

BOSMERE NEWS

GROWING LIFELONG LEARNERS

SPRING TERM NEWSLETTER NO.2

13th February 2020

As we approach the half way point in our Spring Term, I continue to be amazed at the children's hard working attitude and the way they have been applying themselves to their learning. Their enjoyment was particularly apparent at our recent HEARTS morning, where we looked at being 'Ambitious'. The children really set their aspirations high on that morning, listening to inspiring career talks, trying new skills or experiences and working hard to achieve goals. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this morning a success.

PARENTS' CONSULTATION MEETINGS

Milestone 2 assessments will be sent home mid-March and this will be followed by our Parent Consultation Meetings. Day time appointments will be held during the week commencing Monday 23rd March. There will also be a Parents' Evening held on Thursday 19th March 3.45-7pm for parents who are unable to attend during the day. An email will be sent in due course, informing you of the date and times your child's teacher will be available. You will be able to select an appointment time through ParentMail or by contacting the office.

COFFEE MORNING - DATE CHANGE

The next coffee morning will take place on Friday 13th March and not 20th March as previously stated. Following our previous sessions on mental health and wellbeing, Mrs Lever will be presenting a session on supporting children with self-esteem. A separate email has been sent about this. Please complete the form in 'Forms' section on ParentMail to indicate if you would like to attend.

SCHOOL GARDENING AWARD

I am very pleased to be able to tell you that our Year 4 team have been awarded their Level 1 Certificate in the School Gardening awards for the plans they have submitted for their forthcoming gardening project. We look forward to submitting photographs of our gardening achievements later on in the year in order to gain Level 2. Well done everyone who has been involved with this so far.

PARENT HELPERS ON TRIPS

We are often finding ourselves in the position of struggling to find enough adults to support us on the educational visits we take the children on. We are looking to form a list of parents who would be interested in helping out in this capacity. A separate email will be going out about this with a form on ParentMail to respond.

WATER AT LUNCHTIMES

Please could we remind you that HC3S, our meals provider, only supply and wash reusable cups for pupils having a hot school dinner. Pupils bringing in a packed lunch need to also bring in their own drink (preferably in a reusable container to reduce waste). All pupils also have access to drinking water from the water fountains and their water bottles throughout the day. Thank you for your support with this.

INSET DAY

The next INSET day will take place on Friday 3rd April 2020.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

We now have a total amount for the money raised at the Christmas Fair. We are pleased to say we raised £2585.16. Thank you to everyone involved.

E-SAFETY TIP

Social media companies have faced criticism for failing to protect children from online abuse. Police and the NSPCC called on them to improve safeguarding measures after new figures showed the number of child sex offences involving the internet or social media has risen by a fifth in the past year. Here's a list of popular apps that should be strictly monitored. If your child is asking for permission to download an app, you can search for information on it through net-aware.org.uk

Kik In 2018 a BBC investigation found it featured in more than 1,100 child sexual abuse cases in the last five years, while a convicted child sex offender branded it a 'predator's paradise'. The anonymous app lets you send text, photo and video messages to individuals or groups and has an official age rating of 13+. There is a 'Meet New People' feature that lets you start a conversation with random users.

Tellonym lets users ask and answer questions about one another anonymously and claims it has over 8 million users worldwide. It is marketed as 'the most honest place on the internet', but UK schools have warned it fuels cyber bullying and hosts inappropriate content. Themes children can ask each other about include sex, drink and drugs if filters are not switched on.

The app has a warning on it that requires parental permission from anyone under 15, but this can be easily circumnavigated as all it requires is for the user to enter a parent's email address. However, Tellonym does have a safety category which allows parents to apply language filters and block topics related to certain words. Parents are advised to set a 'safety code' when making these changes, to keep your teen or others from changing those settings afterwards.

Sarahah was banned from Google and Apple app stores last year due to accusations that it was facilitating bullying, but it has since been re-added to the Google Play store. The app, which was designed to allow people to leave 'honest feedback' about colleagues and friends, has since changed its age rating from 13+ to 17. But reviews from children as young as 13 posted on Net Aware say it's easy to bully and harass people on it completely anonymously.

Yubo has previously been dubbed the 'Tinder for teens' due to its similarity to the adult dating app. Like Tinder, Yubo allows users to connect with strangers based on their location by swiping right or left. If there's a match, they can exchange messages, photos video chats and even add them as a friend on Snapchat or follow them on Instagram. It is rated as having a high risk of exposure to adult themes such as sex, drinks, drugs and crime by parents on Net Aware.

TikTok is a social media platform that lets you create, share and discover 15 second videos. In April 2019 a BBC investigation found it was failing to suspend the accounts of people sending sexual messages to teenagers and children. Hundreds of sexually explicit comments were found on videos posted by children as young as nine. The investigation found that while the company deleted the majority of these comments when they were reported, most users who posted them were able to remain on the platform. The app makers responded by saying that child protection is an 'industry wide-challenge' and that promoting a 'safe and positive app environment' remains the company's top priority.

Monkey is a video chat app for teens that lets them talk with strangers. It was pitched as an updated version of Chat Roulette without sexually explicit content, with co-founders saying they had created artificial intelligence to detect inappropriate material. However, an investigation by CBNC found users often came across videos of genitals or people engaging in sexually explicit acts. The age recommendation for users is 17+, however no age verification is necessary to create an account. The app co-creator says it is working to fix the problem with human monitoring that automatically detects inappropriate content.

Chatous matches users to strangers across the world. Like most apps aimed at teens it has an official age rating of 17 but there is no verification available. One of the biggest user complaint of this app has been the immense number of fake profiles. Users have reported men posing as women and the increasing prevalence of strangers contacting children.

Remember, you can always look to the Warblington Online Safety Portal (WOSP) for further help and advice on e-safety. You can visit the website:

www.warblington-osp.org. You can also follow WOSP on Twitter and Facebook.

WELLBEING TIP..... TAKE NOTICE

Research shows that noticing and enjoying your surroundings reduces the risk of low wellbeing. We should not under estimate how differently children see and interact with the world around them. Day trips to different types of places can really help. This could include farms, forests, the beach, or even just different parts of town. The ability to live in the moment is also an important factor of wellbeing. As parents, it is important to nurture this quality rather than discourage it. Finally, encouraging them to pay attention to their feelings and showing them how to process their emotions in a positive way is probably one of the most valuable lessons you can pass on to your children.

Yours sincerley
Mrs K Robinson
Headteacher

DIARY DATES

FEBRUARY	
17 th - 21 st	Half Term
24 th	Back to school Year 3 Fairy Dress-Up Day
25 th	SATS and Yr6 residential meeting in hall 3.40pm
MARCH	
w/b 2 nd	Book Week
6 th March	Author Paul Geraghty in school - 'Dress up as a book character' day
13 th	Coffee morning 8.50-10am Year 6 visit to
16 th - 20 th	Charity week raising money for "Hanley's Helping Hands"
19 th	5R River Trip Parents' Evening 3.45-7pm
20 th	3F and 15 children from 3S visiting Highclere Castle 5LB River Trip
23 rd	4H visit to Tuppenny Barn
w/b 23 rd	Parents' Consultation Days
25 th	4S visit to Tuppenny Barn
26 th	5JB River trip
27 th	HEARTS activity morning Clubs finish
30 th	3AD and 15 children from 3S visiting Highclere Castle 4W trip to Tuppenny Barn
APRIL	
1 st	Year 4 Ancient Greek Day
2 nd	Easter Disco L/S: 3.30-4.45pm U/S: 5-6.30pm
3 rd	Inset Day
6 th - 17 th	Easter Holidays
20 th	Summer Term begins
22 nd	Class and Team photographs
27 th - 1 st May	Year 6 Residential visit to Brecon Beacons