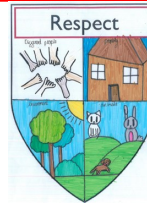
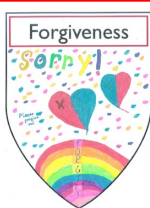


Oldswinford Cof E Primary School

'Believe, achieve and shine brighter together'



Spring Newsletter: 3rd March 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We had a letter from Downing Street this week thanking children in Year 4 for writing to the Prime Minister about climate change. They thought it was amazing that our children were so passionate about making our world a better place.

We also had parents in school for a Year 6 SATs workshop, a phonics workshop for Reception and Year 2 puppet making. We had a brilliant turn out for all of them - thank you for your support.

It's parents' evening next week - appointments will be in the upper hall and books will be out for you to look at. School will be closing at 7.15 so if you have a late appointment please make sure you have time before your appointment to look at the books.

We have some books that we have taken off our reading scheme and will put out on parents' evening for you to buy. There is no set price - a donation of what you can afford would be perfect.

Have a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing you all at Parents' Evening.

Ellie Game

Value of the half term...

Confidence

This week we shared what our new value was going to be and discussed the difference between being confident in something we were good at and the confidence we needed to try new things.

'Open the Book' came and told us the story of the Centurion's Servant and how the Centurion had confidence in Jesus.

Attendance

Reception - 89.8%

Year 1 - 96.5%

Year 2 - 96.5%

Year 3 - 94.8%

Year 4 - 99.2%

Year 5 - 97.1%

Year 6 - 96.9%

Well done Year 4 for having the best attendance this week!

Congratulations

Well done Martha (Year 3) for getting a Blue Peter Sports badge. It's a great achievement and brilliant to hear that you tried gymnastics and shared with Blue Peter all about it! Very well done!

If you think you'd like to try and get one too follow this link for more information...

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/blue-peter-apply-for-the-sky-brown-sport-badge>





Easter Tennis

Week 1: 4th-6th April
Week 2: 11th-13th April

Camps running at Stourbridge Lawn Tennis and Squash Club for children aged 4-16 years of all levels.

9am – 3pm
Full and half
days available



**SCAN QR
CODE TO
BOOK A
SPACE**

Tips for Encouraging Open Discussions about DIGITAL LIVES

The online world is an entirely familiar and commonplace part of life for today's children and young people, far more so than for previous generations. There are many positives to children being able to access online materials, so it's important not to demonise the internet, games and apps, and limit the benefit of their positive aspects. At the same time, we do have a responsibility to educate children about the hazards they may encounter online (just as we would about real-world dangers) so it's essential that we don't shy away from talking to them about the complex – and often sensitive – subject of what they do and what they see when they're online.

Here are some suggestions for kicking off conversations with your child about their digital life...

MAKE YOUR INTEREST CLEAR

Showing enthusiasm when you broach the subject signals to your child that you're keen to learn about the positives of their online world. Most children enjoy educating adults and will happily chat about what they use the internet for, or what games and apps they're into and how these work. Asking to see their favourite games and apps in action could help you spot any aspects that may need your attention – such as chat functions which might require a settings adjustment to limit contact with strangers. Keep listening even if your child pauses for a long time: they could be considering how to phrase something specific, or they may be gauging your reaction.

BE OPEN AND HONEST, APPROPRIATE TO THEIR AGE

At various stages, children and young people become curious about puberty and how their body changes; about relationships; about how babies are made; and about sexual health. If your child knows that they can discuss these sensitive subjects with you, they tend to be less likely to go looking online for answers – which can often provide them with misleading information and, in some cases, lead to them consuming harmful content. Don't worry if you don't immediately know the answers to their questions – just find out for yourself and go back to them once you have the facts.

REMIND YOUR CHILD THEY CAN ALWAYS TALK TO YOU

In my role I work with many children and young people who admit being reluctant to tell a trusted adult about harmful content they've viewed online, in case it leads to having their devices confiscated. Emphasise to your child that you're always there to listen and help; reassure them that if they do view harmful content, then they are not to blame – but talking about it openly will help. Children shouldn't be expected to be resilient against abuse or feel that it's their job to prevent it.

KEEP TALKING!

The most valuable advice we can give is to keep talking with your child about their digital lives. You could try using everyday situations to ask questions about their online experiences.

DISCUSS THAT NOT EVERYTHING WE SEE ONLINE IS REAL

Here, you could give examples from your own digital life of the online world versus reality – for example, those Instagram posts which show the perfect house: spotlessly clean, never messy and immaculately decorated. Explain to your child that there are many other aspects of the online world which are also deliberately presented in an unrealistic way for effect – such as someone's relationship, their body, having perfect skin and so on.

TRY TO REMAIN CALM

As much as possible, try to stay calm even if your child tells you about an online experience that makes you feel angry or fearful. Our immediate emotions frequently influence the way we talk, so it's possible that your initial reaction as a parent or carer could deter a child from speaking openly about what they've seen. Give yourself time to consider the right approach, and perhaps speak with other family members or school staff while you are considering your next steps.

CREATE A 'FAMILY AGREEMENT'

Involving your whole household in coming up with a family agreement about device use can be immensely beneficial. You could discuss when (and for how long) it's OK to use phones, tablets, consoles and so on at home; what parental controls are for and why they're important; and why it's good to talk to each other about things we've seen or experienced online (both good and bad). Explaining your reasoning will help children to understand that, as trusted adults, we want to make sure they are well informed and kept safe. Allowing children to have their say when coming up with your family agreement also makes them far more likely to stick to it in the long term.

Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings of RAISE (Raising Awareness in Sex Education) has almost 20 years' experience delivering relationships and sex education and training to schools, colleges and other education providers. A published author on the subject, she also advises the Department of Education on the staff-training element of the RSHE curriculum.



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