

Headline:

Growing Up Digital

One third of current internet users are under the age of 18 – and whilst most social media sites have an official age limit of 13 years, research is increasingly reporting the accessing and use of these sites by children under 13.

The Children's Commissioner has recently published a report called 'Growing Up Digital' (2017). It made considered recommendations towards fostering a more supportive digital environment for children and young people to grow up in. It makes it clear that both home and school have a role to play in providing this support.

Recent progress has been made by the Government to address young people's safety online (e.g. the Internet Safety Strategy launched in summer 2017, and the 2017 Digital Economy Act) which have made important changes concerning social media regulation for children.

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There has also been an increasing debate surrounding the relationship between social media and mental health and wellbeing – with the overarching message being that while social media can be a very positive tool for young people, there can also be negative impacts on mental wellbeing.

The Growing Up Digital Report concluded:

"On the one hand, social media was perceived as having a positive effect on children's wellbeing, and enabled them to do the things they wanted to do, like staying in touch with friends

and keeping entertained. On the other, it had a negative influence when it made them worry about things they had little control over.

For younger children this was more related to their families' use of social media, whereas for older children this was more strongly linked to peers and friendships.

The transition from primary to secondary school saw a significant change in the way children used social media and brought with it new concerns. At this age, children were introduced to wider networks of friends and started to follow more celebrities and people they did not know in their offline lives. This meant they were more aware of their own identity, started comparing themselves to a broader group of people and worried about whether they fitted in. This introduced an additional layer of worries, relating to what people would think of them, what they looked like, and who they should be."

The report concludes that children who take part in hobbies, sports or other activities are less reliant on social media.

The government are working on new advice to help parents and when this is published, I will share it with you. We will continue to review how we challenge these topics in lessons across the school.

Mr J Carthy
Head Teacher

News UNICEF

A big thank you to all who sent in shoes for our Clarks & UNICEF Shoeshare collection. We had a terrific response and the shoes have now been collected.

Coming Soon

Parent Reading Event
Wednesday 28th February, 3pm

World Book Day
Thursday 1st March

Byron's Got Talent Auditions
Week beginning Monday 29th January

Class 4L Assembly to Parents
Wednesday 31st January, 9am

Parent's Consultation Meetings
Tuesday 6th February, 3.30pm

Class 4H Assembly to Parents
Wednesday 7th February, 9am

Parent's Consultation Meetings
Thursday 8th February, 3.30pm

Byron's Got Talent Finalists Announced
Friday 9th February

Mad Hair Tag Day
Friday 9th February

Term Dates 2017/18

Term 3
Monday 8th January 2018
until
Friday 9th February 2018

Term 4
Monday 19th February 2018
until
Thursday 29th March 2018

Term 5
Monday 16th April 2018
until
Friday 25th May 2018

Term 6
Tuesday 5th June 2018
until
Wednesday 25th July 2018

Term Dates 2018/2019

Term 1
Tuesday 4th September 2018
until
Friday 19th October 2018

Term 2
Tuesday 29th October 2018
Until
Tuesday 18th December 2018



Uniform

A navy blue jumper, sweatshirt or cardigan.
Navy, black or grey trousers, tailored shorts, skirt or dress/navy and white checked dress. A white or blue polo shirt, shirt or blouse. Flat plain black shoes or trainers (no heels or open toes).
www.tesco.com/ues

United Nations

This term our focus United Nations Rights of the Child article is "Article 13. Every child must be free to say what they think and to seek and receive all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law". We hope that you will ask your child what they have done in school to support this and have a discussion of what this means.

Take Five to Stop Fraud

Take Five is a national campaign offering straightforward advice to help everyone protect themselves from preventable financial fraud. Finance companies across the country, along with the UK Government and other commercial, public and third sector organisations are joining together to help people protect themselves from fraud. If anyone is asking for your personal or financial details, then they should remember the campaign slogan: 'My money? My info? I don't think so'.

Spotting common scams

- Requests to move money - A genuine bank or organisation will never contact you out of the blue to ask for your PIN, full password or to move money to another account. Only give out your personal or financial details to use a service that you have given your consent to, that you trust and that you are expecting to be contacted by.
- Clicking on links in emails or texts - Don't be tricked into giving a fraudster access to your personal or financial details. Never automatically click on a link in an unexpected email or text.
- Personal information - Always question uninvited approaches in case it's a scam. Instead of responding, contact the company directly using a known email or phone number.

Book Week

Please take photos of your children reading during the week beginning 26th February which includes World book day on Thursday 1st March. Add your photos to the schools Twitter account, or send them to the office if you are not on Twitter.

Weird and wonderful reading places are encouraged!

During the week teachers will be reading some of their favourite stories to children during Assemblies and in class.

On Wednesday 28th February you are invited to come in and read with your children from 2.50pm. Enter via the double doors by the office and some helpful year 6 children will get you to the right place.

Thursday 1st March is World Book Day. We would love staff and children to dress up as a book character for the day. To help us re-stock our class Libraries we would like to ask for a donation of a good quality **used**

children's book, comic or magazine that we could add to our classrooms. If you have a book or books that your child has enjoyed but finished with, please donate it so we can re-stock our class libraries with some new material.

Library Books

Please ensure that your child returns their library books once they have read them. Your child will receive a returns slip for books that have been on loan for more than sixty days. On receipt of this slip, your child should return their book to their class teacher who will arrange for it to be sent to the library.

Reminders

Rochester Cathedral

Saturday 17th February 10.30am – 2pm. Join in the fun at Rochester Cathedral, balloon crafting, stitching and embroidery, flag making, music from the Cathedral Children's Choir and much more!

Health & Wellbeing

Headlice

Please be vigilant and check your child's hair regularly. Although this is a common issue in all schools, it is frustrating and can be upsetting.

In The Community

Blood Donor Session

The NHS are holding a blood donor session on Wednesday 7th February at 1.30pm to 4.30pm and 5.30pm to 8pm at Priestfield Stadium, Gillingham. Please call 0300 123 23 23 to make an appointment. For more information visit blood.co.uk

Pat on the Back

There were two classes with the best attendance for the week beginning the 15th January 2018, they were 3K and 5C, both with a fantastic 100%. Well done!!! FS2F and FS2M only had only one child late each, and 98.6% of children arrived on time.

Inclusions this week

- Multi-Sport Holiday Club Flyers
- Avengers Holiday Club Flyers
- Class 1F Parent Consultation Letters
- Y4 Residential Kit List
- Y1-6 Razzamataz Theatre School Flyers

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, achieving equal opportunities and combating discrimination

Head Teacher: Mr Carthy

Deputy Heads: Mrs Langthorne (4-7 year olds) and Mr Chantler (7-11 year olds)

Family Liaison Officer: Mrs Vella

Inclusion Manager: Mrs Hill

This school operates a very clear whistleblowing policy for staff