



# SOUTH WITHAM ACADEMY NEWS

Another busy week in school has flown by! Due to staff illnesses, your children may have been taught by different adults than those that they are used to but they have continued to work hard and do their very best!

Woodlands children have been enjoying their learning this week, culminating in finding all about Chinese foods and traditions as part of their work about the Chinese New Year! In Otters, the children have been 'egg'static in their science learning about how you keep teeth healthy and will be monitoring an experiment they have set up this week. See our Instagram and Facebook pages for daily updates! Badgers have been continuing to find out about daily life in the Tudor times - in particular, why Henry VIII was married six times!

Please ensure children have coats in school at all times during the winter months as it seems to be changing daily! One more week of term to go! I hope you have a lovely weekend,

*Mr Atter*



## UPCOMING DIARY DATES

**16th Feb** - End of Term 3

**26th Feb** - Start of Term 4

**24th - 26th April** - Y5 Residential to Kingswood Activity Centre



As part of 'Safer Internet day' which happened this week, the children have been learning about how to make sure they stay safe when using the internet. Please see our weekly tips at the back of this newsletter!



## HOUSE POINT TOTALS

BURGHLEY

BELTON

WOOLSTHORPE

6571

5450

6166





# Little Hedgehogs



This week in Little Hedgehogs we have been reading Robins winter song. It has followed a little robin who had never seen the season winter before. We have made our own robin pictures by sticking different colour paper and colouring. We have made our own snow by mixing some different ingredients together with spoons and our hands and have been making winter pictures with white paint and glitter. On Friday morning we made some bird feeders by threading some cheerio's on to a pipe cleaner and we have taken them home to hang outside. Let us know if any birds have been eating them!



# Woodlands



We have had a lovely week this week! We have started a new text called penguins big adventure - the children have absolutely loved it! They have done lots of fun activities around the text such as creating maps of the adventure and retelling the story, the work they have produced is amazing!

On Friday we celebrated Chinese new year, we did lots of fun activities such as making Chinese lanterns, food tasting and learning about the celebration.

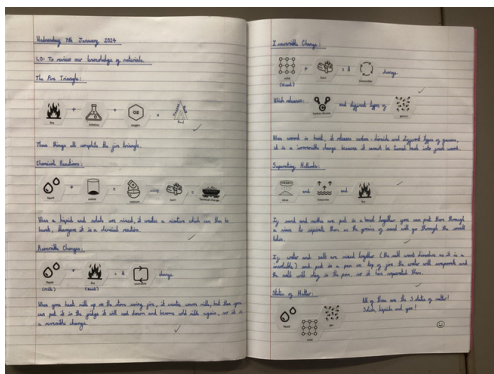
We have all really enjoyed this week and we are so proud of everyone!



# Badgers

In Badgers class this week, the children have been debating as part of their new English writing unit. They had to argue for and against shortening breake-time to 10 minutes in the morning. As you can imagine, there were some mixed views!

They have also been learning about entertainment during the Tudor times and have completed activities linked to safer internet day. Have a lovely weekend, Mr Atter.



# Otters



Well, it has all been happening in Otters this week. On Tuesday, Mr Atter helped to set up a science investigation, where we are finding out what effects different drinks (and other liquids) have on our teeth - we are using hard boiled eggs as the shells are similar to the enamel on our teeth. We have been checking the eggs daily and have been amazed (and disgusted!) by some of the changes! Keep an eye on our "socials" for regular updates! We have also planned and written our own independent explanation text, all about how the Snoozatron works and helps us to sleep (with the help of Wallace and Gromit!). We have also started our new maths topic of length, measuring in centimetres and millimetres, as well as practising the 7 times table!





# PRIDE OF SOUTH WITHAM



Always Club

YAY!



## Readers of the Week!



# Attendance Superstars

this week goes to Rabbits with 98%



Congrats to Mia, who has triumphed over the challenges of level 4 in Gymnastics!

SOUTH WITHAM ACADEMY PRESENTS

## WEAR WHAT YOU LOVE ON VALENTINE'S DAY

TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE PTA, WE ARE ASKING CHILDREN FOR A £1 DONATION TO JOIN IN WITH THIS VALENTINE'S EVENT. CHILDREN CAN LITERALLY WEAR ANYTHING THEY LOVE TO WEAR! PRINCESS DRESSES, FOOTBALL KITS, DISCO CLOTHES, GREEN CLOTHES... LITERALLY ANYTHING!

Attendance is something we celebrate each week in our Celebration Assembly on a Friday. We are required to collate and update the attendance figures for the local authority each week. Going forward we will be monitoring attendance closely to ensure that we are hitting the targets given to the school by the DFE.



to Isla C, Luna, Georgia and Emily who all celebrated their birthday this week. Happy birthday girls!

If your child is absent from school, please ensure you call the school office **before 9.30am** to advise of the absence. Alternatively, please email [AbsenceSWA@brookehillacademytrust.education](mailto:AbsenceSWA@brookehillacademytrust.education)



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MONKEY

Also known as Monkey Cool, this platform aims to fill the gap left by Omegle (which has now shut down) by placing users in random video chats with strangers. Participants use their mobile number and Snapchat username to connect to the service, where they can make matches, message other people and join group chats. The mobile version has been removed from the App Store due to safety concerns, but iPhone owners can still access the site via their web browser. The app remains available on Google Play, where its listing claims that Monkey has more than 30 million users worldwide.

AGE RESTRICTION  
**17+**

(although the lack of age verification means that someone younger could easily log in with a fake date of birth)

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The app claims to use AI to detect sexual content or activity that violates its policies, along with having a 24/7 moderation team. However, reports in the media continue to indicate that explicit content remains commonplace on Monkey (including sexually graphic or violent material) and is therefore accessible to anybody who uses the app – including those aged under 18.

UNDER 18

### CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

The obvious risk in accepting random video chat partners is that users cannot know what or who they will see on their next connection. Talking to strangers is, of course, potentially dangerous – especially for children who might be persuaded to meet up with these people offline. The app lets users find each other by location, increasing the chances of a child being matched with a stranger from their local area.



### IN-APP SPENDING

While Monkey is free to download, it nevertheless offers in-app purchases promising to unlock access to premium features. For example, users who wish to make use of 'Knock Knock chat' (Monkey's text-based messaging option), rather than the app's Chatroulette-style random video calling feature, will need to pay to be able to do so.



### INTRUSIONS ON PRIVACY

According to Monkey's privacy policy, personal information (such as name, profile picture and date of birth), user-contributed content (any photos, texts, videos and screenshots shared) and each user's browser and IP address are collected. That is a considerable amount of data for Monkey to gather on its users – and all of this information is shared with third parties.



## Advice for Parents & Carers

### DISCUSS THE DANGERS

Even if you're comfortable with your child using Monkey, it's still important to talk about the potential dangers. It's crucial, for instance, that young people recognise the risks that stem from video chatting with strangers; that they understand not to share identifying information (like their street or school name); and that they know what to do if they are exposed to inappropriate content.



### RESTRICT IN-APP PURCHASING

If your child is accessing Monkey via an Android device, you can prevent them from making in-app purchases through the device's settings. If you do allow your child to use the site, we'd recommend that you enable this feature: young people have been known to spend significant amounts of money in their desire to unlock more features in apps such as this.



### REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Monkey states in the safety section of its site that "people are given the power" and that, to a large extent, Monkey is "self-governing." If a user is exposed to sexually explicit or inappropriate content on the platform, they can select the 'police' emoji in the top right corner of their screen to submit a report for Monkey's moderation team to review.



### SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Monkey – or that they may have been exposed to inappropriate or distressing content – it's important to watch for potential indications that they've been affected emotionally. They could be unusually irritable or unable to concentrate, for example, or failing to complete their homework or even to eat regular meals.



## Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland 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, USA and Australia.



The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday