



We are growing
our learning

St John's Green Primary School

Learn to Live, Live to Learn

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We ♥
Maths

We are all
writers ...



Newsletter

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Where Does Time Go?

Scarily enough, we are now over half way through the academic year and we are now in March. In five weeks, it will be the Easter Break and then we're into the Summer Term, looking to say goodbye to our Year 6s and welcome new Foundation children.

The biggest difference to children's lives will always come from you as parents; making sure your children are in school and on time, reading with them every day and supporting them in their learning.

It is what we do for our children today, that will shape their tomorrow! My thanks as always to every parent who gives so much for their children and who want their children to succeed in life where we as adults may have failed. Your children are worth it.



PTA Children's Discos

Today sees our PTA Year 1/2 (5.00p.m.—6.00p.m.) and Year 3/4 (6.30p.m.—7.30p.m.) discos at the Abbey Field Site.

Entry for the discos will be via the AF playground and small hall—which you will only be able to access via the side gate in the Alley way between Abbey Fields and Mersea Road.

If you haven't managed to source your tickets yet, then it will be possible to pay your £2 entry fee on the door, but please remember to sign your child in.

Please remember it is a children's disco, so parents are not allowed to stay.

Please collect your children directly from the small hall on time and sign them out.

Please don't forget that next Friday we are celebrating World Book Day and children can come to school dressed as a book character. There will be prizes for the best book character in each year group.

At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents.
Jane D. Hull

Sponsored Read

As part of Book Week and World Book Day, next week Mrs O'Shea has organised a Sponsored Read with 'Usborne Books'.

All the details are coming out today,

In a nutshell, all the money raised goes towards books and for every £600 we raise we get an extra £360 worth of books.

So if we raise £600, we get £960 worth of books for the children.

Multi School Council Meeting by Tilly Vote.

Before Half Term, five of the School Council children went to a special meeting in Clacton. So we went in a shiny grey mini-bus.

When we got there, I said something about the learning power like 'motivation' and 'Collaboration.' I felt a bit shy at the beginning but I got used to it in the end.

Then we talked about our brains and how to keep healthy. We also did a vote for something to do with PE. I said, 'mini-tennis, football, basketball and rock climbing. Then we travelled back to school.



"Practice isn't the thing you do once you're good. It's the thing you do that makes you good."
Malcolm Gladwell

Momo Challenge - Courtesy of Facebook, many of you will have heard and read about the 'Momo' challenge. Interestingly, a lot of the hype is based on 'hearsay' and 'rumour' and the chances are you will more likely hear about from people vlogging and blogging about it rather than actually know anyone who has actually received/seen a Momo challenge.

That aside, it does serve as a timely reminder that our children can be very vulnerable when they are on-line. The specific danger is that children believe they have to participate in the on-line dare game for fear that otherwise something terrible was going to happen. This is bullying in its purest form. Our advice is as follows: 1. Know what your children are doing and watching on-line; mobile devices should always be used downstairs, never alone in bedrooms. 2. Talk to them about the dangers on-line and how you can block and report numbers that are abusive, threatening and manipulative.

IMPORTANT: Ratings for console games/Apps/Films are there for a reason, we know some of our pupils play on and watch 12+, 16+ and even 18+ games/films at home. We protect your child from unsuitable content at school, please follow the guidelines at home too. There is more advice and guidance on page 2 of the newsletter and on the 'Staying Safe' link of the school website.

Awards

Year 6 (Trinovantes) - Isaac Peek - MLM
Year 6 (Cymbeline) - Sakeus Natanael- MM
Year 5 (Oysters) - Millie Self - RROX
Year 5 (Magnets) - Alexander Randall - MM
Year 4 (Castle) - Mae Grimwade - MLM
Year 4 (Cavalier) - Aman Fatima - MM
Year 4 (Garrison) - Ivan Yu - MLM
Year 3 (Dutch) - Jack Christie - MLM
Year 3 (Iceni) - Maci-Blue Cook - MM
Year 3 (Paxman) - Mila Turner - MM
Year 2 (Mercury) - Marley Heard - MM
Year 2 (Claudius) - Kyla Rowles - MM
Year 2 (Romans) - Alfie Hunwick - MM
Year 1 (Eagles) - Charlie Capon - MM
Year 1 (Circus) - Viktoria Vatrovskiy - RREX
Year 1 (Roses) - Ayla Cairney - CC
Foundation (Chariot) - Isla Allder - MM
Foundation (Star) - Clark Adams - RREX
Foundation (Jumbo) - Ashton Linnane - MM
Attendance — Trinovantes

Primary 500 Word Competition with St Helena

PLEASE REMEMBER THE DEADLINES FOR ENTRIES IS WEDNESDAY 6TH MARCH.

Children need to return their stories to the School Office by Wednesday 6th March. The school will then send the entries to St Helena.

There are two age categories: (5-9) and (10-11). Please make sure the stories have your child's name, age and school written clearly on them.

RE Week

This week, we have celebrated Chinese New Year and the Lantern Festival in school. Our Year 3 & Year 5 children took part in dragon dancing. Other classes have made Chinese Lanterns and baked (and eaten) fortune cookies.

On Wednesday, we also held Shared Supper and once again, it was brilliant to sample the culinary expertise of our parents.

For the children, the evening was rounded off with hot chocolate, a biscuit and a story read by some of our staff. For the parents, 20 minutes of tranquillity.

Children's University



Hopefully you saw our Twitter Feed just before Half Term of Lola advocating Children's University at our Open Morning. Really worthwhile and our thanks to Lola for being such a great ambassador!
<http://www.essexchildrensuniversity.co.uk/page/0/1/1/home/>

Reflecting Roxy—Learn from Experience; build on your Learning (Reflecting Facts)

We can't see anything without light. Our main source of light is the sun, but we have other light sources for when the sun isn't shining, or if the weather is bad, or if it's dark, or night time; like lamps, electric light, candles and torches.

We see things when light rays bounce off them, or are reflected. Certain coloured materials reflect better than others. White or light colours reflect much better than dark or black colours. Also, if the surface of the material (or object) is rough or bumpy, light doesn't reflect as well as when it's smooth and polished like a mirror.

Mirrors have been used for thousands of years. First by polishing a volcanic rock called obsidian, which was glossy and black. Later, the Greeks and Romans polished bronze to use as mirrors.

Now we have mirrors made of glass, with a fine layer of silver coating on the back. This process called 'silvering' was invented by Justus Van Liebig - a German chemist in 1835.

Flat mirrors reflect the image and it appears the same size and shape. Curved mirrors distort the image (try looking at yourself in the back of a spoon, then the front)



And Finally,

Talk about your emotional quandaries. Next Saturday afternoon, my wife has arranged my son's 11th birthday party, which is some sort of scooter thing at Area (?) in Ipswich. Colchester United are also playing at home! Negotiations are not going well, in fact they're decidedly one sided. My cries of 'Colchester United need me' and 'defining game of the season' have been shot down fairly brutally. I am though a Headteacher and have decided once and for all to put my foot down and to show my wife who is in charge. I will go to the scooter party!

Have a Good Weekend

Simon Billings

It's important to note that new challenges are arising on the internet all the time. We have created to this guide to raise awareness of the issue and offer advice on helping parents to talk to their children about making safer decisions online. See also our '7 conversation starters' guide for more tips on better communication with your child.



Momo is a sinister 'challenge' that has been around for some time. It has recently resurfaced and once again has come to the attention of schools and children across the country. Dubbed the 'suicide killer game', Momo has been heavily linked with apps such as Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube, and most recently (and most worryingly) ... YouTube Kids. The scary doll-like figure reportedly sends graphic violent images, and asks users to partake in dangerous challenges like waking up at random hours and has even been associated with self-harm. It has been reported that the 'Momo' figure was originally created as a sculpture and featured in an art gallery in Tokyo and unrelated to the 'Momo' challenge we are hearing about in the media.

What parents need to know about **MOMO**

CHILDREN'S VIDEOS BEING 'HIJACKED'

There have been recent reports that some seemingly innocent videos on YouTube and YouTube Kids (such as 'surprise eggs', unboxing videos and Minecraft videos) have been edited by unknown sources to include violence provoking and/or other inappropriate content. Even though YouTube monitor and remove videos that include inappropriate content, clips can be uploaded and viewed thousands of times before they get reported and removed. As a parent, it's difficult to spot these videos as the harmful content doesn't appear until partway through the video.

DISTRESSING FOR CHILDREN

Popular YouTubers and other accounts have been uploading reaction videos, showing their experience of the MOMO challenge. Some of the videos include a disclosure message warning that the content may be "inappropriate or offensive to some audiences" and that "viewer discretion is advised" but these videos are still easily accessed by clicking 'I understand and wish to proceed'. The image of the 'Momo' character can be deeply distressing to children and young people and it's important to note that it may slip through parental settings and filters.

SUGGESTED VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE

Video apps such as YouTube include an 'up next' feature which automatically starts playing another video based on the video just watched. Due to YouTube's algorithm, users are shown 'suggested videos' that they may be interested in. The thumbnails used on suggested videos are purposefully created in a way to encourage viewers to click them. During our research, we found that when watching one Momo related video, we were shown countless other Momo themed videos and other scary content which would be age-inappropriate for children under 18.



**National
Online
Safety**

Top Tips for Parents

TELL THEM IT'S NOT REAL

Just like any urban legend or horror story, the concept can be quite frightening and distressing for young people. Whilst this may seem obvious, it's important for you to reiterate to your child that Momo is not a real person and cannot directly harm them! Also, tell your child to not go openly searching for this content online as it may only cause more distress.

BE PRESENT

It's important for you, as a parent or carer, to be present while your children are online. This will give you a greater understanding of what they are doing on their devices, as well as providing you with the opportunity to discuss, support and stop certain activities that your child may be involved in. As the nature of each task become progressively worse it's also important to recognise any changes in your child's behaviour.

TALK REGULARLY WITH YOUR CHILD

As well as monitoring your child's activity, it's important for you discuss it with them too. Not only will this give you an understanding of their online actions, but these honest and frequent conversations will encourage your child to feel confident to discuss issues and concerns they may have related to the online world.

DEVICE SETTINGS & PARENTAL CONTROLS

Ensure that you set up parental controls for your devices at home. This will help to restrict the types of content that your child can view, as well as help you to monitor their activity. In addition to this, it's vital that you are aware of your device and account settings to ensure your child's utmost safety. For example, on YouTube you can turn off 'suggested auto-play' on videos to stop your child from viewing content that they have not directly selected.

PEER PRESSURE

Trends and viral challenges can be tempting for children to take part in; no matter how dangerous or scary they seem. Make sure you talk to your child about how they shouldn't succumb to peer pressure and do anything they are not comfortable with, online or offline. If they are unsure, encourage them to talk to you or another trusted adult.

REAL OR HOAX?

As a parent it is natural to feel worried about certain things you see online that may be harmful to your child. However, not everything you see online is true. Check the validity of the source and be mindful of what you share as it may only cause more worry.

REPORT & BLOCK

You can't always rely on parental controls to block distressing or harmful material. People find ways around a platform's algorithm in order to share and promote this type of material. Due to this, we advise that you flag and report any material you deem to be inappropriate or harmful as soon as you come across it. You should also block the account/content to prevent your child from viewing it. Also encourage your child to record/screenshot any content they feel could be malicious to provide evidence in order to escalate the issue to the appropriate channels.

FURTHER SUPPORT

Speak to the safeguarding lead within your child's school should you have any concerns regarding your child's online activity or malicious content that could affect them.

If your child sees something distressing, it is important that they know where to go to seek help and who their trusted adults are. They could also contact Childline where a trained counsellor will listen to anything that's worrying them.

The Childline phone number is
0800 1111.



SOURCES:
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-news-14252195>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-47259522>