

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— Courage

Friday 28th June 2024

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we hurtle towards the end of the school year, our school continues to be a hive of activity. If you were to walk down the corridors, you would hear the hum of learning and songs from different classrooms as Beech class and KS2 prepare for their times to shine. We are looking forward to hearing the fruits of their labours in the last two weeks of term.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all of those who supported our wonderful Sports Day last week. We were incredibly lucky with the weather yet again this year. The sun shone on our children as they enjoyed a round robin set of activities before finishing with the traditional sports day races. It was so lovely to see them all cheering on their fellow team members as they putted, shot netballs, dribbled with hockey balls and passed things over and under. We would also like to say a huge thank you to FOWES for providing the children and staff with a cooling ice lolly. It was very much appreciated. Finally, thank you to all of the staff and volunteers who helped to set up and organise the events—we could not do it without you.

As we move into these last weeks of term, we would just like to remind you that British Summer weather can be rather changeable. Please continue to send your children in with suncream, a sunhat and a waterproof coat. Fingers crossed that it stays dry for the Lion Hunt on Sunday!

Kind regards,

Mrs Loomes, Mrs Pennington and Peggy

LOVE, LEARN AND FLOURISH TOGETHER

We are incredibly lucky to have such a wonderful set of supportive Governors at our school who go above and beyond their roles as Governors by doing many things including baking cakes, gardening, helping with costumes and supporting the very popular Messy Church. Imagine our surprise though, when popping over to Church earlier in the week, we came across this most wonderful display.

A huge thank you to Mrs Ali Harris who regularly puts together the display boards at the back of the church. The current display showing our school values really does encapsulate all that we try to do every day, so please do go and take a look.





MESSY CHURCH THANK YOU

We are one of over four thousand Church of England schools in England serving the local community.

A huge thank you to all our Messy Church families who have supported us during this school year. What a great time we have had with wonderful crafts, super singing, yummy refreshments, great stories and lots more.

The Light Party was as usual full of excitement. We do enjoy the doughnuts on a string game. You were very generous with your donations for The Children's Society at our Messy Christingle and it was fantastic to see all the candles lit at the end. There are so many wonderful occasions to remember.

We wish you all a wonderful summer holiday and look forward to seeing you on September 18th for our first Messy Church of the new school year. There will be cards given out at the beginning of next term with new dates for the year.

Liz Hale and Messy Church team.



SUMMER 2 DATES

05.07.24 New Reception Taster Morning & Meet My New Class sessions

08.07.24 Y6 Performance

09.07.24 Y6 Performance

11.07.24 Whole School Vision Day

14.07.24 Musical Tea Afternoon

15.07.24 Willow Class Trip

17.07.24 Leavers Service (9:30am) at St.Mary's Woodchester—All Welcome

19.07.24 Celebration worship for Mrs Pennington (9:30 am in school hall)



SUMMER HOLIDAYS

02.09.24 INSET STAFF ONLY

03.09.24 Years 1—6 Return to school

04.09.24 Reception children start

KS2 DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT

Hawthorn class enjoyed their trip to Stonehouse to take part in a dodgeball tournament arranged by Atlas. Despite some torrential rain to start with, Hawthorn's resilience shone through and they represented our school brilliantly. They played fairly and competitively.

"I thought all the Atlas coaches were great and I really enjoyed playing the games," said Dominic.



ASH TRIP TO WESTONBIRT

Ash class had a lovely trip to Westonbirt this week. With an excited buzz in the class, we walked down to the coach and headed off, in the glorious sunshine, to Westonbirt Arboretum.

We took part in an Art in the Woodland workshop. The children firstly made a long repeated pattern using fallen blossom and leaves. Then we went further into the wood and we looked at the work of Andy Goldsworthy. The children used found objects to make their own woodland sculptures including a shark, an over sized nest and a ladybird.

Next, we used strips of card with sticky tape and we created some wonderful and carefully considered pieces of art on a smaller scale. Finally, we went big! The children worked together to form a large butterfly, filling in the wings with leaves, sticks and blossom.

What a lovely day we had and, as always, it was a pleasure to take such a well-behaved class to Westonbirt.





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Online Safety Newsletter

June 2024

Kik

Kik state you must be 16 years of age to use the app.

What is Kik?

Kik is classed as a social network where users can message each other, share photos/videos as well as video chat.

What do I need to be aware of?

- Groups – once a user joins a group then your child can receive messages from other members of that group. Some of the groups are centered around topics that are inappropriate for under 18s.
- Adverts
- Location sharing
- Explicit content – including images, videos and messages.
- Live streaming/videos - risk of seeing/hearing inappropriate content.
- Talking to strangers

What parental controls does Kik offer?

Kik does have reporting and blocking tools as outlined here:

<https://kikhelpcenter.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/4402400774043-What-can-I-do-if-my-teen-has-received-an-unwanted-or-inappropriate-message>

Further information

- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/kik>
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/chat-a-pps/>

Check age ratings!



There is so much that we can do online nowadays including playing games, chatting with others, watching TV or sharing our videos/photographs. Being online can be great but it is important that we set boundaries for our children to keep them safe whilst they explore being online, develop their digital resilience and understanding of what to do if anything negative happens when online.

So how can we help keep our children safe? We can start by checking age restrictions/ratings. **It is important that we follow these to ensure that what our children are doing or seeing online is appropriate for their age.**

Where can I find age ratings?

Films: The British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) rate films. This page includes a link to a 'Parents' Guide to Age Ratings':
<https://www.bbfc.co.uk/resources/viewing-films-safely-online>.

Video games: PEGI provides age classifications for video games. PEGI considers the age suitability of a game, not the level of difficulty. It is important to note that PEGI do not take into consideration user generated content within games (such as on Roblox) and chat facilities within games.

Apps: Check the individual age ratings within the relevant app store. We also recommend that you download any apps and play them yourself to check their suitability.

Social Media: All social media networks have a minimum age rating; they are all at least 13+.

What else can I do?

- Explain the importance of age ratings to your child.
- Go online together to see what your child is accessing.
- Set up parental controls on your broadband, devices and on any individual apps that your child is using. This will reduce the chances of them accessing or viewing anything unsuitable.
- Chat to your child regularly about what they are doing online and as always, remind your child that if anything is worrying them then they should talk to you or another trusted adult.

Further information

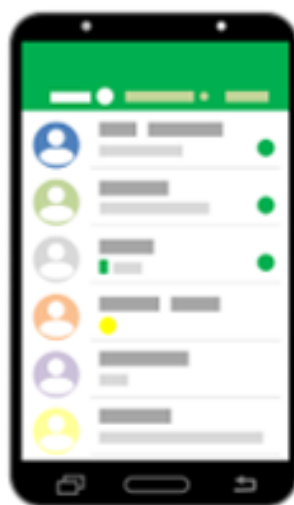
You can find out more here:

<https://www.bbc.com/ownit/take-control/understanding-age-ratings>

Chatting online

Following a recent report by the BBC detailing how a child was asked for inappropriate images when chatting online (source: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-68616730>), we thought we would discuss the dangers your child might face when communicating with strangers online.

In addition to social media apps that include a chat facility, most online games also allow communication, for example FIFA and Fortnite. Depending on the game, this may be via the in-game text chat, direct messages or talking through headphones. Some games do offer the ability to switch communication off or restrict bad language so make sure settings appropriate to your child are set up for each of the games they play. You need to be aware that there are people who may use these games to start chatting to your child and then encourage them to chat on alternative apps (which are more private, encrypted or have fewer safety options). Talk to your child about the dangers of doing this.



What risks are there with chatting online?

- Bullying
- Inappropriate chat – children may encounter explicit or inappropriate content.
- Contact from strangers – talk to your child about who is contacting them online.
- Sharing personal information – talk to your child about what information they share with others including images.
- Sextortion - this is a form of blackmail where somebody threatens to share a nude/sexual image of you.

How can I mitigate the risks?

- Ensure your child is accessing age-appropriate apps/games and that appropriate parental controls are set up.
- Chat to your child about the risks above so they are aware of what can happen online.
- Depending on the age of your child, it may be more appropriate for devices to be used in family rooms so you can monitor what they are doing and if they are chatting to others.

Reporting other users

It can be difficult to moderate online chat so ensure your child knows how to block and report others who make them feel uncomfortable and that they know to talk to you or a trusted adult if they have any concerns.

Further information

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

Tips to promote positive body image

If your child is viewing content online, particularly on social media, then the images they are seeing may be edited or even fake. A child may not yet be able to distinguish between reality and what is not real/fake, which may impact their own body image.

Internet Matters provide advice on how to empower your child to develop a positive body image and what you can do to help. Find out more here: <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/promoting-positive-body-image-with-children/>

CBeebies Little Learners app

The CBeebies Little Learners app has been created with BBC Bitesize and educational experts to provide your child with a fun learning experience. It includes activities based on the UK's Early Years Foundation Stage framework, for example sounds and letters and numbers and shapes. You can learn more here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zndjh4j>

LEGO Build and Talk

LEGO® have created Build and Talk to help you chat to your child about online safety. The activities have been created for children ages 6 to 9.

Firstly, you pick an activity to do and then you read a story, which includes questions and conversation prompts, whilst you build LEGO® together. This is a fantastic way to start talking to your child about topics such as screen time and cyberbullying. Find out more here: <https://www.lego.com/en-gb/sustainability/children/buildandtalk/>