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Spring Term February 2026 Newsletter.

Internet Safety Week

During the week, pupils will take part in activities and discussions that cover topics such as:

- Staying safe online and recognising trustworthy websites and contacts
- Protecting personal information
- Taking care of themselves and others in online communication
- What to do if something online makes a child feel worried or uncomfortable

You may have seen recent discussions in the UK press and government about children's **mobile phone and social media use**. The government has begun a national conversation and consultation aimed at improving children's relationship with mobile phones and online platforms, to help promote healthier screen habits and wellbeing for young people. Part of this includes encouraging schools to adopt **phone-free environments during the school day** and providing parents with guidance on age-appropriate screen time and digital safety.

There is also ongoing debate about whether to raise minimum age limits for social media accounts or consider age-related restrictions on owning or using smartphones, as part of broader child online safety policies being discussed by ministers and Parliament.

At the moment, **no law has been passed** to restrict ownership of mobile phones by age in the UK, but these proposals reflect growing concern about excessive screen time and online risk exposure for children. We encourage you to engage in these conversations at home and consider what works best for your child's wellbeing and safety.

This has been part of class discussions and the majority of our children believe this can be a good thing. They understand the dangers and feel the negative impact on their wellbeing. The children have made me so proud of their discussion on this.

How you can support at home

Internet safety is most effective when schools and families work together. You can support your child by:

- Talking with them about the websites, games and apps they use
- Setting agreed rules about screen time and phone use at home
- Exploring parental controls and privacy settings together
- Checking your child's phone regularly
- Encouraging open conversations so children feel comfortable bringing concerns to you or to a trusted adult
- Sharing any concerns with us at school and working together to keep our children safe
- Model good use of social media

There is an agreement and policy coming home that the class teacher has signed and your child. We will be adding to Arbor an agreement that you support these policies.

Social media

Please can parents ensure that no child or the school is brought into disrepute on any social media site. We will always meet and address any concerns you have but social media is not the correct place for this. By naming, a child and the school they go to, children are put at risk. Please see separate letter sent from Chair of Governors.

World Book Day

We are looking forward to celebrating **World Book Day on Thursday 5 March**. Children are invited to come to school dressed as a book character (simple, homemade costumes are encouraged), and a book prize will be awarded to the best dressed child in each class. Throughout the week, children will also enjoy a range of reading activities, including library visits and a fun "Masked Reader" challenge. Families are warmly invited to join us for **Book and Biscuits from 2:30–3:15pm** on the day. Please sign in at the front entrance; siblings will be in the same classroom so parents and carers only need to visit one class. Thank you for your continued support with reading.

Sensory Needs

Following on from the last newsletter, please can the squishy sensory toys not come into school. The large amounts of oil they contain are damaging books and clothing.

No other toys are allowed in school.

Snack

Snack is available daily from our school catering team. This is brown toast. Healthy snacks, such as vegetables and fruit is always available for children aged 4 to 6 years. Should you want your child to have a snack from home at break time, please send in fruit or vegetables. Water is always available.

Dates

16th -20th February - Half Term Holidays

24th & 25th February – Parents Evening open for bookings on Arbor

2nd – 6th March – Library visits week

5th March - World Book Day

5th March – Book and Biscuits 2.30pm

26th March – PTA Easter Raffle assembly

27th March – BPBP Coffee morning 9am

27th March - Awards assembly

30th March – 10th April Easter Holidays

4th May – Bank Holiday

11th May – SATs week

Kindest Regards,

Jane Cappleman-Jackson

Head Teacher