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Newsletter 6 - December 2023

As this year draws to a close, we have been busy preparing for our Christmas celebrations in our school community. We thank you all for your support with these events and would like to wish all of our families a very Merry Christmas and we hope you all enjoy a wonderful break - we look forward to children returning on the 3rd January. Please also remember to visit the school [blog](#), which features recent updates from PSHE, DT and maths.

Christmas performances

We are incredibly proud of all of the performance we have seen over the last 2 weeks of term. The EYFS and KS1 nativities were fantastic, the carol concert at the church was, as always, a very special event, the christmas videos prepared by year 5 have put a smile on everyone's face and our year 6 production really showcased the children's singing and speaking skills. Many children also took part in the music concert held on Tuesday 12th.

Candlelight Carols

Our final musical event of the term is our Candlelight Carols event this Thursday after school. This is your chance to come along to the Key Stage 2 playground and see all of our decorated jars as well as join in with some festive singing. The event starts at 5pm and lasts for one hour. It is an informal event so you are free to arrive and leave whenever suits you. Wrap up

warm and bring your change for refreshments supplied by the PTA.

Christmas Songs

As you will know, our Christmas song recording is a bi-annual event that brings the whole school together in song. Having been let down by the company we booked to use, we didn't let that stop us and Mrs Archibald and Mr Pollock quickly learnt how to be sound engineers with some new recording equipment so that our recording could go ahead! All the recordings went extremely well and our children behaved and sang impeccably in our studio. Our Christmas songs have been edited and uploaded and we are really pleased with the final results. Pictured is our staff choir and community group who also feature on our track listings.

Please head to [this link](#) to hear the songs recorded by all year groups, along with our

school, staff and community choirs. Ideal for getting in the festive spirit!



Christmas decorations

A huge well done to all of our children who helped to decorate the school by making Christmas decorations for the tree - we think it looks beautiful!



Volunteer readers

Are you interested in becoming a reading volunteer at the school in the new year? If you are able to commit to at least one regular afternoon each week, please contact the school office to offer your support and help.

Safeguarding - Road Safety

Over the past few weeks, we have delivered assemblies to children on the topic of Road Safety. In particular we focussed on safe ways to cross the road using the Green Cross Code (Stop, Look, Listen) and safe places to cross the road.

Respecting neighbours

A polite request from our neighbours and families who live near our school to avoid walking through front gardens or over driveways on journeys into school. We have been made aware of incidents of people touching cars which could potentially damage paintwork. Please reinforce this with your children to promote our school value of Respect. We would also remind our families to avoid blocking any driveways when parking.

Nursery rhymes in EYFS

Our Reception classes have been spending lots of time learning some favourite nursery rhymes and even spent the day coming into school dressed up as some of their favourite characters.



School council

Members of the school council have been working with our new caterers to publicise the food on offer at school and also sample some new dishes for the menu. Katsu curry was a winner!



School donations

If you are having a clear out before Christmas time, please consider donating any unwanted items to the school. Any books, functioning TVs with an HDMI connection or other useful items are very welcome! Please give the details of any items you may wish to the school office who will let you know if we can make use.

Year 6 Igloo

Thank you to everyone who donated their milk bottles for our igloo building project up in Year 6. We completed our igloo just in time before the weight of the build collapsed in on itself! This has led to some very interesting and valuable conversations about engineering and design!



Dartford District

A big well done to Luke and Freddie in year 4 who have been representing Dartford recently in fixtures at Crystal Palace and Tottenham academies. A fantastic opportunity to play at some great training facilities.

Staff changes

Mrs Olah leave us at Christmas, we wish her all the best in her new school. We would like to welcome Miss Prashar who will be working with year 2.

Sports Leaders

Our sports leaders have been setting up various games on the playground for children to play alongside our normal rota of activities. Mr

Harrington has overseen the sports leaders who have introduced four square over the past few weeks.



EAL Coffee Morning and Christmas Cards workshop

Our EAL Coffee Morning was a huge success with members of our school community coming together to get to know each other and share successful strategies for supporting the children. This week children had the opportunity to attend a Christmas Card workshop, decorating cards in different languages. A beautiful display has been created of this in the corridor. A big thank you to Mrs Adamek for organising and running these events.



Glass Jar Decorating

Mrs Archibald and Miss Skipp hosted a group of EYFS and KS1 children and their families to decorate Christmas jars for our forthcoming Candlelight Carols event. It was lovely to see such a high number of families attend and the results were absolutely fabulous. The feedback from parents was extremely positive too.



Prioritising our mental health

It's really important to prioritise our mental health during the holiday season. The charity Mind have put together a [Christmas mental health](#) pack which offers some great tips. You could also take a look at [December's kindness calendar](#) for some tips on how to look out for each other:



Venue: Wentworth Primary School, Wentworth Drive, Dartford DA1 3NG

This is a four week course for adults only.

To book please click on [this link](#) or scan QR code and complete the online booking form.

Any questions contact Pamela Hill M: 07552 634463 or 01322 225694 ext 214 or email pamela.hill@wentworthonline.co.uk



And finally...

We have some superstars amongst us! We'd like to share with you some talents from outside of school.

Online Safety

At this time of year, many children will be receiving new devices. At the end of the newsletter there are some top tips on setting up social media accounts on new devices. Below are some useful links circulated by Kent Police on safety on games consoles:

<https://www.nintendo.co.uk/Support/Parents/Parents-642522.html>

<https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/psn-safety-parents-guide/>

<https://support.xbox.com/en-US/help/family-online-safety/browse>

Managing Children's Behaviour course:

Would you like support with:

- Setting and maintaining boundaries for your child?
- Understanding your child's behaviour?
- Praising and rewarding your child?
- Showing your child affection effectively?
- Communicating with your child?
- Do you sometimes find school holidays a struggle?

Dates: 18th, 25th January, 1st, 8th February 2024.
Time: 9.00- 11.15am.

Firstly, at the start of December, Lily from year 6 and her team "Shiver" from Ice Athletics came first in their division at the Future Cheer Winter Wonderland cheerleading competition in Essex. This was their first competition of the season with another five more to follow in 2024 including in Bournemouth and Liverpool in July where they hope to defend their current title as Youth Level 2 European Champions. Well done Lily!



Secondly, Alfie from Year 3 took part in an exciting quiz on BBC Radio Kent with his Dad and we'd like to share this with you. Take a listen

to him using this [link](#) to the BBC Sounds webpage. Fast forward to 2 hours, 25mins and it's after the Mariah Carey Christmas song. Happy listening!

Important Dates

14th December - Carols by candlelight - 5pm
15th December – Last day of Term 2
3rd January – First day of Term 3
8th January - First week of clubs
9th February - Last day of Term 3
19th February - First day Term 4
4th March - Staff INSET - School closed to pupils
28th March - Last day of Term 4

An invitation for our entire Wentworth community.....



Candlelight Carols

Thurs 14th Dec

5pm-6pm

Come and soak up the festive atmosphere and join in with our singing. Remember to wrap up warm! This is an hour-long event, stay for as long as you would like with your family.

Key Stage 2 playground

Sing your favourite
Christmas songs

See the children's
decorated lanterns

Refreshments
available to buy
from the PTA

This is an informal event – no need to book.
Enter the playground through James Road.



#WakeUpWednesday

12 Social Media Online Safety Tips

FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

With Christmas only a few weeks away, many of you will be using social media to share your excitement with friends and family. Being active on social media is a great way to show others how much fun you're having, but it's important that you know how to use these apps safely and securely so that bad things don't happen. By following our safety tips below, you can make sure that your personal information stays private, your postings are positive and that your social media use overall is responsible, healthy and most of all enjoyable.

1 DON'T ACCEPT FRIEND REQUESTS FROM STRANGERS

Make sure that you set your profile to private so that people you don't know can't find you online. Always tell a trusted adult if a stranger or somebody you don't know sends you a message or a friend request.

2 NEVER SHARE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION WITH PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW

Keep your personal information personal. Sometime people online aren't always who they say they are and might ask you to share things that you don't feel comfortable sharing.

3 DON'T SHARE EMBARRASSING PHOTOS OR VIDEOS OF OTHERS ONLINE

This could really upset them and could get you into a lot of trouble. Always think twice before posting anything on social media and treat people online as you would in real-life.

4 NEVER SEND NAKED PICTURES OF YOURSELF TO OTHERS

This is illegal if you are under 18 and you could get into trouble with the Police. If you are being pressured by someone, always say no and tell a trusted adult. Even if you think it is innocent fun, the photo could be shared with other people and you won't be able to control who else sees it.

5 CREATE A POSITIVE ONLINE REPUTATION

Always be kind and polite when posting comments on social media and only upload pictures and videos of things you are proud of. This forms part of your digital footprint. Everything you do online can be tracked and monitored and could affect what people think of you in real-life if it is negative.

6 LIMIT YOUR SCREEN TIME

Social media can be addictive, and it is easy to keep checking newsfeeds or your notifications every 5 minutes which can affect your behaviour and stop you from doing other things. Remember to only use your phone at certain times of the day, turn notifications off at bedtime and go out and have as fun as much as possible. This will keep you fit and healthy and make you appreciate there's more to life than just what's on social media.

7 BLOCK ONLINE BULLIES

Sometimes people might say nasty things to you online or post offensive comments on your pictures or videos. If this happens, always tell a trusted adult who will help you block them from your profile and support you in taking further action.

8 REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

If you see something on social media that you don't like, offends you or upsets you, you should always report it to a trusted adult. You should also report it to the social media app who will be able to remove the content if it is against their user policy and can block the person who posted it.

9 ONLY USE APPS WHICH YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH TO USE

Before downloading any new social media app, always check the age-rating. If you need help, ask your parent or carer to make sure that the app is safe for you to use and never download anything which you are too young for as it may contain content that isn't safe for you to see.

10 ALWAYS SECURE ALL YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILES WITH A PASSWORD

This will help to keep your private information safe and won't allow others to access your profiles without your permission. Make sure your passwords are memorable and personal to you but something which other people can't guess, and always share them with your parents just in case you forget them.

11 ASK PARENTS TO SET-UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS' FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

When you download a social media app, you should always ask a trusted adult to help you set it up for the first time. This will help you control who sees what you post, who can contact you and make sure you are able to enjoy using the app safely and securely.

12 ALWAYS TALK TO YOUR TRUSTED ADULT IF SOCIAL MEDIA IS MAKING YOU UNHAPPY

Sometimes, social media can make us feel bad about ourselves or sad that we aren't the same as someone else or doing the same things as someone else. Remember, if you ever feel this way, it's really important to talk to your trusted adult(s) like your parents, carers, other adult family members or a teacher, all of whom will be able to support you and discuss your feelings with you to help make you feel better.