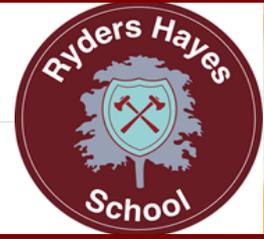


Newsletter



'Do the right thing to be the best you can be'...

3rd December 2021

Christmas has arrived!



The Christmas trees are up and awaiting your baubles based on the Queens Jubilee which are due in Monday 6th December. (Black bins will be placed on playground for you to put them in).

This year children were asked to design a heart with what Christmas means to them for the 'At the Heart of Christmas' display at St Michaels Church. The hearts are now on display.



Reminders

Christingle Service - Sunday 5th December

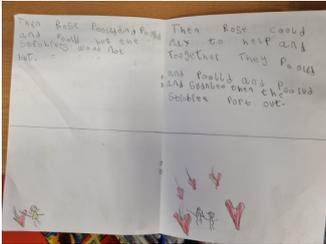
Carol Service - Tuesday 14th December

Christmas party lunches - Thursday 16th December



SPOTLIGHT

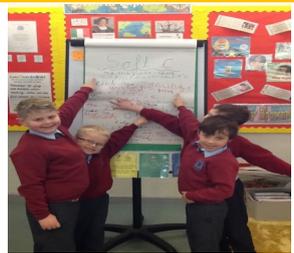
What have our year groups been focusing on this week and what the focus is next week....?



Year 1 have really enjoyed writing their own stories about an enormous vegetable. We even made a front cover and wrote a blurb. Is that the jingling of bells I hear? Listen very carefully next week children, as we will be working on a Christmas themed book!

This week, Year 2 has learned the 'soft c' spelling rule. During reading time they found lots of words in their books with the 'soft c' spelling.

Next week, we will learn a new spelling rule. I wonder how many words that fit the rule we will find in our reading books?



In Year 3, we have been writing brochures to persuade people to visit Narnia. We thought of ambitious vocabulary such as mystical, mysterious, magical and mythical.

Next week, we are looking forward to learning about how muscles work in Science.

In Year 4, we have been learning more about how wind turbines provide renewable energy in the UK. We were amazed to see how engineers fix these structures at great heights!

We are looking forward to creating our pantomimes next week and are collecting resources at home in preparation for Thursday .

HOW DOES A
WIND TURBINE WORK?

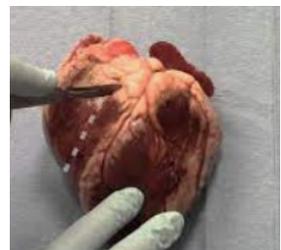


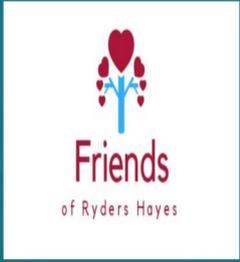
This week in Year 5, we have been investigating friction. We have used Newton metres to find out the amount of force needed to move an object on different surfaces.

Next week, in our Design and Technology lesson, we will be creating Christmas cards which include a moving mechanism.

In Year 6 this week, we dissected a lamb's heart and looked at how the heart plays such an important role in our circulatory system.

Year 6 will be continuing with some visual literacy work focusing on 'The Piano' animation.





Christmas Raffle Tickets available now

*Fantastic
Prizes to be won*



Raffle ticket books will be coming home today with your children.

Raffle tickets are £1 each (£5 a book)

Ticket stubs will need a name & telephone number on, then to be returned in a sealed envelope by Friday 10th December 2021.



Well done!



Abigail, who finished 4th in the Great British Promotional Championships for the under 10s.

She skated beautifully, despite it being a very tricky new floor.

WAY
TO
GO!

GOOOD
JOB

WELL
DONE

Zachary was the mascot for the Albion game on Saturday 27th November 2021.



Children's Grief Awareness Week (18th - 25th November) is designed to help us all become more aware of the needs of grieving children – and of the benefits they obtain through the support of others.

St Giles Hospice in Whittington asked us to get involved and Ian Leech, Community Engagement Manager said:

An important part of the work of our Supportive Care Team in the hospice is to support schools and encourage children and young people to feel confident to talk about death, dying and bereavement. The theme for this year's Child Grief Awareness Week is around encouraging children to talk about the support they would like to receive and how they may help others.

The postcards produced by Ryders Hayes' Year 5 and 6 are brilliant and we are so proud to display their work in the hospice. The postcards show how we are all unique in the way we deal with grief and displaying their amazing work will help people understand the importance of child grief, what matters to children and why it is important to 'say the words' and speak about it.

The children involved produced thoughtful and colourful pictures and comments. These are now displayed in a communal area in the hospice for staff and families to see.



The Prime Minister has announced new measures in response to the Omicron variant, including face coverings in shops and on public transport, PCR tests on or before day 2 for all international arrivals and self-isolation for contacts of suspected Omicron cases, including for those who are fully-vaccinated.

New Rules:



Avian Flu

The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) has now confirmed (24 November 2021) there is avian influenza A(H5N1) in the wild bird population in Walsall.

The A(H5N1) strain is highly pathogenic to other birds, but the risk to human health is considered very low, however, **it is vital that people do not touch sick live birds or bird carcasses, and infection control measures may be necessary if they do.**

Please see the links below to the Walsall Council website for further details.

[Public urged not to touch sick or dead birds – as avian influenza confirmed by Defra in Walsall - Walsall Council](#)

[Avian Flu \(walsall.gov.uk\)](#) and [Avian Flu - FAQs \(walsall.gov.uk\)](#)

Avian Influenza ADVICE

Avian influenza has been detected in wild birds in Walsall.



Please do not feed any wild birds including ducks and swans.

The public should avoid contact with wild birds including their feathers and waste.

- Do not pick up or touch sick, dying or dead wild birds
- Avoid contact with surfaces contaminated with bird faeces.

Please keep to the footpaths and keep your dogs on a lead.

If you find a dead bird, do not touch it or move it.

Report any dead wild birds to Walsall Council **01922 650000**

Report any sick or dying birds to the RSPCA **0300 1234 999**

Contact UKHSA if you have touched a sick or dead bird **0344 225 3560**

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

"Inappropriate" means different things to different people. What's acceptable for one age group, for example, may be unsuitable for a slightly younger audience. Online, young people can chance upon inappropriate content in various ways – from pop-up ads to TikTok videos. The increasingly young age at which children become active in the digital world heightens the risk of them innocently running into something that they find upsetting or frightening. Trusted adults need to be able to help children be aware of what to do if they're exposed to age-inappropriate content.

WHERE IS IT FOUND?

SOCIAL MEDIA

Age-inappropriate content is easily accessible through many social media platforms. TikTok, for instance, is hugely popular with young people but is arguably best known for clips featuring sexualised dancing or profanity. Some social media users also express hate speech or promote eating disorders and self-harm, which could cause lasting damage to a child's emotional and mental health.

GAMING

Gaming is an enjoyable source of entertainment, but many popular titles can expose children to inappropriate material such as violence, horror, gambling or sexually explicit content. Playing games unsuitable for their age risks normalising to children what they are seeing. Some games also include in-game chat, where other (usually older) online players often use language that you probably wouldn't want your child to hear or repeat.

STREAMING

The range of video streaming services available online means that users can find almost anything they want to watch on demand. Children are therefore at risk of viewing TV shows and movies which contain nudity, drug and alcohol abuse, explicit language and extreme violence. Unfortunately, these streaming platforms can't always determine that it's not an adult who's watching.

ADVERTS

Online adverts frequently include age-inappropriate content: usually gambling and nudity or partial nudity, although adverts for alcohol or e-cigarettes are also common. Some search engines also feature adverts that are responsive to your search history: so if you've recently looked up a new horror movie, checked for linguistic or online alcohol advice, then the ads appearing on screen could reflect this the next time your child borrows your device.



Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK IT THROUGH

Embarrassment or fear of getting into trouble can make it difficult for children to talk openly about age-inappropriate content they've watched. Remind your child they can always come to you if they're troubled by something they've seen online, without worrying about consequences. Before offering advice, discuss what they saw, how they felt and how they came to find the content in question.

CONNECT, DON'T CORRECT

If your child's been particularly distressed by exposure to content that wasn't suitable for their age, it's important to offer guidance to prevent them from repeating the same mistake – but it's equally vital to help them deal with the emotions that the situation has raised. You could talk them about any similar experiences you might have had at their age, and how you dealt with it.

BLOCK, REPORT, CONTROL

After discussing the problem, you and your child can take action together. This could include blocking any inappropriate sites and reporting any content which violates a platform's rules. To further safeguard your child online, set up parental controls on internet-enabled devices that they use. This will significantly reduce the chances of your child being exposed to age-inappropriate content in future.

GET SPECIALIST HELP

Age-inappropriate content can potentially have a negative impact on a child's mental health, which is sometimes displayed through changes in their behaviour. If the problem becomes more severe, you might consider reaching out to a mental health professional or an expert in the field who can provide you and your child with the proper support.

STAY CALM

Even though it is obviously difficult to stay rational in a situation where your child has been put at risk, it's essential to think before you react. Your child may well have hesitated to open up to you about watching inappropriate content for fear of the consequences, so being calm and supportive will reinforce the notion that it would be easy to talk to you about similar issues in the future.

Meet Our Expert

Caitlyn Jorgensen is a Registered Counsellor with The Health Professions Council of South Africa, and she runs a private practice offering counselling to children, teenagers and families. Her main focus is creating awareness and educating the community on the mental health pressures of today's world, as well as resources and techniques to understand and cope better.



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