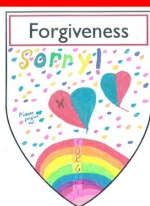


Oldswinford Cof E Primary School

'Believe, achieve and shine brighter together'



Autumn Newsletter: 13th October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you so much for all the wonderful donations for our Harvest festival! What a great day it has been. We are very fortunate that some of our parents, grandparents and members of the local community give up their time to come into school on a voluntary basis once a week to listen to children read.

Their support is greatly appreciated and valued by staff, and makes such a difference to our children. If you are interested in becoming one of the team too, please contact the school office.

Have a great weekend!

Ellie Game

Value of the half term...

Responsibility

This week, our worship was linked to Harvest and saying thank you for the things that we have. Tim, a volunteer from the Black Country Food Bank, came to visit us to tell us about where our Harvest donations will go and how much they make a difference. We linked this to our value of responsibility and thought about how we should help people who have less than us. Thank you for coming to speak to us Tim!

On Friday Rev'd Claire came to visit and led our special Harvest Celebration Worship.

Parking

I am writing to ask for your help with parking on Field Lane. I have had a number of residents contact me about unsafe driving and parking.

One incident that has been shared involved a parent driving too fast which resulted in her mounting the kerb and hitting the sign on the corner of Prospect Row.

The other two incidents involved residents being blocked in their drive or having restricted access. This has resulted in residents being late for work and in one case damage to cars.

They all understand that living near a school means will have busy roads at certain times of the day, however it is not acceptable for our residents to be experiencing these things.

As a school I'd like you to consider:

- Walking, if you can, to ease busy periods
- Only parking in safe and sensible places.
- Driving at a speed that is safe when over 400 children are coming and going from school.

If you have concerns about parking, the following form can be filled in to report it.

<https://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/parking-and-roads/parking-in-dudley/civil-parking-enforcement/>

Reminders...

- Libya posters need to be given to me by Monday 16th October - don't forget to sellotape a donation to the back.
- Parents' Evening next week - don't forget to book a slot.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ONLINE FINANCIAL SCAMS & EXPLOITATION

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

To date, nearly 43 million UK internet users have encountered a financial scam online; roughly 20% of those victims wound up at least £1,000 out of pocket as a result. The number of con artists plying their trade in the digital world has grown in recent years (a worrying trend which, unfortunately, appears likely to continue), and their methods have become increasingly creative. It can, therefore, be difficult to recognise an online financial scam – let alone to safeguard our children against them – but it's not impossible. Our guide offers a few pointers on what to look out for.

PHISHING SCAMS

Scammers often use deception to obtain personal and financial information from their target. They might pose as legitimate organisations, such as pretending to be HMRC and threatening legal action for unpaid tax unless the victim provides their National Insurance number. Their efforts have been getting more convincing recently, so be mindful of any unexpected or unusual emails.

IDENTITY THEFT

Criminals can manipulate someone into providing personal data, then use it to assume their identity online and commit fraud, make unauthorised purchases or engage in other illegal activities. Identity theft can be accomplished by tricking victims into downloading malware that scans their device for information; by figuring out passwords to social media accounts; or through phishing scams.

FRAUDULENT INVESTMENTS

Fraudsters might lure victims into offering their hard-earned cash for a "one-of-a-kind investment opportunity" promising high returns or quick profits – such as the many cryptocurrency scams currently circulating online. Some unscrupulous influencers have even used their status to tempt their followers into paying for courses which promise to help them become rich and more attractive.

DECEPTIVE ADVERTISING

Many online sellers use false or misleading advertising to persuade consumers to spend money or supply personal information. Certain websites, for instance, have become notorious for using attractive images to advertise their products, promising to deliver an item for a fraction of its usual price – only for a cheaper-looking, poor-quality reproduction to arrive in the post instead.

SOCIAL MEDIA SCAMS

Scammers use social media to manipulate or deceive victims, often by posing as a popular influencer and exploiting their audience – such as posting a link to a 'giveaway' which actually siphons money or personal data to whoever is behind this false identity. This type of scammer commonly impersonates influencers with a younger fan-base, as children tend to make more naive targets.

Advice for Parents & Carers

EDUCATE YOUR CHILD

Talk to your child about the risks of online financial scams and encourage open communication about their digital activities. Make sure they know the kind of lures that are out there, and what to look out for when encountering a potential scam. Foster their critical thinking skills – and emphasise that if something they see on the internet seems too good to be true, then it probably is.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Almost all devices that children typically use to access the internet have built-in safeguards like parental controls and monitoring tools. Stay aware of the options available to you, and make use of them to shield your child from possible exploitation as best as you can. This, combined with common sense and critical thinking, should go a long way towards keeping them safe.

STAY INFORMED

Try to keep your knowledge of current and emerging scams in the digital world up-to-date, so you can help your child stay safe. New methods of exploitation are developing all the time, but thankfully it's not all doom and gloom. There are plenty of sources – such as Ofcom – that keep a record of online scammers' methods, plus lists of which sites or schemes to be wary of.

PRIORITISE PRIVACY

Teach your child to value their own privacy: that is, to respect the value of their personal data and be cautious about sharing it online. It's especially important that children know to safeguard their financial details and other sensitive data – and never to provide that information to anyone online, unless they're absolutely certain that it's safe, secure and for a legitimate reason.

REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

Encourage your child to report any suspicious or potentially harmful online encounters to you or another trusted adult. Make it clear that they will never get in trouble for telling you about what's happened. Fraudsters often attempt to play on children's fear of getting into trouble, so cancelling out that notion robs internet scammers of one of their greatest weapons.

Meet Our Expert

Ross Savage has a proven track record in countering financial crime, having spent 13 years with UK law enforcement – specialising in money laundering investigations and asset recovery from organised criminal groups. He now holds senior visiting expert positions at various organisations and delivers customised training and consultancy to government and private-sector clients worldwide.



CRYPTO

NOS
National
Online
Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/news-events/data-visualizations/data-spotlight/2022/12/who-experiences-scams-story-all-ages> | <https://www.bbb.org/articles/scams/28828-2021-bbb-scamtracker-risk-report>
<https://www.ofcom.gov.uk/news-centre/2022/scale-and-impact-of-online-fraud-revealed> | <https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/younger-people-scammed>
https://www.ukfinance.org.uk/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/202021/2020FINAL.pdf



the national
sleep
helpline

**Want to know
more about
sleep?**

ASK US THE
QUESTIONS YOU
WANT ANSWERS TO

 **03303 530 541**
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 7pm - 9pm
Monday & Wednesday 9am - 11am

At any given time up to 40% of adults and 50% of children (this rises to 80% with a SEND diagnosis) have difficulties with their sleep. Yet in a recent survey, almost 60% of adults felt there was a lack of support for sleep issues. Sleep problems can leave people feeling isolated and lonely.

Our free helpline is run by trained sleep advisors, many of whom are specialists in working with SEND. We can talk to young people directly, or parents (we can also talk to adults, including older people, about their sleep issues).

The helpline is open 5 times a week, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday evenings 7-9pm, and Monday, Wednesday mornings 9-11am. The number is 03303 530 541.

You can read more here: <https://thesleepcharity.org.uk/national-sleep-helpline/>



We understand how difficult it can be when energy bills start to rise. By making some small, simple changes we can all save money while staying safe and well.

Save money when cooking

When cooking, put a lid on your pan as this can save you money on your energy bill. Putting a lid on your pan allows water to boil faster and the lid keeps the heat in the pan, rather than letting it escape, speeding up cooking time and helping you use less energy.

Slow cookers save money! Slow cookers are an extremely efficient way to cook, you can batch cook meals. Likewise, microwaves and air fryers are also great alternatives to using ovens.

Switch off your appliances

Turning off lights and switching appliances off standby when not in use can save **£85¹** a year on energy bills.

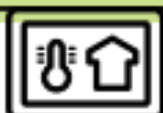


Do not over fill

Only boil as much as you need, overfilling your kettle wastes energy.



Turn down your thermostat



By turning down your thermostat from 22°C to 21°C, you could save **£115²** on your energy bills.

Wash on eco or 30°C or cooler cycles when you can. Washing at 30°C rather than higher temperatures could save **£15³** a year

LED lights

Switch your lights to energy-friendly LED light bulbs. Replacing all the light bulbs in your home with LEDs can save around **£65⁴** a year, lasting five times longer.



Full load

Only wash with a full load, cutting back on just one washing cycle a week can save you an additional **£15** a year and further savings on metered water bills.



Use a washing bowl

Using a bowl to wash up rather than a running tap can save you money on your energy and water bills if you have a water meter. You only need to run a typical tap for 95 seconds before you would have filled a washing up bowl.⁵

Take shorter showers

Spending just one minute less in the shower can save **£20** a year in a typical household and uses far less energy than taking a bath. Sticking to 4-minute showers could save a typical household **£75** on energy bills and around **£65** on metered water bills every year.⁶

Replacing an inefficient shower head with a water-efficient one can reduce your yearly gas bill by **£45**. If you have a water meter as well, you can save another **£25** – that's a total saving of **£70** each year.⁷



Maximise your income

Every year, millions of households miss out on thousands of pounds worth of benefits, that they are entitled to. Turn2us's benefit calculator easily and quickly identifies any benefits you are entitled to claim to increase your income: [Turn2us Benefits Calculator](#).

We're committed to helping our customers keep safe and well. We work with a number of services and organisations that can provide help and support on energy fuel efficiency.

Help and support with energy bills



National Energy Action (NEA)

If you need advice and support on your energy bills, please visit NEA's website via the link for more information: [National Energy Action NEA](#)



Citizens Advice

If you need information on grants and benefits to help you pay your energy bills, please visit: [Citizens Advice](#)



Groundwork

If you need help with saving money on your energy bills or improving efficiency within your home, please visit: [Groundwork](#)



The Priority Services Register

The Priority Services Register (PSR) is a free service that helps energy companies to look after customers who have extra communication, access, or safety needs. It helps us tailor our services to support households who need extra help with everyday energy matters like bills, and also in the unlikely event of a power cut or gas supply interruption.

Find out if you are eligible and register at: [Priority Service Register](#)



Safer Homes Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Fitting a carbon monoxide (CO) alarm in your home is a great way of keeping you and your family safe from the dangers of (CO). CO is an odourless, tasteless, and invisible gas that is dangerous, and can be created from faulty gas appliances.

The Safe Homes programmes offers households a free CO alarm (maximum of one per household) - [you can request your free CO alarm here](#).

Please use the below details when requesting your free CO alarm:

Username = coalarms Password = Saferhomes123

