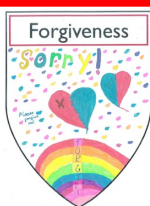


Oldswinford Cof E Primary School

'Believe, achieve and shine brighter together'



Spring Newsletter: 15th March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are thrilled to tell you that we now have a donation bin for The Kids Clothes Project in the school reception. When you are having a clear out of your children's outgrown clothes, please consider donating them to this project who provide clothing for children in need across the Black Country. They accept good quality preloved clothes, toys and books that are suitable for children aged 2-12.

The Kids Clothes Project has been running for 4 years and has so far helped over 1200 children across the Black Country. Children are provided with a generous parcel including: 7 of each of the following items; Jumpers; T-shirts; trousers and new underwear. Additional items include: shoes, coats, pyjamas, dresses, swimwear, books and soft toys.

We would also like to make all families aware, that they are able to make this support available to you if you find you are struggling to clothe your children, or would appreciate an extra hand. Please come and speak to me on the gate or drop me a dojo message. If you'd like to know more about the Kids Clothes Project, or you would like to donate financially or volunteer your time to help, please see: <https://www.kidsclothesproject.co.uk/>

We are going to church on Friday morning next week and it is 'Wear a Hat' Day. Please come in school uniform but wearing a hat - we have checked with Rev'd John and we are going to include this within our church service! I'll be dropping a message on dojo early next week, asking if anyone is free to help us walk there and back - and of course you'd be welcome to join us for the service too.

Have a lovely weekend,

Reading Newsletter

Our reading ambassadors and Mrs Dunn have written a newsletter to share with you. I have copied the link below and it's also on the parentmail message in case you can't open it from the newsletter.

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/DmwrjxSRkJgSD0js?ref=Link&loc=mysways>

Attendance

This week our attendance has been...

Reception - 95.6%

Year 1 - 94.9%

Year 2 - 96.8%

Year 3 - 96%

Year 4 - 97.3%

Year 5 - 97.3%

Year 6 - 97.3%

Well done Year 4, 5 and 6 for your amazing attendance this week.

Value of the half term...

Hope

This week we extended an idea that the children have really grasped. We again looked at the story of the Hope Train and then also thought about who we would put on it and what we would put on it. The children came up with some lovely ideas and linked it to some of our other values too. We talked about when times are difficult we can think about the hope train, who and what is on it and that can help us to feel better. Our Open the Book team also joined us on Thursday.

kids clothes project



There is now a donation bin for the Kids Clothes Project in the school reception of Oldswinford Primary School.

What can I donate

We accept good quality preloved clothes, toys & books for children ages 2-12.



Key items: jumpers, t-shirts, trousers, new underwear

Additional items: shoes, coats, pyjamas, dresses, swimwear, books and soft toys

We can also take clothing that is no longer suitable for donation, but that can be recycled (please label these for recycling)

If you are struggling to clothe your children, or could do with an extra hand, please speak to the school to refer you.

www.kidsclothesproject.co.uk



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Dudley Council's fostering service is looking for new foster carers to provide homes for looked after children in the borough.

It's easy to find out more on our website

www.fosteringindudley.org.uk or we're

always happy to have a chat over the phone or at one of our drop in sessions.

The team is interested in hearing from anyone who has an interest in fostering children of any age, but in particular from people who would consider caring for teenagers, children with disabilities or those who could take more than one child so brothers and sisters can stay together.

To find out more visit **www.fosteringindudley.org.uk**
email **fosteringrecruitment@dudley.gov.uk**
or call **01384 815833**



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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about LIVE STREAMING

Live streaming involves broadcasting and watching videos online in real time, often on social media or via platforms like YouTube and Twitch. Viewers can interact through comments, chats and reactions during the broadcast: such instant engagement makes this an exciting way to share experiences, learn from others and build digital communities. Despite the many positives, live streaming also creates a potential platform for unsuitable content and poses some risks to children: it's essential to keep privacy and safety in mind and comply with each site or app's age restrictions.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

LACK OF AGE VERIFICATION

Despite their age restrictions, some platforms don't require proof of age at sign up – meaning that anyone can register for an account (and potentially pretend to be older or younger than they actually are). In many cases, this means that young live streamers can never be totally certain exactly who they are broadcasting to and who is engaging with their live stream.

DISCLOSING PERSONAL INFO

A characteristic of live streaming is the ability for videos to be instantly shared worldwide. Without the correct privacy settings enabled, a child could inadvertently reveal personal information or their location, making them vulnerable to online predators or identity theft. It's wise to regularly check the privacy settings (and what data is being shared) on any apps your child has signed up for.

ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN

As the video streams are live, children might encounter (or inadvertently share) inappropriate content. Most live-streaming apps have rules to prevent this and monitor their services, also providing report buttons where content can be flagged for review. It may not be dealt with instantly, however, meaning that your child could be further exposed to harmful content during a live stream.

UNAUTHORISED RECORDINGS

Each live streaming platform stores completed videos for different periods (Twitch saves broadcasts for 60 days, for example, while Facebook and YouTube remove them only at the creator's request). Deleting a video, though, doesn't always stop it from being shared: in some cases, streams have been illegally recorded (or screenshots taken) by certain viewers and redistributed on other sites.

ROGUE CONTENT CREATORS

Children can also watch other people's live streams, which could potentially contain anything at any time (such as nudity, drug use or profanity). Most apps claim to monitor live streams and will stop any that don't adhere to their guidelines – but with millions of streams per day, it's complicated to regulate them all, so children could be exposed to inappropriate content without parents knowing.

DANGER OF GROOMING

There are increasing reports of children being coerced into performing "suggestive acts" by strangers on some live-streaming apps. Due to the lack of verification required for certain apps, almost anyone can sign up to these services (including anonymously or under a fake identity). It's vital, therefore, to ensure the correct safety measures are in place before your child begins live streaming.

Advice for Parents & Carers

PUT PRIVACY FIRST

Through the streaming app's settings, switch your child's account to 'private', so only their friends and followers can see their broadcasts. You could also turn off the live chat, shielding your child from any upsetting comments – although viewers' feedback is often seen as an integral part of the fun. Identify any nearby items (such as school uniforms or visible landmarks) that could give away your child's location.

MANAGE MULTISTREAMING

Some apps and sites let users stream their content through multiple social media platforms at once. A broadcast on SteamYard, for example, can be shared on YouTube, Twitch, X and Facebook if the accounts are linked. The privacy settings can differ on each of these, so we'd suggest only streaming via one platform at a time to maintain greater control over who's watching your child's videos.

GET INVOLVED YOURSELF

Research suggests a significant number of streams show a child on their own, often in a supposed safe space like their bedroom. If your child wants to live stream, ask if you could be present because you're interested in how it works. You could even set up your own account to gain a more detailed knowledge of what your child talks about in their live streams – and who they're broadcasting to.

TALK ABOUT LIVE STREAMING

Try to start with positives before discussing potential risks. You could ask which live streaming apps your child likes and how they use them. Do they just watch streams or create their own? Explain why it's unwise to reveal personal information while streaming (even to friends). If you feel your child's too young for live streams, explain your reasoning to them and perhaps agree to review this decision in the future.

CONSIDER THEIR ONLINE REPUTATION

As the broadcasts are live, it often causes the misconception among young people that whatever happens in their video simply 'vanishes' once the stream ends. However, videos can stay online indefinitely or be recorded by other users. It's important that your child understands what they do and say in a live stream could potentially damage their online reputation and, quite possibly, be seen by prospective future employers, colleges or universities.

Meet Our Expert

Rhodri Smith is Head of Digital Learning at Thomas's Kensington, London. Recognised in the EdTech 50 UK Awards Yearbook 2021/22 for his efforts in the digital transformation at Cubitt Town Primary School and Tower Hamlets, he is also a Google for Education Certified Trainer and guest lectures at University College London on the integration of technology across the curriculum.



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Source: <https://www.itw.org.uk/media/23/jna2/distribution-of-captures-of-live-streamed-child-sexual-abuse-final.pdf>



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EASTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Dudley Holiday Activities provides **free activities** in the school holidays for children aged 5-16 who receive benefits related **Free School Meals**

#HAF2024



HOW TO SIGN UP

1. Register on the NEW Dudley HAF Website! You must be registered to book activities.
2. Once FSM status has been verified by Dudley Council, you will receive an email with login details.
3. When bookings open for Easter – usually a couple of weeks before the holiday, you can log in and book up to 4 sessions for each of your children.



www.dudleyholidayactivities.org.uk/register



SCAN ME

Sessions with Gemma Calvert at The Fitness Factory, Stourbridge, DY8 1UN. To book text Gemma on 07939137810. These sessions are free through the HAF program if you qualify,

