

# Thameside Primary Newsletter Issue 16 June 2019



**SELF-HELP \* SELF-RESPONSIBILITY \* DEMOCRACY \* EQUALITY \* EQUITY \* SOLIDARITY**

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **The Book Bus is coming soon!**



On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June the Book Bus will be at our school all day, for children to explore a great range of reading material as well as earning FREE BOOKS for our school. Children will have an opportunity during the school day to visit the bus but it will be on site until 4pm for you to visit with your child, if you would rather choose a book with them. Further details will follow in a separate letter next week.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs L Billingham

## **Summer Fayre**

A reminder that we are asking for donations for the Summer Fayre, which is taking place on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July straight after school. We are grateful to receive soft toys and teddies (in good condition), for the soft toy tombola stall, tins and packets of non-perishables, unwanted toiletries and gift sets. Donations of bottles, which can range from soft drinks, water and also alcohol, for our very popular "lucky bottle" stall, are also requested. All donations can be left at the school office.

If you are interested in running a stall please speak to a member of the office staff. We would also like to hear from any parents or carers that can come along and assist with the preparations in setting up, please.

## **Stubbers Residential Trip**

The staff who accompanied the Year 6 pupils on the Stubbers Residential visit in the week before the half term break were really impressed by the good conduct shown by our children. Here is a glimpse of the group during their stay.



A big thank you to the members of staff who went on the trip, ensuring a safe, enjoyable experience was had by all the pupils.



## Celebration Assemblies

Our Reception children will have their very first class assembly in this final half term. Assemblies will take place as follows:

Thursday 13th June

- RT in OAK & RMc in ELM

Thursday 20th June

- RM in OAK & RJ in ELM

Thursday 27th June

- 4A in ELM & 6F in OAK

Thursday 4th July

- 1W in OAK & 3BH in ELM

Thursday 11th July

- 2D in OAK & 3VR in ELM

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July

- 1DH in OAK

## Journey to and from school

Could we ask that parents show consideration for local residents when driving to and from school when dropping their children off. We have had a couple of complaints this week about cars stopping in the middle of the road to let children out, having little regard for other drivers (usually local residents driving to work), immediately behind them. This also presents as a road safety risk as other drivers are not always able to see these pupils as they are often 'hidden' by the vehicles parked alongside the kerbs. We have also had reports of a near-miss in the Elm Road car park between a child and a car being reversed by a parent.

Unfortunately the land where the car park is situated on is owned by the Local Authority and therefore the school has no control over matters linked to this car park. If you have any queries, please contact the LA to voice your concerns.

## Next Coffee Morning

A reminder that the focus of the next coffee meeting on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June will be PE. The meeting starts at 9.00am and all parents and carers are welcome to attend.

## E-Safety tip of the week



Please take time to read through the flier below which outlines an important message about Tiktok and related Apps.

**What parents need to know about TIKTOK**

**ONLINE PREDATORS**  
By default, users' accounts are automatically set to public when they create an account. Online predators use this to share creative expression through their videos, but if your child's content in the world can see your child's real-world contact. There have been reports concerning the fact that government could access data of new private accounts through the app. If your child's profile is open, strangers can use the app to contact or track your child's videos. While this is not a new feature, it gives predators the ability to contact your child through the platform.

**IN-APP PURCHASES**  
As with most apps, there's a pay element to TikTok. Users can buy virtual coins to be used for virtual gifts. In addition, if your child is in the app, they can use coins to purchase specific in-app purchases. There is also the option to buy 10,000 coins for £99.99 with a one-click buy option.

**INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**  
TikTok lets users lip-synce to their favourite songs and produce their own videos. However, some of the music choices contain sexual lyrics or sexual content. In real life, you can identify and report potentially inappropriate content but they can't identify and report content that is sexually explicit or inappropriate. There have also been reports of users seeing child sexual abuse content, such as videos that promote anorexia, porn, self-harm and suicide.

**BEING INFLUENCED**  
More than one third of children aged 8-17 consider social media sites to be an essential part of their lives. There are millions of creators on TikTok, sharing their own videos. Some of these creators have started to dole out tips and commentary on how to gain followers. There is the danger that children may develop unrealistic expectations of how many social likes and followers, as they try to become the next 'star'. They may also be influenced by harmful and self-harm content, or there are the risk of cyberbullying. The app is designed for users aged 13+ and older, so consider a three challenge or an app that is more suitable for young people.

**Top Tips for Parents**

**DISCUSS THE PITFALLS OF OVERSHARING**  
Encourage your child to share their videos before they do so. Ask them to think about what they are sharing and how they might be perceived. Encourage them to think about what they are sharing and how they might be perceived. Encourage them to think about what they are sharing and how they might be perceived.

**REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**  
If your or your child sees something inappropriate on TikTok, you can report it. This will help TikTok to remove the content and prevent it from being seen by other users. You can also report the user who posted the content, which will help TikTok to take action against them.

**USE A PRIVATE ACCOUNT**  
If you or your child has a private account, only people you approve can see your videos. This is a good way to keep your child's content private and safe from predators.

**SIGNING UP WITH THE CORRECT AGE**  
TikTok is designed for users aged 13 and over. If your child is under 13, they should not use the app. If you are unsure of your child's age, you can check their date of birth on their account settings.

**HANDLING CRITICISM**  
It's normal for your child to receive criticism and comments on their videos. Encourage them to ignore negative comments and focus on the positive feedback they receive. If they are being bullied or harassed, they should tell you and you should report the user to TikTok.

**USE THE DIGITAL WELLBEING SETTING**  
TikTok has a digital wellbeing feature that allows users to set limits on their screen time. This can help to reduce the amount of time your child spends on the app and encourage them to spend more time with their family and friends.

**DISCUSS IN-APP PURCHASES**  
Encourage your child to think about the cost of in-app purchases. They should only buy virtual gifts if they have the money and are happy to spend it. You should also discuss the risks of buying virtual gifts from strangers.

**National Online Safety**  
www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter: @natonlinesafety Facebook: /NationalOnlineSafety

## School Clubs

Our after school clubs continue as from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June until Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July. Please be prompt in meeting your child at 4.15pm when the club finishes.

**And finally.....** We wish Mr Davies all the very best as he takes up an Interim Headship post at Doddinghurst Junior School with immediate effect and thank him for all his hard work and efforts during his six years at Thameside Primary School.

