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Newsletter

Happy New Year!

Welcome back to everyone and a very prosperous and healthy new year to you all. It feels like an age ago, but we are only just at the end of January!

It has been quite an exciting and busy month of the year. We have all our families safely back in school from overseas. We welcomed new faces to the staff team and we have been able to continue with our planned trips and visits.

Some of the children have been catching nasty bugs and viruses – unfortunately it is that time of the year, however Covid-19 is still around so we continue to keep safe through handwashing, regular LFTs and ventilated rooms.

We also received a visit from Her Majesty's Inspectors this month, who came to inspect the Quality of Education at the school. They will be writing to you very soon to share with you the outcome of the two-day inspection, but rest assured we are pleased with what the inspectors saw and said about Grove Road.

With all of this going on we are looking forward to a break and the half-term next week. I hope that you all enjoy the family time together and fingers crossed for some kinder weather.

Best wishes,

Lyn Gray
Headteacher



"Our family school where all are equally valued"

Celebration

Our wonderful certificate winners are:

Red Class – Sahar received a curiosity award for being an excellent palaeontologist and investigating fossils

Orange Class – Nirvaan received a self-confidence award for taking part in group activities.

Yellow Class – Mikaeel received a curiosity award for exploring a science topic at home.

Green Class – Arliya received a curiosity award for asking curious questions in maths about money.

Blue Class – Mohamed received a resilience award for working hard to make his handwriting as neat as possible.

Indigo Class – Lilly received a resilience award for showing resilience when learning her lines for the class assembly.

Violet Class – Liyan received an initiative award for making strong inferences and demonstrating excellent listening skills when reading the class novel.

Gold Class – Paramvir received a self-confidence award for improving the quality of his maths journals.

Library Opening

We are still opening the library every Monday, Wednesday and Friday after school for families to browse our books and make selections together. We are planning some themed after school events so please keep a look out for signs promoting this! The library can be accessed by the side door after school.



Violet Class Bletchley Park Visit



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 changing 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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Coming up in February

- 1st – Yellow Class Food Workshop
- 4th – EYFS Baby Dinosaur Workshop
- 7th – Safer Internet Day Workshops
- 9th – Blue Class trip to The National Army Museum
- 11th – INSET Day
- 14th – Half Term
- 21st – New Half-Term Begins
- 25th – Indigo Class Trip to The National Gallery

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