



SOUTH WITHAM ACADEMY NEWS

Exciting Workshops and Online Safety Measures at Our School

On Tuesday, Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership came to our school to teach our students about safety. Our year 2 children took a walk around the village to learn about pedestrian safety while Otters class learned about the importance of wearing seatbelts when traveling in a vehicle. Badgers class were taught about the significance of wearing helmets while riding bikes and scooters.

At our school, we prioritise online safety and share weekly posters in our newsletter to help parents keep their children safe online. This week's newsletter includes tips for parents with children using smart TVs. Look for it on the last page of the newsletter.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Mr Atter



UPCOMING DIARY DATES

Monday	December 4, 2023
all day	● Bikeability Y5/6
Tuesday	December 5, 2023
all day	● Bikeability Y5/6
Wednesday	December 6, 2023
all day	● Bikeability Y5/6
Thursday	December 7, 2023
all day	● Bikeability Y5/6
Tuesday	December 12, 2023
all day	● PANTO VISIT
Wednesday	December 13, 2023
all day	● KS1 CHRISTMASMOVIE NIGHT
Friday	December 15, 2023
all day	● CHRISTMAS DINNERAND JUMPER DAY.

Calling parents of reception 2024 children!

We are now taking bookings for school tours for our reception 2024 intake. If you know anyone with a child who turns 4 before August 31st 2023, then please pass on our website link where they can book a tour.

<https://www.south-witham.lincs.sch.uk/>

HOUSE POINT TOTALS



BURGHLEY

8853

BELTON

8391

WOOLSTHORPE

8688



Little Hedgehogs



This week in Little Hedgehogs we have been celebrating Diwali, looking at decorating our own Rangoli pictures and we had fun making fireworks and patterns with poster paint. On Wednesday we welcomed a new Little Hedgehog who has settled in really well and we have also started singing our Christmas songs and the children love singing and dancing to "The dancing Christmas tree song" which can be found on You tube if you would like to sing it with them at home. The Hedgehogs enjoyed decorating lots of Pudsey pictures for Children in Need today.



Woodlands



We have had a very busy week this week celebrating Diwali - we started with a circle time with tea lights and Rangoli patterns.

We then looked at Mehndi hand art and created some of our own using our hands as stencils. The squirrels made coconut squares for all of us to try, they were super yummy.

We have had an exciting visit from Mr Hall who came in to teach us all about road safety we all learned so much!

We then ended our week with children in need where we all dressed up as Pudsey - Thank you all for your donations.



B adgers



This week has flown by with the children busily learning in the Badger classroom. In English, we have been contributing towards a shared write to the local village shopkeepers, persuading them to limit their provision of single-use plastic bags. These persuasive writing skills will then be used by the children independently in their own persuasive letters. In Maths, the children are completing their learning on the four operations and moving on to learning about fractions. Our science learning has been very investigative this week, with the children developing their ability to formulate their own investigative questions based on a set of given resources. We investigated the thermal properties of a range of materials using ice cubes as well as hot water. Both investigations concluded that steel is an effective conductor of thermal heat.

Otters



Week 3 of this term has once again flown by, and Otters have had lots of visitors in this week. Mr Hall came in to talk about road safety on Tuesday, and the Ineke came to work with our Year 3s in their Energise session. We have finished working on our 3 times table this week - next week it will be the 4s! In English, we have built up to writing our story about Beowulf defeating the monster Grendel. In science, we continued looking at the water cycle, and learned about how it helps us in our everyday lives (hair dryers and Miss Hosmer's coffee were good examples!)



PRIDE OF SOUTH WITHAM



Always Club

YAY!



Readers of the Week!



Children In Need



Attendance Super Stars!
 OTTERS & BADGERS
 with 96%



Can we please remind parents that dog's not not allowed on school grounds.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SMART TVs

Smart TVs connect to the internet without the need for a set-top box or streaming device, letting users access a range of features through the TV set itself: from on-demand content apps like BBC iPlayer to streaming services such as Netflix, as well as connecting to smartphones and other wireless devices. Most new televisions are internet enabled – so whether you're thinking of upgrading your home viewing system or buying an additional TV for your child's room, it's now even more important to consider the online safety aspects.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

From Netflix to Disney+ to Prime Video, there is a plethora of streaming services available. While these services offer content catering for younger viewers, they also provide material for more mature audiences. If you don't have parental controls set up on your accounts, your child could find themselves being exposed to shows and movies with adult themes, strong language and violence.



INCREASED SCREEN TIME

The array of content available through smart TVs could lead to your child spending excessive amounts of time in front of the screen. Not only can prolonged screen time distract from important activities such as schoolwork or exercise, but experts have also warned that endless hours in front of the box can lead to health problems including obesity, poor sleeping patterns and depression.



REMOTE-CONTROL RETAIL

Like many online devices, smart TVs facilitate digital purchases: buying a new app or the latest season of a favourite show, for example. If your child has access to a bank card and isn't restricted by spending controls on the system, they could run up a sizeable bill through a smart TV fairly quickly – especially if they're not quite old enough to fully appreciate the value of money.



UNCONVINCING SECURITY

As Internet of Things (IoT) devices, smart TVs can be uniquely vulnerable to attack. Experts warn that internet-enabled TVs tend not to support high-level security software, so you won't always be able to download strong antivirus programmes like you would on a phone or computer. Being targeted by hackers could be deeply upsetting for your child, as well as putting their personal data at risk.



A SILENT SPY?

Some smart TVs already collect data on users' viewing habits and then display targeted advertising based on that personal information – while there have also been reports of internet-enabled TVs (and the apps installed on them) being used to 'eavesdrop' on owners. In models with a built-in microphone (for voice activation), third parties could potentially listen in on someone's home life.



CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Many smart TVs can be used for web browsing, social media and live streaming – all of which could allow unknown users to contact your child (or vice versa). If your child engages with these functions of the TV, a stranger could potentially discover their contact information and potentially then use it to obtain even more sensitive personal details, such as your home address.



Advice for Parents & Carers

MAKE IT A FAMILY THING

Family TV time is a great way to model the responsible enjoyment of technology – showing your child how to use the smart TV safely for when they're old enough to watch it independently. You could also take this opportunity to establish some healthy TV boundaries, such as time limits on their daily viewing or how to make sure they're only watching content that's appropriate for their age.



CREATE CHILD PROFILES

Much like with smartphones and tablets, apps can be downloaded onto smart TVs: from free content platforms such as BBC iPlayer to paid-for services like Prime Video. Most of these apps allow you to create a separate account for your child which has different settings to your own – suggesting more child-friendly material and reducing the possibility of them viewing explicit content.



SET UP PARENTAL CONTROLS

It's likely that your smart TV has built-in parental controls, which not only let you filter out age-inappropriate shows, movies and games but can also restrict in-app purchasing, so your child can't accidentally spend money through the device. When you've enabled these safeguards, have an open conversation with your child about the reasons, helping them to understand the potential risks.



CONSIDER THE LOCATION

If you're concerned about the online safety hazards that a smart TV might pose to your child, you could consider where in your home you put the device. The safest option would be to place the smart TV in a shared family space – so that an adult is usually nearby and able to supervise while your child's watching it – rather than in the relative privacy of a bedroom.



Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of techtabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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