



**Building tomorrow together**

## PROJECT 25

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Headteacher: Mr Paul Bertram NPQH/NPQEL**

### NEWSLETTER 12 – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> of March

Dear parents,

With regards to one of our main school values of keeping safe, it has been brought to my attention that some children are currently setting up WhatsApp groups for themselves and classmates. Please be aware that the age restriction for WhatsApp is 13+, as the app can share images, location and promote private chats. I am sure that many parents are unaware of this and also the fact that they as parents bear the responsibility for any inappropriate action on such groups including the monitoring of such groups.

I am also of course aware some families use closed WhatsApp groups and I as a parent understand the benefits of social media etc, but children being allowed to set up their own unmonitored groups under the age of 13 may lead to issues such as online bullying examples of which are;

WhatsApp groups can be controlled by an 'admin', who can change settings, such as the name of the group, who is allowed to send messages, as well as being able to invite and remove people from the chat. This could lead to children feeling left out or being deliberately excluded or removed from groups.

This is why an age restriction is enforced by WhatsApp as the children may not have the emotional maturity yet to navigate this highly intensive online social media world of ours.

I am aware that this can be classed as 'outside school' however I wanted to let you know the reasoning behind these restrictions and the legality of such.

I would highly advise that you check your child's phone and then either completely delete WhatsApp entirely or remove your child from any unmonitored groups leaving only the groups where an adult is admin that needs to be in charge of any such group.

For further information on WhatsApp I refer you the NSPCC guidance

[Is WhatsApp safe for my child? | NSPCC](#)

I will also be of course speaking to the children with regards to this as it falls into the school's remit of teaching the children to stay safe online, so by all means you can blame me and say that the 'headteacher says so' if you wish.

With all this in mind, the government are giving us the opportunity to have our say on phones and social media, please when you have time, give your opinion as a parent

[Growing up in the online world: a national consultation - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/growing-up-in-the-online-world)

As you already no doubt know I really value the partnerships the school has with parents and I thank you for your ongoing support as we as families and communities navigate these new forms of technology.

If you wish to discuss this, please don't hesitate to contact me.

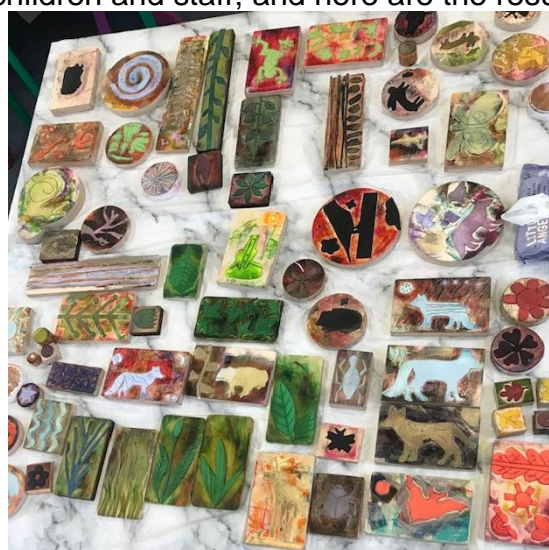
In other news-

Congratulations to the Indoor Netball who performed well at the Regional Finals last week. Well done to all those children that completed Bikeability this week.

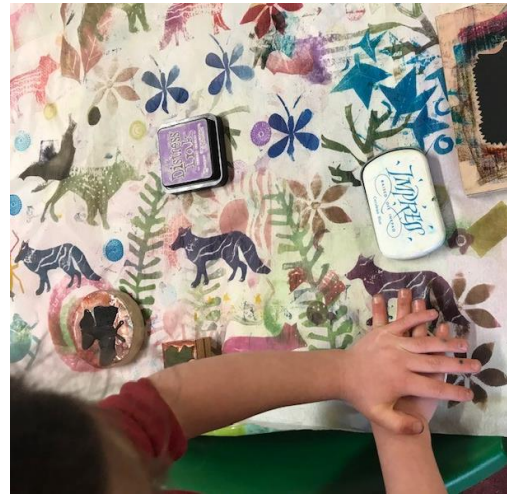


Could we also refrain from 'idling' our car engines when waiting for the children, this will keep pollution levels down outside of our school gates and within the local environment. Plus, it will save you fuel money!

Also, a big thank you for the children's engagement in our Art week, where I managed to obtain an Arts funding grant to bring in artists to work with the children and staff; and here are the results!







Have a lovely break all.

Best Wishes

Mr Bertram

### Termly Calendar

#### March

w/b 23<sup>rd</sup> Theme- Keeping Safe

25<sup>th</sup> Egg Rolling

26<sup>th</sup> Bunny Hop (House colours or P.E kit)

27<sup>th</sup> Easter Service at St James Church (2pm), this is optional for parents with limited space, but this will also be recorded and broadcast on the school's YouTube channel.

30<sup>th</sup> Easter Holidays

#### April

w/b 6<sup>th</sup> Easter Holidays

w/b 13<sup>th</sup> Children back in for the Summer Term

This is not a finite document and is subject to change as the diary is updated.

Best Wishes,

Mr Bertram

## PROJECT 25

I thought I would remind everyone of the school's core values in developing our children to where they are going to be at the age of 25:

Resilience

Compassion

Trust

Entrepreneurial spirit

Environmentally aware

Keeping Safe

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)

Respect

Thankfulness

Friendship

**SAFEGUARDING** is very important to us as a school. The Designated Lead at the School is Mr Bertram if you have any concerns about a child in our area please don't hesitate to contact him for advice. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

I have also located a useful one stop shop of mental health support sights if anyone should require the need. [\*\*Mental health resources for children, students, parents, carers and school/college staff - The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)\*\*](#)

