



SOUTH WITHAM ACADEMY NEWS

We have reached the final week of term three and there has been lots of great things happening in school this week.

Otters children have been very excitedly telling me about the progress of their recent science investigation. There were a few unexpected results but we weren't too surprised to find out the energy drinks are the worst for your teeth. Vinegar also didn't fair well but I haven't noticed anyone drinking vinegar too often! It wasn't surprising to discover that water and milk were the best.

Also this week, we have had the first session for the children taking part in this years 'Spotlight' dance festival. I managed to see a small glimpse of the routine and it is already looking fab after just one session. Children in KS2 have been invited to participate and we look forward to them performing next term.

I hope you enjoy a wonderful half term break and we will see you all back on Monday 26th February,

Mr Atter



UPCOMING DIARY DATES

- 26th Feb** - Start of Term 4
- 7th Mar** - World Book Day
- 7th Mar** - Booknik in the hall at 2.30pm.
- 7th Mar** - 5/6 Dodgeball event
- 24th - 26th April** - Y5 Residential to Kingswood Activity Centre

GYM BALLS



We are after a couple of gym balls as we introduce sensory circuits into our school day. If you have an old one tucked away somewhere and can spare it then please do let us know. Thank you!



HOUSE POINT TOTALS



BURGHLEY

7044

BELTON

5819

WOOLSTHORPE

6728



Little Hedgehogs



This week in Little Hedgehogs we have been reading *The Gruffalo!* The children love this book and have helped by telling us what is happening on each page. We have painted an owl and stuck lots of feathers on it, we have painted with watercolours and using our hands we have been rolling the playdough to make small and long snakes. We have played in the hall a lot this week due to the wet weather, the children enjoyed running around and playing with the parachute. On Wednesday the children mixed together the cornflour and water to make gloop and we made lots of mess!!



Woodlands



This week in Woodland class we have been super busy with our learning! The children have loved reading the text the penguins big adventure and using their imagination to create new journeys for the charecters in the story.

On Tuesday the children enjoyed learning about pancake day - they then went on to make their own pancakes in the kitchen! Yum!

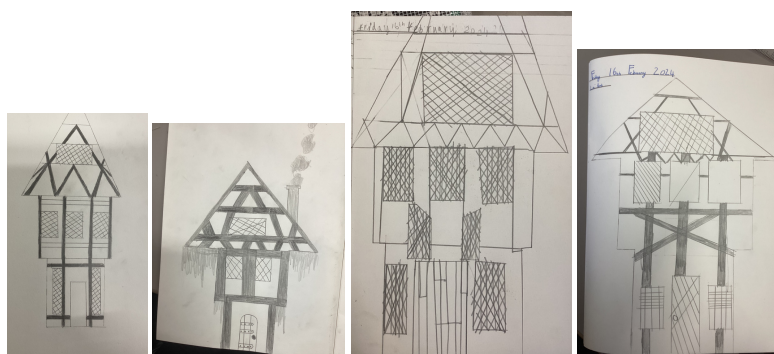
On Wednesday the children celebrated valentines day by wearing something that they love! It was lovely to see all the children wearing the clothes they love! Thank you to all the parents that donated.

We hope you all have a lovely and relaxed half term and we look forward to seeing you all next term!



Badgers

In Badgers class this week, year 5 have been finishing off their unit on fractions whilst year 6 have been learning about ratio and proportion. In history, the children have been learning about trade and exploration during the Elizabethan era. They learned all about the exploration of Sir Francis Drake. In Science, they have been learning about the pH scale and tested different liquids to determine their pH levels. Have a great half term holiday, Mr Atter.



Otters



It has been a very busy end of term in Otters. We have completed our Science investigation today, with a final look at the eggs (Mr Atter was even brave enough to open the milk!). We will write up our results properly, but keep an eye on our social media for photos of the last day! We also started our Spotlight dance rehearsals, and the children came back to class enthused but exhausted! We have been focusing on grammar this week in English, and in maths we have been learning about the perimeter of shapes. Miss Done and Mrs Harrington also finished our LS Lowry art work - if you get a chance, please pop in to see it in real life! Have a lovely and restful half term holiday, and we will see you after the break!



PRIDE OF SOUTH WITHAM



Always Club



Readers of the Week!



Attendance Superstars

this week goes to **Rabbits AND Otters** with **94%**

We celebrated Mr Pewsey today for our own National CareTakers day! Thank you for everything you do Mr Pewsey!



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.



Happy Birthday to Ellie, Phoebe, Freya, Kobi, Elizabeth and Sophie! Happy birthday!



World Book Day

7th March '24

We would like to celebrate World Book Day in School but do not wish to put any financial pressure on parents. As such, we would like to invite your children to take part in some or all of the following activity options.

1. Dress up for World Book day as your favourite character / school uniform if this option is not chosen
2. At home, make a hat that displays your favourite book
3. Bring in a decorated wooden spoon of your favourite book character

We look forward to celebrating World Book Day with you and finding out more about the lovely books your children enjoy reading.

We will award prizes for the best character spoon and book hat.

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During the afternoon, we would like to invite parents to another one of our popular BookNiks in the hall where you can enjoy reading with your children.

Please arrive for 2.30pm.

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ONLINE DATING & RELATIONSHIPS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Most online dating apps claim to be for over-18s only but, in some cases, relaxed age verification also allows children to access them. What's more, some popular social media platforms use similar design features to many dating sites – blurring the line between why a young person initially downloads an app and what they *actually* end up using it for.

ONLINE GROOMING

Online grooming is when someone forms a connection with a child in the digital world and carefully cultivates this relationship with the intention of manipulating the child into doing something sexual or illegal. The process involves gaining the young person's confidence – which can make them far less likely to tell a trusted adult about their new online 'friend', or to recognise what is even happening.

WEBCAM BLACKMAIL

Some young people have been coaxed into getting nude or semi-nude on a video chat with someone they met on a dating platform. They're then told that, unless they hand over a certain amount of money, a recording of the video will be posted online (or possibly sent to their contacts). This can be hugely traumatic for a young person and, in extreme cases, has resulted in self-harm and even suicide.

DAMAGE TO SELF ESTEEM

Many dating platforms encourage users to rate the images that people upload; this has clear potential to negatively impact a young person's self esteem. On some apps, pictures of a user's face and body can be rated anonymously, with notifications informing them if someone has then declined to match with them. This form of rejection can feel extremely hurtful and degrading.

CATFISHING AND SCAMS

Creating a false identity to deliberately lure people into a relationship (whether romantic or platonic) online is known as catfishing. Commonly, someone pretends to share interests or beliefs with their victim and gradually gains their trust. A young person's feelings for this fake 'friend' may cloud their judgement and can lead to them surrendering money, personal images, passwords and so on.

STALKING AND HARASSMENT

Stalking is obsessive behaviour by a fixated individual which disrupts their victim's life; it can bring severe distress and even the fear of violence. There have been frequent reports of stalking cases that originated on dating apps, with perpetrators creating new accounts in response to being reported or blocked. It's a particular cause for concern if a young person has ever given out personal details (such as their street or school name) online.

Advice for Parents & Carers

KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING

Reassure your child that they can always talk to you about anything online that's worried them. Emphasise that if they're being sent unwanted images – or if they've shared images or video content themselves – they should tell you straight away. Discuss the potential risks of online dating and check in with them frequently to ensure that they're feeling comfortable about their online relationships.

TAKE A 'SAFETY FIRST' STANDPOINT

Encourage young people to be careful about who they send invitations to – and accept them from – on dating sites and apps. Familiarise yourself with how to adjust the privacy settings on your child's devices and apps to help them control who can access their profiles and information. Talk to your child about why it's unwise to share any sensitive, private or confidential information in their profile.

PROTECT CONTACT DETAILS

If a young person is interested in using online dating sites or apps, strongly encourage them to choose one that offers the facility to conceal both parties' email addresses when messaging prospective dates. If that's not possible, ensure that the young person sets up a separate email address which doesn't include their real name. This is easy to do via providers like Hotmail, Yahoo! Mail or gmail.

HIGHLIGHT COMMON DANGER SIGNS

Talk to your child about some of the obvious red flags in online dating: requests for money, for instance, should always ring alarm bells. Likewise, if a young person is in contact with someone who they feel is pressuring them into providing personal or financial information – or who they suspect is trying to trick them into it – they should end communication immediately and contact the dating service provider.

Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings has more than 20 years' experience in the field of relationships, sex and health education (RSHE). As well as delivering workshops and training for young people, parents and schools, she is also a subject matter expert on RSHE for the Department of Education.



The National College

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

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