



Newsletter

<http://www.oldparkprimary.co.uk>

Newsletter 28: 7th May 2024

Message from the headteacher

Welcome back to everyone after the long weekend. I hope that you all had an enjoyable weekend and spent some time in the lovely sunshine. The Year 6 pupils are now entering the last few days of preparation for their SATS which take place between Monday 13th and Thursday 16th May. Best of luck to them as they enter this final stretch, and I am sure they will be demonstrating lots of **resilience** over the next two weeks. Last week we had our school improvement partner spend the morning with us to look at our science curriculum. She saw some lovely lessons where the pupils were engaged with their learning, keen to answer questions and develop their scientific thinking. Year 2 had a brilliant time in science last week as they got to investigate the octopus in lessons. All the pupils were really excited to tell me about the experience, especially touching them and discussing their views on the smell. This was an amazing experience and one I'm sure they will remember. I hope you all have a great week.

Value of the half term



TIHYO

There will be no TIHYO for the next two weeks. There are 4 sessions remaining for this term:

- Thursday 23rd May
- Thursday 20th June
- Thursday 27th June
- Thursday 4th July



ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE

Congratulations to the following classes for beating Mr Foster's 96% attendance challenge that he set last week:

2B, 2V, 3FP, 4W, 5W and 6W.

A special well done to 6W who had the highest attendance last week.

Old Park expectations

1. Kindness

2. Always try your best

3. Believe in yourself

4. Tell the truth

5. Have fun while learning





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Diary Dates

Summer 1

Monday 13th—Thursday 16th May	Year 6 SATS week
Friday 17th May	Year 6 reward trip (Town park and Sky reach)
Tuesday 21st May	Year 2 Great Fire of London workshop in school
Thursday 23rd May	Year 5 and 6 boys School Games County Finals
Friday 24th May	Last day of half term
Monday 27th—Friday 31st May	Half term

Term dates 2023-2024

8th April 2024	Summer term starts
27th - 31st May 2024	Half term
3rd June 2024	Staff PD day
Friday 19th July 2024	Last day of term
Monday 22nd July 2024	Staff PD day





Newsletter



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough



Telford and Wrekin
FAMILY HUBS

SOUTHWATER DROP IN



Every Wednesday 9.30am - 12:30pm
Southwater Library – children's section

- Advice and signposting
- Information on parenting/ courses
- Support and guidance around accessing local community activities
- Family hubs information



Provided by
Strengthening Families
and Dandelion Peer
Parent support



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about INSTAGRAM

Instagram is one of the most popular social media platforms in the world, with over 1 billion users worldwide. The platform allows users to upload images and videos to their feed, create interactive 'stories', share live videos, exchange private messages or search, explore and follow other accounts they like – whilst at the same time continuously updating and adding new features to meet the needs of its users.

AGE RATING 13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ADDICTION
Many social media platforms are designed in a way to keep us engaged on them for as long as possible. There's a desire to scroll often/more in case we've missed something important or a fear of missing out. Instagram is no different and young people can easily lose track of time by aimlessly scrolling and watching videos posted by friends, acquaintances, influencers or even strangers.

PRODUCT TAGGING
Product tags allow users (particularly influencers who are sponsored to advertise products) to tag a product or business in their post. This tag takes viewers, regardless of age, directly to the product detail page on the shop where the item can be purchased and where children may be encouraged by influencers to purchase products they don't necessarily need.

EXCLUSION AND OSTRACISM
Young people are highly sensitive to ostracism. Feeling excluded can come in many forms such as: not receiving many likes, not being tagged, being unfriended, having a photo untagged, or not receiving a comment or reply to a message. Being excluded online hurts just as much as being excluded offline – with children potentially suffering lower moods, lower self-esteem, feeling as if they don't belong or undervalued.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Product tagging on Instagram only works on public accounts. If your child wants to share their clothing style, make-up etc and tag items in a post then they may be tempted to change their settings to public, which can leave their profile visible to strangers.

GOING LIVE
Live streaming on Instagram allows users to connect with friends and followers in real-time and comment on videos during broadcast. Risks increase if the account is public because anyone can watch and comment on their videos, including strangers. However, other risks include acting in ways they wouldn't normally or being exposed to inappropriate content or offensive language.

INFLUENCER CULTURE
Influencers can be paid thousands of pounds to promote a product, service, app and much more on social media – the posts can often be identified because they state they're a 'paid partnership'. Ofcom found that young people often attempt to copy-cat influencer behaviour for their own posts to gain likes, sometimes posting content which may not be age-appropriate.

UNREALISTIC IDEALS
Children compare themselves to what they see online in terms of how they look, dress, their body shape, or the experiences others are having. The constant scrolling and comparison of unrealistic ideals can lead to children feeling insecure about their own appearance, questioning how exciting their own lives are and having a fear of missing out.

Advice for Parents & Carers

HAVE OPEN DIALOGUE
Talk to your child about live videos and the risks involved and how they can do it safely with family and friends. Talk to them about ensuring they have safety settings on so only followers can view them live, and maybe help them prepare what they would say when they do go live.

REMOVE PAYMENT METHODS
If you're happy for your child to have a card associated with their Instagram account, we suggest adding a PIN which needs to be entered before making a payment. This can be added in the payment settings tab and will also help prevent unauthorised purchases.

USE MODERATORS
Instagram has launched 'live moderators' on Instagram live where creators can assign a moderator and give them the power to report comments, remove viewers and turn off comments for a viewer. It's recommended to keep devices in common spaces so that you are aware if they do go live or watch live streaming.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF
Instagram is one social media app which has its safety features available to parents in a user-friendly manner. The document provides examples of conversation starters, managing privacy, managing comments, blocking and restricting and can be found on the Instagram website + community + parents.

FOLLOW INFLUENCERS
Following influencers will allow you to monitor what they're sharing as well as being able to discuss anything which you deem inappropriate. Talk to your child about who they follow and help them develop critical thinking skills about what the influencer is trying to do. For example, are they trying to sell a product by promoting it?

BE VIGILANT AND REASSURE
Talk to your child about the use of filters. While they can be fun to use they don't represent the real them. If you find your child continuously using a filter, ask them why and reassure them that they are beautiful without it to build up their feelings of self-worth. Discuss the fact that many images online are filtered and not everyone looks 'picture perfect' in real life, which can also lend itself to discuss what is real and not real online.

MANAGE LIKE COUNTS
Due to the impact on mental well-being, Instagram has allowed users to change the focus of their experiences online away from how many likes a post has by hiding the like counts. Users can hide like counts on all the posts in their feed as well as hiding the like counts on their own posts. This means others can't see how many likes you get. This can be done by going into settings > notifications > posts > likes > off

BALANCE YOUR TIME
Instagram now has an in-built activity dashboard that allows users to monitor and control how much time they spend on the app. Users can add a 'daily reminder' to set a limit on how much time they want to spend on Instagram, prompting them to consider if it's been too long with a 'take a break' message. There's also the option to mute notifications for a period of time. These features can help you have a conversation with your child about how much time they are spending on the app and to set healthy time limits.

