

Ofsted Good Provider

November 2024

Laira Green Primary School
Shaping hearts, minds and futures

BE KIND, *BE* DETERMINED, *BE* PROUD

Dear Parents/Carers,

November has been another wonderful month of learning in school, as well as lots of trips and visitors to provide extra opportunities and experiences for our children. I feel incredibly proud of our children when they return from a trip as without fail, we receive feedback from members of the public praising them for their manners and good behaviour. This month sees the countdown to Christmas- please check the 'dates for your diary' section of this newsletter as a reminder of the dates of our Christmas performances. This year, each Key Stage will perform their concert in our school hall (there may even be a festive treat for you). As the children are performing in their Key Stage (as opposed to the whole school), we will have room for other family members to attend so feel free to bring them along. We also have some fundraising events from our wonderful PTA (including our brilliant Christmas raffle, Christmas Stocking sale and Santa grotto). We will send out more details about each of the events happening over the month but if you have any questions, please feel free to ask at the school office.





Thank you to everybody who completed our parent/carer survey- we really value your comments and have already been able to act upon some of your responses.

The term ends on Friday 20th December- we have a full week of learning planned right up until the last day so please ensure that children attend school as normal. We return to school on Tuesday 7th January 2025. Have a wonderful Christmas holiday and thank you once again, for all of your continued support.





Best wishes

Mrs Claire Jones

Dates for your Diary

Monday 2nd December
Christmas Raffle Tickets go on Sale
Year 6 to take part in a Dartmoor Conservation poetry workshop
Tuesday 3rd December
Muslim Faith Speaker to visit 5AW
Wednesday 4th December
4JL to take part in a Babcock STEM Workshop
Muslim Faith Speaker to visit 5MT
Thursday 5th December
Inclusion Coffee Morning for parents - attendance
Friday 6th December
Children's Mufti Day to raise money for the Christmas Raffle
PTA Stocking Filler Sale
Performing Arts Club to perform at the Plymouth Christmas Market
Wednesday 11th December
4JL to take part in a Babcock STEM Workshop
Year 1 and 2 to take part in Charlie Cook's Favourite BookWorkshops (Little Angel Theatre Company)
Thursday 12th December
Whole School to watch Dick Whittington Pantomime (Outside the Box Productions)
Friday 13th December
Reception Nativity Play- 9:15-10:15am
Children visit Santa's Grotto
Monday 16th December
Reception Read With Us Session for family members
Librarian from Efford Library to read stories to Reception
Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2) Christmas Concert 2:15-3:15pm
Tuesday 17th December
Year 1 and Year 2 Read With Us Session for family members
Lower Key Stage 2 (Year 3 and 4) Christmas Concert 2:15-3:15pm
Wednesday 18th December
Year 3 and Year 4 Read With Us Session for family members
4JL to take part in a Babcock STEM Workshop
Upper Key Stage 2 (Year 5 and 6) Christmas Concert 2:15-3:15pm
Thursday 19th December
Year 5 Read With Us Session for family members
Christmas Lunch Day
Friday 20th December
Year 6 Read With Us Session for family members
Treat Friday
Last Day of Term 2
Tuesday 7th January
First Day of Term 3

Class Updates

Class RSC

The Reception children have demonstrated a fantastic attitude toward their learning this term. They have all fully engaged in the topic "Underwater Explorers!" and have discovered some incredible facts about sea creatures while thoughtfully considering the equipment divers use.

In Phonics, the children have shown great determination with both their reading and writing. We were extremely proud of their efforts when we hosted several visitors to showcase our incredible Phonics learning.

In Maths, the children have been exploring comparison, learning how to understand the value of different numbers. What amazing mathematicians they are! During PE, the children have been practising key skills such as jumping and changing direction. Please keep reading at home and recording this onto the Boom Reader App! Well done, Reception!











Class 1MM

What a busy and exciting month Year 1 have had! In Geography, our focus has been on Marvellous Mapping. We have practised using geographical vocabulary to describe our route to school, drawing simple maps that include symbols to show important places we may see on the way. We have had lots of fun in Music, using the percussion instruments to find the pulse. We have discussed our five senses and how these are important to musicians. In Science, we have been learning about the different materials all around us. They have enjoyed exploring the learning environment, hunting for these materials. In DT, we sampled different dips from around the world and evaluated these showing whether we liked them or not, what they looked and tasted like. In English, the children had lots of fun and giggles, writing silly rhyming sentences. They wrote these independently, remembering all of the things needed to write in perfect sentences. In Maths, we've focused on securing our understanding of addition and subtraction within ten, using part-part whole models to write fact families. Marvellous Mathematics Year 1! Year 1 have been extremely busy learning Christmas carols for our Christmas performance, we can't wait for you all to see it!

Class Updates

Class 2RB

We have enjoyed another fantastic month of learning. In our English lessons, we had great fun creating a story about an object getting stuck. The children loved using adverbs to make their story sound more and more ridiculous! In our Science lessons, we have been learning about different materials and their uses. 2RB have also enjoyed talking about respect as part of celebrating anti-bullying week. In our Music lessons, we have been learning some different traditional British folk songs and the children have learnt to add texture using a drone. Another highlight for everyone was our fantastic visit to Efford Library. We are looking forward to reading all of the lovely books we have borrowed!











Class 3CL

We are so proud of Year 3 for the last month of learning. 3CL seem to be really settled in their class and year group and are producing some excellent work! In particular, we have enjoyed reading a few different stories from the Grimms' Fairy Tales and using these to write our own alternative ending of Tom Thumb. We have made lots of progress with using a range of verbs, adverbs and punctuation for speech. In Maths, we have started our Multiplication and Division unit and have recently started to learn the 3 and 4 times table. Next week, we will be learning the 8 times table so please get ready to test us all at home! Miss Lindup has been blown away by 3CL's excellent scientific knowledge in our Science lessons this month. We have been learning about balanced diets and also, different dietary choices. We have created meal plans to help us to understand what people can and can't eat with different dietary needs. Year 3 have thoroughly enjoyed DT this term, especially when they were able to taste different Warburtons' loaves and when they practised different rolling techniques using salt dough. Wish us luck for our bread baking in the next few weeks! In Music this term, we have been learning to sing and use body percussion to help us to keep in time with the pulse. Next, we will learn how to write some of our own music! Last but not least, we have had two successful trips this half term, visiting the local library (don't forget you can sign up for free) and Tavistock and Horrabridge for our Geography lesson. Year 3 represented our school amazingly on both trips and we couldn't be more proud! Well done Year 3!

Class Updates

Class 5AW

In 5AW we have been really enjoying our English writing unit based around the novel 'Kensuke's Kingdom', and have been amazed by the adventures that happened to Michael when he was only 11 years old! We have been describing our own fictional adventures as we practise and improve our writing! We have worked hard in PE to improve our fitness, focusing on areas such as strength, agility, coordination and stamina. We have been loving our class reader book 'Children of the Benin Kingdom', exploring different and exciting vocabulary. In music, we have used glockenspiels, percussion and our voices to explore and perform African music, as well as practising hard for our Christmas Concert, which we can't wait to share with you all!

Class 5MT

In 5MT, Mr Roe has been really impressed with our resilience in our Maths lessons over the past few weeks. We have been working on adding, subtracting and converting fractions by changing their dominator. Meanwhile, in English we are about to create a first person description based around a book called 'Kensuke Kingdom'. In Geography, 5MT has been learning about informal settlements around the world and what draws millions of people from the countryside to an urban setting. Our DT lessons have created a spin as we design and manufactured marble runs using saws and other tools to accurately measure and cut. We have learnt to make bridges and turns for the marbles to cross out of card and cardboard. In music we have studied traditional African music techniques as well as learning to sing and play 'Shosholoza' the unofficial second anthem of South Africa. It was incredibly catchy and fun to be a part of the group when singing it.

Class 4JL

We have been enjoying lots of variety in our curriculum so far this term, with our Babcock STEM sessions on Wednesday mornings. The children have been learning how Science can play a very important part in sports. We have also taken this further in our own PE sessions, in football this term. The children have loved learning how to pass, dribble and shoot. We are excited to take these skills into some matches very soon. Our Geography topic of Human Migration has raised some interesting questions- our trip provided us with excellent opportunities to speak to the public about their reasons for migrating to Plymouth. With the build up to Christmas in full swing, we are busy learning our songs for the concert and we are excited to show you all! Keep working hard 4JL.







CLASS UPDATES

Class 6LS

We have had a super month in Class 6LS. Our weekly favourite has by far been our weekly visits from Cathy and Shannon who are Youth Workers. We have been learning about many things that impact us as we grow older including peer pressure and how to deal with it, our emotions and how to keep ourselves safe when we are out with friends. If you haven't already taken a look at Facebook, it's worth searching the school page for '6LS' to see some more details about what we have learnt. Our Design Technology lessons are focussing on sewing and creating a case for a mobile phone - again we have found the children to be highly motivated and they are exploring some creative designs! Next comes the actual sewing! Another favourite this month is our English writing - creating a scary and unsettling story. Rather unsurprisingly, the children have excelled with their ideas and enthusiasm! We can't wait to see the final product.









Class 6LG:

6LG have had a super month of learning! During whole class reading, we were so excited to finish our first book, 'The Wolf Wilder', and are now getting our teeth into a brand new book called 'Street Child', set in the heart of London during the Industrial Revolution. We really enjoyed our visit to the Brunel Bridge, where we were excellent ambassadors for the school, asking lots of questions and getting 'hands on' with engineering! In maths, we have been working hard to calculate with fractions, including multiplying and dividing fractions by integers, and finding fractions of amounts. Our Science lessons have helped us to learn more about series circuits, and how variation within the components can affect the brightness of bulbs - so you can ask us for help with the Christmas lights this year!

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Books to help children to branch out...









Plymouth Science

Christmas Camp

Scan here to book your place

FREE for children who are eligible for Free School Meals*

or

£23 per day
(bring your own lunch)

£26 per day
(with lunch)

Venue: St Budeaux CE Primary Academy, Priestley Avenue, PL5 2DW

Days: Mon 23rd Dec, Thurs 2nd Jan, Fri 3rd Jan

Timings: 9am-3pm

Age: 6-11 years

Activities Include:



Fake Snow



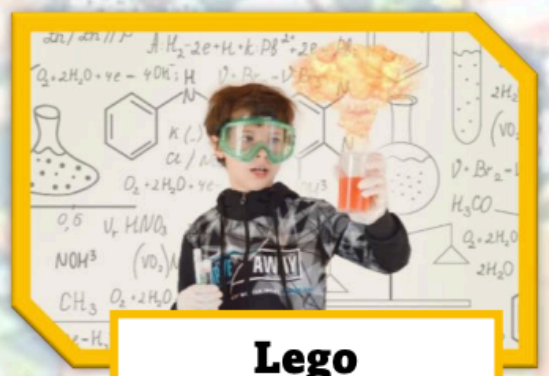
Virtual Reality



Christmas Cooking



Engineering



Lego

To book your place visit our website. For any questions, please email us.

Web: www.plymouthsciencecic.co.uk **Email – plymouthscienceteam@gmail.com**

Tel: 07933 055 506 (only during camp dates)

*** Eligibility for free places is for children who receive Free School Meals. This DOES NOT include children in Foundation/Key Stage 1 who receive Universal Free School Meals. If you are unsure of your status, enquire with your school office. Eligibility will be checked by Plymouth City Council, and full payment will need to be made for sessions if your child is ineligible for Free School Meals.**

PARENT AND CARERS

Coffee and Chat

DISCUSS ALL THINGS ATTENDANCE!

Thursday 5th December
9am-10am
The Dell Centre

Mrs Trembath, our Inclusion Leader, and Mrs Jen McInerney, our Attendance Engagement Officer will be hosting a session to talk about supporting children and families with attendance. We will also answer any questions you may have.





LAIRA GREEN PRIMARY WRAPAROUND CARE



- **Breakfast Club 7:30 -8:30am:£3**
- **Afterschool Club 3:20 -4:30pm:£5**
- **Afterschool Club 4:15 -6:00pm: £6**
- **Afterschool Club 3:20 -6:00pm:£10**



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SNAPCHAT

SNAP STREAK 97 DAYS

AGE RESTRICTION 13+

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account – their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger *does* connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat-2021

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 27.11.2024

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one topic of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.



It can be challenging for parents and carers to know whether children are spending too much time on their devices. Furthermore, it's even more of a challenge to know whether a child is addicted to the internet and social media. As technology is becoming more pervasive, children and young people are experiencing tech - related dependencies. Do we as parents and carers have the knowledge to identify and support children and young people who may be developing an addiction to their devices?

47% of parents said they thought their children spent too much time in front of screens

What parents need to know about SCREEN ADDICTION



HEALTH & WELLBEING

Children as young as 13 are attending 'smartphone rehab' following growing concerns over screen time. There are now help centers in the UK which deal with screen addiction for children and adults showing the seriousness of device addiction. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has officially recognised gaming addiction as a modern disease. The condition was confirmed as part of their International Classification of Diseases (ICD) which serves as an international standard for diagnosing and treating health conditions.

LACK OF SLEEP

7 out of 10 children said they had missed out on sleep because of their online habits and 60% said they had neglected school work as a result. It is important that children get the sleep they need in order to focus the next day.

LOSS OF INTEREST IN OTHER THINGS

Your child may become less interested in anything that does not include their device. You may notice that your child is missing school time and generally being less engaged with other activities in the home. It is important to discuss this with your child as soon as you notice a behaviour change.



CONFIDENCE, SUPPORT & ADVICE

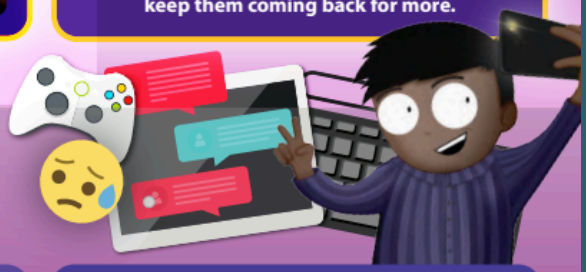
The Children's Commissioner report 'Life in Likes', explored how children aged 8-11 are using social media today. It showed that children are using their devices to speak to their online friends about their problems and seek acceptance and support, removing face to face interactions.

APPS CAN BE ADDICTIVE

Apps have been designed with 'psychological tricks' to constantly keep grabbing your attention. One example of this is on the app Snapchat, where you can gain 'streaks' when interacting with your friends. If you don't respond, you lose the streak. This addictive nature of apps aims to engage children and keep them coming back for more.

National Online Safety®

Top Tips for Parents



LIMIT SCREEN TIME

In today's digital age, technology is an important part of a child's development so completely banning them from their device will mean they are missing out on a lot, including conversations and communication with their friends. Rather than banning them from using their devices, we suggest setting a screen time limit. Work out what you think is a suitable and healthy amount of time for your child to be on their device per week. Remember that your child may need to use devices for their school homework so only set screen limits on recreational time on their device. Once you have established this, have the conversation with them to discuss why you are implementing a screen limit. There will be others in your child's friendship group who will not have screen limits set and will be sending messages when they do not have access to their phones.

ENCOURAGE ALTERNATE ACTIVITIES

It may seem like an obvious solution, but encouraging children to play with their friends, read a book, or playing outdoors will help them realise they can have fun without their device. Playing football, trampolining, camping, going for a walk or swimming are all healthy replacements for screen time. Try to join them in their Outdoor activities to show your support.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children model their behavior on their peers, so if their parents are constantly on their device, they will see this as acceptable. Try limiting your own screen time and follow the same rules you have set for them. If you have asked your child to not use their device at the table, make sure you don't. Try setting house rules that the whole family abide by.

LESS TIME MEANS LESS EXPOSURE

There are many risks associated with devices, such as cyberbullying, grooming, sexting, viewing inappropriate content etc. Less time spent on a screen means that a child will be less exposed to these risks.

MOBILE-FREE MEAL TIMES

Have you tried to settle your child by giving them a tablet at the dinner table or restaurant? This may seem like a quick fix to calm them down but in reality, it is encouraging them to use their device as a distraction from conversation and dealing with their emotions. We suggest removing all technology from the dinner table and having conversations with your family about how their day has been.

REMOVE DEVICES FROM THEIR BEDROOM

Setting a rule about removing devices from bedrooms will help your child to get the sleep they need and be more focussed the next day at school. 20% of teenagers said that they wake up to check their social network accounts on their devices. Even by having a device switched off in their bedroom, they may be tempted to check for notifications.

STATISTICS

52% of children aged **3-4** go online for nearly **9hrs** a week

82% of children aged **5-7** go online for nearly **9.5hrs** a week

93% of children aged **8-11** go online for nearly **13.5hrs** a week

99% of children aged **12-15** go online for nearly **20.5hrs** a week

Children and Parents: Media Use and Attitudes Report 2018

SOURCES:
https://www.independent.co.uk, Children and Parents: Media Use and Attitudes Report 2018: https://www.ofcom.org.uk, http://uk.businessinsider.com/how-app-developers-keep-us-addicted-to-our-smartphones, Journal of Youth Studies: https://www.mirror.co.uk/tech/one-five-kids-losing-sleep-9653986, University of Leeds: https://medhealth.leeds.ac.uk/news/article/1296/lack_of_sleep_damaging_for_children

School Council Update

Our school councillors have had such a busy month and have been amazing ambassadors for Laira Green Primary School. The children were proud to support the Royal British Legion by selling merchandise and ensured the whole school were part of the Poppy Project set up by Councillor Pauline Murphy. Felt poppies from every child in the school were displayed at Plymouth Council House for Remembrance Sunday. Our school councillors also represented Laira Green at the Efford Service of Remembrance. During the service, the children were proud to lay their poppy wreath and read their poem entitled 'A wish for peace'. They were amazed to learn about the Plymouth Blitz war memorial and were given the opportunity to lay crosses to remember all the civilians of Plymouth who died.



"It was good to learn about Plymouth's history." Taman
"I liked having time to remember." Zuzia
"Our poppy wreath was beautiful." Bethany

BBC Children in Need



Our School Council thought of some amazing fundraising ideas to support Children in Need. The Pudsey colouring competition was very popular and our school councillors had the task of voting for the winners! During our BBC Children in Need assembly, we had a very special visitor. Pudsey Bear arrived to help Mr Lethbridge get ready for our sponsored boot camp and he then spent the rest of the day taking part in story sessions with each class. We are very proud to announce that our community raised a fantastic £1504 for BBC Children in Need! Thank you so much to everyone for such fabulous support.



As part of UK Parliament Week, the children in Key Stage 2 were lucky enough to welcome Tom from the UK Parliament outreach team. Tom explained how the Houses of Parliament work and about the roles and responsibilities of MPs and members of the House of Lords. The children found out about how their voice can be heard and asked Tom some fantastic questions about Parliament. What a great way to discuss democracy!

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A Month in Pictures



















A Month in Pictures













