

Oldswinford Cof E Primary School

'Believe, achieve and shine brighter together'



Autumn Newsletter: 29th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for all of your support with the Bandana Bake today - the cakes looked (and tasted) delicious!

I'll get back to you with the total made ASAP.

Don't forget to pop to the Green Duck this evening between 4.30 and 6.30 for a tombola and cake sale to help raise money for this very good cause.

We have added an additional date to our list of dates: Christmas Dinner will be on Friday 8th December the same day as Christmas jumper day.

Have a great weekend! Best wishes, Ellie Game

Value of the half term...

Responsibility

This week we announced our new worship group members - I can't wait to start working with them.

We also looked at how sometimes we need to show responsibility towards things that are happening in our world.

We shared some images of Libya and watched some clips from Newsround. We looked at what the Bible teaches us and then thought about how we could help. I've set the children the challenge of coming up with ideas which they are going to send me by Friday so we can choose one for the school to do.

'Care for one another, as I have cared for you' John 13: 34

Welcome to Worship Group:

Year 4: Esme M, Maddie, Amelie, Toby, Martha, Phoebe, Quinn, Summer

Year 5: Lois, Freya, Noa, Finley, Ella, Amelie, Harley, Ruby, Jess M-S, Charlotte

Year 6: Ellie, Amber, Martha, Isabel, Erin

(Badges are on the way). We originally said that we only had 4 places per year group but all the letters were so great that we felt we could manage a larger group and every one who gave me a letter could join. Well done!

These children are joining our existing members: Matilda, Abigail, Josh, Evelyn, Jacob, Louisa and Otto.

We have our first meeting on Friday at 12.00 in the ICT suite where we will be making rotas and planning a worship for the children to lead.

A few reminders...

- If you have a message to pass on can these please go via the office rather than speaking to staff who may be standing on their doors welcoming children. Thank you for your help with this.
- Can we ask for your support in not riding bikes or scooters on school grounds - we have had a few close calls lately where people have nearly been knocked over. We are happy for them to be walked through.
- At the end of the day we have some children who are using the play equipment unsafely - can we ask that they are not used as we would hate for an accident to happen.
- You will have had an email regarding the Harvest Tea party for Grandparents/local senior citizens and whether younger children can attend. If grandparents usually provide childcare for pre-school children then we are happy for them to attend but we won't have space for lots of additional pre-schoolers as it is always a very busy event.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SHARING PHOTOS ONLINE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

School is often a time chock-full of milestones for your child, and you may well be eager to share their accomplishments with the world. In today's digital age, sharing images of such precious moments on social media is commonplace, and – while that's a lovely thing to do – it does come with some risks attached. Our guide can help parents and carers to consider the potential dangers and make informed choices about safely sharing photos of their children online.

INVASIONS OF PRIVACY

Even with the right settings in place, absolutely nothing online is 100% private. Anyone who can view your photos could take screenshots and potentially share them elsewhere. Privacy settings are still important, though, so it's always wise to ensure your social media accounts have them set up; just bear in mind that you can't completely control what happens to anything once it's gone online.

REVEALING PERSONAL DETAILS

Small details in photos can often reveal personal information. Backgrounds can give clues to where you live, for example, while school logos on uniforms, sports kits, or bags could help someone identify which school your child attends. With interactive maps and reverse image searches commonplace online, information like this could easily be misused by an individual with malicious intentions.

MISUSE OF IMAGES

Once something's been shared online, it's almost impossible to get it deleted. Photos can show up in search engine results and be downloaded, manipulated, and shared without consent. There's the potential for someone's images to be used for advertising purposes (which in many cases, isn't illegal) or even more inappropriate reasons, such as cyber-bullying or serious forms of exploitation.

ONLINE GROOMING

Pictures that convey details about your child's interests, activities, or daily routines could arm an online predator with the kind of information they can deploy to gain a child's trust. They might use this knowledge to pretend to be the same age as the child or to have a shared hobby. Essentially, the more a predator knows about a young person, the easier it is for them to invent some 'common ground'.

PRESSURE TO PLEASE

When their parents or carers share notable moments and accomplishments in a child's life on social media, some children may begin to feel an expectation to *always* meet certain standards, to achieve things, or to behave in ways that are "worth sharing". Knowing that other people (even friends and family) can see these posts on social media might also add to the pressure they're feeling internally.

IMPACT ON DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Every photo of a child posted online contributes to their digital footprint. Young people's lives have never been so closely and publicly documented as they are now, and this permanent online presence could affect a child's future opportunities or the choices they make as they grow up – in addition to influencing how they see themselves and, consequently, their emotional wellbeing.

Advice for Parents & Carers

REVIEW SETTINGS REGULARLY

Make sure your social media's secure in terms of who can view your content or see your location (only family and trusted friends, for example). Privacy settings aren't totally foolproof, but they do make it tougher for strangers to access your pics. Reviewing your settings regularly is also a good starting point for conversations with your child about managing their own social accounts when they're older.

CONSIDER OTHER CHILDREN

When taking a group photo, make sure you get parents' or carers' permission to share it on social media. There may be an important safeguarding reason for them not wanting their child's photo posted publicly online, or it might simply not tally with their personal beliefs or cultural background. A quick conversation in advance, just to make sure, is usually hugely appreciated.

CHECK YOUR PHOTOS

Photos of your child shouldn't provide any clues to where they live or go to school: even a house number, street name, or car number plate could be a giveaway. Cover up or blur out school logos, too. If you *really* want to share a particular pic, you could post a watermarked or low-res version, which can help to discourage misuse as those images are less appealing to download or reproduce.

THINK AHEAD

Try to consider the longer-term implications of what you post. Would you be happy with that photo being online in 10 years' time? Would your child still be OK with the image when they're older? Once your child is mature enough, you could ask for their consent before posting: it respects their privacy, fosters trust and understanding, and helps them to start thinking about their own online life.

Meet Our Expert

Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with more than 30 years' experience working with children, families, and adults in education, local authority, and mental health settings, both in the UK and internationally. She has developed online safety training for local authorities and foster care agencies across Britain and is the online safety expert for Foster Wiki.



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