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Dear Parents,

Welcome to the second half of the school year! Time really does seem to be flying now!

Class Photographs

A reminder that Class Photographs will be taken next Friday, 1st March.

Social Media

Following on from Safer Internet Day last term, I would like to remind all parents of the importance of supporting and supervising their children when using social media. As you may know, I do ask all parents to please regularly check your children's phones and devices. Whilst this may seem to some to be an invasion of your children's privacy, it is done to keep them safe, and to protect them from receiving or seeing unkind or inappropriate messages and content. Sadly, at this age, not all children have the maturity to use technology appropriately and safely, and need support and guidance from the adults around them in order to learn this. They feel that being online gives them a degree of anonymity that protects them from the consequences of their actions, and enables them to access and share content online that they would not dream of actually seeing or sharing in real life. Whilst we would all love to think that our children would never send an inappropriate message, write a rude word, or post or like an unkind comment, I am afraid that children are children and make mistakes, like the rest of us. It is our collective responsibility to teach them how to act appropriately and to consider the impact of their actions on themselves and on others. It is for this reason that we include the following statement in the parent section of the Home-School Agreement: I/ we will support the school's policies and guidelines for behaviour, including talking to my/our child about responsible use of the internet, mobile phones and social media.

We know that some children may delete messages and images from their phones, in order to prevent their parents, or others, reading them. I would like to remind all parents and children that deleted messages may still be retrieved, and that even if they are deleted from one device, they may still be saved or shared on others.

Apps may also be "hidden" behind other, innocent looking apps. One example of this is Calculator Lock, which looks like a calculator app, but actually hides photos and videos behind it. Further information can be found on the National Online Safety website, who publish leaflets about a wide range of apps and websites, along with information for parents about online safety as a whole.

Nurturing the spark of God within

"Those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles" Isaiah 40:31



The Internet is a wonderful tool, and can be a lifeline to parents and children alike. Unfortunately, it also enables access to content which is simply inappropriate at best (and illegal at worst) by all of its users. Please take every step to protect your children by installing appropriate filters and screens, and ensuring that your children do not have unsupervised access to their devices – for example, by keeping mobile phones downstairs and not in children’s bedrooms.

Please talk to your children about what to do if they find or receive something online which makes them feel uncomfortable or scared. With the best will in the world, occasionally a filter may miss an inappropriate pop up or link, and your child may be exposed to something that we would all rather they did not see. It is so important that if this happens, your child knows to close the screen down (don’t save it or share it) and to talk to you or another trusted adult immediately.

Thank you!

Thank you so much for all of the support you give us – it is very much appreciated. Your help in ensuring that the children are in school on time, with the correct uniform and equipment and with appropriate packed lunches really does make life easier for us all and allows staff to concentrate on teaching, and children to focus on learning.

It is probably appropriate just to remind you that the school gates will close promptly at 8:50am – it is disruptive for the class if children arrive after this time, as they are all ready to join the rest of the school in the hall for Worship.

Also, a quick reminder that crisps and items containing chocolate should only be included in packed lunch boxes on Fridays please. We are noticing a few children bringing in these items every day, which is unfair. Should this happen in future, these items will be sent home uneaten with the children.

World Thinking Day/Scouts Founder’s Day

It was wonderful to see so many members of the school community wearing their uniforms to school yesterday to commemorate the birth of Lord Robert Baden-Powell.



Wraparound Childcare Survey

The Education People's Early Years and Childcare Service is conducting a survey, on behalf of Kent County Council, of parents/carers and expectant parents to determine interest in the childcare entitlements that are being introduced this year and their arrangements for wraparound care of any primary school aged children. The survey will also gather the views of parents/carers using or wanting to use more childcare in Kent. This combined information will help us assess where there are gaps in provision. The survey can be accessed via the QR code below.



Have a lovely weekend!

Best wishes

Tina Holditch
Headteacher