

# SMUPS News

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Friday 1st March 2024

## Hello from the Head

The children have been getting really stuck into their learning this week, demonstrating a really positive attitude, brilliant learning behaviours and some great teamwork. It has been such a great start to the second half of the school year.

On Monday, year three had a trip to Kents Kavern near Torquay. They wowed both Miss Dekker and the staff at Kents Kavern with their knowledge of the Stone Age and were a real credit to themselves and the school with their great manners and super behaviour. Our year 5 and 6 girls football team went to Kingsley School on Wednesday to take part in the North Devon Finals and did really well drawing two and narrowly losing two of their games.

In school, year four have been developing their badminton skills as part of their work on Net and Wall games and year five have been honing their tennis skills. Outside, children from Eco Club managed to plant 51 trees with the help of the Devon Wildlife Trust. They only have another 249 to go! They have also been building bird feeders to encourage more wildlife.

Next week, it is World Book Day on Thursday. An email has gone out with details of what is happening. A huge thanks to the PTFA for their great ideas and events for this month.

Have a lovely weekend.

## Collective Worship

This week, we have begun looking at protected characteristics. The church team told the story of the Jesus healing ten lepers and Michael told the school all about St David.

## Things to Remember

- Please do not park on the school site at normal pick up and drop off times. The safety of the children and pedestrians is paramount. Please park carefully and considerately on the roads near to the school and use the pedestrian path. We only have parking for blue badge holders.
- Swimming is on Tuesdays for Year 2 and Year 5 (ASH and WILLOW class). Please make sure that your child has their swimming kit for Tuesdays.
  - Please make sure that your child has suitable clothing for the weather conditions.
  - Please ensure that your child is completing their home learning each week.



# SMUPS News



## CERTIFICATE WINNERS

Each week, we celebrate brilliant learning in our celebration assembly.

We give out certificates for Resilience, Resourcefulness,  
Relationships, Risk and Reflectiveness as these are our  
Building Learning Powers.

ACORNS: Lucas & Amelie

OAK: Rosa & Odin

ASH: Tristan, Harry, Elijah & Charlie

PINE: Cameron & Leilani

BEECH: Alex & Oliver

HOLLY: Greg & Isaac

WILLOW: Isabella & Sera

ELM: Edison & Olivia

Well done to Sophia W and Geoffrey for earning their 100,000 words certificate on Accelerated Reader

Well done to Olivia B for earning her 250,000 words certificates on Accelerated Reader.

Well done to Steve, Elsa, Olivia May, Mila, Jake, William H, Isaac, Greg, Eliza F, Ben, Heidi, Blake, Joe R, Isaac and Isabella for being this weeks TTRS winners.

Well done to Daniel, Finley, Ruby W and Summer for being this weeks Numbots winners.

## Dates for your diaries

Tuesday 5th March: Year 1 trip to Barnstaple Museum

Thursday 7th March: World Book Day

Monday 11th March: Holly and Pine visiting Eastleigh 1:30-2:15pm

PARENT CONSULTATIONS: 3:15-5:30PM

Thursday 14th March: PARENT CONSULTATIONS: 3:15-5:30PM

Wednesday 27th March – PM PTFA Easter Egg Hunt

Thursday 28th March: Last Day of Term and Year 6 and Reception Weigh and Measure

Friday 29th March – Friday 12th April: EASTER HOLIDAYS



## STAFF VACANCY

The school has a casual post available currently for a lunch time assistant. Duties include setting out the dining tables and benches, helping serve food, washing up and tidying up at the end of the lunch period. The post will be for 10 hours a week 11.15am-1.15pm Monday to Friday, term time only until July 2024 and paid at a rate of £11.59 per hour. This is to fill a current staffing shortage gap but maybe extended. An application form and job description can be found on the schools website

<https://www.smups.devon.sch.uk/about-us/vacancies>

Applications should be returned to the school or emailed to

[admin@smups.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@smups.devon.sch.uk)

A DBS disclosure is required for this post.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Written references and online checks will be carried out before candidates are invited to interview.



# What Schools Need to Know about THE ONLINE SAFETY ACT

The Online Safety Act was passed into UK law in October 2023, with the aim of establishing major new layers of protection for children when they're online. The government has pledged "a zero-tolerance approach to protecting children from online harm" – and the act certainly includes more powerful legislation which should help to safeguard young people in the digital world. Our guide summarises the key points for schools ...

## HARMFUL CONTENT

rapidly remove illegal and/or harmful content such as bullying or harassing comments; pornography; and content that supports extremist

## ANIMAL CRUELTY

Content featuring cruelty to animals is now prohibited, even if it originates from abroad (where the law may be different). Again, it is the platform's responsibility to remove this.

## MORE TRANSPARENCY

Sites must be transparent about the hazards that any children using them could encounter – by publishing risk assessments for their platforms, for instance.

## HOSTING MISLEADING ADVERTS

Scams and fraudulent adverts must be blocked or removed, or the hosting companies are liable to be fined.

## NON-CONSENSUAL

reporting mechanisms for children (or their parents or carers) to flag up problems

## MATERIAL

Sites must prevent children from accessing

## KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Look out for the Code of Conduct that Ofcom is creating in response to the Online Safety Act. Note that the new legislation doesn't mean an instant change: many of its elements will only come into force at the end of 2023. An Ofcom consultation on 'protecting people from illegal harms online' will be running until February 2024.

## REMEMBER THE ESSENTIALS

Remain mindful of your organisation's own online activities: the legal duty for schools to maintain appropriate software monitoring and filtering, for example, will not change.

## WATCH FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

There are some issues on which the legislation remains less clear for now: whether it's possible for Ofcom to scan encrypted private messages (such as on WhatsApp) has yet to be resolved, for instance – making this an area where, for the moment, young people have less legal protection.

## UNDERSTAND AND EXPLAIN

Staff should learn how to raise concerns with tech companies whose platforms contain anything upsetting or unpleasant. Students also need to be made aware of the newly strengthened laws relating to cyber-bullying, sexting or posting inappropriate content. Young people do make mistakes online – so the clearer their understanding of the possible consequences, the better.

## ENGAGE WITH PARENTS

Schools should also explain to parents and carers the new possibilities that the Online Safety Act affords them in terms of protecting their children. Many parents may have previously felt that there was little they could do about changing online platforms' content; they now have a far greater level of support when complaining about a company or the behaviour of an individual.



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National  
Online

