

SMUPS News

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Friday 22nd March 2024

Hello from the Head

It has been an awesome week in school with so much to celebrate and be proud of. On Monday after school, we hosted two football matches against Bishop's Nympton Primary School. Our year 3 and 4 team played first and in a really competitive, end to end game drew 2-2. Both teams played in a great spirit and did really well. Next up, the year 5 and 6 team won 4-3 in a thriller with Liam scoring a "worldie" in the last minute to win the game. Again, the game was played in a great spirit and both teams showing great skill and teamwork.

On Tuesday, we welcomed two headteachers from Ventrus schools to look at the school's work on behaviour for learning and behaviour around the school. They were extremely complementary about the calm and purposeful atmosphere around the school, in corridors and in classes and the focus of the children on their learning. They also commented positively on the quality of the relationships between the staff and the children. Mrs Harvey and I were extremely proud to be able to show our Visitors what we see day in day out—well done to all of our amazing children and staff.

On Thursday, a group of girls from years 3 to 5 attended SMCC to play in a football tournament. Unfortunately only one other school attended, but the girls played against them and performed brilliantly to draw 4-4 against a team made up of children from years 5 and 6.

Next week, each class will be taking one of the events in Holy Week and sharing their work with the rest of the school.

Have a lovely weekend.

Collective Worship

On Monday we looked at the protected characteristic of religion and belief. On Wednesday, the church team told the story of the resurrection of Jesus.

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.
- 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.
- We break up for Easter, next Thursday, 28th March 2024 and are back on Monday 15th April.

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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: Phoebe & Joanna

OAK: Brilliant & Eryn

ASH: Summer & Riley

PINE: Brody & Caitlin

BEECH: Jack, Maylah & Nora

HOLLY: William & Isla

WILLOW: Daniel & Paige

ELM: Liam & Cobo

Well done to Airon for earning his 100,000 words certificate on Accelerated Reader.

Well done to William W and Aralie for earning their 500,000 word certificate and Scott for his 750,000 word certificate.

Congratulations to Ben and Eliza H for becoming our latest word millionaires. Well done on a fantastic achievement.

Well done to Steve, Freddy, Ethan, Olivia May, Mila, Nora, William H, Greg, Isaac, Jack, Eliza F, Heidi, Ben, Eliza H, Nellie and Jimmy for being this weeks TTRS winners.

Well done to Henry, Daniel, Florence and Elysia for being this weeks Numbots winners.

Dates for your diaries

Wednesday 27th March – PM PTFA Easter Egg Hunt

Tuesday 26th March—Year 5 and 6 trip to Exmoor

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

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

Monday 15th April: Start of the Summer Term

Friday 26th April: 9-11 am Coffee Morning Presentation by PARENTAL MINDS CIC.

Monday 13th—Thursday 16th May—KS2 SATs week

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about



AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

In October 2022, the enormously popular social media network Twitter was purchased by tech tycoon Musk. That sparked a host of changes to the platform – not all which have received them positively by its fans. The alterations have continued with each passing month, raising online safety concerns among the 530 million users of Twitter (now rebranded simply X). With further adjustments reportedly in the pipeline, X has attracted more than its usual share of controversy and caution in recent times.

X has announced plans to remove its blocking feature. Previously, this stopped other users from viewing your profile or sending you direct messages, while also hiding their posts from your feed. Only this latter function will now remain. The decision has been criticised by some members, who feel that blocking (in its current form) protects them from X users who promote denial and hatred.

Many of X's less age-appropriate posts can feature anything from extreme political views to pornography. While accounts marked as 18+ are restricted from non-members, it's still fairly simple to stumble across this material accidentally. X's new page content from accounts that a user doesn't already follow – meaning that almost anything can end up on a child's feed.

X offers a premium membership, with some functionality (such as controlling who can view and reply to your posts) increasingly being made exclusive to those who pay the subscription fee. Several commentators have speculated that X could one day become an exclusively paid-for service, with access to accounts being for anyone unwilling or unable to take out a subscription.

Historically, Twitter's moderators granted account verification: certifying someone as authentic by placing a blue tick next to their username. One of X's earliest changes was to place verification behind a paywall; this caused the number of celebrity impersonators to rise and left no way to distinguish, say, a legitimate influencer from a copycat fake account seeking to exploit other users.

BLUE TICK SALE

Advice for Parents

Unsavory characters may try to gain access to a young person's X account – either to view their posts and gather information on them, or to completely take control of it. To minimise risk, ensure the account has a strong password and enable the 'Protect Your Posts' feature (via the account settings), so that strangers can't view your child's posts without first being approved as a follower.

gain views and followers, users post deliberately inflammatory comments on sensitive topics such as sexual orientation and gender issues. Many young people are upset by this. Emphasise that, if your child is being harassed, it's best to report the person to X, it's best to block them, and if they want an argument, account and move on.

Make sure your child understands that X's blue ticks no longer guarantee the identity of anyone on the platform. While it might be exciting if a celebrity liked your child's post, it could just as easily be an imposter with malicious intentions. If your child's not 100% sure that an X user actually is who they claim to be, advise them to err on the side of caution and avoid.

Using the 'Following' tab on X helps to ensure that the only content your child sees has come from accounts they've chosen to follow; this should reduce the chance of them inadvertently being exposed to harmful, violent or explicit content. Show your child how to report another user's account if, say, they're behaving inappropriately by spreading misinformation or offensive opinions.

If your child suffers harassment on the platform or becomes the target of a hack, you could consider deactivating their account entirely. Recently, X's safety features have been criticised for allegedly failing to protect users' wellbeing – so if your child is being subjected to abusive messages or similar mistreatment on the platform, it might be prudent to remove them from X altogether.

