A word from Mrs Milner

Friday 24th June 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

First of all, many thanks to all of you who attended our Summer Fair. I hope that you agree that it was an enjoyable day. I am particularly pleased that the weather held up for us and we did not have to retract into the school building! I will let you know in due course how much money we raised, but I really need to emphasise that without your support this fund raising and community event would have not been possible. It goes without saying that I would like to extend our thanks to our PTA for organising and giving up their weekend and family time. Thank you to all the staff, who support-ed the fair –one way or another. I promised myself that next year, I will stay away from the bottle tombola. ☺

As we are heading towards the end of the school year, each day feels incredibly busy. The children are engaged in learning, which is obviously lovely to see but are also thinking about the Woodside's Got Talent competition. I am so looking forward to watching the children perform and will let you read in due course a full commentary of the event. Year 6 pupils are busy practising for their end of year performance and all credit to the children for persevering in this hot weather.

The staff are busy finalising school reports, which you will receive on Friday 15th July. As with every year, if you need to discuss any aspect of the report, our staff will be available on Monday 18th of July after school.

A word from Mrs Tandara – our PE Lead

On Wednesday, at Dr Challoner's High School, 8 boys and 8 girls from years 5 and 6 represented Woodside in a School Games event called Quad Kids. Each competitor took part in a 75m sprint, a 600m run, a vortex howler throw and a standing long jump. Despite the heat, all the children tried their best and cheered everyone on. Three local schools have taken part in the Quad Kids event, at different times, and the full results will be given next week.

I hope that you all have a lovely weekend.

With warmest wishes,

Dorota Milner

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
Mon 27th June	Foodbank Collection
Tues 28th June	Year 6 Games Dr Challoner's High
Wed 29th June	Year 4 to St Albans Verulamium Museum
Wed 29th June	Year 5 Residential Talk 3.30pm
w/c 4th July	Last week of after school clubs
Tues 5th July	Transition Day
Thurs 7th July am	Sports Day - am Parents welcome
Mon 11th July	PTA 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' whole school
Mon 11th July	BMT Music Concert 3.30-5pm
Wed 13th July	Yr6 Production Matinee 1.30 - 3 pm Evening 6 —7.30pm
Fri 15th July	PTA Raffle drawn (tickets on sale after school fair)
Mon 18th July	Yr6 Leavers Assembly Starts 1.45pm All parents welcome
Tues 19th July	Rocksteady Summer Concert 11am-12pm

Upcoming term dates for your diary

Close Wed 20th July	1.30pm
Term starts Tues 6th September 2022	Gates open: 8.35am

House Points: Weekly Totals

146 Cedar 264 Elm 153 Maple 206 Willow

Notices

*Please ensure that your child has their **water bottle and a sun hat** in school. As the weather continues to be warm and sunny, please put sun cream on your child's face, arms and legs in the morning.*

Food Bank Collection is on Monday 27th June 8.30am—3.25pm. Please click here for flier.

Cross Country Dates for your Diary for the Autumn Term

⇒ *Saturday 24th September- Cross Country at Gayhurst School.*

⇒ *Saturday 19th November- Cross Country at Hervines Park.*

More Woodside News

Safeguarding

I do not know how many of you watched the Panorama programme on Monday, but the topic revolved around social media and children. Without going into explicit details, it was a hard-hitting documentary that followed one parents' experience and their subsequent quest for tighter regulations on harmful content. Research shows that a large proportion of primary school pupils have their own social media profile. Children and teenagers use social media to have fun, make and maintain friendships, share interests, explore identities and develop relationships with family. It's an extension of their offline and face-to-face interactions. For older teenagers especially, it's often a key part of how they connect with friends. Using social media means uploading and sharing content. This includes:

⇒ *creating online profiles.*

⇒ *posting comments or chatting.*

⇒ *uploading photos and videos.*

⇒ *reacting to or 'liking' other people's posts.*

⇒ *sharing links.*

⇒ *tagging photos and content.*

⇒ *creating and sharing game modifications.*

⇒ *remixing or changing existing content and sharing it.*

However, using social media presents many risks to our children and I feel quite strongly that we, adults, need to be fully aware of risks involved so we can protect children and young people from the potential harmful effects. I am sure that you are fully aware of risks but I thought that a quick reminder will be useful:

Online risks as per NSPCC website

Children may be exposed to upsetting or inappropriate content online, particularly if the platform they are using does not have robust privacy and security settings or if parents are not checking posts. This content might be sexually explicit or it might be harmful in other ways, such as radicalisation, bullying, or content that's upsetting.

Children may be at risk of being groomed if they have an online profile that means they can be contacted privately.

Children's posts or profile information may expose personal information and put them at risk. For example, they may talk about their home life, feelings, or thoughts they've been having. There may be information that makes them identifiable such as locations of events they are taking part in or visual clues in photographs. Perpetrators may use this information to groom, abuse or exploit children. Perpetrators of abuse may create fake profiles to try to contact children and young people through the platform you're using, for example an adult posing as a child. They may also create anonymous accounts and engage in cyber bullying or trolling. People known to a child can also perpetrate abuse. On many platforms, children can be contacted anywhere and at any time through private messaging or notification alerts. This means it's harder for them to escape from abusive messages or upsetting content that they are tagged in.

Managing social media risks for children and teenagers

Talking about social media use
Talking is the best way to protect your child from social media risks and ensure their internet safety. Talking gives you the opportunity to help your child:

⇒ *work out how they want to treat other people and be treated online – for example, you can encourage your child to make only positive comments.*

⇒ *understand the risks involved in using social media – for example, your child might be tagged in an embarrassing photo taken at a party.*

⇒ *learn how to navigate the risks – for example, if your child posts an identifiable selfie, they can reduce risk by not including any other personal information.*

⇒ *learn what to do if people ask for personal details, are mean or abusive online, post embarrassing photos of your child, or share information that links back to them.*

What about banning social media?
Social media is becoming increasingly embedded in apps, games, websites and even learning environments, so it's hard to ban, even for younger children. Furthermore if you ban social media, your child might be more tempted to check it out when they're away from home. This means you miss the opportunity to teach your child how to navigate social media risks and behave respectfully on social media.