

Thursday 8 February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Not only do we find ourselves at the end of another very busy half term, but we are now halfway through the school year! As you would expect, lots has been happening with visitors to the school and workshops to enhance the children's learning, as well as a Parent Phonics Workshop for Reception/Year 1 and dyslexia.

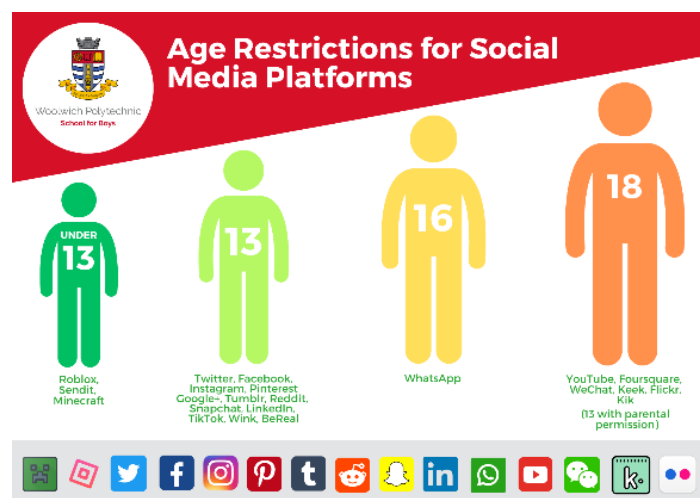


Children's Mental Health Week took place this week with this year's theme being 'My Voice Matters'. My Voice Matters is about empowering children and young people by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves.

When children feel empowered, there's a positive impact on wellbeing. Children who feel that their voices are heard and can make a difference have a greater sense of community and self-esteem. All children had the opportunity to 'Express themselves' today by wearing clothing that says something about them. They also spent the day engaging in activities to promote their mental health and wellbeing.



Safer Internet Day took place in school on Tuesday of this week. Classes took part in activities and lessons centred on this year's theme of 'Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online'. Safer Internet Day is also a good opportunity to remind parents of the age restrictions for a child to subscribe to any Social Media platform. This includes WhatsApp which has an age restriction of 16:



## Visit from the Bishop of Tonbridge



We were lucky to have Rev Simon Burton-Jones visit Old Bexley on Tuesday 16 January. He led Collective Worship in Key Stage 2 and was then taken on a tour of the school by our Head Boys and Girls from Key Stage 1 and 2. Rev Simon also met with some pupils where they had the opportunity to ask him questions. He was very impressed with the school and how eloquent the children were. Rev Simon is looking forward to coming back next year to see us again.

## What have each year been up to?

### EYFS

This half term EYFS have been learning about people who help us within our community. We were lucky enough to have some local PC's come into school to talk to us about their job. They also let us try on some of their uniform!



### Year 1

To support their learning, Year 1 took part in a workshop run by 'Wild Science'. They enjoyed a very exciting visit from lots of different animals (frog, snake, guinea pig, hamster and snail). The children enjoyed learning more about these animals and also getting to meet them. They were able to hold and touch the animals.



## Year 2

For their geography topic this half term, Year 2 have been working on physical and human features in geography. The year group carried out some fieldwork visiting Bexley village and Greenwich. On their trip to Greenwich, pupils took part in a shape workshop in the Royal Naval college chapel looking at 2D and 3D shapes. They also had the opportunity to play on the 200 year old skittle alley!



## Years 3&4

As part of our South America topic this half term, children participated in a 'Rainforest Workshop'. They learnt about the understory, the canopies, the rivers and what kinds of plants and animals can be found in these areas. Children got to meet some of these animals and even had an opportunity to get up close with them.



In science, pupils have been looking at state of matter. Working in a group, they demonstrated how particles move in liquid, solid and gas.





## Years 5&6

This half term, as part of their termly Art Week, children have been designing and sketching food packaging.



They began the unit by looking and discussing other packaging before exploring typography and experimenting in designing packaging fonts. Once they were happy with their title, they then designed the remaining packaging thinking carefully about shades, tones and colour. Once complete, their designs were brought to life. This complements next half term's DT Week, where they will be making a crumble as part of Food Technology, to go inside the package that they have designed and made.

## PTA News



The PTA would like to thank you for your support this half term. They have raised just over £1750 from their Experience Raffle last month and their Bingo evening last week.

Looking forward to next half term, the PTA will be holding their annual Mother's Day plant sale in school on 8 March. They will also host a book fair on 11-12 March to celebrate World Book Day. Further details to follow next half term.

## Road Safety



Thank you to those drivers who continue to park with care and consideration for both pedestrians and our neighbours. Please ensure you allow enough time to park safely and do not let your children get out of the car whilst you sit in traffic.

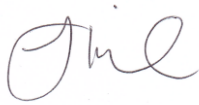
As a reminder, parents should not be using the school car parks to drop off or collect their child from school or for any after school club. This includes parking on the yellow zig zags outside the school. Thank you for your co-operation.

### Dates for your diary

Friday 9 February	School closed – staff training day
Monday 19 February	Return to school
Friday 1 March	St David's Day – wear yellow
Thursday 7 March	World Book Day celebrated in class
Friday 8 March	Dress up day for World Book Day PTA Mother's Day plant sale
11 & 12 March	PTA Book Fair
Friday 15 March	Red Nose Day & St Patrick's Day
20 & 21 March	Parents Evening
Thursday 21 March	Odd Socks Day
Friday 22 March	KS2 Easter Church services @ St Mary's
26 & 27 March	Year 4 Grandparents event @ 9.30am
Thursday 28 March	Easter Hat Parade 1.30pm Finish

Today we said goodbye to a valued member of staff. Mrs Dagleish has been part of the Old Bexley family for 12 years, working first as a TA and then moving to the school office. We will miss her and wish her much happiness in her retirement.

Please remember that school will be closed tomorrow, Friday 9 February, for staff training. We wish you all a happy and relaxing half term and look forward to welcoming the children back on **Monday 19 February**.



Mrs J Ivil  
Head Teacher