

29.11.24

High Oaks Newsletter

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 19th December—Christmas service 10.30 Venue to be confirmed

Thursday 19th December—Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day

Friday 20th December school finishes 1.45

Monday 6th January—INSET day school closed to students

Tuesday 7th January—Students return

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have really enjoyed looking through the newsletter articles this fortnight and seeing all the wonderful work that has been going on, I am sure you will be equally impressed!

It has been lovely to see so many parents in school for annual reviews over the last few weeks, it is always so lovely to hear about all of the amazing progress students are making.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that if you have any questions or concerns about your child at school, it is important to raise these with us. We want to work with families to ensure your children have the opportunity to meet their full potential. Please do reach out to your child's teacher in the first instance. If after doing this you still have concerns then you can contact a member of the leadership team.

All of the leadership teams emails are on the school website if you would like to contact them by email, or you call the school reception and they can make an appointment for you.

I have had a number of conversations with parents over the last week where they have raised concerns about their children using YouTube at home. I have attached a safeguarding leaflet for your information to the newsletter.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing more of you in school over the coming weeks.

Mairead



Richmond 1

Hello,

We have had a full half term so far. We are focussing on community activities and working together. We are practising sitting and waiting for lessons. We also follow a full physical program to make sure we are keeping healthy. At the moment we are really enjoying making choices with our communication. I hope you are well!



Kew 6

This term, Kew 6 students have been enjoying their horticulture lessons and taking care of the sensory garden. They have worked hard cleaning, planting bulbs, and spreading seeds to prepare the garden for spring.

Our students have also been in charge of filling the bird feeders each week, making sure our feathered friends are well looked after. Everyone has shown great enthusiasm and team work. Well done Kew 6 and keep up with the good work!



School Council Update

This month's school council meeting was looking at the theme for this year's Anti-Bullying week.

We talked about RESPECT; what it means and how to show it to others.

Each rep was tasked with taking the below ideas back to class and when we meet in December we will all share our ideas for what RESPECT means to us.

-     
1. Read story "We are all different" as a class
-      
2. Make a class poster collectively with hand prints or photographs
-      
3. Illustrate the word RESPECT and talk about what it means



Pantomime in Surbiton



Head2Head sensory theatre company have a production of Rumpelstiltskin touring this festive season:

Oh no! Boo! Hiss! The greedy Queen has locked up the miller's daughter in a dirty dungeon and demanded she spin straw into gold. Rumpelstiltskin to the rescue! He's clever, mischievous and fun. But is he a friend? Or is he just too naughty? Find out at this year's relaxed pantomime performance.

Just make sure you remember his name. Rumpelstiltskin! Rumpelstiltskin! Rumpelstiltskin!

Packed full of multi-sensory and interactive moments, songs and silliness and led by a professional cast experienced at working with children with special needs and disabilities (SEND). For ages 2 to 99

It will be in Surbiton this Sunday 1st December,
Tickets are £8.

For more information visit the link [HERE](#)



Music @ Oaklands



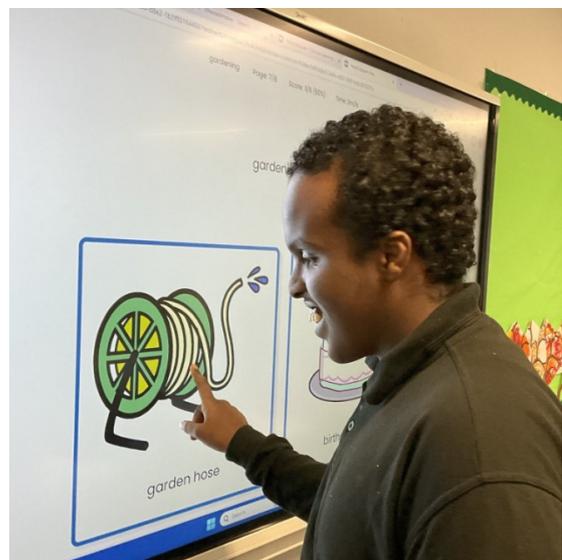
In recent years, Oaklands School has made significant strides in providing opportunities for all students to advance their musical abilities. The students have showcased their talents in various musicals, including *The Lion King*, *Aladdin* and *Alice in Wonderland*. A particularly noteworthy example is Jasim, who demonstrates exceptional musical talent. He has recently completed his Grade One singing exam with the Royal Schools of Music achieving commendable marks.

I am confident that there are many more students who will continue to impress us with their skills, and congratulations Jasim on such a fantastic achievement!

Edison Carolino

Crane 5

Crane 5 have been working hard on their Vocational skills by engaging in Gardening activities. We have been busy tidying up our raised beds, dead-heading dry herbs, pulling out weeds and digging the soil to prepare everything for planting season in the Spring. With the weather getting colder and wetter we have also been tidying up our greenhouse, washing our gardening equipment and old planting pots. We have been learning the life cycle of plants by using egg carton boxes to plant seeds in order to grow our own plants which we are planning on planting into raised beds in the spring.



Crane 5



The students in Crane 6 have been engaging with their community and recently visited the Heathrow Special Needs Centre. They had the chance to see, touch, and feed some of the animals.

With Christmas approaching, the students also enjoyed helping to decorate the farms Christmas tree!



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

YOUTUBE

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows YouTube. The Google-owned site lets anyone upload videos to be shared around the world, and as a result, it's an incredible resource with instant free access to material covering every conceivable topic. But with over 500 hours of video uploaded every minute, not all of it will be appropriate for young eyes.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate content. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but it can also lead to binge-watching and screen addiction – especially if 'auto-play' is active. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

RADICALISATION

YouTube's algorithm tends to promote content that's getting the most traffic – a lot of which can be quite extreme. This can be fine for harmless topics, but YouTube isn't regulated like television, and that means that conspiracy theories, fake news and hateful ideologies can occasionally surface to wrap impressionable minds all too easily. Remember – the more they watch, the more they'll be recommended.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as message other users directly. Connecting with strangers online can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, cyberbullying and – in the worst cases – online predators. If a child is creating content themselves, this can increase the likelihood of them becoming a target.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends and challenges, some of which are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may cause physical or emotional harm (children who watch or copy them). The painful 'salt and ice challenge' – where people use these two ingredients to burn their skin – is just one of many examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

The comments sections of popular content creators regularly have scammers posing as that influencer, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and often offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users aren't who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Educators

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

For older children, Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate material (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence, and sexual content) to unverified viewers. To prevent children from changing settings and inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling restricted mode on each device that they use to access YouTube. It's worth also turning the auto-play feature off to prevent YouTube's algorithm automatically recommending something inappropriate.



TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows parents and carers to monitor what their child is watching, uploading, and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searched, and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives a parent or carer oversight of how their child uses sites like YouTube and helps to ensure that they are only accessing appropriate content.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them under 18. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course. You may want to keep an eye on how children interact with this material – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand what they're interested in. Remember that creators often share content outside of YouTube, so don't ignore their web presence elsewhere.

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS

It's possible to sidestep most inappropriate content completely via Google's own YouTube Kids app for Android handsets and iPhones. This lets you filter content by 'preschool' (4 and under), 'younger' (ages 5 to 8) and 'older' (ages 9 to 12). This isn't a perfect substitute for parental supervision, as the app's filtering system is automated, and Google can't manually review all videos.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that a child is subscribed to can be hidden. If a child is only uploading videos set as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases. For example, users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch. If your kids to avoid children purchasing content online, limit their access to online payment methods. Many parents have discovered the hard way that a child happily consuming a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the BBC, Wired, TechRadar, Terra Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



The National College