

Thames View Primary School Newsletter



Responsibility

Resilience

Respect

Mrs Rogers Message

On Monday and Tuesday of this week, year 3 ventured to Temper Temper Chocolate Factory for their school trip on their topic of 'Chocolate'. They learnt about where cocoa beans come from, how chocolate is made and the sustainability and ECO considerations of this. They then made chocolate themselves and brought their yummy creations home to enjoy.

Also, we have had our Hook Day Board competitions, where our staff update the year group Hook Days to reflect the current topics. The children then refer to these for key vocabulary and information and it encourages the engagement in the topics. Congratulations to the year 2 team for their win on their 'Spring Watch' Board! Year 6 came a close second with their display on the 'Mayans'!

Our first Parent Forum took place on Wednesday. These Forums will take place every term and are groups for parents ran by parents and visiting speakers. This is in the hope of linking our parents up, to share helpful information and to provide our parents with community links and service information that might be helpful for them during their child's education. Thank you to all of those parents who helped to organise our first event and who attended!

This week, we also had our annual general meeting for the PTA. The work of the PTA is invaluable for us as a school, as they generate revenue which all comes back to the school to fund important projects for the children. The PTA will be funding two big projects this year. The first is our next visit from Arty Party, who will be building the House Sculptures with hundreds of our children, so look out for a Lifesize Willy Wonka, Matilda, the Grand High Witch and the Gruffalo in the infant building and the other is two Reading Vending Machines, one for the infants and one for the juniors!

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and stay safe, Mrs Rogers.

Special events coming soon

4th – 7th March – PTA – Mothers Day gift shop – see PTA page

5th March – Reception classes visit to Rainham Library

7th March – World Book Day – see information below

8th March – PTA – Mothers Day Afternoon Tea event – see PTA page

11th – 14th March- Scholastic Book Fair in KS2 building

11th-15th March – Arty Party workshops

11th -15th March - Science Week
(Professor Sulphur Nitrate visiting)

13th March- Year 6 Trip to Matilda, Cambridge Theatre, London

25th March – Open Classroom

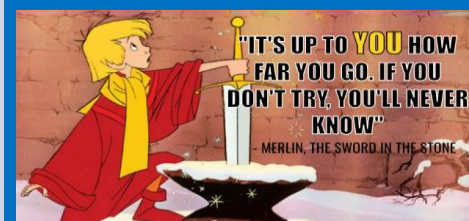
26th March- Year 5 Trip to Horton Kirby (Rivers)

28th March- Easter Fun Day

28th March- Early closure; 1.15pm for all children

15th April – children return to school after the Easter break

Quote of the Week





*Topaz
Class visit
to Temper
Temper
Chocolate*



*Opal Class visit to
Temper Temper
Chocolate*



Balance Bike / Climbing Wall



Some of our Year 1 and KS2 children have been showing their skills on the Balance Bikes and at the Climbing Wall in Maidstone this week.

Well done to you all !



Golden Ticket is every Friday and a child in each Key Stage 2 class can win the golden ticket for outstanding effort, behavior and for showing our 3 school values, Respect, Responsibility and Resilience.



PE Class Trophy

Topaz

PE Champions:

Olivia C

Attendance Stars:

KS1: Fortune

KS2: Opal

Sparkle Nursery Star:

Fern

Year 4 Timetable Stars:

Olivia

Muhammed

Class	Star of the week	Star Reader	Star Writer	Maths Champion
Pippin	Rose	Rex	Piper	Callie
Sunrise	Abigail	Noah	Mason	Harvey
Elstar	Darcie	Jacob	Isla	Bowie
Kanzi	Aalyrah	Olivia	Isobel	Oscar
Fortune	Darcy	Isabella	Lily	Bella
Liberty	Alfie	Violet	Georgie	Logan/Georgie
Opal	Penny	Eliza	Robert	Lucy
Topaz	Daisy	Ralph	Zoe	Bonnie
Enterprise	Alfie	Harriet	Charlie	Peyton
Victory	Eden	George C	Layla	Lucas
Blenheim	Scarlett	Harry	Taylor	Isabel
Windsor	Leighton	Reuben	Emily-Rose	Lily-Mae
Discovery	Lola	Jessica	Shanti	Phoebe
Pioneer	Thomas M	Lily B	Poppy H	Hope S

Safeguarding Corner

If you have concerns about your child, please come in and discuss these with Mrs Flynn or Mrs Stevens. Each week there will be safeguarding tips here, let us know if we can help! Today's focus is on Smart Watches, many children now have these, but there are safety aspects of this that we want to share with our parents!

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many devices which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

10 top tips for safely using SMARTWATCHES

Kids love gadgets, and smartwatches – available to buy from as little as £20 online – make a tempting gift. As with any type of mobile technology, though, smartwatches can pose risks to children unless they're used safely. Receiving unwanted calls, cyber-stalking and distracting a young person when they're crossing the road are all known risks associated with smartwatches. However, these devices can bring plenty of benefits for children and parents alike – so let's examine the pros and cons of smartwatches.



AVOID CHEAP OPTIONS

A quick search online yields a torrent of cheap smartwatches for kids, costing as little as £20. It's wise to avoid this bargain basement tech: it tends to deliver a poor experience with inferior battery life, and it's hard to have faith in the software's safety. There have been cases of smartwatches being hacked to track or contact children; stick to known brands who have a reputation to protect.

CONTROL CALLING

Many smartwatches have the facility to make or take calls. As with a phone, you may want to restrict who your child can call – or be called by. On Apple Watches, you can select trusted contacts who are allowed to ring your child, while other watches' controls vary hugely. Some need to connect to a linked phone for calls, so you may be able to block unknown contacts via that device instead.

BEWARE HIDDEN COSTS

For a smartwatch to allow calls independently (that is, without being connected to a phone via Bluetooth), it will need its own mobile data plan. This might take the form of a tiny SIM card that you slot into the watch – or an eSIM, where the physical card is replaced by software settings. Either way, this will incur an additional monthly cost that you'll need to factor into any buying decision.

ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Apple Watches aren't cheap, but they do offer superb safety features – allowing parents to control calls, messages and emails on the device, as well as a location tracking system that can send alerts if kids wander beyond pre-set boundaries. Their SOS function enables children to contact emergency services instantly if they're in trouble, which simultaneously also alerts parents and carers.

MAKE THEM COOL FOR SCHOOL

Some schools have banned smartwatches, as pupils have been using them as substitute phones. If your child's school does permit them, some devices can be set to prevent distractions in class. For example, Apple's Schooltime feature turns their watches into ordinary time-keeping devices during school hours. The display changes in this mode, showing teachers that it isn't being used for other purposes.

BE MINDFUL OF BEDTIME

Many smartwatches offer sleep tracking, which some (usually older) children use to justify wearing them to bed. However, that also presents a temptation to message friends or check social media late at night, even if their phone is downstairs. Unless there's a valid reason not to, you could encourage your child to remove the watch in the evenings and ensure the charger stays in a different room.

TRACK ITS LOCATION

Both Apple and Android devices have apps which allow you to track a smartwatch's location. They can also initiate an audio alert – avoiding those cushion-hurling parties when a treasure device can't be found at home. If you're planning to track your child's location via their watch, make them aware of that in advance. You could even make it a condition of them getting the watch in the first place.

THINK 'SAFETY FIRST'

Smartwatches are often worth hundreds of pounds, which can make young people wearing one a target for thieves. Advise your child to keep the watch hidden in public (when possible) and not to resist if muggers demand their watch. If you manage to track a stolen device, pass that information to the police: location data isn't always accurate, so you could end up wrongly accusing someone.

STORE MEDICAL INFO

Devices including the Samsung Galaxy Watch and Apple Watch can store the owner's medical details (such as their blood group and any pre-existing medical conditions), potentially giving emergency services access to vital information in a crisis. These devices also have 'fall fall' detection, which sends a text message to selected contacts along with a map showing the wearer's location.

USE THEM AS MOTIVATION

If you're worried your child's spending too much time slumped on the sofa staring at screens, smartwatches are great fitness trackers and can be a powerful incentive to get moving. Some devices will alert the wearer if they've been inactive for a long time and encourage them to do some exercise. Many watches record the user's daily step count and measure other health metrics.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collis has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, writing for titles such as the Sunday Times, which?, PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 4 Live and the ITV News at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly about internet safety issues.



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Rocky

Ruby

Rolo

Rolo is always interested in the children's work



Rocky and the other dogs have been really lucky this week to have Aya keeping their feed topped up, and Aya has made sure they have had fresh water every day. Aya fills in the chart and signs it to say she has fed them. What a great dog mentor helper you are Aya!

Ruby joined with our Year 4 social skills group this week



World Book Day – Thursday 7th March 2024

**** Competition time!****

We are running a '**decorate a paper plate**' competition. Your child will come home with a paper plate for them to decorate with the theme of a book.

The deadline for entries is **Wednesday 6th March**

Winners will be announced on **Friday 8th March** with some amazing book prizes up for grabs.

Please ensure that your child writes their name and class on the back of their paper plate.

We look forward to seeing your amazing creations !



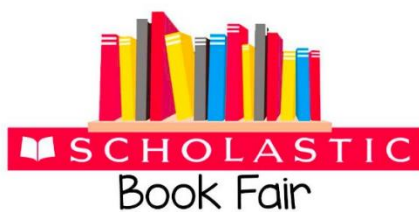
Celebrating with



Why not dress up on World Book Day

- *Come as your favourite book character
- *Come in your pyjamas with your favourite book or teddy bear for bedtime stories

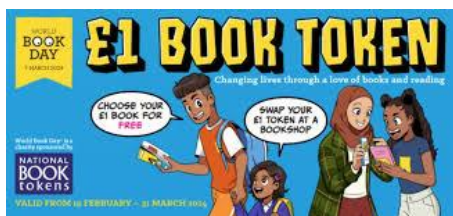
We look forward to seeing you all dressed up



Monday 11th March to Thursday 14th March

3.30pm – 4.30pm

Pop along after school to the KS2 office area and the doors will open soon after 3.30pm when the staff have seen their classes out



..... remember to bring along your World Day Voucher along to spend

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Thames View Primary School PTA
Monday 4th – Thursday 7th March 2024

All gifts priced at £2.50



Mother's Day Gift-Shop

<https://buytickets.at/thamesviewpta/1123248>

Please note: EYFS/KS1 children will be collected from class and taken to the gift-shop to select a gift(s). KS2 children will also be collected but are welcome to bring in cash and visit the shop themselves during either their break or lunchtime to purchase their own gift/gift(s)





please join us for

Mother's Day Tea

your ticket Includes:

**bottomless tea / coffee
scone / jam /cream**

Friday 8th March

£5 per ticket

**your children attend
for free**

Please use the links below to order your tickets by Wednesday 6th March at 3pm

1.30pm – 2.30pm – <https://buytickets.at/thamesviewpta/1144435>

OR

3.30pm – 4.30pm – <https://buytickets.at/thamesviewpta/1144446>