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Dear Parents / Carers,

This week our school community enjoyed a focus on poetry, launching with our fabulous family learning session where we 'Brought Books to Life'. It was a wonderful buzz of excitement in our school hall as children and their grown-ups created story sacks to enhance their newly gifted 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' book by Michael Rosen. These workshops are designed to provide an environment where quality 1:1 time can be enjoyed between a child and their grown-up, during a shared memorable learning experience. We extend our thanks to Trish, Gemma and the team for supporting our school community and enhancing our curriculum. The places are limited on these events but we are lucky enough to be hosting several across the school year. We have two events coming up in November 'Dangerous Dinosaurs' and 'Watts up!' so when you see the communication on Dojo and Arbor, follow the link to sign up. The first 15 children will be allocated a place along with their adult.

We also celebrated National Poetry Day this week which saw children listening to, reading, writing, reciting and performing a range of poetry which was then celebrated both in class and in assembly. You may have enjoyed some of our video recordings posted on Dojo!

Thank you so much to the 'Mystery Readers' that have joined us in classes across school this week. There is never a more magical moment than when a child sees their grown up read to their whole class. I cannot express enough the positive impact this has on our children. I thank you for your time and kindness.

Next week Class 7 and Class 8 become historians as they explore Skipton Castle! I can't wait to hear all about their adventures, Class 5 visit Wickersley Library and we all wear yellow on Thursday 10th to acknowledge and raise the profile of mental health and well-being.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warmest wishes,

Mrs S Searson
Head Teacher

Attendance

A reminder of The Department for Education's new updates to attendance.

<https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/education-2/school-attendance>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance>



Please also be reminded that any late arrival (after registers have closed) is now recorded and classed as an 'Unauthorised Absence'

so please make every effort to arrive at school before the registers are closed at 8:45am.

Attendance this week (whole school) is: 95.34 ↓

Year group winner this week is: Foundation Stage 2 with 96.94% **WELL DONE!**

We respectfully encourage all families to take all holidays out of term time.



PENALTY NOTICE FINES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS CHANGING

1 FIRST OFFENCE
The first time a penalty notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:
£100 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days
Reduced to £50 per parent, per child if paid within 31 days.

2 SECOND OFFENCE (WITHIN 3 YEARS)
The second time a penalty notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:
£100 per parent, per child to be paid within 28 days. No reduced rate will be offered.

3 THIRD OFFENCE AND ANY FURTHER OFFENCES (WITHIN 3 YEARS)
The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child. Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on a student's future job certificates, due to failure to undertake a child's education.

10 SESSIONS (5 DAYS) OF UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE IN A 10-WEEK PERIOD
Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period.

Please follow the link for the Publication that will start from 19th August 2024.
www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance

Reporting Illnesses

When deciding if your child is well enough for school, please consult the NHS link below:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Thank you for communicating any absence, appointments and late arrivals via the school office. This is much appreciated. Please be reminded that we need a reason for any absence for our records.

Communication

We are working with Arbor to resolve issues regarding booking and making payments for breakfast and after school clubs. If you are having difficulty, please send us a screen shot so that we can send this to the Arbor team. We will allow cash payments for clubs until this is resolved. Our website is under development. In the meantime, we will be providing more whole school communication via Dojo School Story.

Breakfast Club £4

07:45-08:30am

Breakfast club is available every day to all children. During this session children can enjoy a varied choice of breakfast food and drink as well as access a gymnastics session on a Friday morning. Breakfast club starts at 07.45am. Places are available to block book for the whole year. The daily cost includes a choice of food and drinks. During this special time before school children enjoy games, crafts and sports with their friends and are well supported by our happy, caring adults. Please book your child's place and make payment using Arbor.

After School Clubs £3

15:00-16:10pm

Monday – **World Cup Football Skills and Matches**

Wednesday – **Hot Shots Basketball Skills and Games**

07:45am – 8:30am

Friday – **Gymnastics**

Places are available to book as a half term block using Arbor.

These clubs are delivered by sports professionals 'Live & Learn'.

Early Years Foundation Stage

Please be informed that we have our last places available in our FS1/Nursery PM and FS2/Reception classes for this school year. For further details please call the school office or Admissions on 01709 823777.



SEND and Inclusion

<https://www.rotherhamsendlocaloffer.org.uk/>

Parenting programmes

Rotherham Borough Council have an Evidence-Based Hub which offer parenting programmes across the borough, including

- Triple P 0-12 – a positive parenting programme for children aged 0 to 12 years
- Teen Triple P – a positive parenting programme for teenagers
- Fearless – supporting parents to manage their child's anxiety
- Timid to Tiger – for anxiety in children aged 9 years or younger
- Stepping Stones – a positive parenting programme for children with additional needs

Experienced trainers deliver the effective programmes which focus on family life skills, including

- Healthy communication
- Discipline
- How to have family meetings
- Developing empathy
- Dealing with aggressive or inappropriate behaviour

Contact details

Contact the Evidenced Based Hub for further Information on: parenting@rotherham.gov.uk

Evidenced Based Hub Co-Ordinator: jayne.aldridge@rotherham.gov.uk

Safeguarding

Please find attached some ESafety information.

Diary Dates Term 1 2024

Tuesday 8 th October	Skipton Castle visit for Class 7 & Class 8
Tuesday 8 th October	Wickersley Library visit for Class 5
Thursday 10 th October	World Mental Health Day – ‘Wear Yellow’ – See letter attached.
Tuesday 15 th October	Wickersley Library Visit – Class 6 & Class 10
Thursday 17 th October	Hedgehog visit to FS2/Reception classes
Monday 21 st October	EYFS Open Event (for prospective parents/families) 15:30-16:30pm
Tuesday 22 nd October	Superhero Curriculum Celebration for parents of children in Class 5, 6 and 10
Wednesday 23 rd October	Geography Field Trip in the local community for Class 6, 7 and 8
Wednesday 23 rd October	End of Half Term Disco – information to follow
Friday 25 th October	Flu Vaccinations
Friday 25 th October	Last day of autumn 1 half term
Monday 4 th November	Inset Day (Children not in school)
Tuesday 5 th November	Children back to school for autumn 2 half term
Friday 8 th November	School Photographs – Individual
Monday 11 th – Friday 15 th November	Anti-Bullying Week – information to follow
Monday 11 th – Friday 15 th November	World Nursery Rhyme Week – information to follow
Monday 11 th November	Remembrance Day
Tuesday 12 th November	Wickersley Library visit school – EYFS all
Wednesday 13 th November	Family Learning session – information to follow
Friday 15 th November	Children in Need – information to follow
Monday 25 th November	EYFS Open Event (for prospective parents/families) 15:30-16:30pm
Wednesday 20 th – 25 th November	Scholastic Book Fair
Thursday 21 st November	Parent Consultations – information to follow
Friday 22 nd November	Family Learning session – information to follow
Wednesday 4 th December	FS1/Nursery Christmas Performance
Thursday 5 th December	FS2/Reception Christmas Performance – PM
Friday 6 th December	FS2/Reception Christmas Performance – AM
Tuesday 10 th December	KS1 Christmas Performance AM & PM
Wednesday 11 th December	KS1 Christmas Performance AM & PM
Thursday 12 th December	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 11 th December	EYFS Open Event (for prospective parents/families) 15:30-16:30pm
Monday 16 th December	Christmas Celebrations at St. Francis Church – information to follow
Friday 20 th December	Last day of school
Monday 6 th January	Return to school
Friday 10 th January	EYFS Open Event (for prospective parents/families) 15:30-16:30pm

**Subject to change. **More dates will be added in due course to enhance our curriculum and keep you well informed.*

Term Dates for 2024

2nd September – 25th October 2024

5th November – 20th December 2024

6th January – 14th February 2025

25th February – 28th March 2025

14th April – 17th April 2025 (Easter weekend 18th-21st)

22nd April – 1st May 2025 (5th May, May day)

6th May – 23rd May 2025

2nd June – 23rd July 2025

Inset Days 2024/2025

Monday 2nd September 2024

Monday 4th November 2024

Monday 24th February 2025

Friday 2nd May 2025

Friday 27th June 2025

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about TODDLERS & SCREEN TIME

The toddler years are full of excitement, exploration and energy. It's a critical time in children's development, when brain connections are rapidly forming. Youngsters often begin to discover devices around this age, as they learn to communicate with friends, play games and watch videos (Ofcom recently found, for example, that one in five 3-4-year-olds in the UK uses social media). These activities can make a child happy and relaxed but have a damaging impact if overused. Setting screen time limits for toddlers can be a challenge, so we've pulled together some suggestions for making sure your little one is interacting with the online world in a safe, healthy way.

ONLINE SAFETY CHECKLIST

✓ PARENTAL CONTROLS

Children need to be shielded from content that's not age appropriate. You can do this by adjusting parental controls and safe search settings on the devices, apps and games they use.

✓ ONGOING SUPERVISION

Try to stay engaged and present in what your child is doing digitally. Make time to talk about what they enjoy and how they can stay safe online.

✓ OFFERING HELP

Teach your toddler to ask for help – and that they should always tell a trusted adult if they're unsure about anything to do with a device, or they see or hear something that makes them scared or upset.

✓ COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Emphasise that your child should check with you before they do anything online for the first time – such as watching a new show, playing a new game or exploring a new app.

✓ FACE TO FACE IS ACE

Support toddlers' development of language and other skills by prioritising games or apps that encourage face-to-face interaction – like learning to read or count with an adult.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MODEL IT

Your toddler is watching and learning from you whenever you pick up your phone. Even babies are aware of screens and the attention their parents give to them. By showing you know when to put your phone down and focus on something else, you're modelling an important behaviour for them.

CONTROL IT

Use tech to control tech. Most devices and individual apps have settings that allow you to restrict screen time. Decide on the right length of time and use the settings or a timer to block access. This is especially useful for very young children, who simply see it as the device 'turning off'.

ANNOUNCE IT

When a toddler's screen shuts off suddenly, it can lead to frustration and tears. Let your little one mentally prepare for the end of screen time by announcing they have five minutes left, two minutes left and so on. You could also set an egg-timer, alarm or buzzer to go off just before time's up.

DELAY IT

Try to avoid letting children start their day with screen time. Once they're online, it can be hard to get them back offline – and can set a negative tone for the rest of the day. Routine and structure are important for toddlers, so encourage them to enjoy some other activities before the screens go on.

TRADE IT

You could try offering rewards and alternatives in exchange for screen time – for example, having a device-free day to get a playdate with a friend at the weekend, or skipping screen time one evening in return for a trip to the ice cream parlour tomorrow.

EARN IT

Screen time can definitely be used as a reward. You could opt for the classic "no screen time until you've tidied up your toys" or you could get creative and award screen time in relation to successful tasks: eating all of their vegetables earns 10 minutes on their device, for example.

REMOVE IT

Keep family mealtimes, social gatherings, children's bedrooms and other important occasions and places screen free. Remember to turn off TVs that you aren't watching, because even background noise can distract from you spending quality face-to-face time with your young ones.

SWAP IT

Put together a bag of things that your children love playing with – and get them to help choose what goes in there (items like stickers, pens, small toys, Lego or teddy bears are ideal). Then encourage them to pick something to play with from "the special bag of fun" instead of staring at a screen.

Meet Our Expert

Cayley Jorgensen is the director of FaceUp South Africa a reporting system currently being used to combat bullying in schools and businesses around the world. FaceUp helps to give a voice to bystanders by encouraging them to speak up against unacceptable behaviour.



<https://www.nationalonlinesafety.com/parents-and-carers/parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-toddlers-and-screen-time>
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