish Council has been working with the Eco council to look at how we can increase our biodiversity and improve our school grounds for some of the wildlife that calls it home. This week, the Eco council conducted a survey of the garden ready for some further design work to be undertaken to improve how the garden is used and maintained by our pupils and the wider school community. Thank you Mike for so generously giving up your time to support the Eco council with their learning.

This week, Key Stage 2 finished their swimming lessons—more on swimming later! A huge thank you to all our staff and parent volunteers who have accompanied various swimming lessons. We could not undertake this without you.

Finally, thank you for all the decluttering of wardrobes that happened in time for Bags2School this week. FOWES have confirmed we raised £144 for school—thank you so much.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Loomes, Mrs Pennington and Peggy



A NEW ARRIVAL

A huge congratulations to Mrs Jordan and her husband on the birth of their son, Hector, who was born this week. Mother and baby are doing well, settling in to a new routine at home. We look forward to meeting him soon!



STROUD SMALL SCHOOLS SWIMMING GALA



SMALL SCHOOL SWIM GALA

FINAL STANDINGS

1ST. WOODCHESTER PRIMARY

After two sets of heats for each race, we waited with bated breath to see whether we had made any finals.

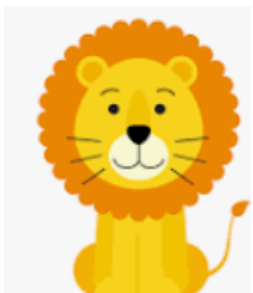
Once some quick calculations had been completed by the organisers, it was on to the finals. Points were awarded for first, second, third and fourth place. We all tried to add up the scores but lost count as the afternoon progressed. When the races finished, there was a chance to play in the pool whilst the scores were totalled. We waited anxiously and it slowly dawned on us that we had done quite well when our name was not announced until the end—Woodchester had won!

Charlie said “I didn’t realise we had won until they announced second place. It’s amazing!” The judges also commented how well Woodchester had shown teamwork whilst supporting other competitors. A huge congratulations to all of our wonderful team and thank you for representing our school so well.

Huge congratulations to Charlie, Spencer, Torsten, Ollie, Rowan, Ellis, Charlotte, Arabella, Juno, Alice, Poppy and Iris!

On Friday last week, a small team of 12 Year 5 and Year 6 swimmers set off for Stratford Park to compete against 8 other small schools in and around the Stroud area in a swimming gala. Having not been before, we were not sure what to expect but arrived to find the pool area packed with teams ready to compete! Races were based on different swimming styles—backstroke, breaststroke and front crawl—with both individual heats and relay races as well.

LION HUNT 2024 SUNDAY 30th JUNE



Back by popular demand— Lion hunt and family fun day

Come and hunt for lions hidden around Woodchester and join us for stalls, bouncy castles, and cakes in the school playground! We will need all your help to make this wonderful event possible again this year.

Do you run a small business or know of any locally who would like to sponsor us for just £47.50? if so, please let us know by emailing suggestions to fowes@woodchester.gloucs.sch.uk.

We are also looking for a couple of people to come forward and help us with a BBQ for a couple of hours on the day. So if flipping burgers is what you do best we would love to hear from you! Just drop us a line at fowes@woodchester.gloucs.sch.uk.

Y5 GIRLS CRICKET FESTIVAL

Our Year 5 girls set off to Wycliffe for a Cricket Development Day on Wednesday afternoon. They participated in lots of different activities which focused on improving their batting and fielding skills. They had to work together as a team, communicate effectively and problem solve. We were really proud of how well they worked together and how determined they were to succeed. Well done, girls!



BEING GOOD NEIGHBOURS

A Request to All Drivers

We all know that parking for parents round the school can be very difficult, particularly while the green is not available because it is so soggy. It is very important, however, to show consideration for neighbours of the school, ensuring that access to homes, driveways and the alleyway linking Berrymore to Church Road are not blocked, even “for a few minutes”. Church Road and Berrymore Road quickly fill up with cars and it may be necessary to park a little further away – on Paul’s Rise or on the Selsley Road – and walk from there.

Those of us who live near the school enjoy seeing and hearing the children and watching them grow from the nervous tiny ones, clutching parents’ hands to the more independent and confident young people who leave us at the end of Year Six. Please help us to maintain good relationships with village residents by parking considerately, whatever the weather.

Sally Bull

(Chair of Governors)





Online Safety Newsletter

April 2024

Poppy Playtime

It is important that you are aware that whilst the name and characters suggest a playful game, it is a **survival horror game with graphics that may not be suitable for your child**. It includes characters such as 'Kissy Wissy' and 'Huggy Wuggy.' Please view this game before allowing your child to play it as it may not be appropriate for them – particularly young children.

Children may be playing the game or just watching videos of it on sites such as YouTube or playing replicated versions on Roblox for example.

Further information

Safer Schools NI have produced this informative:

<https://saferschoolsni.co.uk/huggy-wuggy-online-safety-review/>

Talking to strangers online

There are many apps/websites where your child may come across strangers contacting them. Some platforms will allow you to set who can contact your child as well as switch off communication so ensure appropriate settings are explored and set up. This article from ThinkUKnow talks about how to protect your child from adult content and contact:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Concerned-about-your-child/Online-contact-and-staying-safe/>

Cyberbullying

What is cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying is bullying online and can take many forms such as sending malicious messages, leaving nasty comments, excluding somebody from a group chat, blackmailing or setting up a fake profile. Cyberbullying can

take place across many different platforms such as WhatsApp, Snapchat and on games such as Roblox and Minecraft.



What should I do if my child is being bullied online?

If your child is being bullied, then try to stay calm and let them know that it is not their fault. It is always useful to keep evidence of any online bullying and inform their school so that they are aware. Show your child how to block and/or report any users/content and review their privacy settings to limit what others can see. You may also wish to set up any parental controls that are available.

Further information

There is a vast amount of information available online about cyberbullying. The following links provide further information on types of online bullying, how to support somebody who is being bullied and who you can contact if you need any further advice or support.

- <https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/online-bullying/>
- <https://www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk/cyberbullying.html>
- <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with-life/bullying/>

Group Chats

Group Chats are available on various messaging apps, social media apps and in some games. When your child is part of these groups, they may not know all the other members and it may even include people that they have previously blocked. Your child may come across inappropriate content and bullying can take place within these groups. Talk to your child about how they speak to others online and encourage them to talk to people online with kindness, like they would if they were face-to-face. The NSPCC provide further information about group chats here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/chat-apps/>

TikTok

You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok.

TikTok is a social media platform for sharing and watching short video clips. Some of the videos may not be appropriate for your child to view and there is also the risk of strangers contacting your child. If your child is using TikTok then make sure appropriate security/privacy settings are applied.

Account set up

As always, it is important that when setting up an account, your child enters their real date of birth as accounts are tailored by age e.g., direct Messaging is disabled for accounts aged 13-15. In addition, advertisements are tailored to their age. By default, accounts for people under 16 are set to private and we would recommend keeping it as this. This means your child must approve follower requests. You can read more about the other settings available, such as switching off comments and switching on restricted mode here: <https://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy/account-privacy-settings>.

Family Pairing

This allows you to link your own account to your child's account. You can then set controls such as restricted mode. You can find out more here: <https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en/guardians-guide/>

Inappropriate content, themes and challenges on TikTok

Whilst against TikTok's guidelines, explicit and inappropriate content can be found on this platform, for example nudity/sexual content and hate speech. We often see viral challenges on social media, some of which can be dangerous. If your child is using TikTok, chat to them regularly about what they are viewing.

Trends and Influencers

We often see trends on social media, for example a latest trend found is around skin care routines, which can lead to children purchasing products that are completely unsuitable/dangerous for their skin. You can find out more here: <https://www.bark.us/blog/skin-care-tweens/>. Influencers are people who have a large following on social media who through recommendations and promotions, influence the behavior or buying habits of others. The NSPCC discuss what we need to be aware of here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/2023-05-16-the-influence-of-influencers/>

Stranger contact

Talk to your child about who is following them online and ensure that they understand that people may not be who they say they are when online. It is important that children know not to share personal information.

Blocking and Reporting

Ensure your child knows how to use the safety features available to them, including how to report comments, direct messages and another user.

Further information

- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/tiktok>

Online Challenges

Our children may not have developed the skills and ability to critically analyse all situations yet so it is important to talk to your child about hoaxes and challenges that may appear on the internet. Some challenges are fun and provide no risk, however there will be challenges that are risky/dangerous.

Just recently, a child sadly died after participating in a challenge - more information here:

<https://ineqe.com/2024/03/19/dangerous-challenge-safeguarding-risks/>

Your child may see others complete certain challenges online without being harmed and therefore may want to repeat them and not consider the potential risks to themselves. Make sure they know that they should talk to you (or another trusted adult) about what they see online, particularly if they plan to try a challenge.

We would always advise that if your child has not heard about an online challenge, then do not draw attention to it as this may lead to them searching for it out of curiosity, so just talk about challenges in a general sense.

Furthermore, reassure your child that challenges that suggest that terrible things will happen if they do not complete the tasks are not real.

The following link will provide you with further information as well as content to help you talk to your child:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/connecting-safely-online/advice-for-parents/tackling-the-hard-stuff-on-social-media-to-support-young-people/online-challenges-are-they-harmless/>

TikTok have also produced this resource to help you talk to your child about challenges and the potential risks:

<https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en-sg/online-challenges/>

Frocester Girls Cricket

Girls Dynamos Cricket for Girls aged 8-11.

For information and booking go

to ecb.co.uk/play/dynamos and choose Frocester as your Club.



- NO experience needed
- GIRLS ONLY cricket training on Monday evenings
- Professional, DBS certified female coach
- KIT SUPPLIED

For more info go to https://frocester.play-cricket.com/web_pages/youth_section or contact John Higgs on 07979 756674

DATES

02.05.24 Whole class and leavers photos

13.05.24 SATS Week Y6

15.05.24 Messy Church

16.05.24 Hawthorn/Juniper Class trips

25.05.24 End of term 3:15pm

HALF TERM

03.06.24 INSET STAFF ONLY

04.06.24 Term starts

11.06.24 Y6 Leavers at Cathedral (children and staff only)

19.06.24 Messy Church

20.06.24 Sports Day

08.07.24 Y6 Performance

09.07.24 Y6 Performance

19.07.24 End of term



FROCESTER YOUTH CRICKET 2024

Our established Youth section provides high level coaching and competitive cricket for boys and girls aged 5-15. As well as our own youth cricket, we provide these ECB programmes

All Stars Cricket for Boys and Girls aged 5-8 who are beginners. For information and booking go to ecb.co.uk/play/all-stars and choose Frocester as your Club.

Girls Dynamos Cricket for Girls aged 8-11.

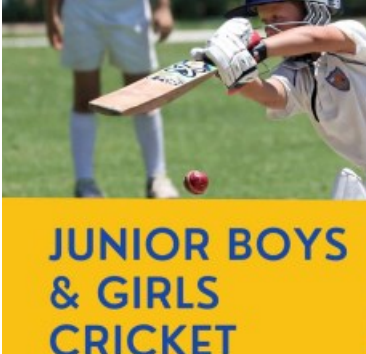
For information and booking go

to ecb.co.uk/play/dynamos and choose Frocester as your Club.

For more information about any of our activities, go to https://frocester.play-cricket.com/web_pages/youth_section or contact our Youth Chair, John Higgs, on 07979 756674.

We look forward to hearing from you!





Quedgeley and Hardwicke Cricket Club

JUNIOR BOYS & GIRLS CRICKET

COME & TRY CRICKET

COME AND PLAY CRICKET AT QUEDGELEY AND HARDWICKE CRICKET CLUB THIS SUMMER!

- Suitable for both new starters and experienced players
- Recruiting for age groups from U9 to U16
- Both soft ball and hard ball cricket available
- Dedicated girls only teams
- A fun and sociable environment

Training starts on Monday 22 April 6-7 pm at:

Kingsway Playing Fields
Newhaven Road
Gloucester
GL2 2SN

If you are interested in joining or would just like to find out more, please contact:

Paul Maggs
07866 506305
QHCRIKETCLUB@GMAIL.COM