

Weekly Newsletter

5th November 2021



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to Term 2, we hope you had a restful half term. As you may have seen or heard, we had a busy half term here, with some exciting new murals on our walls and a new 'Haven' being built. More details are in this newsletter and on our website.

We have also had the not-so-pleasant situation of a number of our children testing positive for Covid recently. I really do appreciate the effort families are going to, to test the children regularly. I know it's not easy, and they are never keen on the swabs, but it does help us enormously. Our thoughts go out to all those unfortunate enough to have caught Covid, pupils and staff, and we send our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Next week we have Parent Consultations, hopefully you have received an email letting you know about signing up for a virtual slot. We took the decision to keep them virtual following the feedback from our consultations in March, and due to the ongoing precautions around reducing the spread of Covid. We look forward to meeting with you and discussing how your child has settled into their new class.

Best wishes
Suzanne Farr



Our new Library windows provide some inspiration and helps our library to feel snug and secluded. We are sure the children will enjoy spending time in here even more now!

This amazing history timeline is already fascinating the children. They have been able to spot events and eras that they are learning about, as well as other interesting points of interest.



Upcoming Dates and events

9th and 10th November—Parent Consultations—virtual

12th November—Year 3 Class Assembly (parents invited)

24th November—Science Day

26th November—Own clothes Day

27th November—Christmas Virtual Family Quiz

2nd December—Enrichment Day

6th/7th December—KS1 Xmas production—afternoon performances

10th December—Christmas Raffle

13th December—Christmas Lunch

16th December—Pupils last Day

17th December—INSET day.



We are proud of our values as a school, and we wanted to display these clearly. Our hall now shows everyone that we are a caring school, with pupils who care, achieve well, have respect for others and themselves and enjoys making the most of life's opportunities.

Our next plan is a coat of paint in the Hall to help our new murals shine!

The Haven

We are excited to share the development of our new Haven with you. When completed, it will be a nurture zone, providing sensory support and a place of respite and calm. I would like to say a huge Thank You to Mr Sadler and Mrs Bennett for all their help in painting the building and making the fence—much more of a task then we anticipated! Our next step is to put in the power and heating, lay a soft floor and some furnishings and then to ensure we have all the correct resources in it.

From this....



...to this.

Our Wonderful PTA are holding a Virtual Quiz. A fantastic opportunity to start getting in the festive spirit!



Safety tips to tell your little one:

- fireworks are exciting, but they can be very dangerous and can hurt you. Listen to your grown-up about where is a safe place to stand.
- never touch a firework. Don't pick up a firework after it has been used.
- wear your gloves when you hold your sparkler and keep it away from your body.
- it's not a good idea to hold more than one sparkler at once.
- keep your sparkly sparkler safely away from other people and don't run around with it.
- don't throw your sparkler in case it hits someone.
- once your sparkler is finished, put it into a bucket of water, don't pick it back up. It stays hot for a long time and can burn you.
- leave your dressing up clothes at home on fireworks night, wrap up warm instead.
- stand well away from the bonfire and stay close to the grown-ups.
- don't be tempted to throw things into the bonfire or poke at it with sticks.
- if you're going to a firework display, hold hands with your grown-up and stay with them all the time.

AIM is a local charity supporting families with low incomes achieve full and fair access to grammar schools in Kent.

Free tuition will be offered weekly from January to September at Skinners' School in Tunbridge Wells and The Judd School in Tonbridge. Information about the AIM programme can be found at aimkent.org.uk.

The programme includes free weekly tutoring, holiday workshops, mock exams and enrichment activities for those children who receive Pupil Premium funding.

Tunbridge Wells Assessment Morning
Sunday 21st November, 10am at The Skinners' School
Book via Eventbrite

Tonbridge Assessment Morning
Sunday 28th November, 10am at The Judd School
Book via Eventbrite

Year 5
11+ Information



From next week, our Head boy and Head girl will be going around to classes selling poppies. If your child would like to purchase one, please can they bring in a donation.

THE FAIR TRADE SHOP

Make a difference

CHRISTMAS Craft Fair

SATURDAY 13th NOVEMBER
10am – 4pm

Fairly traded

CRAFT, HOMEWARE, FOOD, GIFTS & CHRISTMAS CARDS

Contactless card payments accepted

Refreshments Served

LUNCH, TEA, COFFEE & CAKE

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH
MAIDSTONE ROAD, PADDOCK WOOD, TN12 6DZ
(plenty of parking available)

Covid safety measures will be in place

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SNAPCHAT

13+

SNAPCHAT is a photo- and video-sharing app which also allows users to chat with friends via text or audio. Users can share images and videos with specific friends or through a story (documenting the previous 24 hours) visible to their entire friend list. Snapchat usage rose during the pandemic, with many young people utilising it to connect with their peers. The app continues to develop features to engage an even larger audience and emulate current trends, rivaling platforms such as TikTok and Instagram.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects on the app with people they know, they may still receive friend requests from strangers. Snapchat's links with apps such as Wink and Loop have increased this possibility. Accepting a request means that children are then disclosing personal information through the story, Spotlight and Snapstreak features. This could allow predators to gain their trust for sinister purposes.

EXCESSIVE USE

There are many features that are attractive to users and keep them excited about the app. Snap streaks encourage users to send snaps daily. Spotlight Challenges give users the chance to obtain money and online fame, and the Spotlight feature's scroll of video makes it easy for children to spend hours watching content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat are not suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's Discover function lets users swipe through snippets of news stories and trending articles that often include adult content. There is currently no way to turn off this feature.

TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add function helps people find each other on the app. This function works by suggesting friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this feature could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).

CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

SNAPCHAT has recently announced that it is rolling out a new safety feature: users are warned to consider the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check Up' encourages users to delete connections with users they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.

KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make their profiles to openly follow. Your child can send snaps directly to friends, but stories are visible to everyone they have added, unless they change the settings. If they use SnapMaps, their location is visible unless 'Ghost Mode' is enabled (again via settings). It's prudent to emphasise the importance of not adding people they don't know in real life. This is particularly important with the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchatters to see the places your child regularly visits and checks in: strangers, bullies and groomers could use this information to engage in conversation and arrange to meet in person.

TALK ABOUT SEXTING

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to move) but it is important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sending, receiving or sharing explicit images, as well as the possible emotional impact. Emphasise that your child should never feel pressured into sexting – and that if they receive unwanted explicit images, they should tell a trusted adult straight away.

BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending explicit images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and choose report or block. There are options to state why they are reporting that user (harassing or malicious messages, spam, or misquoting as someone else, for example).

DAMAGE TO CONFIDENCE

SNAPCHAT's filters and lenses are a popular way for users to enhance their selfie game. Although many are designed to entertain or amuse, the security filters on photos can be unappealing. While these pictures disappear in 10 seconds, the sender is notified if it has been screenshoted first – users have found alternative methods to save images, such as taking screenshots with a separate device.

VISIBLE LOCATION

My Places lets users check in and search for popular spots nearby – such as restaurants, parks or shopping centres. We recommend them to their friends. The potential issue with a young person consistently checking into locations on Snapchat is that it allows other users in their friends list (even people they have only ever met online) to see where they currently are and where they regularly go.

Advice for Parents & Carers

Meet Our Expert
Dr Claire Sullivan is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK and Australia.

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @nationalonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

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School Raffle

We are still looking for further donations for our Christmas Raffle. If you, or anyone you know, would like to donate a prize, please do let us know. It may be a great opportunity for a local business to get involved in our community with a bit of advertising and promotion, or perhaps a way to get their product more well-known. Thank you in advance for your support and generosity.

We will soon be letting you know about how to purchase tickets—so watch this space!



2nd December—Enrichment Day

Learn-a-new-Skill Day

We are excited to let you know, that on 2nd December, we will be having our first enrichment Day of the year. It is a day dedicated to inspiring our children through experiences and activities, giving them a chance to try new things. This time we are asking our children to learn a new skill. They will attend four workshops over the course of the day, each one engaging and interesting.

In KS2 they will learn about African drumming, develop artistic skills with a published illustrator, learn some new forest skills and learn some handy First Aid skills too.

In EYFS and KS1, they will be trying their hand at golf, Indian Dance, circus skills and sign language. EYFS will also have an additional biscuit decorating activity.

We will share more information about the day nearer the time, letting you know about clothing they might need and any other key information.