



HEADTEACHER'S WEEKLY BULLETIN

"For I know the plans I have for you... plans to give you hope and a future"
Jeremiah 29:11

ISSUE NO. 5 : 4 Oct 2024

DIARY DATES



Mon 7 Oct
Tues 15 Oct
Wed 16 Oct
Tues 22 Oct
Thurs 24 Oct

9am Phonics/Reading Info Session for Busy Bees Parents
5pm Open Evening for Prospective Parents: Sept 2025 Admissions
9.15am Open Morning for Prospective Parents: Sept 2025 Admissions
Parent Teacher Consultations – by appointment
Parent Teacher Consultations – by appointment

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was wonderful seeing so many of you for our Harvest Festival at St Peter's Church on Tuesday and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. We were so proud of all the children, but must give a special mention to the Busy Bees who were amazing. As this is our first service of the new school year, it can always be a little daunting coming to the church, but everyone was absolutely fantastic.



We have been thinking a lot about harvest this week—it is a time for sharing and having faith in others that they will help, support and provide for us. The children listened to a story about sharing the wonderful things around them (seen through the eyes of a tiny mouse). This generated a lot of lovely discussions about what we see that makes us go 'wow' and how we too can share these 'wow moments' with others.

On Thursday we all joined a virtual event with the National Farmers Union who broadcast live to schools around the country. The farmers and presenters explained some of the farming processes and products used to make their final Caribbean carnival harvest soup. As you will see below the Busy Bees made their own version but used school grown produce to make pumpkin soup. Schools are able to submit questions during the show to be answered at the end. This time we were successful with them answering George's question "How much wheat is grown in the UK each year?". They couldn't answer for this year but apparently last year UK farmers grew 14 million tons of wheat. Well done George, a great question!



Pumpkin soup

I have also had the opportunity to visit all the classes at length this week and sit in on the children's learning. These are the very best times properly seeing the children in action. I am constantly bowled over with the comments that come out of their learning and the eagerness they have to share what they are doing. So, I thought I would share my 'wow' moments with you. The Ladybirds have been fantastic with coin recognition and adding different amounts together. This in itself can be challenging, not simply because of their age but because so many people don't use a lot of physical money any more. The Dragonflies have been learning all about imperative verbs and, I must say, can give very good instructions when asked. The Busy Bees, well, I think their cookery skills far surpass mine! Their skills to prepare and make the soup were phenomenal and we are all very impressed with them.

SOME MORE FUN FACTS ABOUT HARVEST:

(I thought I would add to Reverend Ashton's collection of facts that he shared in church on Tuesday!)

- UK cows produce 60 million pints of milk a day!
- There are 90 different breeds and crosses of sheep in the UK.
- The world record for the most combine harvesters working simultaneously on a single field is 224!
- The National Trust could be classed as the largest farmer with 618,000 acres of land & over 2,000 tenants.
- Every cow has its own unique passport!
- 60% of all food eaten in the UK is grown by British farmers.
- There are over 20 million hectares of farmland in the UK - that's equivalent to 30 million football pitches!
- A pig's squeal can be as loud as 115 decibels - that's 3 decibels higher than the sound of a supersonic airplane.
- In 1995 the potato became the first vegetable to be grown in space when seeds were germinated on the space shuttle Columbia.
- Over 75% of the UK land mass is looked after by farmers.
- Approx 700 UK pea growers will harvest 2 billion portions of peas to feed Britain for a year.
- There are more chickens than people on the Earth.
- Britain's major root vegetable is the carrot: 700,000 tonnes are produced each year worth £290 million - that equates to 100 carrots per person! It was national carrot day on yesterday (3/10/24)!!

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend and lots of precious sharing moments.

God bless, *Lenia Greenaway*



Parents — please move further up the playground when you come to collect your child [ren] at the end of the day. This will ease congestion at the main gate and permit teachers to see parents more clearly. We also ask parents NOT to stand on the green area as this is where one class stands when they come out. If you wish to speak to the class teacher after school, please wait until all the children have been released to their parents. We will also not release children to parents who are waiting outside of the school premises in the swing area—you must be on school property before we release your child to you. We understand some parents need to dash off but this is a safeguarding issue and could lead to a child going missing which of course nobody wants to happen.

OPEN DAY BANNERS

We are hoping to put up a banner advertising the school open events to prospective parents at the top of the village and just wondered if anyone had any spare wood lurking in their garage/shed, before we buy some. Ideally we would like 3 lengths of 1.5m x 50 by 50mm wooden posts. Many thanks in advance.

CLASS NEWS

BUSY BEES

This week Busy Bees have been really busy. They had their first Church Service at St. Peter's Church and they were phenomenal. Well done to the whole class!!! In Literacy the focus was on the book "*Funnybones*" by Allan Ahlberg which helped us to learn all about our skeleton and our body. In the classroom we have created a new science area to explore the parts of our bodies and a new "Doctors Surgery" role play area. In Maths we focused on matching written and spoken numerals to their correct amounts and we made some brilliant skeletons using cotton buds in Art.

To celebrate Harvest and Autumn the children made pumpkin soup and tasted it afterwards as an entree for their lunch. They also joined children from all over the UK and watched the NFU live lesson Harvest Carnival.

Homework: Handwriting practice sheets in children's bags—due Wednesday.

LADYBIRDS

In Ladybirds we have continued to remind ourselves what an adjective is and have used these in our writing to describe settings from the story '*Lila and the Secret of Rain*'. By David Conway. In Maths we have been focusing on money and recognising coins. We have worked really hard on this—adding up various amounts of coins, while also realising that the value of a coin might be more than 1. Our harvest festival at church went really well, we behaved beautifully and sang our hearts out.

Homework: Addition with coins

DRAGONFLIES

Dragonflies have been learning to use and identify imperative verbs this week. We used these in an exercise helping Paddington to navigate his way around London. We also made sandwiches for Paddington and wrote up the method as instructions. In Maths we have looked at the concept of 'greater than', 'less than' and 'equal to'. We used this learning to compare numbers remembering that 'the crocodile always eats the bigger number.' In History the children learned about chronological order and used this to place the events of the Great Fire in sequence.

For our Harvest celebrations on Tuesday we wrote some amazing harvest acrostic poems, which we proudly showed off in church!

Homework: Science research



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

Cassia, Karina and Luca D (age 5)



CHURCH NEWS



Our services this Sunday:

8am Holy Communion
11am All Age Worship
6.30pm Evening Prayer

HOUSE TEAM POINTS



Almighty God, wonderful creator, giver of this beautiful earth on which we live, we give you thanks and praise.

You have guided us all throughout the generations and you have taught us the need for care of everyone.

We thank you for the harvest and the gifts that we can share.

Amen.



Emergency information regarding the school will be announced on HEART RADIO 102.7FM

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Southwark Diocesan Board of Education
Supporting Christian Education



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about IN-GAME CHAT

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Video games are continuing to grow in popularity – including, of course, among children and young people – and the emergence of gaming communities has been accelerated by the inclusion of chat functionality across many different titles. While in-game chat isn't inherently a bad thing, it can create some concerns about online safety and the people that children might be interacting with.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT

There are a number of ways that gamers commonly chat with one another online. As the name would suggest, in-game chat happens within the game itself. There's also party chat: a group voice conversation that console users can have with anyone on the same platform. This tends to be more commonly used by players who already know each other. Finally, many gamers – especially on PC – will chat via a third-party app such as Discord.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Whether it's text- or voice-based, in-game chat is frequently open to all players to use. Many games default to making it an opt-in function, but some don't: meaning a child could start seeing messages within the game from people they're playing with, regardless of whether they know those individuals or not. While most strangers won't necessarily have ill intent, there are some who may behave inappropriately when chatting to a child – intentionally or otherwise.

DANGER OF GROOMING

It's been reported that some young gamers have encountered older players online who pretend to be a lower age to manipulate children, sending gifts in exchange for chatting and sending photos. Just as on any messaging platform, it's good to advise young people to avoid speaking to strangers; emphasise that they shouldn't accept gifts from anyone online that they don't know.

BULLYING AND ABUSE

While some in-game chat can turn toxic because of how a match plays out, others turn that way because of people who engage in trolling – in essence, behaving in an offensive and abusive way simply to cause pain or get a rise out of whoever they're talking to. These 'trolls' often lean on racial slurs, anti-LGBT sentiment and other hateful rhetoric; they normally feel most confident preying on younger, more impressionable gamers.

POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE CHAT

If a player would like a re-match with a stranger after meeting them in the game, they can send a friend request, or use the party chat together in the future. For the most part, this is harmless – but it might lead to messages being exchanged in private. This could then escalate to the sharing of private information, and potentially attempts to manipulate or scam younger players.

COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE

Certain games are very competitive, and players can sometimes get upset if they feel a teammate is underperforming, an opponent won unfairly, or they're just a bad loser. This can lead to unpleasant messages that stray away from playful 'trash talk' and wander into the territory of bullying. Some players have been known to get incredibly abusive in situations like this, and the impact of this on a young gamer's emotional wellbeing could be severe.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT

In-game chat can often be disabled in the game's settings. This allows children to play without risk of contact from strangers – but it will need to be done in each individual game. Text chat appears in the corner of the screen in many titles, so it's normally easy to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the dangers themselves.

REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS

Most games offer a robust means of reporting other players, so you can flag an account as potentially harmful. This normally leads to the account not being matched with yours in the future and, if that person's conduct breaks any of the game's rules, they may be banned from playing entirely. This is done within the game itself, so each title has a slightly different process, but these tend to be designed for simplicity.

CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS

If a child wants to play with people they know, consider using party chat or a third-party service like Discord. This allows everyone involved to chat on a private server and even enjoy each other's company while playing different games. It's also far more secure, as anyone looking to join will need to request and be granted access – normally by whoever is hosting the chat.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Make sure children understand the differences between being competitive and being abusive. Talk about what constitutes unusual or inappropriate behaviour from strangers online. Be clear that if anything ever concerns or worries them, they should tell a trusted adult as soon as possible. Empower children to identify the risks of in-game chat for themselves and reassure them they won't get in trouble for seeking help if anything goes wrong.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRcon and has been working in the games media industry for five years. He's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at nationalcollege.com/guides/in-game-chat

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