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Newsletter 5 - November 2023

As we approach the festive season, we would like to share some achievements and updates from our school community. Please also visit the school [blog](#), which is regularly updated with posts about our curriculum and school life. At the end of the newsletter we have attached some flyers with information on online safety and local community events. We would also love to hear about any achievements that your child has made outside of school to celebrate in our future newsletters.

Remembrance in school

Each class made their own poppy wreath to mark Remembrance Day and came together for a minute's silence in commemoration. Our Year 6 pupils led a service, sharing poems and talking about the importance of remembrance.



Recent parent tours

Congratulations to Isaac, Sagarika and Lily who have been outstanding ambassadors for our

school during our recent new parent tours. They each delivered speeches about their years at Wentworth and they spoke with confidence, maturity and clarity. They also accompanied the parents on their tours and many parents commented on how impressive they were. Congratulations also to Lucy and Cecilia who provided musical entertainment for our parents on their recorders - bravo!

Orchestra assembly

Some pupils from Dartford Grammar School led an assembly in early November to our KS2 pupils sharing their talents on a wide range of instruments, such as the piano, clarinet, cajon, guitar and vocals. This was a lovely opportunity for the children to experience different instruments and for them to be inspired to start learning to play instruments themselves.

Attendance

Our current whole school attendance is 96% which is above what it was this time last year and in line with national figures. We will keep you updated on your child's attendance by sending out registration certificates at key points in the year. The school will also contact you to inform you if your child's attendance is cause for concern and offer ways to work together to improve your child's attendance.

1IS poet visit

Year 1 are taking part in the Linking Schools project this year, where they will be working closely with other Y1 children from Gravesend schools to develop a sense of community. 1IS has the chance to participate in an exciting online live author event as part of the schools project. They met Children's Laureate Joseph Coelho, a writer and poet, where he shared some of his ideas and work. The children joined in with games activities and book talk.

Children in Need

The children came into school on Friday 17th dressed in their own clothes with donations for the charity Children in Need. This raises vital funds to support children and young people, including mental health and wellbeing, positive relationships and equal opportunities. If you haven't yet donated, you can do so via this link: <https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=11686>

Wellbeing

Are you looking for guidance on how to support your child at home to overcome difficulties with worries/fears/anxieties? OSI is an online platform designed to help parents learn tools and techniques to help their child (ages 5 to 12). There has been some amazing feedback from families where OSI has supported their child with worries about going to school, bedtime fears, specific phobias and more. If you feel this would help you, take a look at this website for more information about how it works -

<https://osiresearch.org.uk/osi/the-parent-carer-role/parent-website/>

Please contact the Kent Emotional Wellbeing Team direct on: ewtandestenquiries@nelft.nhs.uk

Online safety

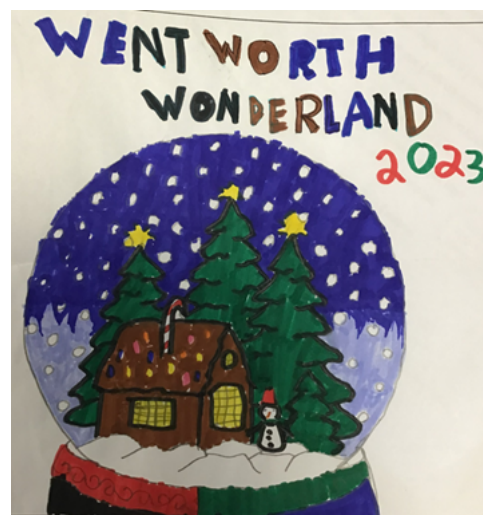
YouTube is a great resource for sharing videos and, when used appropriately, can be very valuable. So that all children are using it safely at home, please see the attached poster sharing lots more information about it.

Nut-free school

We are a nut-free school as we have some children who have severe nut allergies. Please ensure that all food sent into school (snack and packed lunch) does not contain any nuts. This includes Dairy Milk Fruit and Nut chocolate bars and nutella spread.

CD Designs and winner

Thank you and well done to all the children who entered our competition to design the CD cover for this year's Christmas CD. We had well over 100 entries and Mrs Archibald was absolutely blown away by the quality of the children's designs. It was a tough decision and you can see some of the short-listed designs at the end of this newsletter. The winning design was created by Carla in 4FB and we think it will look just brilliant on our CDs – well done Carla!



Instrumental Lessons

We have a few remaining spaces for the following musical instrument lessons: clarinet, flute, oboe, trumpet, cornet. If you are interested in your child learning to play any of these instruments please contact the school office who will put you in touch with Music for Schools.

The Big Ambition

The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has launched The Big Ambition, a national survey of children and young people across England. 'The Big Ambition' survey will enable me to hear directly from children and young people about what they need from the government to make their lives better. You can access the survey here: https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/the_big_ambition/

Further resources can be found on The Big Ambition [webpage](#).

Frozen Kingdom

To celebrate the ending of our Frozen Kingdom topic, we have been constructing an igloo. Every child in year 6 has helped to lay some milk bottle 'ice blocks' and discuss the engineering of our igloo as it takes shape. Our construction is almost complete but we still need more 4-pint bottles to finish the roof – please keep sending them into school!



Sports

Children from Year 5 and 6 were really excited this week receiving their spots leader badges and hats in assembly. Over 100 children applied to be a Sports Leader and worked really hard on their applications. They will now help support lunchtime and playtimes activities, being buddies and play leaders as well as leading sports competitions and initiatives in school.

Our school team took part in the Dartford Schools Football League recently where we won one match but lost two. There are currently 4 schools on 6 points we are only in 4th place on goal difference. It is all to play for as we head into the next group of league fixtures.

A team of Wentworth players from year 5 and 6 took part in the Community Cup, where they conceded one goal all day and finished thoro overall! Well done team!



On Thursday 30th November, we are holding our annual staff vs Y6 student football match; you are welcome to come and watch!

PTA update: Christmas Fair

The PTA have been busy preparing resources for the Christmas Fair. This is being held on Friday 8th December. Please remember that children can come into school on this day in their own clothes in return for a donation.

Free football

The Football Coaching Group provides football coaching for boys and girls aged 5-12. Specialist coaches cater for all abilities aged 5-12 and provide the children with the opportunity to get active, learn new skills and enjoy the game.

First Session FREE

Boys & Girls Aged 5-12

Weekly 90 minute session

Fun & Safe Learning Environment

Venue: Dartford FC, Princes Park, DA1 1RT

Thursdays: 4.30pm - 6pm

www.thefootballcoachinggroup.com/signup

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.

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

This is a four week course for adults only.

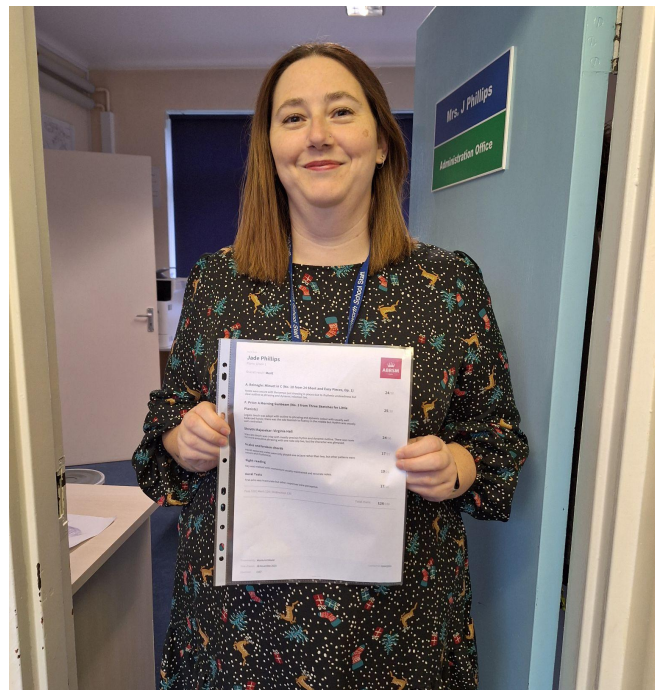
To book please click on [this link](#) or scan QR code and complete the online booking form.

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



And finally...

Congratulations to Mrs Phillips who took her Grade 1 piano exam last week and passed with merit. What a super achievement! We are very proud of you.



Important Dates

- 22nd November – Open afternoon (3:30 - 6:10pm)
- 23rd November – Open evening (5:00 - 7:40pm)
- W/C 27th November – Last week of clubs
- 4th December - Year 6 Christmas Performance (6pm)
- 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)
- 12th December - Christmas music concert (6pm)
- 14th December - Carols by candlelight - Details to follow (5pm)
- 15th December – Last day of Term 2
- 3rd January – First day of Term 3

Christmas album covers





Dartford TOY APPEAL

WE ARE 10

11 November - 10 December

Donation Points

Baby Ballers
Legend Sports 3G Indoor Dome, 222 Thong Lane, Gravesend DA12 4LF
Castle Hill Community Centre, Cherry Orchard Rd, Swanscombe DA10 1BR
Springhead Park Primary, Springhead Parkway, Northfleet DA11 8BY
Northfleet School for Girls, Hall Road, Northfleet DA11 8AQ

Dartford Florist 82 St Albans Road, Dartford DA1 1TY

Fox Estates 94 Brent Lane, Dartford DA1 1QX

Horse and Groom Pub 15 Leyton Cross Road, Wilmington DA2 7AP

Joydens Wood Infant School Park Way, Bexley DA5 2JD

Lewis Solomon Funeral Service 19 Darnley Rd, Gravesend DA11 0RZ

Orchard Garage
128 Park Road, Dartford DA1 1SZ or 157-161 Heath Lane, Dartford DA1 2TW

Pet & Garden Supplies 148 Colney Road, Dartford DA1 1UH

St Albans Church 67 St Albans Rd, Dartford DA1 1TE

St Edmunds Church St Edmunds Rd, Temple Hill, Dartford DA1 5ND

Sally Sue's Sandwich Bar 118 St Vincents Rd, Dartford DA1 1XE

Slimming World (Saturdays 8am - 10.30am)
Oakfield Primary Academy, Oakfield Lane, Dartford DA1 2SW

Stephen Oliver: Studio and Gallery Orchards Centre, Dartford DA1 1DN

Stephen P Gay Funeral Service
65 Darenth Rd, Dartford DA1 1LU
9 Western Road, Sevenoaks TN15 8AL
25 Station Road, Longfield DA3 7QD

Stephen P. Gay Memorials 120 Old Rd W, Gravesend DA11 0LR

Stone Parish Council Stone Pavilion, Hayes Road, Greenhithe DA9 9DS

Swanscombe & Greenhithe Town Council Council Offices, The Groves, Swanscombe DA10 0GA

Wisdom Estates 76 Spital Street, Dartford DA1 2DT

stephen oliver
studio & gallery

DARTFORD DEEDS NOT WORDS FOUNDATION



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Christmas fair

AT CHRIST CHURCH

Lots of seasonal fun to be had for all.
Come along and get in the festive mood.

Gift Stalls ★ Hot Food ★ Santa
Face Painting and Activities for Kids
Tombola Extravaganza ★ Hot Chocolate Mountains

25 th November	Free Entry	10.30 am to 1.30 pm
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Christ Church, Cross Road, Dartford, DA1 3ET

Scan Me 



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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