



Aspire and Grow

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MARCH NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents/Carers

Note from the Head

I hope that everyone had a fabulous break last week – what glorious weather we are having! Ideal for getting out and about, having fun in the sun.

I shall be leaving at Easter to resume my role as Deputy Head at South Wootton Junior School. I have enjoyed my time as Head of the Federation and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and I would like to wish all the children all the very best for the future.

On behalf the Governors I am pleased to confirm we have found an experienced Head, Ms Paula Jones, to lead us through the summer term. Ms Jones will be in some days during this half term to ensure a smooth transition.

Keeping your children safe online

We take every opportunity to talk to the children about keeping themselves safe, what to do if they see or hear something which concerns them online, reminding them about recommended ages for playing games such as Fortnite and using social media apps such as Facebook and Snapchat. We talk about internet safety in class discussions and PHSE lessons, in ICT lessons and in whole school assemblies. The Friday before half term was National Internet Safety Day, and the children participated in activities around keeping themselves safe online.

It is vital that parents are aware of the risks of their children being online and keep yourselves informed about how to protect your children. We try to help with this as much as possible. Current trends which school are particularly worried about are Momo – in which children are sent a scary face through Whatsapp and asked to add a contact (even though we now believe this to be a hoax, it is still a concern which we are tackling in school); Tik Tok where children post videos of themselves dancing or performing to music – but has been used as a platform for grooming and music can be very sexually explicit or inappropriate; and Fortnite the online game where children are messaging each other and have sent or received inappropriate messages and images.









These are very real safeguarding concerns. Please find links below which you may find helpful. These can also be found on the St Mary Federation website.

If you would like support from school on any of these matters, please let us know. We have also attached an information sheet about Momo.

Useful sites

Information about Momo <u>https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-47359623</u> Top Tips for Parents <u>https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2019/safer-internet-day-2019-top-tips-parents-and-carers</u> PS4 – how to set up family management <u>https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/get-help/help-library/my-account/parental-controls/family-management/</u>

The Breck Foundation is a charity founded by Lorin LaFave after the tragic loss of her 14 year old son Breck Bednar through internet grooming. It is a self-funding charity, raising awareness of playing safe whilst using the internet. http://www.breckfoundation.org/

Red Nose Day

For Comic Relief on Friday 15 March, the children are invited to come to school dressed in something red in exchange for a donation towards Comic Relief. We will also be holding a cake raffle that day plus the children will be baking special "Red Nose" cakes which will be on sale at 20p each.

Parents' Forum

The next Parent Forum will be held on Tuesday 19 March at 2.30pm. Topics for discussion will be a follow up on homework, assemblies and online safety. All welcome.

Mothers' Day Messages

We will once again be taking part in the Mother's Day Special Feature in the Eastern Daily Press. The children will be writing their special messages for their Mum. **Please let Mrs Cook know before the end of the week if you do not wish to have your name printed in the EDP.**

TT Rockstars

The school subscribes to TT Rockstars which is a programme designed for children to practice their times tables. Mr Johnson will send out a separate letter of explanation.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Johanna Bland

Johanna Bland Acting Executive Headteacher









DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<u>World Book Day – 7th March</u> We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 7th March – next week. Children are invited to dress up as a book character for £1. Any children not wanting to dress up as a book character should be in school uniform.

British Science Week – 8th – 17th Science Federation Day March 13th

As part of Science Week we shall be holding a Federation Day at Docking on 13th March – a separate letter has been sent out.

Mothers' Day Service

Our Mothers' Day Service will be held at the Church on Monday 1st April at 2.15pm. All welcome.

Other Dates

5th March 7 th March 11 th , 12 th , 14 th and 15 th	Class 1 to go to Active Kids at Lynnsport World Book Day Level 2 cycling for the children that have signed up for this. Bikes may be left at school for the week.
13 th March	Cosmos Roadshow at Smithdon for Year 5 children Federation Science day at Docking
14th March	11am: Science Cafes Parents invited to stay for lunch
15th March	Red Nose Day
19 th March	2.30pm: Parents Forum
20 th March	2.45pm: Class 2 Assembly.
21 st March	Class 2 Dance Festival at the Corn Exchange, King's Lynn
1 st April	2.15pm: Mothers' Day Service at Church.
3 rd April	1.15pm: Tempest Whole School Group photo
5 th April	End of term
23 rd April	Return to school for Summer Term
25th April	Swimming for the whole school starts (separate letter to follow)







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