

# East Ardsley Primary Academy Newsletter

10/2/2023

Menu No. 1



**Attendance:** Congratulations to Class 5 who have 97.4% attendance this week - you were our attendance stars.

## What we have been up to this week:

We've had a wonderful end to the half-term with lots going on in school and the children all focussing on their mental health and learning lots of strategies for how they can look after themselves and how they can support one another.

It is really important that we all focus on how we can work together and support one another. In order to do this successfully we have to be confident in ourselves and this is something we are working very hard on with the children in Circle Time.

It was fabulous to be at the school disco last night and to see how far the children have come in socialising this year. The children were confident, they found their friends and enjoyed spending time together dancing and chasing around. They were confident to go to the tuck shop and at the end of the evening they all found their coats and bags and left smiling and happy.

Events like this really show us how far the children have come and whilst we are aware that we still have a lot of children - and parents - who are anxious and concerned about school a lot of the time the work we are doing is having an impact and the children are gaining confidence in their friendships and managing themselves in school all the time.

Thank you to all the staff who are working tirelessly to manage the complexities of supporting the children's social, emotional and mental health needs as well as their learning. It is testament to their commitment and dedication that they are ensuring that all the events and activities that we know the children love and that contribute so much to their learning are continuing.

We also realise how frustrating it is for parents when things go wrong and your child is unsettled or unhappy in school. Thank you to all of you who talk to us and work with us to resolve any issues or concerns. We cannot do anything about things we are unaware of and the best solution to every problem is for us to work together. Teachers may not instantly be available to talk to you but they will start to look into any concerns posted on Tapestry or emailed to the office as soon as they read them, and will talk to you at a mutually convenient time. It may take time to resolve issues and to see changes in behaviours and attitudes; building confidence cannot be done instantly and it can be a long and challenging process. It is, however, always one that is most successful when we work with home and all pull together.

Today we have all been 'expressing ourselves' in our dress and sharing in the celebration of what makes us different as individuals and how we can come together and learn together successfully. We are a fantastic school with super children who make every day a fun learning day.

**Ms Talbot**

## Dates for your Diary:

610.2.23	School closes
20.2.23	School opens
20.2.23	Year 2 Trip
20.2.23	D:side workshops all week
21.2.23	Judo taster sessions
22.2.23	Year 3 Trip
27.2.23	Year 2 Skipping School
28.2.23	Year 4 Trip
28.2.23	Judo taster sessions
28.2.23	Strike action by teachers
2.3.23	World Book Day
2.3.23	Year 6 Trip
9.3.23	Year 2 Celebration Assembly
13.3.23	Assessment Week
14.3.23	Strike Action by teachers
15.3.23	Strike Action by teachers
17.3.23	PTFA Dress Down Day
20.3.23	Mothers' Day Gift Shop
20.3.23	Rock Steady Concert
23.3.23	Year 3 Celebration Assembly
27.3.23	Music Assembly
29.3.23	Year 4/5 Concert
30.3.23	Year 4/5 Concert
31.3.23	Year 4/5 Concert
31.3.23	School closes
17.4.23	School opens
18.4.23	Parents Evening (face to face)
20.4.23	Parents Evening (virtual)
24.4.23	Year 4 trip
1.5.23	School closed
4.5.23	Year 4 Celebration Assembly
8.5.23	School closed
9.5.23	Key Stage 2 SATs week
25.5.23	Year 2 Trip

### **Ace Club**

Ace club will continue to run after half term. Places will be available to book on ParentPay from next week.

### **PTFA Update:**

Hope everyone is looking forward to the half term break.

Quick updates on a couple of things:

### **Valentines Disco:**

We hosted a couple of brilliant discos last night, the kids were amazing and had a great time.

We raised a whopping £550 after the costs for tuck shop and the DJ have been taken into account. That's a fantastic result and all goes to helping our kids as they go through their school journey.

We have a question for you... it's great we raise money for our school and kids but of course the more we can raise, the better we can make things.

Does the company you work for have a Match Funding policy? Many companies support charities their employees have an interest in and it's generally known as Match Funding. Sometimes a company will either financially match or contribute towards a charity event that has raised money previously and as we are a registered charity they may be able to help us.

If you are aware your company sponsors Match Funding and you are happy to approach your employer to support for an event we have already held, please get in touch with the PTFA on [ptfa@eastardsley.leodis.org.uk](mailto:ptfa@eastardsley.leodis.org.uk) and we will help with any queries you may have to support this.

Have a great half term everyone!

Most parents frequently chat with their child about how things are going at school or what's happening in their friendship groups – but those discussions often doesn't extend to youngsters' online activities. In fact, National Online Safety conducted a recent survey which found that only slightly more than half (54%) of parents regularly talk to their children about staying safe online.

It can be an awkward topic to broach and, of course, it needs not to feel intrusive. However, just checking in with your child about their digital life can get them thinking about online safety and alert you to any issues they might be having. In support of Safer Internet Day 2023, our #WakeUpWednesday guide has some useful tips on potential ways to start those conversations.

In the guide you'll find a number of useful tips such as being as honest as possible, discussing how misleading the online world can be and creating a 'family agreement'.

PTFA Thank You Card Competition—see details below:

# PTFA's Thank You Card Competition

50p per  
entry

Your design must include the words:

- Thank you
- East Ardsley PTFA

Entries to be on A4 paper.

There will be a small prize for the winner of each class and an overall school winner who will win a prize and their card printed to be used as a thank you card for businesses who support the PTFA.

Entries to be given to your child's class teacher by

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February** for judging at next  
PTFA meeting.



Registered Charity Number - 1200456



# Tips for Encouraging Open Discussions about DIGITAL LIVES

The online world is an entirely familiar and commonplace part of life for today's children and young people, far more so than for previous generations. There are many positives to children being able to access online materials, so it's important not to demonise the internet, games and apps, and limit the benefit of their positive aspects. At the same time, we do have a responsibility to educate children about the hazards they may encounter online (just as we would about real-world dangers) so it's essential that we don't shy away from talking to them about the complex – and often sensitive – subject of what they do and what they see when they're online.

Here are some suggestions for kicking off conversations with your child about their digital life ...

## MAKE YOUR INTEREST CLEAR

Showing enthusiasm when you broach the subject signals to your child that you're keen to learn about the positives of their online world. Most children enjoy educating adults and will happily chat about what they use the internet for, or what games and apps they're into and how these work. Asking to see their favourite games and apps in action could help you spot any aspects that may need your attention – such as chat functions which might require a settings adjustment to limit contact with strangers. Keep listening even if your child pauses for a long time: they could be considering how to phrase something specific, or they may be gauging your reaction.

## BE OPEN AND HONEST, APPROPRIATE TO THEIR AGE

At various stages, children and young people become curious about puberty and how their body changes; about relationships; about how babies are made; and about sexual health. If your child knows that they can discuss these sensitive subjects with you, they tend to be less likely to go looking online for answers – which can often provide them with misleading information and, in some cases, lead to them consuming harmful content. Don't worry if you don't immediately know the answers to their questions – just find out for yourself and go back to them once you have the facts.

## REMIND YOUR CHILD THEY CAN ALWAYS TALK TO YOU

In my role I work with many children and young people who admit being reluctant to tell a trusted adult about harmful content they've viewed online, in case it leads to having their devices confiscated. Emphasise to your child that you're always there to listen and help; reassure them that if they do view harmful content, then they are not to blame – but talking about it openly will help. Children shouldn't be expected to be resilient against abuse or feel that it's their job to prevent it.

## KEEP TALKING!

The most valuable advice we can give is to keep talking with your child about their digital lives. You could try using everyday situations to ask questions about their online experiences.

## DISCUSS THAT NOT EVERYTHING WE SEE ONLINE IS REAL

Here, you could give examples from your own digital life of the online world versus reality – for example, those Instagram posts which show the perfect house: spotlessly clean, never messy and immaculately decorated. Explain to your child that there are many other aspects of the online world which are also deliberately presented in an unrealistic way for effect – such as someone's relationship, their body, having perfect skin and so on.

## TRY TO REMAIN CALM

As much as possible, try to stay calm even if your child tells you about an online experience that makes you feel angry or fearful. Our immediate emotions frequently influence the way we talk, so it's possible that your initial reaction as a parent or carer could deter a child from speaking openly about what they've seen. Give yourself time to consider the right approach, and perhaps speak with other family members or school staff while you are considering your next steps.

## CREATE A 'FAMILY AGREEMENT'

Involving your whole household in coming up with a family agreement about device use can be immensely beneficial. You could discuss when (and for how long) it's OK to use phones, tablets, consoles and so on at home; what parental controls are for and why they're important; and why it's good to talk to each other about things we've seen or experienced online (both good and bad). Explaining your reasoning will help children to understand that, as trusted adults, we want to make sure they are well informed and kept safe. Allowing children to have their say when coming up with your family agreement also makes them far more likely to stick to it in the long term.

## Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings of RAISE (Raising Awareness in Sex Education) has almost 20 years' experience delivering relationships and sex education and training to schools, colleges and other education providers. A published author on the subject, she also advises the Department of Education on the staff-training element of the RSHE curriculum.



**National Online Safety®**

#WakeUpWednesday



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



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## **SEND PARENTS COFFEE AND CHAT**

**WHERE:** The Bungalow- just before Woodkirk Academy school gates

**WHEN:** THE 2nd Thursday every month- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January, (Thursday 9th February, Thursday 9th March)

**TIME:** 9.30AM-11.00AM

ARE YOU.....

A Parent/Carer of a child with SEND needs

Come and have a coffee and a chat with people in similar situations, share experiences, gain advice and meet new people.

### **REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED**

This group has been set up as an unofficial support group for Parents and Carers of children with SEND needs. This can be a rewarding but stressful and isolating time for parents. This group has been set up to offer a social, supportive and relaxed setting for meaningful discussions about anything at all. We will make attempts to bring external agencies in who would be relevant for the group where we can. This is a great place to meet people in a similar situation.

This is open to any Parents/Carers of children in the LEODIS Academies Trust.

For further information please contact:

Victoria or Nikki @ Leodis Support Service 0113 8873609 / 8873618

## COFFEE AND CHAT



**WHERE: The Bungalow - just before Woodkirk Academy school gates**

**WHEN: THE FIRST Thursday every month- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January, (Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March)**

**TIME: 9.30AM-11.00AM**

**ARE YOU.....**

A FOSTER CARER  
ADOPTIVE PARENT  
SPECIAL GUARDIANSHIP  
KINSHIP CARE  
GRANDPARENTS OR RELATIVES CARING FOR CHILDREN

Come and have a coffee and a chat with people in similar situations, share experiences, gain advice and meet new people.

### **REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED**

This group has been set up as an unofficial support group for Parents and Carers of Adopted / Looked After / Kinship or Special Guardianship children. This can be a rewarding but stressful role in a child's life. This group has been set up to offer a social, supportive and relaxed setting for meaningful discussions about anything at all. This is a great place to meet people in a similar situation.

This is open to any Parents/Carers of children in the LEODIS Academies Trust.

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