



St. Mary's News

"SHINE AS A LIGHT IN THE WORLD"

Matthew 5:16

Newsletter No: 16

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We've had a wonderful time finding out about the wonderful world we live in. At the beginning of the week the children were learning about Chinese New Year. Rev. Rachel came and spoke to our youngest children about her time spent in China while other children have been creating art work, stories and poems related to the celebration.

Today, the whole school have been enjoying learning about traditional Irish dancing in PE. The children have been shown some classic dance moves and then worked in teams to create their own dances. It has been wonderful hearing the children encourage and support each other.

This week Mr. Martin, our pastoral lead for the federation, has begun to work with groups of children. He is aiming to be at St Mary's each Thursday from now on.

Have a wonderful weekend and see you all on Monday.

*Many thanks
Mrs. NR Brennan*



Willow Spring 1

Willow Class have been learning lots through their topic of Ice and Snow. We started off by learning about the North and South Pole and all the animals that live there. We used different materials like cotton wool to create our own polar bears to fill the class with. We then went on a winter walk and used our senses to help us describe the environment. The day after our winter walk we were so lucky to get snow and had the best morning exploring it and making snow angels.



Species	Percentage
Cherry	80%
Willow	89.9%
Oak	95.6%
Silver Birch	94.8%
Sycamore	97.5%

Congratulations to all our classes who have reached our government's expectation of 96% or above..

or above..

Star of the week

Class	Pupil
Cherry	Layla
Willow	Alice
Oak	Nancy
Silver Birch	Noah
Sycamore	Miles

**A massive well done to all children
for all their hard work this week.
We are proud to call you a part of
our St Mary's Family**

DINE

WITH MIQUILL

WEEK ONE

DINE

Main Meal

DINE

Vegetarian



Sweet Options

MONDAY

All Day Breakfast

Sausage, egg, tomato, hash brown & baked beans

TUESDAY

Spaghetti Bolognese

Italian classic beef bolognese served with crudites

WEDNESDAY

Roast Turkey

with Mashed Potatoes, Fresh Vegetables and Gravy

THURSDAY

Chicken Tikka Masala

Served with Wholegrain Rice and Indian Carrots & Peas

FRIDAY

Fish Fingers

Golden Breaded Salmon or Pollock Fish Fingers with Chips & Peas

Veggie All Day Breakfast

Veggie Sausage, egg, tomato, hash brown & baked beans

Homemade Margherita Pizza

Homemade pizza base & sauce topped with cheese and served with crudites

Cheese & Tomato Quiche

with Mashed Potatoes, Fresh Vegetables and Gravy

Sweet Potato & Chickpea Curry

Served with Wholegrain Rice and Indian Carrots & Peas

Plant Based Sausage Roll

Served with Chips and Peas

Filled Jackets and freshly made sandwiches and baguettes are also available

Chocolate Crispy Cakes

A rice crispie school classic

Apple Sponge Cake

Served with Custard

Fruit Flapjack

Traditional Flapjack with raisins

Vanilla Cookie

The Best Vanilla Cookies around

Jelly & Fruit

Orange Flavoured Jelly served with fruit slices

Fresh Bread, Yoghurt and Fruit are available daily

31.10.2022 21.11.2022 12.12.2022 09.01.2023 30.01.2023



Book Look



Tuesday 7th February

2:45pm all parents welcome!

Free School Meals

Are you entitled?



February half term FSM vouchers have now been processed and these will be families by 5.00pm on Wednesday 15th February 2023. If you do not receive your voucher please email yourfamilyhub@staffordshire.gov.uk

Are you entitled to Free school meals, please use the link below.

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Apply-online.aspx>



Learn • Connect • Protect



EKO HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUB @ WESTON PARK

Wednesday 22nd February 2023

9:00am – 4:00pm, £40.00 or 10:30am – 4:00pm, £35.00

Open to children in School Years 1-8

Our 1-day EKO Half Term Holiday Club does not form part of the HAF programme.
We are unable to offer any funded places.



This February Half Term we are running a 1-day Holiday Club at our wonderful outdoor learning site at Weston Park. EKO Half Term Holiday Club offers a fun and adventurous day of forest school type activities! We get creative with a myriad of materials, we explore wonderful woodlands, we participate in terrific team challenges and we discover amazing facts about our natural world. To learn more, please visit our website. To book a place use the following link. <https://www.ekolearning.org.uk/eko-holiday-clubs-weston-park/eko-half-term-holiday-club/>

What to wear to EKO Half Term Holiday Club:

Come rain or shine EKO Club is all about fun outdoors - we are rarely defeated by the weather! We recommend that children wear old comfortable clothes and as a minimum should wear the following:



- Wellies or walking boots
- Waterproof bottoms / all in one
- Waterproof coat
- Woolly hat, gloves and warm socks.

Please keep an eye on the weather and add in additional layers as necessary. An extra pair of socks or warmer jumper can make all the difference to your child's comfort. Why not have a look at our EKO hoodies and beanies at <https://www.ekolearning.org.uk/shop/>

If you are finding it difficult to source any outdoor clothing, please get in touch as we have a small selection of donated spares.

What to bring to EKO Half Term Holiday Club:

- We are unable to provide lunch for this club so children will need a packed lunch and a water bottle. However, there will be snacks and additional drinks offered during the day.
- This club is all about enjoying the great outdoors, so we ask that **ALL** electrical games and phones are left at home as we are unable to guarantee against loss or damage. They are also a huge distraction.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at info@ekolearning.org.uk

Kind Regards,

Natasha Branston, (Founder & EKO Leader)

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A company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales company number 12114074.
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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about FACEBOOK

AGE RATING

13+

With 2.9 billion users, Facebook, owned by the recently rebranded Meta, is the world's most popular social media platform. It encourages interaction with other people by (among other things) adding them as friends, reacting to or commenting on their content, sharing images and videos, posting status updates, joining groups and playing games. Facebook is free, and anyone over 13 can join – but with no age verification, younger children can easily create an account: it's likely your child is already familiar with the platform, even if they don't yet use it themselves.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Facebook's quick reward cycle of likes and comments on shared posts can be hugely addictive. It encourages users to keep returning to post things and increases FOMO (the Fear of Missing Out), which leads to people checking the app even more frequently and finding themselves endlessly scrolling through content.

CYBERBULLYING

A 2021 Ofcom report found that around one in four UK 12-15-year-olds had been cyberbullied or trolled (intentionally antagonised online). On Facebook, this can happen through private messages (on Facebook Messenger); hurtful comments on their profiles and posts; pages or groups set up purposely to torment a victim; or exclusion from pages or groups.

FUTURE IMPACT

Like most social media platforms, anything posted on Facebook leaves a permanent 'digital footprint'. This can have future consequences for young people: many universities and employers, for example, now review someone's Facebook timeline during the application process.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Just like in the offline world, there are people on Facebook with malicious intentions. Ofcom reports, for instance, that 30% of 12-15-year-olds have received a friend request from a stranger. This, sadly, can include individuals seeking to take advantage of impressionable youngsters.

OVERSHARING

Facebook encourages you to post "what's on your mind", but children should be wary of revealing too much about themselves online. Users can give away their location by checking in or using Facebook Live, for example, while some photos can also be traced using file data.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Facebook monitors and removes material like hate speech or extreme political views, while adverts on the platform are now forbidden from targeting under-18s based on their interests. Offensive content isn't always taken down instantly, however, so there's still a risk of children encountering it.

VIDEOS AND STREAMING

Facebook Live lets users stream video live to their friends or watch others' broadcasts. Viewers can comment in real time, which is problematic to moderate. Short, user-created clips called Reels can now also be displayed on profiles and feeds. These video features could contain unsuitable material or allow children to be coaxed into doing something on camera that they wouldn't normally do.

Advice for Parents & Carers

KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

In the settings area, you can choose whether a Facebook profile is public or private. By far the safest option is to switch your child's to private, so they can only interact with people who they are friends with on the platform. Facebook's settings can also prevent your child's personal information (such as contact details, school name or date of birth) from appearing publicly.

SAVVY SHARING

Make sure your child realises that what they share online with friends can end up being shared again by others. It's important that they think about what they share online and who they share it with. Facebook's 'Audience Selector' gives users the option to filter who sees what they are sharing, whenever a status is updated, photos are uploaded or anything is posted.

ENCOURAGE SAFE FRIENDING

Facebook can help your child to stay connected with the people and the things that they care about. However, it's important for them to understand that they should only accept friend requests from people who they know. The key questions to consider are "has your child met them in person?" and "do they know and trust them enough to feel comfortable accepting them as a Facebook friend?"

RESPECT BOUNDARIES

Once you've talked about Facebook safety with your child, give them some space and trust them to make smart choices. Make it clear, however, that you're always open to discussing social media if they need to. In the early stages, you could occasionally review your child's social media activity with them to put your mind at rest – but take care not to become reliant on checking it every night.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your child watch you using Facebook – this will demonstrate how it can be used safely and appropriately, reducing the risk of them encountering harmful content themselves. Teach them the habit of thinking before sharing anything online and try to follow the same rules that you set for them – so if you agree time limits on your child's Facebook use, then you should stick to them, too.

BLOCK AND REPORT

On Facebook, you're able to report harmful content and block particular people or groups so they can't contact your child or view their profile. Before they start spending serious time on the platform, show your child how these features work and explain why they might need to be used. Facebook's Bullying Prevention Hub offers advice on dealing with harassment on the platform.

Meet Our Expert

Alex Wright is a former Facebook employee and social media expert with more than 15 years' experience in digital media. He has worked with some of the biggest organisations on the planet and has a vast understanding of how social media platforms work and how they engage their audience.



Source: www.facebook.com/alexwright



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday