



Next week it's **Safer Internet Day** on Tuesday 11th February. Safer Internet Day (SID) is an annual celebration aiming to promote a responsible, respectful, critical and creative use of digital technologies, especially among children and young people. With a global, community-led approach, SID encourages everyone to come together and play their part for a better internet.

Throughout the year the children are taught about keeping safe online through our Computing curriculum or as and when topical issues arise. Next week all the children will be marking the day by having an additional lesson or taking part in activities designed to get them thinking about being safe. Look out for the next edition of the blog to see what they found out! If you would like further information on this important issue please do take a look at our website or go to the SID website <https://www.saferinternetday.org/web/sid/home>

It has come to my attention that a number of children are arriving on site well before 8:30am. Please remember that we cannot supervise children before the start of the day nor guarantee their safety at this time. Don't forget we have a breakfast club which you can use – please contact the office team for further information.

I understand that children don't like to be late but increasingly children are trying to squeeze under the black and yellow barrier in an attempt to run through the car park to the gate. Please do not encourage or allow your child to do this. The barrier is there for their safety as once this goes across, the car park is open to vehicles and they will not be expecting to see children in their path. Thank you for your support in this.

Jo White
Headteacher

Fitbits in School

You may remember I sent out some information last year regarding the use of smart watches and fitbits in school:

"Please note that although we are happy for children to wear watches to school, I would ask that you do not allow your child to wear a 'smart' watch, or any watch that has the same functionality as a mobile phone or PC, on the school site.

Slimline fitbits may be worn at the discretion of the class teacher, but will need to be removed for P.E. Please note that the school cannot be held responsible for the loss or damage of any personal/expensive equipment that the children bring in to school." January 2019

Since then there has been a steady increase in the number of children wearing fitbits. We know that the children enjoy tracking their steps and it's a good way to encourage the children to remain active (not hard at school!). However, I am also hearing that the fitbits are becoming a source of distraction in lessons as the children keep checking them, comparing steps and in some cases doing some interesting arm manoeuvres in order to build up steps whilst sitting down! I have asked class teachers to keep a very close eye on this and if necessary we will review whether fitbits should be allowed in school.

Amendments to Parking Enforcement in Guildford & Waverley

Until now, Guildford Borough Council's (GBC) enforcement officers in Guildford & Waverley have only issued a penalty charge notice (PCN) to vehicles which park illegally and have not moved when

advised or if the motorist is not around. GBC enforcement officers can now issue a PCN if the motorist drives off before a ticket is issued. In this instance, the driver will get their notice through the post, even if an enforcement officer has only started writing out the PCN.

Although GBC still intend to encourage motorists to move on, by adopting this practice, its aim is to provide a stronger deterrent to motorists who park illegally, with the expectation that they can avoid a penalty by moving their vehicles as soon as they see enforcement being carried out. This in turn should make the environment safer around our schools, particularly for children.

Packed Lunches for School Trips

In our last Blog we advised parents that our caterers, Pabulum, would now supply packed lunches for school trips (for any children that have school lunches at the time of the trip). Following feedback, parents will now have the option to provide a water bottle from home rather than having a bottle of water provided by Pabulum. They have provided the statement below about the water bottles they use:

'Our water bottles are made of RPet plastic, this means that 51% of the bottle is a recycled plastic. The bottle can be refilled and used again or can be fully recycled in most areas of the UK'

Olympic Times Table Challenge

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the first **Olympic Times Tables** Challenge of 2020. There was an all-time record of children succeeding in their Olympian Challenge – presumably due to an awful lot of practising going on over the Christmas holiday period! We are so proud of every single child who had the courage and resilience to take part.

Olympian		Bronze		Silver	Gold
Ryan D	Yr 4	Emily A	Yr 4	Jaiden Elliston-Pearce	Yr 6
Taleya M	Yr 3	William C	Yr 3		
Moeed B	Yr 3	Oliver G	Yr 3		
Nicholas J	Yr 4	Leo P	Yr 3		
Sophia F	Yr 4	Katie M	Yr 4		
Josh A	Yr 4				
Mia H	Yr 4				
Max F	Yr 4				
Daniel E	Yr 4				
Caitlin W	Yr 4				
Maddie J	Yr 4				

The next Olympic Times Table Challenge will take place on Friday 14th February 2020

Class Zone

On Wednesday 22nd January a number of Reception parents came to show us how their families celebrate the Chinese New Year. The children saw how to make dumplings –Daniel's daddy was extremely fast at these! We also had a chance to have a go ourselves. Chef Kieran cooked them in the kitchen for us to eat later. Our visitors also brought with them a range of tasty foods- we tried dumplings, spring rolls, prawn crackers and also sticky rice crackers. There were lots of activities for the children to enjoy including exploring the decorations, using chopsticks and dressing up in special

clothes. A huge thanks –and A Happy New Year- to all of our visitors for all the effort they went to bring this celebration to life for our children.



Fun Maths Workshops

We were very fortunate to have SATRO, an educational charity, run a series of free maths workshops for Years 3, 4 and 5 last week. The children were involved in various problem-solving activities which allowed them to work in teams and experience maths in a practical and fun way. They earned 'money' by solving the tasks but were quite horrified when they realised that they had to pay tax on their winnings at the end of the session. Welcome to the real world!





PSA News

Uniform Sale

We are still taking Burpham branded uniform (but we don't need any trousers, shorts or skirts as we have so much stock). If you need any school uniform please do come along to our next uniform sale on **Friday 7th February at 2.30pm**. We are also collecting wellies, Christmas jumpers, superheroes/stone age/Egyptian costumes.

Parenting Puzzle Course at St. Thomas'

To all parents – Regarding the parenting course below, this is a fantastic opportunity to get some extra hints and tips around making parenting as stress free as possible. If you'd like to go please contact Claire Daniels and book yourself on - places will be limited so please get in touch with her as soon as you can. There are more details on the attached flyer.

Jill Beaumont

Home School Link Worker



Parenting Puzzle Course at St. Thomas'

The course will run on four Tuesdays: 25th February; 3rd March; 10th March and the 17th March 2020 from 9.30 am – 11.30 am. There's a small donation to the Family Centre involved of £12 to cover the cost of the book you will take away from the course.

Our course is open to ALL parents...so, whether you are finding parenting stimulating and rewarding, or challenging and stressful this course can give you some new ideas, some space to share and reflect,

or even a chance to start thinking ahead to the next stage of your parenting journey – bring yourself, bring your partner or bring a friend/neighbour – everyone is welcome, we all have experiences to share and tips we can learn.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact our Home School Link Worker, Claire Daniels at hslw@st-thomas.surrey.sch.uk and let Claire know the number of places you would like to book.

We look forward to hearing from you!



From the Office

New Scooter Rack!

The bike rack at the front of the school has been getting rather over crowded lately. We now have a new blue rack under the school office window. Please could parents now ensure that scooters are parked there, leaving the covered area for bikes only. Many thanks!

Training Regarding Autism

Freemantles School are running training sessions for parents or professionals working with young people with autism. For full details and how to book on a course, please see the attached flyer.

Half Term Clubs

Yvonne Arnaud Youth Theatre

If you are looking for childcare/workshops over the February half term, please see the attached flyers for full details of the Yvonne Arnauds holiday workshops and we have also attached a flyer regarding registering to take part in their summer production of Little Shop of Horrors!

Wild Learning Outdoor Adventure Holiday Clubs

For full details regarding Wild Play holiday clubs run at St Martha's, Guildford during half term, please see the attached flyer or go to www.wild-learning.net

Holiday Tech Club

Nextthing Education who run our Technology Club are also running a holiday club during half term at The Raleigh School in West Horsley. If you are interested then please see the attached flyer for more info.