News and Information

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to share a couple of really useful websites with you for information:

- The Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust have launched a new website with lots of useful information and places to find support. This website can be found at: https://www.healthforkids.co.uk/buckinghamshire/

- The Family Support Service offer a range of support services available to parents in a non-judgemental and supportive way. These include some free courses both online and as workshops. Further information can be found here: Family support service | Family Information Service (buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

Have a good weekend.

Ms Martin

Headteacher

Key Dates coming up:

February

7th—Young Voices at Wembley

9th—FOBDS Disco

10th—3:15pm School Closes for half term.

13th—17th—Half Term.

20th—School Reopens

24th—Year 2 Maths Parents Workshop

March

2nd—World Book Day

15th—Parent open book viewing session.

21st and 22nd—Parent Consultation Meetings

Maths at Bierton Times Tables in Year 5

It is hoped that children should be able to fluently recall multiplication and division facts up to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4 and continued rehearsal and application of these facts is important in Year 5. It will support their learning across the curriculum, including when learning about fractions and percentages.

Efficient methods

In Year 5, children will continue to develop their understanding of written methods for multiplication.

Children will also begin to discuss whether a written method is always the most efficient way to solve a problem and will start to consider whether some questions can be solved mentally using known facts.

Times Table Rock Stars

We currently have three Rock Heroes in Year 5—well done to Kavinuyan, Kobi and Sebastian. *These children can complete multiplication questions in under 1 second—an incredible achievement!*

Regular practise on Times Table Rock Stars will help children to improve their fluency and recall speed; subsequently, making daily maths tasks less overwhelming.

Multiplying by 10, 100 and 1000

Children will also practise multiplying numbers by 10, 100 and 1000. They learn that the column method is not a useful approach to use and it is better to focus on the place value and the movement of the digits.

Square Numbers

A square number is when you multiply a number by itself, and it can be written out as a multiplication or as an indices:

$$2 \times 2 = 2^2 = 4$$
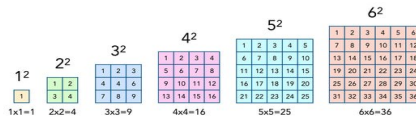
Square numbers are a concept that may seem simple to adults, but until they are explained to children they can seem a bit baffling.

The introduction of square numbers in Year 5, alongside examples and explanations can help your child understand what they are and how they work. This can help prevent confusion when your child encounters calculations such as 4^2 or 6^2.

Multiplying decimals: Practice at home!

Practise multiplying decimals using money, shopping receipts, bills or budgets. These are all great life lessons and your child will hopefully enjoy the responsibility.

Example questions could be:

- "I bought two t-shirts that cost £4.56 each. Can you tell me how much the total amount should be on the receipt?"

- "We bought 4 meals from the restaurant with a special offer, so they cost £10.50 each. How much should the total be?

- "Every month we spend £11.42 on our water bill. How much will it cost us over the year?"

Learning multiplication facts in school

In school, we have reviewed the order and ways in which we teach multiplication and division facts for children. The order has been devised to support children in making connections between different facts and therefore supporting their understanding and recall.

An example is included below but further information will be sent out in the future.

| Year 5							
	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7
Autumn 1	Note: With recap of known facts in Autumn 1, try to include coverage of the inverse where possible.	0 x 6 = 1 x 6 = 2 x 6 = 4 x 6 = 8 x 6 = 5 x 6 = 10 x 6 =	3 x 6 = 6 x 6 = 12 x 6 = 7 x 6 = 9 x 6 = 11 x 6 =	0 x 12 = 1 x 12 = 2 x 12 = 4 x 12 = 8 x 12 = 5 x 12 = 10 x 12 =	3 x 12 = 6 x 12 = 12 x 12 = 7 x 12 = 9 x 12 = 11 x 12 =	0 x 11 = 1 x 11 = 2 x 11 = 4 x 11 = 8 x 11 = 5 x 11 = 10 x 11 =	3 x 11 = 6 x 11 = 12 x 11 = 7 x 11 = 9 x 11 = 11 x 11 =

Sparkle Afternoon Computing - Design

During our first Sparkle opportunity, a group of children from Key Stage 2 learnt about 3D design using the computers. They looked at the different view options (3D model, 2D net and 2D face) and customised their design using different tools. The children have printed their nets and we are hoping to find access to a 3D printer so they can see their designs come to life.
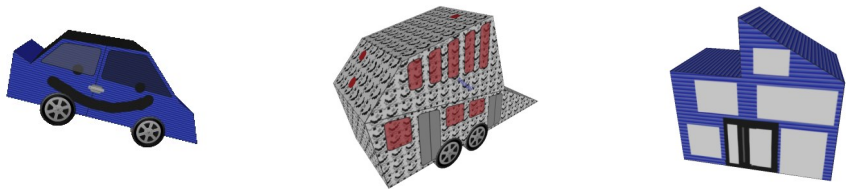
If anyone has access to a 3D printer and is willing for us to use it, please let us know because the children would really appreciate it.
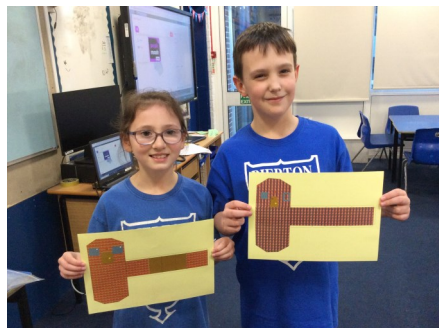
Sparkle time photography!

The children were encouraged to find the wonder in our hedgerows or the awe in local animals, not many schools are lucky enough to be surrounded by farm and forest! We were so impressed by the photography skills of our children, they had a chance to snap away and then edit their favourite picture. They used different editing tools to add special effects and I think you will agree with some amazing results. We really do have some amazing artists in our school!

Keep your child safe on Snapchat

What is Snapchat?

Snapchat is an app for sending photos and videos (known as 'Snaps'), and text messages. The 'Stories' feature lets users share photos or videos with all their contacts at once.
Snaps disappear after being opened, usually within seconds. Stories disappear after 24 hours. Images and messages aren't automatically saved on phones.

The **minimum age** to use Snapchat is **13**, but it's easy to sign up if you're younger.

What's the problem?

- There's a risk of seeing sexual content, and of bullying
- Your child's location could be shared automatically with their contacts, which could put them in danger if they have strangers as 'friends' on the app. A new 'Meet Up' feature allows people to get directions to another user's location, if they're sharing their location
- There's a risk of children being 'groomed' by strangers into sharing pictures and information about themselves. Gangs also use apps to groom and recruit children

4 steps to help your child use Snapchat safely

1. Tell your child to only use it with real friends

Anyone could pretend to be a child or teenager online, so encourage your child not to talk to people they don't know in real life. Encourage them not to share information such as what school they go to or where they live with people they don't know offline.

2.. Use privacy settings

By default, only 'friends' your child has added on Snapchat can contact them directly and see their story or location, so encourage your child to keep those default settings.
To check and change the settings:

- Tap the person icon in the top-left of Snapchat, then the cog in the top-right.
- Scroll down to the 'Privacy Control' section and tap the relevant options (e.g. 'Contact Me' and 'View My Story')
- Under 'See My Location', enable 'Ghost Map' to turn location sharing off
- Under 'See Me In Quick Add' you can stop your child's profile from being suggested to strangers as a potential 'friend'

3. Talk to your child about image sharing and being careful about what they share

- Even though images disappear in Snapchat, they can be screenshotted and then shared – outside of the original sender's control.
- So, remind your child to think carefully about the images they share, and with whom. Before they share anything, tell them to ask: "Would I be happy for other people to see this?"
- In particular, make sure your child knows the risks of **taking, sharing or viewing naked or sexually explicit pictures of themselves or another child, either voluntarily or if asked to by someone else**.
- This is known as 'sharing nudes and semi-nudes' or 'sexting' and is illegal, even when the person doing it is a child. It can also be distressing for a child to have their image shared more widely, or to see an inappropriate image that someone else has shared.

4. Make sure your child knows how to use reporting and blocking functions

- To **report** a Snap or Story, press and hold on it, tap 'Report Snap', then explain the problem
- To **remove** or **block** a friend, swipe to the right to go to the 'Chat' screen, then tap and hold on the person's name. Tap 'Manage Friendship', then choose 'Remove Friend' or 'Block'

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about
WORLD OF WARCRAFT

AGE RESTRICTION 12+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

World of Warcraft originally launched way back in 2004, and since then the game has blossomed into a major entertainment property. It's spawned spin-off novels, merchandise and even a Hollywood movie adaptation … but why are we still talking about it in 2023? World of Warcraft's most recent iteration, Dragonflight, launched last November and marks the game's ninth major expansion. This latest addition has attracted a whole host of lapsed players back to the game — as well as newcomers jumping into the realm of Azeroth for the first time.

ALWAYS ONLINE
World of Warcraft is an MMORPG, which stands for Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game. Players create a character and head off on mythical quests to earn rewards and become more powerful. The game's environment is absolutely vast, and it can only be played online on PC or Mac – so there's a high probability of young Warcraft fans wanting to monopolise the family computer.

REGULAR EXPANSIONS
As is common with many MMORPGs, World of Warcraft's developers, Blizzard, release regular expansions for the game (usually every 18 months to two years). So although there's still plenty of content for young players to experience right now, there will almost inevitably be a requirement to continue buying future expansion packs, which tend to cost around £50.

IN-GAME PURCHASES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS
Just like its genre contemporary Final Fantasy XIV, World of Warcraft requires a monthly subscription fee to play. It's currently £9.99 per month (although you can get it cheaper by signing up to a longer subscription). There are also many items which can be purchased from the in-game store that don't affect gameplay, but instead offer cosmetic alterations to a player's character.

VOICE AND TEXT CHAT
Because World of Warcraft is played exclusively on PCs and Macs, it's easy for users to type out text messages if they aren't comfortable using voice chat. If you'll forgive the pun, that's a double-edged sword because – although there's less chance of them being harassed verbally – it puts young players at increased risk of being trolled or receiving spam through the in-game messaging function.

SIMULATED VIOLENCE
The fact that World of Warcraft is almost 20 years old means that even its most violent battles look slightly cartoonish compared with the level of authenticity in many more modern games. The exception tends to be Warcraft's in-game cutscenes: animated sections which move the plot onto the next stage. These offer more realistic visuals, but they still aren't overly gory or scary.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION
World of Warcraft can trigger a powerful "just one more quest" mentality in players (especially young ones) as they rush to secure the next dopamine hit from levelling their character up or earning a new item or weapon. It's also a game that doesn't have a definite 'end' – because as soon as a player finishes levelling up one character, they can start afresh with another one.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MANAGE PLAYTIME
World of Warcraft can be an extremely enjoyable game to play with friends, but it's important that your child doesn't let their adventures crowd out school work, socialising or anything else they also enjoy. You could, for example, consider imposing playtime limits – such as a set number of hours to play Warcraft per week, or restricting it to particular days or just weekends.

MAKE IT A REWARD
If your child is excited about getting the next World of Warcraft expansion, you could consider using it as a reward for completing their weekly tasks (you could even call them 'quests') like tidying their room or doing their homework. This will demonstrate that you're happy for them to play the game but will also help them to build good, productive habits, reinforcing that hard work earns rewards.

SIGN UP FOR THE FREE TRIAL
Warcraft's monthly subscription effectively 'pays' for the regular new content, but there's also a sizeable free trial that lets new players explore the world of Azeroth without paying a penny. Players can play up until Level 20 for free, which is easily several hours' worth of gameplay. If your child does take this option, we'd suggest minimising in-game spending by not linking a bank card to their account.

REMEMBER THE AGE RATING
Due to mild violence and the occasional use of offensive language, World of Warcraft has been rated as appropriate for players aged 12 and over by PEGI (the Pan-European Game Information system, which gives them their age certificate). It isn't really suitable for anyone below that age, so you may potentially have to explain this reasoning to your younger children if they want to play it.

ADVENTURE TOGETHER
Warcraft can certainly be addictive, but playing it together is also a great way to spend time with your child. The game's focus on cooperative questing and battling enemies can make it feel like you've accomplished something as a team, and you'll also be in a prime position to spot any early signs of addiction. Just remember to apply gaming time limits to yourself as well as your young ones!

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about
TWITTER

AGE RESTRICTION 13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Twitter is a social media network which allows users to post short messages ('tweets') of up to 280 characters. Tweets can consist of text, photos, videos, audio, links, polls and GIFs – often linked by hashtags if they share a common theme or message. Hashtags receiving high levels of interest are said to be 'trending'. Twitter users can engage with other people's posts by liking, retweeting (sharing) or tweeting back (commenting on). Since the entrepreneur Elon Musk acquired Twitter in October 2022 for $44 billion, he has implemented several major changes to the platform.

INTERACTION WITH STRANGERS
Tweets are public by default, meaning that anyone can view and interact with posts, follow someone and send direct messages. The concern here is that young people may therefore connect and communicate with strangers. Some individuals may follow a young person's Twitter account simply because they have similar interests; however, others may turn out to have more sinister intentions.

FIXATION ON VIEW COUNT
Twitter has recently introduced a 'view count' feature – telling users how many people have seen their tweet (even if they haven't reacted to it). Previous research has found that unfavourable comparisons with other social media users can cause young people to experience feelings of insecurity, jealousy and low self-esteem – leading to an obsession with increasing their numbers.

TROLLS AND BULLYING
The anonymity offered by fake profiles encourages some users to send tweets designed to provoke a reaction; to disrupt conversations; to spark an argument; or to harass the recipient. Such trolling and bullying can impact the mental wellbeing of both the target and anyone who witnesses it. Encourage your child to come to you if they experience such behaviour on Twitter, or if they see it taking place.

PAID-FOR VERIFICATION
Previously, if a Twitter profile displayed a blue tick icon, it meant that the owner – usually a celebrity or a major organisation – had been verified as genuine. Now, however, anyone can pay for a Twitter Blue subscription to receive the tick, with the platform carrying out limited checks on the account's authenticity. This could easily lead to more fake accounts impersonating real people or companies.

CONTENT MODERATION CHANGES
In late 2022, Twitter stated that their policy enforcement will rely more heavily on de-amplification of violative content: freedom of speech, but not freedom of reach". No policies have changed yet, but this wording suggests they may limit who can see posts rather than removing them. While supporting free speech, this could encourage an environment where some toxic content remains online.

HIJACKED HASHTAGS
The hashtag (#) is one of Twitter's most recognisable facets, allowing users to find specific trends or topics. But the sheer volume of tweets each hour can rapidly distort a hashtag's meaning: an initially innocent search term can quickly end up returning inappropriate results. This is common with 'trending' hashtags, as people know that using them will get their tweet seen by a larger audience.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SET ACCOUNTS TO PRIVATE
To reduce some of the fear of your child's tweets being seen and shared by anyone, you can always make their account protected. This means that your child has to give approval for another user to view their posts. You can change Twitter's privacy settings so that your child can't be messaged directly by other people on the platform and their geographical location won't be shared.

EXPLORE THE NEW SETTINGS
Previously, any user could reply to anyone else's tweets. However, the new conversation settings let your child determine who can reply to their posts – either by selecting everyone (the default option), people they follow or only people they mention (using the @ symbol). This improvement has given users extra control, providing them with more protection from trolls and online abuse.

FOSTER CRITICAL THINKING
It can be difficult for anyone to ascertain if something online is real or false, but particularly for young people. Encourage your child to check several reputable sources to determine if a story they've seen is true; remind them to watch out for scams and think about the message's possible motive. Emphasise that it's not a good idea to retweet something if they aren't sure it's correct.

PAUSE BEFORE POSTING
It's important that young people think about what they're about to post and whether they might regret it later. Twitter has developed 'nudges': little prompts which appear if someone is about to tweet using harmful or offensive language. These nudges promote more positive online behaviour by giving users an opportunity to pause and consider their words before they post something.

ENGAGE SAFETY MODE
When Safety Mode is activated, Twitter checks for abusive or spammy behaviour such as hurtful language or repeated negative replies. The platform then flags these suspect accounts and blocks them from responding to your child's tweets. The autoblock function then prevents these accounts from interacting with your child again for seven days.

BLOCK, REPORT OR MUTE
If someone is upsetting your child on Twitter, you can block and report them. Blocking stops them from messaging or following your child, while reporting an account alerts Twitter to investigate possible misuse. The 'mute' feature, meanwhile, keeps tweets from a specific account (or which include certain words) out of your child's timeline. The other user won't know that they've been muted.

BE CAREFUL WHO TO FOLLOW
As accounts are no longer being as rigorously verified under the 'blue tick' system, it's essential that young Twitter users understand what this means, in terms of people not necessarily being who they claim. Anyone who your child only knows online is still a stranger, regardless of how long they've been communicating for. Remind your child never to disclose personal information on social media.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday