

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 10th May 2024

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wow—what a sunny end to the week. It has been so lovely for the children to play on the school field at lunchtimes and breaktimes over the last few days. We have had running races, impromptu gymnastics competitions and lots of daisy chains as the children make the most of our wonderful spaces.



As the weather warms up, we are starting to accumulate a large pile of unclaimed, unnamed jumpers and coats which have been abandoned by their owners. We do appreciate all those who take time to name their child's belongings. Whilst this can feel like a never-ending chore, it really does help us to reunite lost items to their rightful owners.

Next week, our Year 6 children sit a range of statutory standard assessments (SATs), including Grammar, Punctuation, Spelling, Reading and Maths. The children have worked incredibly hard throughout the school year to prepare for these assessments and we wish them the very best of luck. We know that they will remain good spirited, resolute and focused, determined to do their best.

Mental Health Awareness Week takes place from 13th until 19th May. In order to support this very important cause, we would like to invite the children to 'Wear it Green' on Friday 17th May. There will be a number of exciting activities for the children to take part in, allowing them to consider their own mental health in a child-appropriate way. More information can be found here—<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/get-involved/fundraising/do-your-own-fundraising/wear-it-green-day>

Have a very lovely weekend,

Mrs Loomes, Mrs Pennington and Peggy



PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE UPDATE

Governors would like to thank all those who submitted a questionnaire feedback form. These have all been analysed and shared with the Curriculum, Standards and Communication Committee. All governors will discuss the outcome of the questionnaire during the next Full Governing Body meeting, however, will not take place until June and as this is still some time away they have asked for it to be made available on the school website:

https://www.woodchesterprimary.co.uk/parents/parent_questionnaire/parent_questionnaire.html

Messy Church Wednesday 15th May 3.20pm- 4.45pm



We are really looking forward to our next Messy Church which will be on **Wednesday 15th May** from 3.20pm. Our theme is **Pentecost** and, to celebrate that, we have pyrography (burning a design into wood) for older youngsters and lots of other crafts including making spinners, flying paper flames, straw blowing paint pictures and lots more. We have a super Lego DVD explaining the story of Pentecost and of course lots of yummy refreshments for everyone.

If the weather is fine, we hope to have some crafts outdoors and finish our session with parachute games. We will have a very large parachute for older children and two smaller parachutes for the younger ones.

Please join us if you can. We will meet in church, as usual, at 3.20, it doesn't matter if you are late and there is no need to book. **Please note, all young people need to be accompanied by an adult.**

Liz Hale and Messy Church Team

BEING A CHURCH SCHOOL.

Woodchester Endowed CofE Primary School is proud to be a Church school. As a Church school, we have a long history of supporting the education of young people in the village and really benefit from close links with our Church, St.Mary's of North Woodchester.



Church schools are also subject to an additional inspection regime—SIAMS. The Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) is the Church of England and Methodist Church's outworking of the requirements of section 48 of the Education Act 2005. It is a key element of the life of all Church of England and Methodist schools in England. SIAMS explores ways in which each school's theologically rooted Christian vision drives its work and enables the school to live up to its foundation as a Church school.

Our Christian vision is rooted in the desire to nurture the whole community, flourishing both now and in the future. The vision is theologically rooted in Paul's letter to the Corinthians. As he writes, he reminds the community that everyone is important with their own individual strengths and talents and when everyone works together so much more can be achieved.

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

Over the next few months, we as a school community, will be working on the vision and values in preparation for SIAMS. We will be gathering views from the children, staff, parents, carers and the wider village community.

More information to follow!

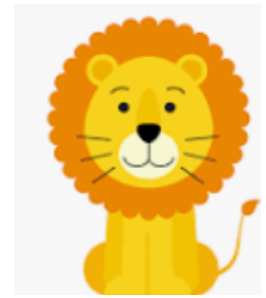
LION HUNT 2024 SUNDAY 30th JUNE

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.



DATES

13.05.24 SATS Week Y6
15.05.24 Messy Church
16.05.24 Hawthorn/Juniper Class trips
17.05.24 Wear it Green day
20.05.24 Experience Pentecost week begins
25.05.24 End of term 3:15pm

HALF TERM

03.06.24 INSET STAFF ONLY
04.06.24 Term starts
07.06.24 Beech Class trip
11.06.24 Y6 Leavers at Cathedral (children and staff only)
19.06.24 Messy Church
20.06.24 Sports Day & Family Picnic Lunch
26.06.24 New Reception Parents' Meeting 6pm
27.06.24 New Reception Taster Morning
05.07.24 New Reception Taster Morning & Meet My New Class sessions
08.07.24 Y6 Performance
09.07.24 Y6 Performance
14.07.24 Musical Tea Afternoon
19.07.24 End of term





Online Safety Newsletter

May 2024

Smartphone Free Childhood

Smartphone Free Childhood is a parent-led movement whose mission is to protect children from the dangers of using smartphones too young.

The premise behind this movement is that all parents/carers of a class all agree not to give their children smartphones (therefore the level of peer pressure is reduced) for a set time or until a specific age. Are you ready to join? Find out more here: <https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk>

You may feel your child does need a phone, particularly if they are walking home by themselves but there are alternatives to the smartphone, including a watch, which are listed here: <https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/alternatives>

If your child already has a smartphone then Internet Matters have a section on their website with advice on smartphone safety: <https://www.internetmatters.org/set-up-safe/>



Is being online affecting our child's mental health?

There are many positives to being online, but we do need to be aware of the negative aspects including those that may impact our child's mental health and wellbeing, for example:

- **Social media** (spending too much time on social media, comparing ourselves to others, filtered images and desire to achieve likes).
- **Cyberbullying**
- **Seeing inappropriate content**
- **Constantly connected/information overload**
- **Excessive screen time**
- **Negative impact on our sleep**



Further information

- Childnet discusses digital wellbeing in more detail and includes top tips and conversation starters: <https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/digital-wellbeing/>
- The NSPCC provides further information about mental health including signs to look out for and how to get further support: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/childrens-mental-health/depression-anxiety-mental-health/>

WhatsApp Group warning

Whilst WhatsApp has an age rating of 13+ (recently lowered from 16), a BBC investigation has found that children as young as nine have been added to WhatsApp groups and seen inappropriate content. If your child is using WhatsApp, check their group settings as by default, group privacy settings are set to 'everyone,' which means anybody can add your child to a group without their approval. You can change this setting to 'My Contacts' so only contacts can add them to groups without their approval and if somebody who is not a contact wants to add them to a group then they will need to send them an invite.

You should talk to your child about the risks of joining groups and show them how to use the reporting/blocking tools. You can find out more about the BBC investigation here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy0l4z8n1p9o>

Digital Addiction

Are you worried that your child is addicted to being online/on their device? Recent research from Ofcom reported that "34% of parents of children aged 3-4 said it was hard to control it, rising to half (49%) of parents of children aged 16-17."* Bark have produced a blog which discusses what addiction is, how to recognise the signs and examples of what digital addiction can look like. You can find the blog here:
<https://www.bark.us/blog/digital-addictions/>

[*source:
<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/research-and-data/media-literacy-research/childrens/children-and-parents-media-use-and-attitudes-report-2024> accessed 24.4.24]



Misinformation online

There is a lot of information online that is incorrect/fake or misleading and it can sometimes be difficult for adults to distinguish between what is true and what is fake, never mind for younger people. We need to develop digital literacy skills in our children by encouraging them to think critically about what they read online and to fact check. Both the BBC and Channel 4 have fact checking areas on their websites:

- https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/reality_check
- <https://www.channel4.com/news/factcheck/>

One way to start the conversation would be to play a game such as 'Can you spot the signs of fake news?' from the BBC:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zwfm8hv>

Further information

- <https://saferinternet.org.uk/online-issue/misinformation>



Online Gaming Safety Tips: For parents/carers of neurodivergent young people

Internet Matters have published guidance outlining the benefits and risks of online gaming and how you can support your neurodivergent child. You can read the guide here:
<https://www.flipsnack.com/internetmattersorg/guidance-for-parents-of-neurodivergent-gamers-internet-matters/full-view.html>

Encountering violent online content starts at primary school.

New research commissioned by Ofcom reported that "all children who took part in the research came across violent content online, mostly via social media, video-sharing and messaging sites and apps. Many tell us this is before they have reached the minimum age requirement to use these services."

You can read more about Ofcom's findings here:
<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/news-centre/2024/encountering-violent-online-content-starts-at-primary-school>

Talking about online toxicity

Vodafone have published an article highlighting research which shows that "69% of preadolescent boys have encountered misogynistic content online". This article discusses how to approach this issue with your child and what to do if they start repeating negative views seen online.
<https://www.vodafone.co.uk/newscentre/smart-living/digital-parenting/how-to-talk-to-your-teenage-sons-about-online-toxicity/>

