



FOX WOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



April
2019

Important Dates

Thursday 4 April

School closes for pupils

Friday 5 April

Inset Day for Staff

Tuesday 23 April

School re-opens after Easter Holidays

Friday 24 May

Pupils finish for half term

Goodbye

We sadly say goodbye to Stephen from Class 9, he is moving out of area with his family so will be attending a new school. We wish him luck.

We say Goodbye and thank you to Susan Salinas who has been teaching in Class 6 and Scott March, TA in Class 9.

Good Luck to Leah, TA, who is going off on maternity leave, we will keep you posted on what she has.

We are very sorry to lose Rita McHugh, TA, she is leaving us to go to another School. We wish her all the very best.

Our Website address: www.foxwoodschool.org.uk

Message from Lucinda

We reach the end of another incredibly productive term, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our dedicated staff for their efforts every single day for our wonderfully unique children and community.

Every day we juggle many, many priorities but first and foremost is always our pupils. We have received a number of requests this term to celebrate special days related to specific diagnoses, and some quite hurtful criticism when we have been unable to facilitate every single request. I would ask all parents to be mindful of the fact that Fox Wood staff work exceptionally hard – in a job that we choose and love, and because of our dedication to 'our' children. We are not unsupportive of any cause or event, including those events such as World Book Day, however there are lots, and the reality is that we cannot celebrate every single one. However, as I hope you all know, we always strive to do better for you all.

For the next academic year, I am going to try and organise things differently to enable the school community to participate in more days, without this becoming too demanding on parents or staff (so all classes will have an awareness of each day without every pupil having to dress up for every single one, for example). If you have a cause/special day that you would like our school community to celebrate from September 2019 – July 2020 then please let me know (in writing addressed to me – a brief note or print out giving information about the day/cause is fine, it will just help me to collate all responses). Please send these to me by Friday 24th May and I will try my best to accommodate these requests.

Lucinda

Thank you

Big thank you to everyone who attended the Mother's Day Afternoon Tea on the 1st April.

It was very well attended and we have had lots of lovely feedback - many of you asking if we can hold something again next year!

If there is anymore feedback please send a message in the home-school diary which we can use in our LPPA evidence folder.

Well done to our raffle prize winner, I hope you enjoy your paper pack and chocolates.

Hope to see as many of you as possible at our next event. **Rachael Johnston, Pastoral Support Officer**

We all had a lovely morning on our **Easter Egg Hunt**, we even had a visit from Easter Bunny. We would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to Morrisons, Asda and Tesco for very kindly donating all the Easter Eggs.



FUNctional Fox Wood Blog!

We have now got a dedicated blog for all of the fantastic FUNctional learning that is taking place throughout the school. The blog will be updated each week with the latest activities and trips taking place that are helping our pupils to develop functional skills. You will be able to look through the pictures, videos and descriptions of what is going on and comment on each post. We would love for our families to engage with the blog and get involved. All you need to do is type the link below into your browser and then enjoy scrolling through the posts. We hope that you enjoy the blog and visit regularly to see, and comment on, the latest updates.

<http://functionalfoxwood.edublogs.org/>

FUNctional Fox Wood

Just another Edublogs site

Choices choices

March 13, 2019

Another few snaps from today's excursion to the shops.

Pupils practising an extremely important Functional skill – crossing the road. Lots of prepositional/directional language in use here as well as critical decision making.



In the shops, pupils continued to develop their FUNctional skills through communication. Looking for requested items & making choices are life skills that our pupils are working hard to develop. When given clear instructions, and time to think, our pupils confidence in making decisions and looking for items is growing.

Search ...

RECENT POSTS

Choices choices

Shapes, shapes and more shapes!

Welcome!

RECENT COMMENTS

CATEGORIES

Select Category

Website

You may have noticed that our school website has been 'under construction' recently. We have been working hard behind the scenes to redesign the website - it should be ready soon and we can't wait to show it to you!

The new website will include easy access to important documents such as holiday lists, Ofsted reports and school newsletters. It will also feature our social media feed and a calendar so that you can easily see what is going on each month!

If you have any suggestions for us please let us know but in the mean time here is a little sneak peak of some artwork drawn by our pupils that will feature on the website!



It's important to note that new challenges are arising on the internet all the time. We have created to this guide to raise awareness of the issue and offer advice on helping parents to talk to their children about making safer decisions online. See also our '7 conversation starters' guide for more tips on better communication with your child.

Momo is a sinister 'challenge' that has been around for some time. It has recently resurfaced and once again has come to the attention of schools and children across the country. Dubbed the 'suicide killer game', Momo has been heavily linked with apps such as Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube, and most recently (and most worryingly)... YouTube Kids. The scary doll-like figure reportedly sends graphic violent images, and asks users to partake in dangerous challenges like waking up at random hours and has even been associated with self-harm. It has been reported that the 'Momo' figure was originally created as a sculpture and featured in an art gallery in Tokyo and unrelated to the 'Momo' challenge we are hearing about in the media.

What parents need to know about MOMO

CHILDREN'S VIDEOS BEING 'HIJACKED'

There have been recent reports that some seemingly innocent videos on YouTube and YouTube Kids (such as 'surprise eggs', unboxing videos and Minecraft videos) have been edited by unknown sources to include violence provoking and/or other inappropriate content. Even though YouTube monitor and remove videos that include inappropriate content, clips can be uploaded and viewed thousands of times before they get reported and removed. As a parent, it's difficult to spot these videos as the harmful content doesn't appear until partway through the video.

DISTRESSING FOR CHILDREN

Popular YouTubers and other accounts have been uploading reaction videos, showing their experience of the MOMO challenge. Some of the videos include a disclosure message warning that the content may be "inappropriate or offensive to some audiences" and that "viewer discretion is advised" but these videos are still easily accessed by clicking 'I understand and wish to proceed'. The image of the 'Momo' character can be deeply distressing to children and young people and it's important to note that it may slip through parental settings and filters.

SUGGESTED VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE

Video apps such as YouTube include an 'up next' feature which automatically starts playing another video based on the video just watched. Due to YouTube's algorithm, users are shown 'suggested videos' that they may be interested in. The thumbnails used on suggested videos are purposefully created in a way to encourage viewers to click them. During our research, we found that when watching one Momo related video, we were shown countless other Momo themed videos and other scary content which would be age-inappropriate for children under 18.

Top Tips for Parents

TELL THEM IT'S NOT REAL

Just like any urban legend or horror story, the concept can be quite frightening and distressing for young people. Whilst this may seem obvious, it's important for you to reiterate to your child that Momo is not a real person and cannot directly harm them. Also, tell your child to not go openly searching for this content online as it may only cause more distress.

BE PRESENT

It's important for you, as a parent or carer, to be present while your children are online. This will give you a greater understanding of what they are doing on their devices, as well as providing you with the opportunity to discuss, support and stop certain activities that your child may be involved in. As the nature of such tasks become progressively worse it's also important to recognise any changes in your child's behaviour.

TALK REGULARLY WITH YOUR CHILD

As well as monitoring your child's activity, it's important for you discuss it with them too. Not only will this give you an understanding of their online actions, but those honest and frequent conversations will encourage your child to feel confident to discuss issues and concerns they may have related to the online world.

DEVICE SETTINGS & PARENTAL CONTROLS

Ensure that you set up parental controls for your devices at home. This will help to restrict the types of content that your child can view, as well as help you to monitor their activity. In addition to this, it's vital that you are aware of your device and account settings to ensure your child's utmost safety. For example, on YouTube you can turn off 'suggested auto play' on videos to stop your child from viewing content that they have not directly selected.

PEER PRESSURE

Trends and viral challenges can be tempting for children to take part in; no matter how dangerous or scary they seem. Make sure you talk to your child about how they shouldn't succumb to peer pressure and do anything they are not comfortable with, online or offline. If they are unsure, encourage them to talk to you or another trusted adult.

REAL OR HOAX?

As a parent it is natural to feel worried about certain things you see online that may be harmful to your child. However, not everything you see online is true. Check the validity of the source and be mindful of what you share as it may only cause more worry.

REPORT & BLOCK

You can't always rely on parental controls to block distressing or harmful material. People find ways around a platform's algorithm in order to share and promote this type of material. Due to this, we advise that you flag and report any material you deem to be inappropriate or harmful as soon as you come across it. You should also block the account/content to prevent your child from viewing it. Also encourage your child to record/screenshot any content they feel could be malicious to provide evidence in order to escalate the issue to the appropriate channels.

FURTHER SUPPORT

Speak to the safeguarding lead within your child's school should you have any concerns regarding your child's online activity or malicious content that could affect them.

If your child sees something distressing, it is important that they know where to go to seek help and who their trusted adults are. They could also contact Childline where a trained counsellor will listen to anything that's worrying them.

The Childline phone number is 0800 1111

SOURCES:
<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-50111111>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-50111111>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-50111111>

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @nationalonsafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety Phone - 0800 368 8061

Work Experience

Year 11 pupils have been completing external work experience, within the local community since September 2018, as part of their qualification in Employability. The pupils have learnt to develop new skills needed to become successful employees in the future.

Bruche Heath Launderette and Warrington Play and Sensory Centre Woolston, have been instrumental in helping our pupils develop employable skills by offering weekly placements and guidance.

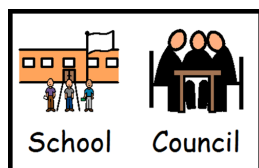
Safeguarding:

The NSPCC have produced some resources for children with SEN aged 11-25 including videos and activities to help them to learn about keeping safe. You can find them here: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/schools/love-life/>



Evidence for Learning

We hope that you are all now accessing your child's online work file through Evidence for Learning. If anyone needs any help with this or needs their password reset, please let the school office know and we can help.



School Council met this half term and discussed renaming the hydrotherapy pool and a name for forest schools. Both of these names have been voted on and will be announced in the next school council meeting. Upper school council have looked at the Pupil Friendly Safeguarding policy and made amendments and arranged a Mother's Day afternoon tea. We were delighted to welcome Ellie and Jordan from college who will now be our college links and pass ideas and decisions on to college.

School council discussed the Wellbeing award as the verification visit is in April. We had lots of interesting ideas and would be interested in hearing yours – please send ideas in to school marked for the attention of school council. For full minutes please refer to the website.

WORLD BOOK DAY

We all had a lovely time for World Book Day. Classes 1-7 came dressed in their pyjamas and had bed time stories and Classes 8-12 dressed as a book character and explored a story of the classes choosing. Thank you very much for all of your kind donations of books instead of a monetary donation – our library is now looking fully stocked.



PUPILS OF THE HALF TERM

Well done to our Rowing Team who took part in the Cheshire Indoor Rowing Competition.

They all did their very best—well done.



Staff Training

Team Teach, First Aid, COSHH, Legionella, Forest Schools, Neurodevelopmental Pathway Re-design, Safer Recruitment, Aquatic Therapy, SEND Conference, DSL Networking

'APPROACHES TO DEALING WITH CHALLENGING BEHAVIOUR'



Thursday 2nd May (9.30am – 11.30am OR 6.30pm – 8.30pm)
Woolston Community Primary School, Barnfield Road, WA1 4NW
www.woolstoncp.co.uk

**This course is for parents and carers who have children with Special
Educational Needs and/or a disability (SEND).**

The aim of the workshop is to have a better understanding of the term
challenging behaviour. To gain a greater understanding and an insight into the
potential reasons for these behaviours.

If you come away with one new idea that helps...then it's worth coming!

Course Leader: Craig Ashurst
Craig works for Warrington Local Authority as part of the Short Breaks service at Westland Drive. Craig has delivered several talks in the authority on 'Approaches to dealing with challenging behaviour' and is involved in training within both the areas of autism and behaviour within the Local Authority.

After the workshop Clare Pickering, who manages Short Breaks Services for Warrington Local Authority, will present the Short Breaks Statement and discuss services available and how access them, including criteria and eligibility.

**Please click on the link below (or type the link into your browser)
to book on the course.**

Maximum of 100 places per session. This course is being delivered free of charge by Woolston Community Primary School and Warrington Borough Council.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1a_l0O2xFirXicFcYWsMslmrbdap80nd5tunXhpV9vNU/edit?usp=sharing

Other Notices - Dinner Money—Just a reminder that Dinner Money has increased to £2.30 per day, (£11.50 per week) This is still payable on the Friday for the following week and must be paid on a weekly basis or termly in advance. Any monies sent into school must be in a sealed envelope with the pupil's name, the amount, and what the money is for, written clearly. School cannot take responsibility for any loose cash.