

Internet Safety Day

In this issue:

- Internet Safety Day
- PTA Update
- Message from the Head Teacher
- Attendance
- Safeguarding
- Class 4 trip to Oxenwood
- Drumming Lessons
- Dates for your diary

On Tuesday 6th February, we celebrated Safer Internet Day. The theme this year is 'Together for a better internet'. To develop our understanding of the ever growing changes in technology we focused our day around Artificial Intelligence and it's impact and uses. The children (and staff!) really enjoyed our quiz in which we guessed which images, text and sounds were created by AI and which were created by humans - it was quite hard! To continue the children's learning, each class continued to explore these ideas in their classes during the afternoon.

EYFS and Key stage 1 enjoyed looking at mistakes AI sometimes makes when it generates pictures and then used patterns to draw their own image, just like AI does.

Key stage 2 learnt about AI voice assistants (such as Siri and Alexa) and how to be safe when using them. They then went on to find out about the creation of AI voice assistants and how they too can make mistakes, before trying to design their own AI voice assistant.

Please see the below link to the guide to learn more about making the most of Artificial Intelligence and using it with children <https://www.flipsnack.com/internetmattersorg/a-parent-s-guide-to-artificial-intelligence-ai/full-view.html>

PTA Update

We are very lucky here at South Marston Primary School to have such an active fund raising PTA. Thank you for all that you do!
So far this term they have helped raise;

- £160 at the Quiz night
- £106 with your donations to Bags to School
- £450 from the children's disco
- The Glamorose Cake donations are to be confirmed

We are very excited to have been able to order 15 new Glockenspiels for music from the funds raised recently.



Message from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents,

Welcome to this week's newsletter. Term 4 is certainly flying by now as we enter week four next week!

Thank you to all those parents who attended our recent parents evening in person or virtually – teachers appreciated the time to speak with you and for all of the wonderful comments they received about how your children are doing. If you have yet to speak to your child's teacher and would like to do so, please get in touch with us. Mr Miller will be sharing the date of his meetings for Class 4 parents shortly.

This week I have had the pleasure of spending time in each of the classes and it has been a pleasure to see the children enthusiastic about their learning and engaging well in what they were working on. Two weeks ago, we had some external visitors in school who met with Mr Miller and I as well as some of our teachers who lead on subject areas and also with members of our school council, worship council and wellbeing champions. The feedback we received from their visit made us incredibly proud! I would like to share some aspects of it below.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend,
Mrs M Hendry

"Pupils enjoy attending South Marston CE Primary School and are proud to be part of the school community."

"Pupils are confident and articulate speakers who were keen to share their thoughts on their school."

"Pupils enjoy being part of a small school community where you know everyone and everyone knows you."

"Pupils feel safe and know that there are adults in school that they can trust and who they can turn to for help and support."

"The vision and ethos of the school is clear and evident."

Attendance

We are continuing to closely monitor our school attendance, currently our whole school attendance is 94.7%, we are aiming for 95% as per advice from Swindon Borough Council. Please be aware that since September 2023 Swindon Borough Council have been issuing Fixed Penalty notices for unauthorised absence, such as family holidays during term time. If you need to request an absence for your child please contact the school office before the absence occurs.

Safeguarding

Now that Mrs Hendry has returned she has resumed her position as the Designated Safeguarding Lead, with Mrs Mitchell and Mr Miller as Deputy Safeguarding Leads.

Class 3 Trip to Oxenwood

This week, class 3 went to Oxenwood on a school trip and had a wonderful day doing outdoor activities. The children showed great teamwork to solve various physical problem solving challenges. In bushcraft, they concentrated hard to light a fire with a steel and flint. They persevered on the climbing wall and they worked up a sweat to complete the biking course. It was a fantastic day for us all and we were really

Drumming Lessons

We are very lucky to have Kelvin Williams onsite every Friday morning offering drum lessons to the children. For more information and to book please see the website www.kelwilliamsmusic.com



Dates for your diary

Netball Matches - All welcome to come along and support

Friday 8th March - Home match after school

All School Assembly

15 March 2024

Red Nose Day

15th March 2024—please wear non school uniform and something red if you have it. There is a donation option on Parent Pay for fundraising for Comic Relief.

Phonics Screening—Parents Meeting Year 1

20th March at 3.15pm

Drumming Assembly

22nd March—Parents of the drumming lessons will be invited—time to be confirmed

Easter Service in Church

St Mary Magdalene Church, South Marston at 9.30am—27th March—parents welcome to join us.

Easter Egg Hunt

27th March in school

Easter Break

School closed on 28th March (TD Day) - 12th April—Back in school on Monday 15 April 2024