



St Nicholas CE (VC)
First School

learning and believing, growing and achieving

St. Nicholas CE(VC)
First School, Codsall
Belvide Gardens
Codsall
Wolverhampton
WV8 1AN

Friday 5th May 2017

Dear Parents

Although only a 4 day school and working week, we seem to have crammed in even more than usual this week. Our Inspiration Day was a success with children in Year 3 sampling a taste of the French way of life, Year 2 children making penguins, [Year 1 children making their very own rain clouds](#) as part of the weather topic and our [Hungry Caterpillar](#) work in Nursery, just to mention a few of the year groups.

Also this week our oldest children in Year 4 have been off to [Laches Wood Outdoor Education](#) Centre for a two day adventure camp. As part of the experience they will enjoy abseiling and climbing, archery and orienteering activities. Having led many school groups to the centre over the year, I have very fond memories of the special times there, where children overcome personal challenges and work as a team, willing one another on. Having visited the group for a few hours last night I am delighted to report that the children are having a magnificent time! A big thank you to our staff team for willingly giving of their evening to provide children with an experience that we hope will be memorable and character enriching!

A very serious message to all parents but particularly those of children in KS2.

I have been asked to remind all of our parents of the importance of supervising their children's internet use. We have had a number of concerns reported in to school and know first-hand the impact and dangers associated with letting children use sites such as YouTube to post videos on personal channels. YouTube is supposed to be for users over the age of 13, due to the fact that the parent company, Google, collects and markets user data. The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) exempts children from data collection.

There are a number of dangers associated with letting your child have a channel:

- Their videos will be seen and can be downloaded and shared and used by people you may not know.
- Private information may be disclosed (your address, child's school, friends etc) sometimes without your child meaning to (e.g a school bag in the background of a clip)
- Your child may be exploited by people who troll them, attacking their self-esteem and sense of self-worth.
- Your child may start communicating with third parties, be lulled into a false sense of security, having built an online relationship and all of a sudden become a victim of Child Sexual Exploitation or Grooming.
- Your child may start carrying out challenges as requested by their online following which could include: undressing, self-harm and other behaviours that we would not want for our children to be exposed to.

I am aware that a small number of our Year 4 children are being allowed to set up their own channels and have had frank and honest discussions with a group of children. The children are becoming quite pre-occupied with the notion of becoming a celebrity or getting rich

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using this media and were very articulate in explaining their desire to gain maximum likes for their posts, to attract advertising revenue and so on.

Whilst this is the world and time in which they live, it is unlikely that many of our children will achieve the stardom that they crave and the risks associated far outweigh any benefit. On a personal level and the few parents I have discussed this issue with I know agree, I would advocate that the children are taught that hard work and determination will earn them the rewards of success, as opposed to sensationalism and risk taking behaviours that expose them to an adult world that they are not yet ready for.

I have been asked to share with you the fact that should your child post anything that causes concern to either the school or Youtube themselves, as has been the case locally, the authorities (police, CSE units and in some cases social services) will be quick to investigate this very seriously and the process that ensues is both intrusive and uncomfortable for both children and their families. Please do take heed of this warning which is intended to advise and not patronise, having seen how easy it is for parents to be left vulnerable and very distressed, as their children are outwitting them in their bedrooms or other areas of the house, unsupervised on the internet. The authorities will hold parents responsible for their child's posts.

Please take time to check out this (ironically housed on YouTube) [video](#) which will help you to think about what is happening in many homes with the increased speed, sophistication and availability of access to IT.

Please also look up the [CEOP \(Child Exploitation Online Protection\) Youtube channel](#) which houses lots of other useful resources to use with your children or for your own information. Please always check the content of the videos before watching with your child.

Other apps/sites to be concerned about that have a social element to them which could leave your child vulnerable include [Musical.ly](#) and [Yellow](#).

If any parents are worried about their child as always do come and see me to discuss this. Whilst this issue may well only affect the older children at present, I hope that by including this message in the main newsletter, as opposed to one targeted to KS2 families, even parents of younger children can build in a vigilant and safety conscious approach to internet management at home, so as to set clear and consistent boundaries for children to adhere to.

Best Wishes

Miss J Parker
Head Teacher

Our next PTFA Meeting is on Wed 10th May 7.30pm in school
why not come along?

Perhaps
this is the
moment for
which you
have been
Created.
Esther 4:14

Polite reminder

Yesterday a pupil was knocked over on the playground by an older pupil riding their scooter at the end of the day. This is not allowed on school property please. Should it continue I will have to review the allowance for scooters and bicycles to school which would be a shame for all those who are diligent in following the rules!

Superstars of the week!

Class/Award	Name	Reason
N1	Sophie Spittle	For challenging herself within the Nursery activities.
N2	Rosie Howell	For trying really hard in her phonics and maths and for being kind to her friends!
RB	Hannah Mathew	For fantastic reading this week!
RP	Theo Tranter	For trying really hard with his Maths work counting out pennies into the piggy bank!
1M	Max Khunkun	For super writing, beautifully neat with finger spaces!
1R	Demi Younger	For fantastic Maths work, finding quarters of shapes and numbers.
2A	Libby Moran	For showing excellent team work in PE and other lessons.
2S	Ben Qualters	For his excellent attitude towards his learning in all areas of the curriculum and always working his hardest
3HW	Solomon Field	For developing a good understanding in our lesson on perimeter.
3P	Amy Knowles	For excellent use of adverbials and descriptive features in her adventure story!
Sportsperson of the week	Dami Aguda	For getting really stuck into the dance session led by Codsall High School students!
Forest Schooler of the week	I am still waiting to hear back from Mrs McKinnon, having missed her being out at Laches Wood yesterday afternoon. We will need to post this in next week's letter!	



Year 1 Rain Clouds



A few pics from Laches Wood

