



St Catherine's C of E School Spring Newsletter 6- 5.4.19



Dear Parents,

School Improvement

We are having a big focus this year on developing our curriculum. This focus includes looking at the subjects we teach and the topics within them. As a school, we are looking at how we develop key concepts and vocabulary through our topics, how we ensure there is good progression of skills and knowledge and that the knowledge the children gain is useful and transferrable. A big part of how we do this is through ensuring the pupils are capable learners through the development of a range of characteristics and abilities such as resilience, communication, managing feelings, creativity, etc. The children have been participating in a range of activities, linked to their curriculum learning to help them develop in these areas. They self-assess their progress each term. In the summer term we will report back on our successes in developing the curriculum and look at next steps. Our Academy Improvement Officer will visit to support us in further developing this so we are able to help all pupils achieve their very best whilst at St Catherine's. Over the summer term we will be updating our website to reflect our new curriculum intentions.

Curriculum enrichment

A big well done to our Year 5s and 6s on their Recorder performance for parents this week. Great to see how much they had learnt and their confidence to perform to an audience after just 10 lessons. It would be great to see some continue to learn this and other instruments. This week was Year 4s last visit to Kernow House. They have been amazing and learnt so much from their visits. After Easter, year 2 will take up the mantle and begin to visit – we hope they get as much from it as our fab year 4s have.

Year 3 visited St Mary's last week as a part of their RE topic. They really enjoyed learning about all the special aspects of a Christian church.

Nursery and Reception have had their Easter Open Day with Easter bonnet parade and egg hunt – thank you to all who were able to attend – and well done on those wonderful bonnets!

Collective Worship

This week, our focus has been on Easter and its very special significance in the Christian calendar. We hope you were able to join us yesterday at St Mary's and enjoyed the children's interpretation of the story.

Friends Disco, Easter Egg Raffle and Updates

Many thanks to all who supported the Friends' Disco and Easter Raffle. Tickets were drawn today and some happy children will be bringing home their prizes today. Between both events over £600 was raised – so a huge thank you from all.

If you are interested in helping out Friends - even if you can't make meetings - or want to know more about what Friends do you can join their group on:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/665828766893617/?ref=share>

Or you can pop into the school office to drop off contact details for the Friends to get in touch.

After-School Child Care Club

After Easter we will be running an After-School Child-Care Club. This will be pre-booked online via school money. It runs from 3.15-4.15pm and cost £2.00. Children will be based in the Hub around the back of the building between class 1 and 3 and should be collected promptly at 4.15pm. For the first week, if the school money system is not up-to-date please let us know and pay in school on any days you wish to use this service. Many thanks.

Summer After-School Clubs

Please see the separate letter detailing clubs for children after-school – next term includes Plymouth Argyle, Netball/basketball, rugby and racquet sports. Please ensure consent forms are signed to book a place.

Safeguarding

In this week's newsletter we have included an online guide for parents about keeping safe online – see below.



In today's digitally connected world, children and adults are constantly presented with new ways to engage, react and contribute. We're sociable beings; it's a natural human instinct, especially amongst younger audiences, to want to belong and join in. Viral Challenges (as they're often known) draw on these emotions and, as the name suggests, spread and gather pace very rapidly. New challenges are constantly emerging and evolving. They're often completely innocent, raising awareness of worthy causes or simply providing amusement. However, they can have much more sinister undertones, putting children at risk of physical harm or, in extreme cases, fatal injury.



What parents need to know about ONLINE CHALLENGES

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

As well as having the potential to cause actual physical harm, some challenges can be extremely upsetting for children. Many are created with the sole purpose of instilling fear in an individual in order to coerce them into doing things that could have a long-term emotional effect on them.

VARYING LEVELS OF RISK

As a parent or carer, it's important to take a balanced view and understand that not everything online has the potential to do harm. Mass-following and interaction can be a force for good. For example, the Ice Bucket Challenge, which swept the nation, set out to raise money and awareness of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). At its height, over 28 million people uploaded, commented on, or liked Ice Bucket Challenge related posts on Facebook. It's equally important to be aware though that online challenges often have a darker side. Malicious trends and challenges can expose children to dangerous or even life-threatening situations, so it's critical that parents and carers are aware of the latest risks and understand what steps to take to mitigate them.

'FOMO' - FEAR OF MISSING OUT

The 'Fear of Missing Out' (FOMO) is a strong emotional characteristic, particularly displayed in young people. The nature of viral challenges encourages children to explore and push boundaries. They tap into FOMO by feeding on a child's natural desire to join in, be accepted and share experiences with their friends and the wider online community. A recent study also found that FOMO is one of the greatest causes of Social Media addiction.



STRIVING FOR LIKES

In a major study by the Children's Commissioner, it was found that children as young as ten years old are reliant on 'Likes' for their sense of self-worth. A major concern around viral challenges is not knowing how far children will go to earn 'Likes'. Couple this growing appetite for acceptance with commonplace peer pressure and the potential problem is compounded. The result is that when young people are drawn into online challenges, because it is what all their friends are doing, saying 'no' can seem like a very hard thing to do.

"The coolest person at school will start a trend and then everyone copies her"
Merran, 12, Year 7

"If I got 150 likes, I'd be like that's pretty cool it means they like you"
Aaron, 11, Year 7



National Online Safety



Top Tips for Parents



COMMUNICATION & MONITORING

It's important to talk to your child regularly and monitor their online activities. Encouraging honesty and openness, will give you a much clearer viewpoint of how your child is interacting online and what concerns they have. Create an atmosphere of trust. Ensure they feel they can confide in you or another trusted adult regarding anything they may have seen or experienced online that's upset them.

THINK BEFORE ACTING

As with most concerns in life, let common sense prevail when it comes to Viral Challenges. Young people need the freedom and space to explore and going in all guns blazing may well be counter-effective. Address the importance of safety and wellbeing, both online and offline, by getting the facts and understanding the risks. Start a discussion about the Online Challenges that may have captured your child's interest, gauge their likely involvement and explain the importance of thinking and acting independently when it comes to participating.

SETTING UP EFFECTIVE PARENTAL CONTROLS

As with all online activity, ensuring you have effective parental controls set up on all devices will help filter and restrict the dangerous or inappropriate content you don't wish your child to access. Additional measures for protecting your child include checking the privacy settings on your child's devices, monitoring their friends list, ensuring their personal information is safe and secure and keeping a watchful eye on the content they're sharing.

REPORTING & BLOCKING

Parental controls can only go so far in blocking potentially harmful content. A rise in the decoding of social media algorithms, has led to age inappropriate content increasingly appearing on platforms and apps used by children. Where possible, you should regularly monitor what your child sees online and flag/report any content which is inappropriate or dangerous. You should take the time to talk to your child, define what you consider to be appropriate content and show them how to report and block users/accounts themselves.

VALIDATE SOURCES

Not everything is as it seems. Some people create fake content that's designed to 'shock' in order to encourage rapid sharing. If your child has seen something online that has triggered concern you should encourage them to, check its origin, verify that it came from a credible source and check the comments made for any clues to its validity.

FACING REALITY

Trends and Viral Challenges can be tempting for children to take part in; no matter how dangerous or scary they may seem. As a parent or carer it can be difficult to keep pace with the very latest Online Challenges emerging. In recent months these have included potentially dangerous crazes, including the 'Bird Box' challenge, which was inspired by Netflix's popular film and encourages followers to upload videos of themselves attempting everyday tasks while blindfolded. The best advice is to keep talking to your child. Show that your taking an interest and not just prying. Ensure your child knows they don't have to get involved and if they're unsure, let them know you're there to talk before they consider participating. Children often need reassurance that not everything they see online is real. If your child has viewed distressing or frightening content it's important to talk to them about their experience, support them and, if required, help them find additional support.

SOURCES:

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/fake-news-twitter-spreads-further-faster-real-stories-retweets-political-a8247491.html> | <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2209452/Teen-dies-copying-pass-game-time-youtube.html> | <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6307331/Boy-11-dies-YouTube-choking-challenge-mother-warns-parents-son-strangled-himself.html> | Children's Commissioner Life in 'likes' report - RSPH - Status of mind report <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-29013707> | <https://www.independent.ie/life/health-wellbeing/fear-of-missing-out-fomo-one-of-greatest-causes-of-social-media-addiction-study-finds-36975296.html> | <http://www.ttp.co.uk/news/children-as-young-as-eight-addicted-to-social-media-likes/>

An Daras Jobs

Job vacancies for St Catherine's and for other An Daras Multi-Academy Schools will now be advertised on their website on the Work With Us/ Vacancies page. <https://andaras.eschools.co.uk/web/vacancies>

This month, advertised for St Catherine's is a Lunchtime supervisor role – details of how to apply are in the job advert. We are pleased to welcome Rachel Cole to our cleaning team, starting after Easter.

Values in Action

These wonderful pupils have been spotted demonstrating our school values throughout the week:-

Reception: Kian – compassion/Isabelle - friendship

Class 1: Orla – Responsible/Gerard – compassion

Class 2: Millie-Rose - forgiveness/Noah - friendship

Class 3: Aarushee–thoughtful+respectful /Cerys - generosity

Class 4: Grace – all values/Jake - respect

Class 5: Amelia –friendly+positive/ Lily - courage

Class 6: Jacob – honesty+maturity / Millie P - friendship

Good Learner

These are our star learners this week:-

Reception: Riley – determination /Nora - responsibility

Class 1: Mateus – perseverance/Ollie - Resilience

Class 2: Louie – responsibility/ Adam - resilience

Class 3: Lola-resilience /Toby – responsibility

Class 4: Aiden – reflective+resourceful/Jhah Jhah - resourcefulness

Class 5: JV -responsible+mature / Matt – perseverance

Class 6: Josh –responsibility/Jasmine A – responsibility

Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 23rd April – first day back

Fridays – Year 5/6 Top-up Swimming

Tuesdays – yr2 Kernow House visits

Thursdays Yr 6 SATS Open Revision Group

Fridays Shakespeare Club 3.15-4.15

May 6th Bank Holiday Monday- no school

May – Year 2 SATS

KS2 SATs week 13-16th May

May 27th-31st Half term Week

Wk beg 10th June Yr1 Phonics Screening

3rd to 5th July yr6 Residential

15th/16th July Yr 6 Transition Days Launceston College

24th July end of term

Attendance

The national government target for pupils' attendance is 96%. We will send a reminder letter home to parents when their child's attendance is flagging up as below national expectations. :

Reception	91.4%
Year 1	94.3%
Year 2	93.6%
Year 3	94.1%
Year 4	93.6%
Year 5	95.6%
Year 6	93.7%

Whole School Attendance
93.8%

Well done again to year 5 this week! 😊

Links for further info Don't forget, you can access information about the school via our website: <http://www.stcatherinescofe.co.uk/index.php> and Facebook: @stcatherinesandaras

Parent View: As a parent of a child in our school you can complete an online survey for our school at any time via Ofsted Parent View <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

We also share class information via Class DoJo <https://teach.classdojo.com/>

Have a lovely Easter break and we will see you on Tuesday 23rd April.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Louise Kussey

Executive Head

Active Launceston

Here at the Launceston Leisure Centre we are looking to get the Launceston area active in 2019

To kick start this in March we are offering FREE 3 Day Passes to the parents of St Catherine's pupils.

To sign up for a pass please visit:

www.better.org.uk/guestpasses

If you have any problems or further questions feel free to email us at launceston@gll.org

BETTER
the feel good place



Outdoor Holiday Club @ Lawhitton

EASTER FUN IN THE WOODS!

Week 1 - 8/4/19

Monday - Team games in the woods.

Tuesday - Den and shelter building

Wednesday - Bushcrafts, to include, lighting fires with handmade bow drills, chopping pegs from wood and building a permanent fire pit.

Thursday - Building fires and making charcoal

Friday - River adventures including the mud slide . Easter themed nature crafts

For children
aged 5-11 years

Week 2 - 15/4/19

Monday - Survival skills. How to keep safe in the woodland

Tuesday - Campfire cooking, Making bread, toasting marshmallows and popping popcorn

Wednesday - Easter Egg hunt and making chocolate nests

Thursday - Mud play, Using the mud kitchen, mud sculptures and mud painting



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