



10th February 2023

Dear Parent and Carers,

There was so much excitement this morning with the arrival of a concrete mixer, which then proceeded to get stuck and require towing by several other vehicles! Our Pre-School children have watched in complete fascination. I think the builders on-site may feel slightly famous, as our children adore watching the progress of the build!

This week we welcomed PC Jolly to school, who is always superb at delivering the message about internet safety to our children. As I said last week, I find the assemblies and the work on Safer Internet Day fascinating, but truly terrifying to hear our children talk about:

- apps that are meant to be used by children aged 13+
- apps that delete messages as soon as they've been read, making it difficult to look at what has been previously written
- apps which allow children to connect with strangers
- children playing/watching 16+ and 18+ games/TV shows/films which include significant levels of violence and highly inappropriate language.

It was even more worrying to hear PC Jolly share information about the criminal sentence recently given to a child for online bullying! However, it really did seem to help our children understand that unkind words are not banter, and the emotional damage they can cause. Our social media has been filled with the work the children carried out on Tuesday, and we hope that this helps the children stay safer.

Class teachers have been encouraging children to share concerns and issues when they occur, as part of the work for mental health week, and the importance of telling someone when they have been hurt and upset. We often find that children do not want to report their friends to adults, but as a school, it is an impossible situation to help support and work towards resolutions without being told by our children during the school day. We have also talked about how taking an upset or worry home can make it feel worse, and how important sharing our worries is for our mental health.

I have been contacted by a very distressed parent this week, after their child was injured outside of school; their child was unable to navigate the path due to adults talking outside the school gates. Can I please ask that if you are talking outside of the busy gates, that you are mindful of the number of families travelling in and out of the school grounds so we can avoid further incidents occurring.

Next week, we have two exciting puddings on our dinner menu. We have pancakes for Shrove Tuesday on the 17th February, and a Valentine's biscuit for the 14th February. Please don't forget to book via MCAS.

We are also welcoming parents and carers back for parents evening next week. The system will be fully open tonight at 6pm after a technical glitch last night, so parents for children in Reception to Year Four will be able to book from 6pm tonight. Thank you for your patience; technology was not playing ball with us last night!

Just a quick reminder that World Book Day is on Thursday 2nd March, which is the first Thursday back after half term. There are lots of amazing outfit ideas, which do not cost a penny on Pinterest. Your child can be dressed in anything inspired by a book.

Also, there is still currently a planned strike on Wednesday 1st March for the NEU. As far as we are aware, the strike is still planned to go ahead, but we will of course let you know if we have any further updates.

We hope you have a wonderful weekend.

Many thanks,

Mrs Cooper
Head of School

