

Dear parents and carers,



Internet technology can be a fantastic way to stay in touch, find information, go shopping, play games, find your way..... and much more. Sometimes I feel that I have just got used to one new electronic device or online development when that is out of date and there is a new product on the market—perhaps it is just my age!

This week Beech and Chestnut have been visited by PCSO Teresa Gordon who gave both classes a presentation on e-safety.



I spoke to a number of children from both classes who all learnt something new from the talk. Some were surprised that whatever they send on line, even when it has been deleted, is still out there on their digital foot print. Others didn't know that passwords should be treated like toothbrushes—you don't share them !

All the children have a good understanding of how to keep themselves safe on line and that it is safer to use any device near to an adult. They also know that you can report any problems using the CEOP button which can be found on the school website and that Childline can give advice and treats all information in confidence.

V The development of on line services is going to move forward and we all need to be aware that there are huge benefits but also many problems. In school we have an e safety policy which is updated annually and is, at the moment, under review. Every year it seems to become longer and more complex to take account of the developments that have occurred. In school we have been working with the IT officer from Minterne to make sure that the policy is up to date.



So, what practical steps do we, in school, take to inform children of how to keep themselves safe? Every class has an e-safety lesson every term, children are directed to safe search engines to use or given web sites to use, there are filtering systems on the network, assemblies are held and internet safety day is a focus too. We politely remind parents not to take photos or videos at school events and usually give an opportunity for a photo call at some point. We make use of any experts that are available to talk to the children, as we did this week. We have sent magazines and newsletters home to keep parents informed. Lastly all screens have a hector protector – ask your child about this!

However, children use more devices at home than they do in school so we would urge parents to talk openly and candidly within their family about safe behaviour. Perhaps ask yourself some simple questions.

- Do I know how my child gets on line and do they know my password?
- What games are they playing and are they on line playing with other people?
- Are they using a social media site and who are they chatting too?
- Where do they use electronic devices and what sites are they looking at?



Let's all work together to keep children safe and prepare them for future life.

Sheila Dunk Head of School

Attendance Winners of the Week! Cherry Class



Thanks.....

Thank you to all the parents and grandparents who help in school and at swimming. We are very lucky and grateful to have such a hard working set of volunteers. That's without all the work that the FOBS do to support the school.

This week we have had two mums, Mrs De Alwis and Mrs Varney busy cutting up the large sheets of paper into A4 which is much more usable. If you have a couple of hours to spare there is lots of paper to cut.

The wendy house move

After a site meeting and discussion it is thought that to be able to move the wendy house we need to provide a base.

If you have any paving slabs that are surplus to requirement at home that we could use to provide a flat and secure base please could you let the office know. We can collect!

Have you lost.....

There is a boy's black coat in the office waiting to be collected by the owner. It is a ski style jacket with a yellow fleece lining for aged 9-10. We would like to reunite the coat and its owner especially as it is very cold at the moment and it has been in our care since before Christmas.

We try very hard to return lost clothes to their owners and having a name in them really helps us to do that.

Unfortunately our before school **Gymnastics Club** run by Premier Sports will not run due to lack of participants. Apologies to those parents who were interested, but it is not feasible for an external party to run a club with such low numbers.

Bananagrams

Has your child been talking bananas? Children in Year 3 and above have been offered the chance to take part in the Bananagrams Challenge. This is a competition taking place in schools nationwide. The children will take place in a round of heats and the winners will go through to the next round. Our ultimate "Best of Bunch" winner will be announced between 27th Feb and 3rd March and the winner will receive their own Bananagrams game. They will then be encouraged to complete the online challenge with a chance to go to the grand final in London!



Thought for the week...

Grant me grace in all things to do Your will.

DIARY DATES

6th—10th Feb, Travelling Book Fair week

13th—17th Feb, Half Term

2nd March, World Book Day

Fri 10th Mar, Reports issued

22nd & 23rd Mar, Parent/teacher talks (Willow class 22nd only)

Fri 24th Mar, Red Nose Day

Fri 31st March End of Term