This week in school

Happy New Year!

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break with your families. Our thoughts and prayers have been with those impacted by last weekend's flooding. Please do reach out to school if there is anything we can do to help.

Our Collective Worship value is **JOY,** attached to the newsletter is an information sheet to use at home. Our curriculum topic is **'Secrets of Salisbury'** and our PSHE unit is **'Dreams and Goals'**, see class curriculum webs for more information on what to expect during the spring term.

Attendance

Our autumn term attendance figure was **96.11%,** this is above national expectation. We set high expectations for attendance and we are pleased with our end of term attendance percentage. We would like to maintain this high standard as we go through the spring term. This link takes you to an NHS website with information about illness and when to keep children at home: https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/

Reminder, if you child is sick, they are not to return to school until 48 hours after the last episode.

Lateness

Once the doors are closed at 9.00am, the only way to get into school is via the school office. Any pupil who comes into school this way will be marked as late in the attendance record. Records are kept of those pupils who are late. Any child who arrives for school later than 9.30am will be marked as having an unauthorised absence for the morning (attendance code U) unless they have attended a medical appointment (M). Children who are persistently late miss a significant amount of learning and it creates an unsettled start to the pupil's day. Where there have been persistent incidents of lateness, parents/carers will receive a letter advising them of the concerns.

Volunteer Readers

We need more volunteer readers! If you were able to offer some time (an hour or two a week) reading with a class, please speak to the school office. All volunteers will have a DBS check completed by a member of our admin team and they will need to complete a safeguarding course and read our policy. We are running a safeguarding course on Monday 22ⁿᵈ January from 1.30-3pm for those who would like to attend.

CAMHS Workshop for Parents

The CAMHS InReach Team would like to invite you to an Information & Advice Session on: **'Supporting your child with their worries'** on Wednesday 20ᵗʰ March from 9.30-11.30am at Sarum St Paul's School. This course covers:

- Anxiety, fears and building resilience
- How can I best support my child, ideas and strategies?

If you would like to attend, please let the school office or Debbie Newman know.

Primary School Applications

If you have a child due to start school in September 2024, the closing date for applications is **Monday 15ᵗʰ January.**

2023 Poppy Appeal

We raised £105.18 for the poppy appeal in November; thank you for your donations.

Forest Schools

The next Forest School session will take place on **Friday 19ᵗʰ January with Year R.** Please dress for the weather, children need to wear lots of layers, hats and gloves… it is very cold!

Safeguarding

Each week we share useful safeguarding information for parents / carers. The purpose is to empower you, raise awareness to protective measures you could adopt and provide up-to-date information on trends in order to safeguard your child.

Stay Safe

On Tuesday Richard from the 'Stay Safe Initiative' came to talk to Key Stage 2 pupils about online safety and how to be a good digital citizen. Please see page 2 of this week's newsletter with an outline of some of the discussions and follow up advice and links from Richard.

FOSSP – Friends of Sarum St Paul's

- Second hand uniform is available every Friday after school from the mobile classroom, items are £1

Kind regards,

Mrs E Weavers

Stay Safe- Feedback from KS2 Workshops

Social Media Usage:
All KS2 year groups mentioned connecting with others on WhatsApp (16+), TikTok (13+), SnapChat (13+), and some even on Instagram (13+) and Discord (17+). What is concerning is that many Yr5-6 pupils said they have public accounts. This presents obvious risk, as it opens them up to anyone making a direct connection. I urge you to encourage your parent community to have open discussions with their children about using social media and emphasize the importance of maintaining private social media accounts. This approach is not only safer but also contributes to a more positive online experience.

Online Gaming:
In terms of gaming, games like GTA (18+) and Call of Duty (18+), along with the usual suspects, such as Roblox, Minecraft, and Fortnite. Worryingly, most gamers admitted to regularly playing and chatting with people they don't know. It's highly advisable for parents to fully understand the risks of online grooming and engage in age-appropriate conversations with their children about it.

Warning Signs (Online Grooming):
We discussed 4 crucial warning signs yesterday that children should be aware of to reduce the risk of online grooming.
- Avoid sharing personal information: This includes their name, age, address, school, and phone number.
- Decline gifts: Children should not accept gifts, as adults looking to exploit them might offer in-game currency or online gifts as a way to gain trust.
- Reject private connections: Children should avoid connecting privately with unknown individuals. Adults sometimes try to move conversations to private platforms like WhatsApp or Snapchat.
- Never meet up: Meeting in person with online friends is obviously highly risky.

The prevalence of these issues is not unique to our school; it's a growing concern in schools everywhere. Year by year, children are starting their digital journey earlier, and the number of users is increasing. This presents an opportunity for us to address these issues and concerns with parents.

Action Steps for Parents:
Richard urges all parents to take the time to fully understand what their children are doing online and the functions available on the apps and games they use:
- Can they chat with others?
- Can they connect with people they don't know?
- What kind of content can they be exposed to?
- What are the age ratings of the games and apps they use?

By understanding these aspects, parents can make informed decisions and provide the necessary support for their children's online activities. Knowledge is the key to fostering meaningful conversations and sharing ideas on how to ensure online safety at home. If we all (school / parents / carers) work together, we can create a safer online environment for our children.

To help a bit more. Please find below link with some follow-on activities, resources, posters and school certificate to share with your class teachers.

https://thestaysafeinitiative.org.uk/follow-on-resources

Specifically, for your parent and carer community.

Parenting in the Digital World - Resource pack
https://thestaysafeinitiative.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Parents_Online_Safety_Advice_Sheet.pdf

Parenting in the Digital World – Getting help Video
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXfjT_CTYuI