

SCIENCE WEEK

CURIOSITY

The children have bounced straight into our Science week and all things exploratory this week. They have been busy becoming enthusiastic young scientists—investigating, predicting, experimenting, and evaluating. It has been a wonderful way to nurture their curiosity and support them in thinking deeply and spiritually about the world around them. As part of Science Week, the children explored forces by experimenting with magnets and discovering how different objects push, pull, attract, or repel. They also investigated the power of wind, using lightweight materials to see how air can move objects in surprising ways.



The excitement reached new heights during our Mentos® and Cola experiment, where the children watched in amazement as the fizzy reaction erupted sky high. Moments like these truly capture a sense of awe and wonder, reminding us how scientific discovery can help us appreciate the world's remarkable design. In our faith school context, we encourage the children to see these experiences as part of learning about God's wonderful creation—recognising that curiosity, questioning, and exploring are ways we grow in understanding and appreciation of the world He has made.

The children spent time outdoors as mini-nature detectives, searching for what lives on the ground and across our school field. They discovered insects, plants, and early signs of spring, noticing the beauty and detail in even the smallest parts of our school environment. Dragonflies worked in small groups to filter dirty water through different materials, looking at how they could make it cleaner. This also relates to our future learning when we will be looking at how some African countries like Kenya find it difficult to access clean drinking water. It was a very interesting experiment which caused much discussion.

"An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge" Proverbs 18:15



"Equipped with his five senses, man explores the universe around him and calls the adventure Science."
- Edwin Hubble

LittleYellowStarTeaches

Throughout all these activities, we have seen our school value of perseverance shining through as the children kept trying, adapted their ideas, and didn't give up when their predictions didn't go exactly as planned. Their determination—and their joy in discovering new things—has been wonderful to witness.

"Science is not about being right or wrong, it's about being willing to ask the right questions and follow the evidence wherever it leads"
- Neil deGrasse Tyson



BUSY BEES

This week Busy Bees have been enthusiastic young scientists, exploring three exciting questions: What lives in the garden?; What sticks to a magnet?; and, What can the wind move? The children loved going on a minibeast hunt, testing objects with magnets, and investigating how the wind moves different materials in order to answer these questions. Throughout these activities, the children showed wonderful curiosity asking questions and exploring new ideas. They demonstrated perseverance when testing and trying again, especially when their predictions didn't match the results. We also talked about respect—handling living creatures gently and taking care of our environment. All three investigations helped the children develop their early scientific thinking through careful observation and investigation.

LADYBIRDS

Ladybirds have started a new topic learning all about castles this week. We started by looking at lots of different types of castles and then used adjectives to describe them. In History, we looked at the features of a castle and labelled these on diagrams. In Maths we have recapped our knowledge from before half term on multiplication. We completed many experiments as part of our science week and tried to answer some big questions: What happens when we mix skittles with water? And, as part of our outdoor learning, What lives under the soil? We had Wildlife Aid come in to talk to us about the work they do as a charity for the animals and learned lots of wonderful facts. We thought very carefully about how we could help wildlife, especially at school, and designed some ways we can use Strawson's Field to help the wildlife, by making hedgehog houses, bug hotels etc.

DRAGONFLIES

Dragonflies have been superb this week. They have risen to the challenges of being both scientists and authors, discovering the different qualities required for both vocations and realising that many of our own school values of perseverance and respect are integrated in both. They have been amazing!

They have truly embraced our science theme of curiosity. For example, on Wednesday they pondered over the effects of mixing Mentos® with cola. Did you know Mentos® react with cola due to a physical reaction called nucleation, not a chemical one? The Mentos® surface is covered in thousands of tiny pits, which act as "nucleation sites" where the dissolved carbon dioxide gas in the soda rapidly forms bubbles, creating a fast-expanding, fizzy geyser. See, it is amazing the things we discover at school!



Heavenly Father,

We thank you for the wonders of your creation, from the smallest cell to the largest star.

As we celebrate Science Week, we ask for your blessing upon us.

Grant us curious minds and joyful hearts as we explore the world around us. Help us to see the beauty in how things work and to use this knowledge to care for your creation.

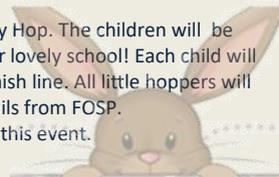
May this week spark a passion for truth and a desire to make the world a better place.

**In your name, we pray.
Amen.**



EASTER FUN: COMING SOON

Thursday 26 March sees the return of our ever popular Easter Bunny Hop. The children will be hopping their way round the school field to help raise money for our lovely school! Each child will pop on a pair of bunny ears and bounce, skip, hop or jump to the finish line. All little hoppers will receive an Easter Treat for their efforts! Please look out for sponsorship details from FOSP. We are also in need of a few volunteers and a bunny hop photographer for this event. Look out for the sign up sheet on your class Whatsapp.



Comic Relief "Red Nose Day" and "Odd Socks" supporting PSDS

On Friday 20 March we will be showing our support for Red Nose Day alongside a local charity PSDS which provides support for children and their families affected by Down Syndrome. The children are encouraged to **wear RED** and/or **odd socks** in return for a small donation to these wonderful charities.



FRIDAY 20 MARCH

I hope you have a really lovely weekend. God Bless, *Lenia Greenaway*

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 Vaquinhos or phone the contact centre on:

Tel: 0300 200 1006
"Safeguarding is Everyone's Business"

HOUSE TEAM POINTS



ST PETER'S CHURCH

LENT & EASTER 2026

Shrove Tuesday 17th February

Pancakes & Prayers in The_Space

Ash Wednesday 18th February at St Mary's

11am & 8pm Holy Communion services with ashing

Lent Community Lunches all Wednesdays in Lent

12noon in The_Space

Palm Sunday 29th March at St Mary's & St Peter's

8am, 9.30am, 11am, 4.30pm & 6.30pm services

Holy Week Prayers at St Peter's

7pm - Mon 30th March, Tues 31st March, Wed 1st

Maudy Thursday 2 April

7pm Christian Passover Meal in The_Space with communion

8.30pm Stripping of the Altars in St Mary's

Good Friday 3rd April

10am - 11.30am Craft Morning for all in OCH

9.30am - 11.30am The Meeting Place in The_Space

12noon Seven Words on the Cross at St Peter's

12noon Walk of Witness (Council offices to the war memorial)

2pm An Hour at the Cross at St Mary's

Easter Sunday 20th April

6.15am Sunrise Service in St Mary's Churchyard

followed by breakfast in The_Space

8am Holy Communion at St Mary's

8am Holy Communion at St Peter's

9.30am Family Communion at St Mary's followed by

Easter Egg hunt

11am Family Communion at St Peter's followed by

Easter Egg hunt

6.30pm Holy Communion at St Peter's

St Mary's Oxted & St Peter's Tandridge



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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ADULT ANIMATED CONTENT

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Bright, bold, and widely shared, adult animated content is more popular than ever, but not always what it seems. These videos, which may appear cartoonish and harmless, often contain strong language, explicit themes, graphic violence, or dark humour. Many are accessible through platforms like YouTube, TikTok or streaming services, where filters may not catch them in time.

MISLEADING VISUAL STYLE

Many adult animations mimic the colourful, exaggerated look of children's cartoons. This can easily mislead not just children, but also adults, into thinking they're suitable for younger viewers. Without watching the content fully, parents or educators might approve a show or video that contains explicit jokes, graphic imagery, or highly inappropriate language, all disguised beneath a playful and fun visual style.

EXPOSURE TO HARMFUL THEMES

A number of adult animated shows and online videos explore mature or disturbing themes, such as addiction, trauma, abuse, self-harm, or violence, and often do so in a stylised or humorous way. Younger viewers may not have the emotional maturity to process this content, leading to confusion, distress, or the normalisation of very serious issues that should be discussed in a supportive context.

RISK OF DISTRESS AND FEAR

Some adult animations, especially horror-based content or 'creepypasta' style stories, include disturbing imagery, unsettling music, and sudden scares. These videos sometimes feature distorted versions of well-known children's characters, such as Sonic the Hedgehog or Peppa Pig, in frightening or violent scenarios. Children can be negatively affected if they come across this unexpectedly, leading to sleep disturbances, anxiety, or long-lasting fears, especially if children have existing worries or sensitive personalities.

INFLUENCE OF EDGY HUMOUR

Dark, edgy humour is common in adult animation and often includes jokes about topics like sexism, racism, mental illness, or abuse. When children hear these jokes, they may repeat them without fully understanding their meaning. This can lead to inappropriate behaviour in school or online spaces, and in some cases, it can reinforce harmful stereotypes or desensitise children to real-world injustice and discrimination.

ALGORITHMIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Video platforms are designed to keep users watching by suggesting similar content. If a child watches one mature animation, they may quickly be shown more, including even darker or more extreme videos. These recommendations are based on viewing patterns, not age-appropriateness. Without strict settings in place, this can lead to a rapid spiral into unsuitable, upsetting, or even harmful content online.

DESENSITISATION TO VIOLENCE

Stylised violence in animation is often exaggerated and constant. Repeated exposure to it can reduce a child's emotional response to harm, making aggression or cruelty appear entertaining or acceptable. Over time, children may become less empathetic or more tolerant of harmful behaviours in real life, especially if they see others online reacting with humour, memes, or praise for violent characters or scenes.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LEARN WHAT CHILDREN ARE WATCHING

Take time to ask children what they're watching and who their favourite creators are. Sit down and watch a few videos to get a full understanding. This helps you spot inappropriate content early and shows children that you're interested and engaged in their online world, not just policing it.

TALK ABOUT WHAT'S APPROPRIATE

Keep communication open and non-judgemental. Talk about why certain themes or jokes are not appropriate for children, even if they appear in animated form. Help children understand that just because something is popular or shared widely, it does not mean it's suitable or safe. If they've seen something upsetting, respond calmly, offer reassurance, and explain things in an age-appropriate way.

USE PLATFORM SETTINGS WISELY

Make use of built-in safety tools like content filters, restricted mode, and age settings on platforms such as YouTube, Netflix or TikTok. Turn off auto-play where possible and regularly review what children are being recommended. Although these settings aren't foolproof, they add an important layer of protection and help reduce the risk of children encountering disturbing or adult content accidentally.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING

Help children think carefully about what they watch. Talk about the difference between fictional exaggeration and reality, while helping them question why certain content is made. Is it informative, entertaining, or meant to shock? This builds digital resilience and encourages them to make safer choices in future, rather than simply following viral trends or peer pressure to watch mature content.

Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. We offer memberships and packages to help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

#WakeUpWednesday

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