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24th January 2025

Dear parents and carers,

Lots of year groups have been out on trips to inspire their learning this week. We started with very excited year 6 children who could not wait to visit the Benin collection at the Horniman Museum. They are becoming experts in their knowledge of the Benin Kingdom. Our year 2 then headed to the Science Museum to look at incredible inventions. They returned to school talking about the exciting objects they had seen. Year 1 visited the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, as part of their 'Flying to the Moon' learning. They were amazed by the huge telescope and amazed by the Planetarium show. Our digital leaders attended the Bett Show convention. Next week our trips continue for years 3 and 4. Also, next Thursday from 9.00am, our speech and language therapists will be hosting a coffee morning for parents and carers to offer guidance and practical support for how to develop your child's social skills. We hope to see you there.

Reminder that our fantastic Friends of Torridon PTA have organised the yearly Sponsored Bounce on Thursday 30th January. If you are able to help with the event please let the PTA know. All money raised will be going to purchasing iPads for our classrooms. Sponsorship donations can be paid online at:

<https://gofund.me/608105cc>

Please continue to check the dates for your diary section later in the newsletter. We hope you have a lovely restful weekend and look forward to seeing you all next week.

Best wishes

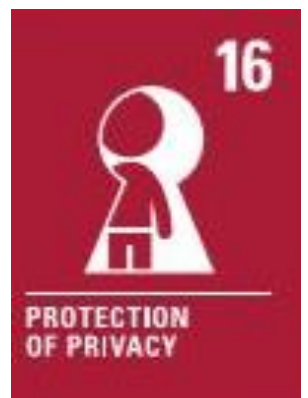
Manda George

Headteacher



Rights Respecting School

This week, we have been discussing the importance of article 16 ~ the protection of privacy. We thought about our own privacy and how we could keep ourselves safe. Not sharing our personal information and location (with strangers online or in person) are things that we can do to protect ourselves and maintain our privacy.



SEND Workshop: Social Skills

SEND Workshop: Social Skills

Thursday 30th January, 9.00 am



This session will be delivered by our Speech and Language Therapists.

The session focus on how we can support social skills within our daily routines so that you know when and how to model and develop these skills for your child.

The therapists will also discuss different ways we can socialise and also how we can support different neurodiverse communication styles.



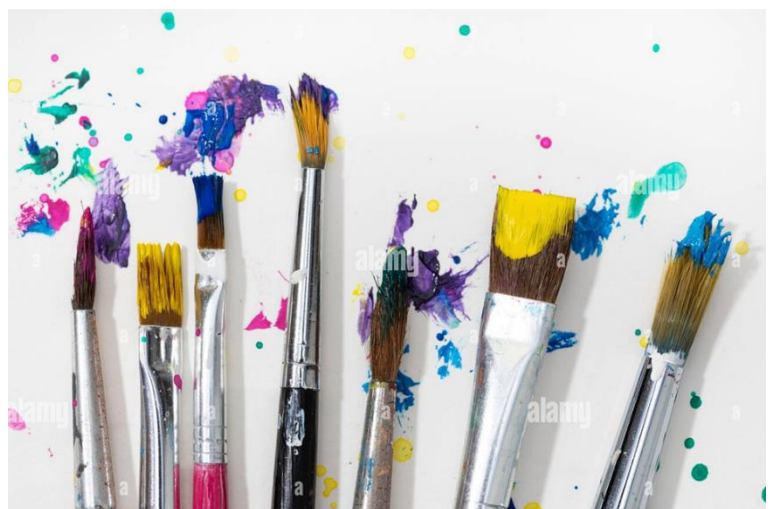
Whole School Art Exhibition

Don't forget to put the 13th and 14th February in your diaries for the whole school art exhibition in the Year 5 hall!

Viewing for all families:

3.15 – 6.00pm on Thursday 13th

3.15 - 4.30 pm on Friday 14th



Exam Success

A great big congratulations to Emmaline and Arlo who both passed their grade 1 violin exams with merit!



Well done Emmaline and Arlo.
We are all very proud of you both.



Digital Leaders' Trip

This Wednesday, we went to a convention about technology. We were accompanied by Craige, Jamie and Natalie (a year 6 parent). We learnt about different AI and new, educational technology. We had to go in 3 different groups. The groups were split between year 6s, year 5&4s and year 3s. We all found it very fascinating as we went around, seeing all kinds of robots and technological projects. There were a lot of stands and exciting activities. There were also some free items we could sample, from sweets to a purple Kahoot cape, stickers, business cards, and more! We had to take the Elizabeth Line to Custom House to arrive there. After that, we went to the Bett Show convention in the ExCel centre. After searching through many stands, we picked up a few booklets and cards to find more information about them. At 12:30, we found a place to eat for lunch time in the giant food court. After lunch, we went to the Kahoot area where we got free Kahoot stickers and Kahoot capes. When we finished with the Kahoot area, we had to leave, almost being late for the train. We walked back to school right on time and were very upset that we had to go back. We are all very grateful that the school could give us this opportunity. Thank you, Craige!

By Oshie, 6A



Resource Base – Naughty Bus Strikes Again!

We have had more incidents with the Naughty Bus this week! The chairs and trampoline in the quiet room were turned upside down and our London landmark towers were knocked over! We had to put the Naughty Bus on timeout. The children have been using communication boards to say sentences/ short phrases to explain what has been happening. We have put the bus on top of the cupboard so we can keep an eye on it!



Reception – Transportation



This week the children have been learning about road transport. They enjoyed making their own buses, and they all got onto the bus to the beach!

The children also enjoyed making vehicle tracks using the paint outside.



Whilst at forest school, they found Naughty Bus. They worked together to get him out of the pond.



Year 1 – Trip to the Royal Observatory

As part of our 'Fly Me to the Moon' theme, year 1 visited the Royal Observatory this week. We found out why we have seasons and how the Earth orbits the sun while spinning on its axis. We also sang songs and looked at amazing pictures and objects, including enormous telescopes, but the most relaxing part was lying down in the darkness of the Planetarium to join Ted on his space adventure across the solar system. It was such a great day!



Year 2 – Science Museum



As part of our 'Incredible Inventions' theme, year 2 went on an exciting visit to the Science Museum. We had lots of fun exploring the space exhibition and even saw the Apollo 10!

We also went to the modern world exhibition and saw some amazing inventions, like the first Ford car, old medical equipment and toys throughout the ages which we all loved! It was a wonderful day enjoyed by all.



Year 3 – PSHE

Our topic in PSHE this term is 'Dreams and Goals'. We read a wonderful story about Jane Goodall whose childhood dream was to work with animals. As an adult, she went on to achieve her dream and is now a world expert on chimpanzees! We discussed all the different ways she was able to do this, through hard work, studying and working with animals. We believe that every dream starts with a seed, but, to make our dreams come true, we have to do lots of different things to help the seed to grow.



Year 4 – Cricket

In cricket, we practised our grip and positioning when batting using a cricket bat. We learned to put our strongest hand at the bottom of the bat handle so that our hands do not cross. We also learned that, if we step forward, it makes our hit more powerful.



Year 5 – Science

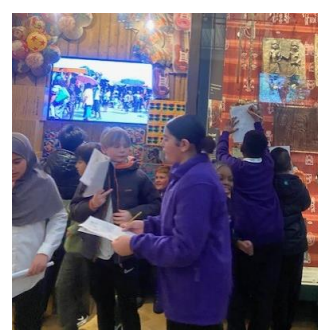
In science, the children are exploring whether potatoes need soil to grow. They've planned their experiment carefully and will observe and record their findings over the next few weeks. Using clear containers, they'll be able to easily watch the potatoes as they start to sprout. By sticking toothpicks into the potatoes, they've suspended them in water, making sure they're half-submerged. The containers will be kept in a dark place to see how the potatoes grow without soil. With a mix of curiosity and excitement, the children are eager to find out if potatoes can grow without soil and what they'll discover along the way.



Year 6 – Horniman Museum



This term in their history lessons, the children have been learning about The Kingdom of Benin. They have been using the skills of comparison, explanation and historical enquiry to further their understanding of the unit. This week, they visited the Horniman Museum which has many artefacts like the Benin Bronzes, from the kingdom (located in present-day Nigeria) on loan. The children were able to see the intricacies and details of the artefacts and enjoyed making the links to their learning.



Forest School News

We have had another busy week in our woodland.



Year 4 built mini Bronze Age homes using clay, mud, stones and straw. The children showed amazing attention to detail and took pride in their creations.



We have also added 4 new fruit trees to our woodland. The children worked together to soak the roots, dig holes, plant and add compost to the cherry and pear trees. They cannot wait to taste the fruit when it grows.



Big Schools' Birdwatch



The reception children have spent their time in forest school this week counting birds as part of the annual Big Schools' Birdwatch.

We will be uploading our results to join in the national birdwatch that is happening this weekend.

What is Big Garden Birdwatch?

Big Garden Birdwatch is the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Every year, hundreds of thousands of nature lovers like you take part, helping to build a picture of how garden birds are faring.

This is a great opportunity for you and your family to get outside for an hour, whether it's in your garden or the local park.

There is so much information and help on:

www.rspb.org.uk.



Dates for Your Diary

Tuesday 28 th January	Year 5 and 6 pickleball festival
Wednesday 29 th January	Year 3 to Science Musuem
Thursday 30 th January	PTA Sponsored Bounce
Friday 31 st January	Year 4 to Chislehurst caves
w/b Monday 3 rd February	Year 6 assessment week
Wednesday 5 th February	9am – parent and carer coffee morning with the Mental Health Schools Team
Tuesday 11 th February	Safer Internet Day
Thursday 13 th February	Year 6 Bake Sale
Thursday 13 th and Friday 14 th February	Whole school art exhibition
Friday 14 th February	PTA fundraiser (Non-uniform day)
Monday 17 th – Friday 21 st February	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Monday 24 th February	Year 4 swimming starts
Thursday 27 th and Friday 28 th February	Book Fair
Thursday 6 th March	WORLD BOOK DAY
Friday 7 th March	Year 5 and 6 girls' football tournament
Monday 10 th March	Yellow class to Mudchute Farm
Thursday 13 th March	Red class to Mudchute Farm
Friday 14 th March	Blue class to Mudchute Farm
w/b Monday 17 th March	Whole school assessment week
Sunday 23 rd March	Corbett Chase
Tuesday 25 th and Thursday 27 th March	Parent and Carer open evenings
Tuesday 1 st April	Year 5 and 6 tag rugby festival
Friday 4 th April	Last day of the spring term
Monday 7 th – Monday 21 st April	EASTER HOLIDAY

Online Safety Workshop

Protecting Yourself and Others from Scams
Online – Special Event! 🛡️

Join us for an essential Online Safety Workshop!

Date: Tuesday, 11th February

Time: 2:45 – 3:45 pm (In-person)

Online Session: 5:30 pm via MS Teams



As part of our **Internet Safety Day**, we're excited to invite **parents, carers and families** to a special workshop led by our **Student Digital Leaders**. This year's theme is:

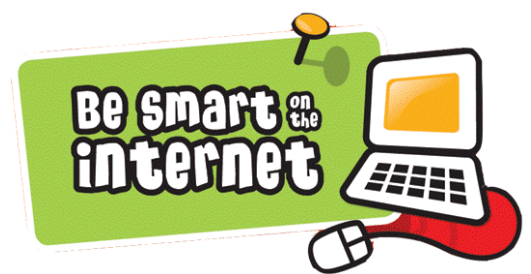
"Too Good to Be True? Protecting Yourself and Others from Scams Online"

✦ Topics covered include:

- **Online Reputation:** Managing your digital footprint
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI):** What you need to know
- **Social Media Safety:** Keeping your family safe online
- **Password Protection:** Best practices for security
- **Fake Websites & Phishing:** How to spot scams
- **Gaming Safety:** Tips for safe online play
- **Cyberbullying:** Recognising & preventing harm
- **Screen Time:** Finding a healthy balance

🎯 **Why attend?**




- Learn crucial online safety tips
- Engage with our passionate Digital Leaders
- Access **FREE** resources to protect your family



Can't make it in person? Don't worry, our **online session** at **5:30 pm** will give you all the information you need.

We highly encourage all parents and carers to attend – let's work together to keep our children safe online!

Weekly Attendance

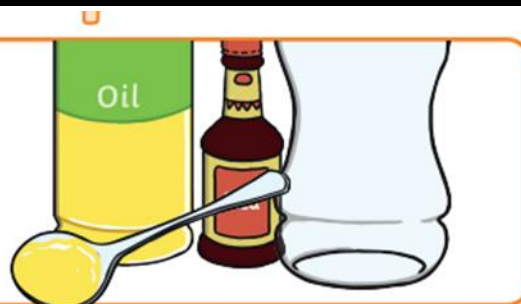
Class	Attendance		Class	Attendance		Class	Attendance	
1M	99%		3A	94%		5V	91%	
1N	93%		3G	91%		5L	97%	
1W	99.2%		3S	96.6%		5C	98%	
2S	96%		4K	96.9%		6R	93%	
2SW	93%		4L	96%		6A	92%	
2E	93%		4S	96%		6L	96%	

Well done to the whole school for having good attendance this week.
A special shout out to all the classes who won the attendance cup this week!

Science Experiment to Try at Home: Lava Lamp

You Will Need

- Water
- Vegetable Oil*
- A Clear Plastic Bottle or Jar
- Food Colouring
- Effervescent Tablets



* Please dispose of oil safely and responsibly.

Method:

1. Fill the bottle or jar a quarter full with water.
2. Top up, almost to the top with vegetable oil.
3. They should separate into 2 layers: water at the bottom, oil on top.
4. Add about 6-8 drops of food colouring once the oil and water separate.
5. The colour will mix with the water at the bottom.
6. Pop in half an effervescent tablet, and watch the bubbles form. Add more effervescent tablets bit by bit to keep the tablets rising and falling.

Please send in photos of you conducting this experiment to be published in the newsletter by Wednesday 5th February.

Oracy Activity

Oracy


Would you rather be an eagle or a lion?



I would rather be an eagle because ...

I would rather be a lion because ...

Workshops Moonlane Books



**CREATIVE
WRITING
FOR MUMS**

FRIDAYS, 1:30-2:30
31ST JANUARY-14TH MARCH
MOON LANE BOOKS
BOOK: WRITESPARKS.CO.UK

LITTLE ART FORMS

From Sound to Vision - Basquiat and Music

Art Making Workshop

"ART IS HOW WE DECORATE SPACE, MUSIC IS HOW WE DECORATE TIME."
JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT



Saturday 25th January

Moon Lane Books

10:00am-12noon

Children: All ages welcome



Limited Spaces



[Welcome to our First Newsletter of 2025!](#)



STARS OF THE WEEK



Class	Name	Reason
Nursery FT	Za'niyah	For her fantastic speaking. We are so proud of you! Well done, Za'niyah! 😊
Nursery AM	Cassia	For being able to say where the car was using positional language during the maths carpet session. Well done, Cassia! 😊
Nursery PM	Maisie	For joining in during carpet sessions and her brilliant name writing and drawing of her family's cars. Well done, Maisie! 😊
Blue Class	Za'kai	For working so hard on writing his name and letter formation. Excellent work!
Red Class	Vinnie	For his fantastic efforts in phonics this week. You should be very proud! Well done, Vinnie 😊
Yellow Class	Asmithaa	For always trying her best with her learning. Well done!
1M	Shiloh	For working hard on her target to improve her handwriting. Shiloh has been consistently using leading lines in all her writing. Keep up the wonderful work! 😊
1N	Chloe	For doing her best in every lesson and for building her resilience. She is so independent now, and it's great to see her positive attitude shine through. 😊
1W	Rizwan	For working really hard on his writing target to remember his finger spaces. He has consistently been using his finger spacer and, now, has started to remember them without it! Amazing!
2E	Eve	For being a very kind and hard-working member of the class. She has also been helping others with their learning. Well done Eve. Keep it up! 😊
2S	Erin	For her amazing, positive attitude to learning! You always try your best in everything that you do, and you are such a brilliant role model to your peers! Keep up the amazing learning, Erin 😊
2SW	Didi	For her hard work and determination. Didi always tries her very best with her learning. Well done Didi. Keep it up! 😊
3A	Flo	For working really independently this week, especially during maths and writing. Keep it up, Flo! 😊
3G	Jeremiah	For his amazing use of subordinating conjunctions in his writing. Well done! 😊
3S	Areefa	For working hard on both the style and presentation of her handwriting. Well done. Keep it up! 😊
4K	Zach	For an improvement in his behaviour and attitude towards his learning. Thank you for showing a great effort in writing. Keep it up, Zach! 😊
4L	Mekai	For always being an excellent role model for behaviour, trying hard with his learning and taking pride in his illustrations in science and history.
4S	Matilda	For showing such enthusiasm for our prehistoric history topic including making an excellent Bronze Age Roundhouse in forest school. She is also very kind towards all of the children in the school.
5C	Arianna	She always participates in lessons, shows good behaviour for learning and gives 100% effort.
5L	Djonathas	For your efforts in maths. You have been extremely focused and self-motivated which has helped you progress in long multiplication. Well done!
5V	Rhianni	She is resilient in her learning and isn't afraid to make mistakes but learns from them. Well done, Rhianni
6A	Isabella	For showing commitment towards her learning this week and for improvement in her punctuality. This has enabled her to make progress. Keep it up.
6L	Callie-Rose	For consistently showing effort and determination in all areas of your learning, including gaining more confidence in your maths learning. Well done!
6R	Jordan	For demonstrating resilience when editing his writing, selecting language that demonstrated awareness of the reader and for improving his punctuality. Well done.
RB Blue	Knox	For his amazing effort on the kurling trip this week! Well done, Knox!
RB Green	Joshua	For his fantastic focus in maths learning all week. Keep up the good work!

Fun Things To Do!



FAMILY NATURE DAY



@FORSTER MEMORIAL PARK, BY THE SENSORY GARDEN

Saturday 25

January

1.30-3pm All ages
FREE - Donations welcome

- Make a nature crown or instrument
- Snack & storytime
- Join the Wassail music & dancing for the new orchard!



Touch typing courses for 7 – 16s

Spring half term and Easter 2025

Monday 17 – Thursday 20 February 2025

Monday 7 – Thursday 10 April 2025

Monday 14 – Thursday 17 April 2025

Venues and times

St Joseph's Primary School, Kingston KT1

Dulwich College, London SE21

Course sessions run 10:00 - 12:15 pm daily

Typing's Cool teaches children and young people how to touch type 40+ words per minute using correct fingers and posture.

Beginners, improvers and advanced typists are warmly welcome.

We mix rigorous tuition with the latest app games to make learning effective and fun. The course is suitable for all ages and abilities.

Cost: £175.00 per place

Childcare vouchers accepted. 10% sibling, bring a friend discount
Duke of Edinburgh skills assessor.

Apply at www.typingscool.co.uk



The Corbett Wildlife Supporters Club and Friends of Forster Park are organizing a bird count in Forster Park in support of the annual RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

Saturday 25th January
at 10.00am – 11.00am
Meet outside Café in Forster Park

Just turn up on the day, requested donations of £2 per person for RSPB gratefully received (comes with official RSPB pin badge); but your eyes and participation welcome most of all!



FIND US HERE:

- @ProjectOrchard
- @TheOrchardProject
- @WalesTheOrchardProject

ORCHARD PLANTING & WASSAIL

Saturday 25th January 10-3pm

By Sensory Garden at Forster Memorial Park

- Help plant our new fruit trees around the Sabina Nessa Pear Tree

- Wassail from 2.30 pm celebrating community and the new orchard

- Good food, music and a family nature session by the Secret Adventurers Club (1.30-3pm)



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HEALTH & FITNESS APPS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Physical wellbeing apps are useful tools for monitoring and improving our health. They allow us to balance nutrition, set goals, track our activities and sleep patterns, and motivate us to exercise. Nonetheless, there have been some reported drawbacks; this guide outlines some of these concerns and explains how to use fitness apps safely.

LACK OF PERSONALISATION

Many apps take a one-size-fits-all approach, failing to account for the varying ages and abilities of children: a 10-year-old, for example, will have different physical needs to a child of 16. This can create unrealistic expectations and set exercises which may be too advanced for younger children or too simple for older ones.

NOT DEVELOPED BY EXPERTS

Some fitness and wellbeing apps are developed by experts in the field – but a concerning number of them aren't. As such, these platforms may contain inaccurate information. They may present safety concerns by giving incorrect advice regarding physical activities or might include age-inappropriate content which would clearly cause more harm than good.

REDUCED INTERACTION WITH OTHERS

Physical wellbeing apps can remove the social and interactive elements which physical exercise can offer – for instance, meeting people at fitness classes, at the gym or during any other such activities. Research has found that young people generally dislike this aspect of fitness apps, suggesting that they would rather exercise in the company of friends or other like-minded individuals.

DATA AND PRIVACY CONCERNS

Fitness and wellbeing apps tend to collect a lot of personal information from their users, including names, location, date of birth, details of their physical health and more. It's worth keeping in mind that some of these apps may sell this data to third parties. We'd advise that any apps young people download should have the correct legislation in place to protect their safety and privacy while using the service.

ADDITIONAL COSTS

While many fitness apps are free to download, the initial content is quite basic. Users will only receive more helpful content (such as new workouts, nutrition advice or a personalised plan) by signing up to a subscription or paying for extra features. This can incentivise users to spend money on the service – a cost which can quickly mount up.

DEPENDENCY ON THE APP

While physical wellbeing apps can help motivate young users to manage their fitness, there's a possibility that – without being sent frequent rewards and reminders – children could start to lose their natural drive to be active. Young people may also become obsessed with tracking their exercise, health and eating habits; this can have negative effects on their mental and emotional wellbeing.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EXERCISE AND SOCIALISE

Highlight the importance of children enjoying fitness activities with family and friends, rather than always exercising alone. Emphasise the fun they can have by interacting with others rather than solely relying on an app to maintain their regime. Remind them of the importance of staying active, as well as the benefits of doing so with company.

PROMOTE POSITIVE BODY IMAGE

While we want children to be active and healthy, we must also ensure they don't become fixated on how they look and begin take things too far. During childhood and adolescence, the body is still growing and changing. It's vitally important for young people's wellbeing that we promote a positive body image and a healthy relationship with food, empowering them to make informed decisions about their diet and lifestyle.

REVIEW THE APP FIRST

Before allowing someone under 18 to install a fitness and wellbeing app, check its age rating, read its reviews and scroll through its data policy, to ensure its suitability for younger users. You could also try it yourself, to see if it's appropriate for the child's particular needs and decide if you're comfortable with them using it. Ensure that any privacy-compromising features – such as location tracking – are disabled.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

As with all apps, it's important for parents to familiarise themselves with any controls on the app and to use these on a child's account. The specific settings vary between platforms but – most commonly – these will relate to screen-time limits, disabling or capping in-app purchases, and managing social aspects or features which aren't age appropriate. By utilising these controls, you can help to ensure a child is getting a safe experience.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://thenationalcollege.com/guides/wellbeing-fitness-apps>