



NEWSLETTER – Friday 23rd June 2023

Dear parents and carers,

As we step into the final weeks of this academic year 22/23, we have now begun our transition for this year. Some high schools have already been in to meet some of our Year 6 children, and this will continue over the coming few weeks. This year our transition for Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 will be for longer and spread across a week starting on Monday 10th July. We feel it is important children get to spend as much time as possible in their new classroom with their new teacher, before the long summer break. Please find below our transition week at George White:

Friday 7th July – pupils, parents and carers informed of their new class and teacher for next year

Monday 10th July 11-12:10 – all children move up to their new class with their new teacher

Tuesday 11th July 8:40-11:30 - children register in their new classroom with their new teacher and spend the morning in their new classroom.

Wednesday 12th July all day – children register in their new classroom with their new teacher and spend the full day in their new classroom with their new teacher. Children will exit school at the end of the day from their new year group doors.

Thursday 13th July all day - children register in their new classroom with their new teacher and spend the full day in their new classroom with their new teacher. Children will exit school at the end of the day from their new year group doors.

Friday 15th July 8:40-12:10 - children register in their new classroom with their new teacher and spend the morning in their new classroom. After lunch, children return to their current year group, class and teacher.

If you have any questions about transition week, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

NEW SCHOOL VALUES

Thank you to all parents and carers who took the time to vote for our new school values. I am delighted to announce that our new values are:

Be Kind

Be Respectful

Be Honest

Be Confident

As a school, we feel our new values represent our diverse school community and support pupil character. These were shared in assembly on Friday with all staff and children, with the response being very positive. We are now at the start of our journey of embedding these values in all we do, as well as across our curriculum. In September, we 'officially' launch our new values but we have already begun to use these as part of our everyday language in school.



OUR LEARNING THIS WEEK

YEAR 3

This week has seen year 3 exploring stars in English as we began our new book 'Star in the jar'. We are learning to write our own story using lots of powerful adjectives to describe the stars. In Maths we have started learning how to add and subtract money. Both classes enjoyed their trip to the library and represented the school brilliantly. In Geography we have been looking at settlements and what the early settlers would have needed to settle in Britain. We also used maps to find the names of places that originated in Britain.



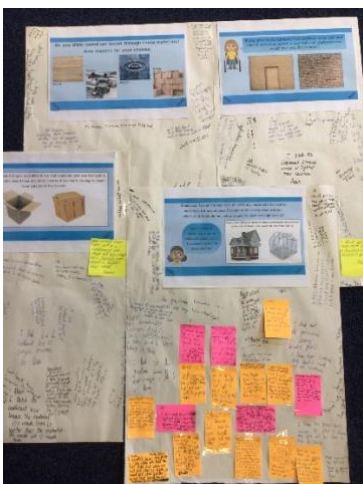
YEAR 4

This week in English YR4 have been preparing for their next writing unit which is writing a historical diary entry. The text we are beginning to read is called Roman Diary - The Journal of Iliona The Young Slave. It links really nicely with our History topic on Romans and the children are very excited about the end of term experience!

In Maths Year 4 are learning how to plot coordinates on a grid - we had a game of battleships as a fun way of learning this.

We have continued to learn about how sound travels in Science and this involved making phones out of string and cups which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

In French Year 4 have started to learn how to ask what the weather is like. I wonder if they can tell you how to say 'It is hot' in french? Very relevant this week!



YEAR 5

Another busy week in year 5. In our maths, we have been working very hard and finding out all about negative numbers. We have learnt how to count in negative numbers, compare negative numbers and find the difference between a negative and a positive number. Our English work has been based in 'Rose Blanche' and we have written some very powerful sentences including similes, metaphors and using repetition for effect. We have all found the story very powerful and we have used it to increase our knowledge of World War 2.

This week we have begun our history topic of World War 2. We began by creating timelines of all the important events that happened. During this, we all had a lot of discussion and sharing of knowledge. On Wednesday, we braved the heat and went for a Bomb walk in the local area. We identified where bombs were dropped during the war and marked them on a map. We learnt a lot about how Norwich was affected during the 'Norwich Blitz' and were surprised to find out that over 30,000 houses were damaged or destroyed during World War 2.

In PE we began to played kick rounder's and begun a unit on tennis.



YEAR 6

In English, children have been experiencing the difficulties of climbing Everest and the magnificence of the Himalayas. They are writing non-chronological reports about the world's highest mountain.

In Maths, we have been looking at pie charts, bar charts and line graphs.

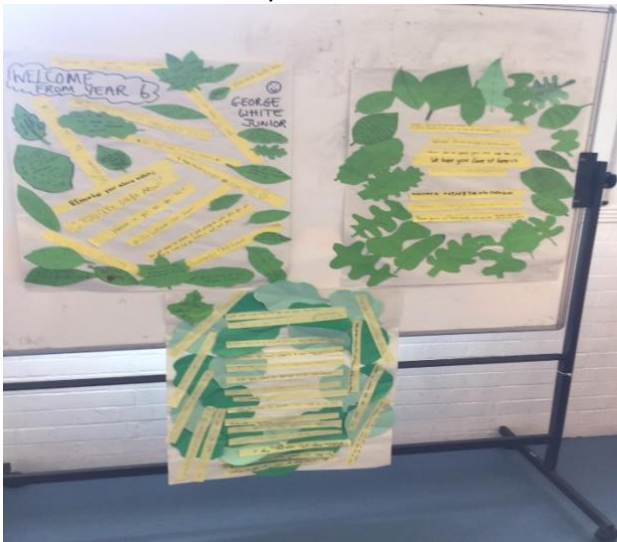
In Geography, we have looked at the price of fashion in the world and where different products are made as well as what the minimum wage is worth around the world.

In Science, children have written a biography of Michael Faraday and finding out how he made electricity without a battery and his other numerous inventions.

We had excellent games of rounder's on the field on Thursday with everyone really enjoying the 'home runs'.

Year 6 made a lovely display for the Day of Welcome last Friday to welcome refugees into school. It is full of positivity and friendship.

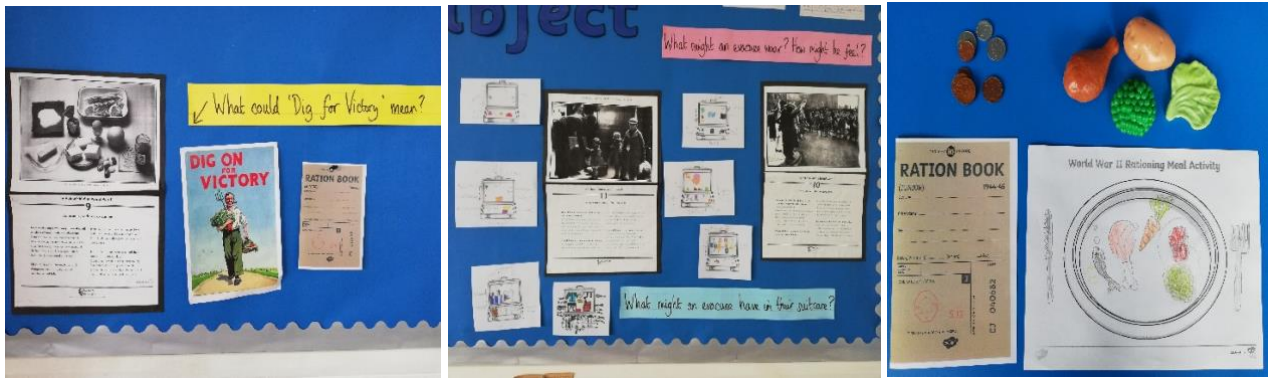
The stage is now up and children are learning their lines for Joseph. Please help them learn their lines over the next two weeks if you can!



Apple Class

Apple class have been learning lots about WWII this week. In English, we have been thinking and writing in role as evacuees, putting events into chronological order and preparing to write a recount in the style of a diary entry. We have typed up some of our work so far and learnt some shortcuts on the laptop such as using shift for capital letters. In history, we have learnt about rationing and we went 'shopping' with our own ration books to create a WWII meal. We got to use our maths skills too by using money. We have used our work on column addition and subtraction to solve problems and work in groups on

investigations. Our cookery group this week made delicious cookies for everyone which we enjoyed at the end of the day.



Our school attendance target is 95%

Attendance Matters

Our attendance certificate for the highest class attendance this week goes to

6 Larch & 5 Cedar with **100 % Well done**



What's On

JUNE 2023	
Monday 26 th June – Wednesday 28 th June	Assessment week for Year 3, 4 and 5
27 th and 28 th June	GW Got Talent
Thursday 29 th June	Science Day – whole school event
Thursday 29 th June	Author visit for year 5 & 6
JULY 2023	
Tuesday 4 th July	Dress down day – children are allowed to wear non school uniform
Tuesday 4 th July	Welcome meeting for new year 3 parents at 5.00pm
Wednesday 5 th July	Teacher strike day – more information about classes open will be sent
Thursday 6 th July	DT open doors for all year groups from 3:15pm. Parents and carers are welcome in to school to look at the DT product made this half term.
Thursday 6 th July	Welcome meeting for new year 3 parents at 5.00pm
Friday 7 th July	Teacher strike day – more information about classes open will be sent
Tuesday 11 th July	Year 3 & 4 end of year disco from 3:20 – 4:45
Wednesday 12 th July	Year 5 end of year disco from 3:20-4:45
Friday 14 th July	Summer Fair from 3.15 on the school playground (weather permitting)
Friday 14 th July	End of year reports out to all parents and carers
Monday 17 th July	Joseph and the technicolour dream coat performance for parents and carers at 1.30pm
Wednesday 19 th July	Joseph and the technicolour dream coat performance for parents and carers at 5.30pm
Thursday 20 th July	Year 6 end of year Disco
Friday 21 st July	Whole school final assembly at 11:30am
Friday 21 st July	Year 6 leavers assembly – parents and carers of year 6 pupils invited from 2:30pm to watch
Friday 21 st July	Term ends at 3.20pm
September 2023	
Wednesday 6 th September	School year 23/24 begins from 8:40am

Prime Bottles

We are noticing a sharp increase in children bringing Prime bottles into school to use as a water bottle. We are asking that children do not use Prime bottles but instead bring in an alternative water bottle to use. From Monday we will be asking any pupil who has a Prime bottle in school to return this to their bag and use the cups and water available in each classroom. Thank you.

No Smoking On the School Site

Please can we remind all parents and carers that smoking is not permitted in any part of the school at any time. This includes all school buildings and the outside areas of the school including playgrounds, sports field or car parks.

Silver Road Community Centre

Large Collection of School uniform & Food bank - Open: Thursdays 10.30 - 12.15

Community Fridge Saturdays & Food Bank Fresh food & bakery - Saturdays 11.00 - 12.15. To Book an Appointment Please call [07786694325](tel:07786694325)

Summer Fair 2023

We are pleased to announce our Summer fair is taking place on Friday 14th July from 3:15pm.

We are renting stall tables at £5 per table and all businesses are welcome.

We are having a **dress down day on 4th July**, this is an opportunity for children to come to school in non - school uniform, and in return we ask for a small donation to put towards the Summer Fair raffle. Donations could be:

- Chocolates, sweets, crisps, popcorn, biscuits
- Drinks – alcoholic and non-alcoholic
- Toiletries
- Books
- Vouchers



End of Year Discos

From Tuesday 27th June, Mrs Chester and Mrs Watts will be selling tickets for the school disco in the office at break time and lunchtime for any child who would like to attend. Tickets cost £1.00. As part of our Year 6 leavers celebrations, Year 6 students do not need to purchase a ticket but instead inform their class teacher that they will be attending.

Dates for our discos are:

Year 3 & 4 – 11th July 3:20-4:45

Year 5 – 12th July 3:20-4:45

Year 6 – 20th July 3:20-4:45

SAFEGUARDING

Mrs Derer is on our school playground every Thursday and Friday morning from 8:45am. Mrs Derer is our school Parent Support Advisor, and you may already recognise her as she works at Mousehold every Monday and Tuesday. Mrs Derer is always happy to talk to you about any worries or concerns relating to your child at home or any further support we may be able to offer or signpost you to.

Our school Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

Mrs Petchey, Mrs Stolworthy, Mrs Eaglen, Miss Alderton, Ms Connor, Mrs Derer and Mrs Burman

Please speak to one of these members of staff if you are worried or concerned about the safety of a child at school.

If you have a safeguarding concern about a child out of school hours,
the number to ring is:

CADS – Children’s Advice and Duty Service – 0344 800 8020



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AI VIRTUAL FRIENDS

Artificial Intelligence – particularly in terms of how it generates natural language – has seen significant development over the last six months, with companies releasing new AI-based software or adding an AI element to existing apps (such as Snapchat, for example). One form of AI to become especially popular has been the 'AI friend' or chatbot, as children eagerly experiment with these new-found computer-generated companions. There are now numerous apps available with this 'virtual friend' functionality, with the likelihood of it being added to other successful platforms soon.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

AI chatbots may not always be able to recognise when content is age inappropriate or harmful and should be filtered out. So there's a possibility that children could be exposed to offensive language or explicit material while conversing with their virtual friend. The companies producing such AI solutions are also unlikely to take responsibility for any content that their algorithms generate.

REDUCED SOCIAL CONTACT

An excessive reliance on chatbots for social interaction could potentially cause a child to begin reducing the amount of face-to-face communication they have, leading to social isolation if young people become dependent on chatbots to provide companionship. It could very likely hinder the development of their real-life social skills.

LACK OF SENSITIVITY

Chatbot software isn't always sophisticated enough to pick up on subtle emotional cues or recognise signs of distress in children, as most humans would. It might therefore fail to respond appropriately. AI misinterpreting what it's being told or replying insensitively to a young user who's already struggling could potentially impact a child's emotional wellbeing or exacerbate any existing emotional issues.

UNINTENTIONAL BIAS

AI companions are only as reliable as the information they've been programmed with. The algorithms they use, therefore, may unintentionally promote bias, stereotypes or discriminatory behaviour (as many originate from the USA or the UK, for instance, they can display a distinctly western-centric worldview). This could lead to children developing skewed attitudes and behaviours.

COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS

Although many are now undeniably advanced, AI-powered chatbots still have limitations in terms of understanding complex concepts, context and nuance. Depending heavily on chatbots to help with learning or solving problems may stunt the development of a child's own powers of critical thinking, creativity and ability to engage in open-ended discussions with other people.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Chatbots typically collect data about users, including personal information and conversations. This is ostensibly to improve their performance as they gradually learn about our behaviour – but many experts are warning that there may be significant risks associated with how this information is stored and used (the possibility of potential breaches or misuse by third parties, for instance).

Advice for Parents & Carers

CHAT ABOUT CHATBOTS

If your child is already expressing an interest in AI apps, a relaxed, natural chat should help you to discover which ones they're aware of and how they're using them (or are planning to). Discuss these options with your child and perhaps do your own research to ensure you think they're suitable. Once you're totally happy, you could sit with your young one and begin exploring AI chatbots together.

CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If your child is keen to engage with AI chatbots, encourage them to do so in a safe environment: ideally in a shared space at home, so you can easily keep an eye and ear on their progress. Set up appropriate content filtering measures in advance – and gently remind them that you'll be close by and ready to help with any questions or concerns that may arise.

FIND A BALANCE

Work alongside your child to establish the right balance in terms of how they might use AI-powered chatbots – and when it's appropriate. It's important to make sure that children are still getting plenty of opportunities to learn to solve problems for themselves, as well as building their interpersonal skills through face-to-face conversations with friends, family members and teachers.

TAKE CONTROL

As with any form of app or game, when it comes to AI chatbots we'd strongly recommend that you consider employing parental controls (either on the device being used or within the software itself) to manage which apps your child can download and use. This is particularly important for younger children, who may be more at risk of being upset or frightened by inappropriate content.

RECOGNISE THE RISKS

It's unlikely that most children will have even considered the potential risks attached to having a virtual companion. So it's probably wise to explain some of the possible hazards and challenges of AI chatbots to your child. In particular, emphasise that AI isn't a real person (however much it might sound like one) and may occasionally tell them something that isn't entirely impartial or accurate.

Meet Our Expert

A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary resides in the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Africa and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.



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#WakeUpWednesday

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