



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. 21 : 13 Feb 2025

DIARY DATES

Fri 14 Feb	INSET Day—School closed for staff training
w/c 24 Feb	St Peter's Science Week: Time
Fri 28 Feb	Science Week Dress Up Day
Wed 12 Mar	Dragonflies visit to Big Wood Estate
Mon 17 Mar	3.15pm Ladybirds Friendship Teatime in Tandridge Village Hall—all welcome
Wed 19 Mar	Ladybirds visit to Big Wood Estate
Fri 21 Mar	Comic Relief Red Nose Day / Odd Socks Day for Downs Syndrome
Tues 25 Mar	Parent Teacher Consultations by appointment
Thurs 27 Mar	2pm Mothers Day Assembly Parent Teacher Consultations by appointment

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have had a great week. We have now officially reached the half way point of the academic school year. How quickly has that gone? I hope you all have a fabulous half term week – if you are able to spend time with your child[ren].

We marked Internet Safety Day on Tuesday with a fantastic E-Safety presentation led by Alex Michael (Karina and Cassia's daddy). He certainly gave us food for thought when it comes to devices, passwords and cyber security. It was a great presentation, and I know that many people had a lot to think about afterwards. It is always good to generate conversations and discussions around this area; because, as we say at school, 'it could happen' rather than 'it won't happen' here. Being forewarned and prepared is far better than having to fix something after it has happened. Alex has very kindly said that if anyone has any queries or needs help with anything just to let him know. Thank you Alex for being amazing as always.

In our increasingly digital world, it's crucial that we work together to ensure our children stay safe online. At St Peter's, we are committed to educating our pupils on the importance of e-safety and empowering them with the skills to navigate the internet responsibly.

Our E-Safety Curriculum: As part of our e-safety education, we teach pupils age appropriately about:

- Online Privacy: Understanding the importance of keeping personal information private.
- Safe Communication: Recognising safe and appropriate ways to communicate online.
- Digital Footprint: Being aware of the long-term impact of online actions.

How You Can Help at Home: We encourage parents to reinforce these lessons by:

- Discussing Online Safety: Talk to your child about the importance of staying safe online and the risks associated with sharing information.
- Setting Boundaries: Establish clear rules about screen time and the types of content that are acceptable.
- Monitoring Activity: Regularly check in on your child's online activity and the websites they visit; including whether they know your passwords for devices!

For those who were unable to join us, you can watch the [E-Safety presentation here](#) but please do also look at the link below for current top internet tips for parents and carers: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2025/tips-for-parents-and-carers>

CLASS NEWS

BUSY BEES

This week Busy Bees have been exploring the book "*The Snail and the Whale*" by Julia Donaldson. We drew our favourite part of the story and then wrote about it. We also learned about the life of the artist Henry Matisse and created our own interpretations of his famous work of art "The Snail" using his technique of 'painting with scissors'. In Maths the children have explored 3D shapes, learned their names, and have also started to describe their properties.

LADYBIRDS

Ladybirds have been busy learning to tell the time this week. We are now confident with 'o'clock' and half past the hour. In Science we have looked at animal diets and sorted animals into various groups. We hope you all have a lovely half term!

DRAGONFLIES

Dragonflies have had a great last week of the half term. We have continued to look at 'time' in Maths. We have explored 'o'clock', half past, quarter to and quarter past the hour. The children have really impressed me with their understanding of this tricky area. In English we looked at Reading comprehension papers and practised this skill. We have also linked this to DT and created some roller skates for Mrs Armitage using clay.

Dear God,

Thank You for the internet's potential for good.

We pray for adults and children to increasingly reject negative and damaging content and seek what is 'noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy.'
In Jesus' name.

Amen.



Have a fabulous weekend (and, if you are able, week) with your superb children.

God Bless, *Lenia Greenaway*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

Megan and Bobbi (age 5), Reggie and Millie (age 6),
and Flynn and Florence H (age 7)



CHILD PROTECTION CONTACT CENTRE

At St Peter's we take the safety and well-being of every child very seriously.

If you are ever concerned about a child please speak in confidence to our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Miss Greenaway or our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads, Mr Atterton and Mrs Vaquinhas, or telephone Surrey Child

Services contact centre on:  **Tel: 0300 200 1006**

"Safeguarding is Everyone's Business"

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

☎ 01883 712439 ✉ hello@stpetersinfant.org 🌐 www.stpetersinfant.org



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE RELATIONSHIPS & DATING APPS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Dating apps are used to help people find new relationships – whether casual or more long term – matching users based on age, interests, gender and more. Some may consider dating apps harmless to under-18s because they aren't able to use them, but effective age verification measures are quite scarce, and it's been known for young people to end up on apps of this type.

EASE OF ACCESS

The relatively lax age verification process of many dating apps makes them incredibly accessible to children who really shouldn't be using them. This carries the obvious risk of exposing under-18s to a dating scene populated by adults – who may not even be aware of the young person's true age. This is concerning when we consider the 'hook-up culture' common on these apps – with many people using them to arrange casual sexual encounters.

CONTACT AND CONDUCT RISKS

Once someone is active on a dating app, their social media profiles can be linked to the app and might be accessed by others. This can lead to random users 'sliding into their DM's' (sending a direct message) without consent. Complete strangers could start bombarding a young person's inbox with pictures, messages and sexual comments.

SCAMS AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Some young people may feel they've formed a real bond with someone through online dating, but there's always a risk that it's not genuine. Scammers on these apps often build romantic connections with their victims – then once they feel they have their victim's trust, they begin asking for money under false pretences (such as suggesting they meet in person and requesting a 'loan' to cover a train ticket).

UNVERIFIED ACCOUNTS

As with all online interactions, you may not be talking to whom you think you are. Without paying a subscription, users of dating apps can often only view a certain number of profiles at a time. A TikTok trend has advised young people to set their age limit to 80 years and over – putting them in a sparse and more 'exclusive' category to bypass the usual restrictions. Unfortunately, this can lead to matches with someone much older.

PEER PRESSURE

The pressure to be in a relationship can be huge, and many young people use online dating apps as a cost-effective way to meet others. Some users find it difficult to meet people organically due to their lifestyle, and may not have the time or money to go out and socialise. It's also common for young people to set up accounts for their single friends in the hope of finding a match for someone they know.

SKewed PERSPECTIVES

Dating apps can promote an unrealistic view of what makes someone attractive. With such vast options, some users can become both picky and extremely harsh about others' appearance. Ultimately, all you see on these apps are pictures (with no insight into someone's personality), and some young people struggle with the fear of being judged. Even when someone does start dating, there's a persistent paranoia that their partner is only one swipe away from a potentially better match.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALK ABOUT DATING APPS

Let young people know that they can talk to you about anything, even something as private as their dating life. At school, the relationships, sex and health curriculum can assist with conversations around healthy relationships, consent and online safety. Emphasise the message that you want to help them make healthy, safe and informed choices. If they feel embarrassed talking to you, make sure they have a trusted adult who can help them.

ENCOURAGE DATA PROTECTION

Empower young people to protect their data and personal information. Explain why including things like their school, age and surname in their profile could potentially be dangerous. Make sure they know never to give out personal details, and that there's no reason for other users to ask for them. If they feel uneasy about a situation online, they need to speak to someone that they can trust.

VERIFICATION STAMPS

Explain that someone using a dating app should only communicate with those who have gone through a verification process. Online dating apps use a variety of methods to ascertain a user's identity, including scanning valid documents (such as a driver's licence or passport). Verification can also involve users taking a selfie to ensure that the photos on their profile match it.

REPORT AND BLOCK

Remind young people that they can always report or block (or both) anyone who makes them feel uncomfortable on any platform. Ask if they know how to do this and offer to help them figure it out if they're unsure. Every app should have advice on how to report or block another user, so be sure young people are familiar with the settings.

Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings works at RAISE (www.raiseducation.org.uk) in the field of relationships, sex and health education, providing educational, age-appropriate workshops for pupils around the more sensitive areas of the curriculum – including online safety and healthy relationships.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/online-relationships-dating-apps>