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Newsletter 3 - October 2023

As we move to the end of our first term, we have a few key messages to pass on. We have also included a page at the end of the newsletter with some information on Online Safety.

School blog

For updates on what children have been learning in school, please visit our [school blog](#). Each few weeks, we will be updating this page to keep you informed of how children engage with different subjects in school.

Attendance

There is a direct link between attendance and academic achievement. We thank you for your support in ensuring that your child's attendance is high.

Current guidance on Covid is that children return to school when they feel well. There is no requirement to test, however if your child has a positive covid test, they should return after 3 days if they are well enough to do so.

Arriving in school on time is also crucial to avoid any missed learning for children. Please ensure you arrive during our 'soft start' times of between 8:45 and 8:55. After this time, please sign your child in at the school office, specifying the reason for lateness.

Harvest

Thank you all for your generosity in donating food to our local food bank as part of the harvest festival. This will make a real difference to many people and also encourages children to understand the importance of community.



Music in school

It has been a pleasure to have our two choirs in school performing in our assemblies. This is alongside our strong music offer throughout the school, where children work with music specialists to experience a broad offer. Year 4 are rapidly improving with their violin lessons and Year 1 have enjoyed their sessions with an outreach teacher from the Red Rooster Project.

We look forward to sharing some more information next term about music in school

History workshop

Year 4 had a fantastic day taking part in their Roman Workshop. This involved face painting, roman shields, drama and of course.... gladiators!



Online Safety

As ever, we would like to remind you to ensure that you have reviewed your child's use of internet devices. At the end of this newsletter, we have included some information on Youtube for parents and carers. If you have any queries on online safety, please contact the school office who will be able to help you speak with the relevant person in school.

Sports achievements

Over the term, Wentworth has once again been involved in several competitions. Our Y3/4 football team took part in the Champions Cup and returned with our first piece of silverware for this academic year! It went down to the wire in penalties and we are so proud of all their efforts.

Communications from local health

Over 102,000 children starting primary school in England are at risk of catching measles. NHS England is urging parents to check that their children are up to date with their MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) vaccinations in the wake of measles cases rising across the country. If you are unsure if you or your child are up to date, check your child's red book or GP records and make an

appointment to catch up any missed doses. For more information on the NHS vaccination schedule, please visit [their website](#).

Phonics Course Reception/Year 1 & 2 Parents & carers

Would you like to:

Support your child with phonics? Understand how your child is taught Monster Phonics and English at Wentworth? Make reading more fun? Build your confidence and learn new teaching methods? Help them get ahead. This free course is for you!

Venue: Wentworth Primary School 7, 14, 21 & 28 November 2023 9-11.15am - straight after drop off.

Please book using this [booking form](#).

Photographs and videos

Please be aware that for GDPR reasons, we ask that you only take videos/photographs of your own children on the school grounds and are mindful of other children who might be in the video/photograph also. We don't have permission from all parents/carers for children to be in videos/photographs. Thank you.

Y6 forms

Y6 parents please don't forget to complete the online Secondary Common Application Form (SCAF) by Tuesday 31st October and email a copy to Mrs Davies (claire.davies@wentworthonline.co.uk).

Hello Yellow Day

We celebrated World Mental Health Day this term through Hello Yellow day. So many of you have commented on how lovely it was to have music in the playgrounds as you arrived in the morning. The children looked fantastic in their yellow outfits and they all took part in activities in their classes. During our Key Stage assemblies, we launched our Worry Boxes and Worry Monsters to encourage children to talk to us about their worries, either writing or drawing and 'posting' it to us into the box. This has been a great success so far. Thank you for your help in supporting this event.

Staying happy and healthy during half term

Wherever you are spending it, it's important to keep happy and healthy. How? By eating well and keeping active. Our top tips: Drink 2 litres of water everyday and aim for 5 portions of fruit/vegetables a day. Try to complete 60 minutes to exercise each day; this can be in one block or in smaller chunks. Why not try some of the activities from 'The Daily Mile at Home'? <https://thedailymile.co.uk/at-home/>

Important Dates

- 20th October – End of Term 1
- 30th October – Start of Term 2
- 17th November – Children in Need (non-uniform)
- 20th November – Staff INSET – School closed to children
- 22nd November – Open afternoon (3:30 - 6pm)
- 23rd November – Open evening (5:00 - 7:30pm)
- W/C 27th November – Last week of clubs
- 5th December – Year 1 and 2 nativity performance (1:30pm)
- 6th December - Y3/4 Carol concert at Christ Church (1:30pm)
- 7th December – Year 1 and 2 nativity performance (10:30am)
- 8th December – PTA Christmas fair (3:30pm)
- 12th December – EYFS nativity performance (10am)
- 15th December – Last day of Term 2
- 3rd January – First day of Term 3



YOUTH RESILIENCE UK

CALLIGRAPHY BASIC COURSE

Join us for a 3 week basic calligraphy course delivered Via Zoom by Emma. Join us for fun learning a new skill! All specialist equipment needed will be provided. This course is FREE and aimed at young people between the ages of 9-16, contact us for more info.

 8TH, 15TH, 22ND
NOVEMBER
5:30-6:30PM

BOOK NOW!!

 emma@youthresilience.uk

Youth Resilience UK

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps that we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

YOUTUBE

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate material. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as messaging other users directly. Connecting with strangers online, of course, can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, to cyberbullying and even to encountering online predators.

SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but can also lead to binge-watching and the risk of screen addiction, especially if 'auto-play' is activated. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

HIGH VISIBILITY

Content creators can also be put at risk – especially young ones who try to make their online presence as visible as possible. Creating and uploading content exposes children to potential harassment and toxicity from the comments section, along with the possibility of direct messaging from strangers. Videos posted publicly can be watched by anyone in the world.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends, challenges and memes that are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may harm children through either watching or copying. The painful 'salt and ice challenge', which can cause injuries very quickly, is just one of many such examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

Popular YouTube channels regularly have scammers posing as a well-known influencer in the comments section, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and sometimes offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users are not who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Carers

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate content (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence and sexual situations) to underage viewers. To prevent your child from chancing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that your child uses to access YouTube.



TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows you to monitor what your child is watching, uploading and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives you an oversight of how your child is using sites like YouTube and helps you ensure they are only accessing appropriate content.



CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that your child is subscribed to can be hidden. If your child is only uploading videos that are protected as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.



CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS

Influential content creators usually have other social media accounts which they encourage their fans to follow. Having an open discussion about this with your child makes it easier to find out how else they might be following a particular creator online. It also opens up avenues for you to check out that creator's other channels to see what type of content your child is being exposed to.



MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them children. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course, and react to content differently. You may want to keep an eye on how your child interacts with content on YouTube – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand the types of videos they are interested in.



LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases: users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch, for example. If you're not comfortable with your child purchasing content online, limit their access to your bank cards and online payment methods. Many parents have discovered to their cost that a child happily devouring a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!



Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



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