

St. Michael's C. of E. Primary School

Thursday 28th March 2024

www.stmichaelscofe.co.uk

"Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time."
Colossians 4:5



Blink and you might have missed it

At times that's how this half term has been. Because of when Easter falls this year, the half term has been just short of 5 full weeks and yet we have managed to pack so much in.

Our Y5 & 6 children 'Graduated' at Queen's College, Cambridge to round off February, the whole school went crazy for books on World Book Day and Y2 hosted their Mums (plus one Dad) for a Mothering Sunday Afternoon Tea in the first week in March.



Staff and Governors spoke to a number of parents about the financial challenges the school faces one evening in the same week that once again children and parents put their hands in their pockets to help those that Children in Need support.

Our Sports Hall Athletics team and many Cross-Country teams have made it to the County Finals in Southend.

We've held in Parents Evenings in the last weeks, staff attended the funeral of a previous member of staff (the much-loved Mrs Cottis); various staff have been involved in subject development meetings both here and with other local schools. Then over the past two weeks, all classes apart from Foundation Stage, have visited the Church for Experience Easter.



Now it's time for a break again...back to school on Monday 15th April. However you spend this Easter weekend, I hope you manage to enjoy it and like the staff, have some time to rest also.

Andrew Cumpstey

The week ahead – Week B

Monday 15 th	Breakfast Club 07:45 – 08:45 Y3 Boccia club; Kids with Bricks club
Tuesday 16 th	Breakfast Club 07:45 – 08:45 Y3/4 Spotlight; Y4 Boccia club; Choir; Kurling club
Wednesday 17 th	Breakfast Club 07:45 – 08:45 Y5 Boccia club; SCS Multi-sports; Yoga club
Thursday 18 th	Breakfast Club 07:45 – 08:45 Y5/6 Spotlight; Y6 Boccia club; SCS Gymnastics
Friday 19 th	Breakfast Club 07:45 – 08:45 SCS Football; Tennis

BREAKFAST CLUB

Enjoy a healthy breakfast and some fun before school: games, activities, drawing, reading and so much more.

£4.00 per day
Monday – Friday
Term time only
07:45 am – 08:45 am

The club is run by members of staff and the children are provided with a healthy breakfast consisting of a choice of cereal and / or bagels, fruit and yoghurt, and a drink of milk or water.

For more information, or forms to secure your child's place please email clinton@stmichaelscofe.co.uk or pop into the office.

Achievements

Remi (3H) took part in his first grading at Karate last week. He goes to the Yong Gi Do Martial Arts club on Monday nights at Rayne Hall. He went up to a yellow belt



Congratulations to the whole of
Shakespeare
who won this week's
House Point competition.
Eliza Karatas & Finley Spooner
proudly collected the trophy on behalf of
their whole team

Lucy (5S) received her Brownies Gold award this week. It's awarded for earning all 6 theme awards, for which she has completed numerous interest badges and excellent attendance. It's only the second Gold award that her Brownie's unit have awarded. From the outset, she had the Gold award in her sights rightly proud that she has accomplished her goal. She is now moving on to Guides and is looking forward to new adventures!

FOSM



Notices



Saturday 6th April 2024

10am - 12pm

Hot Food

Hot Drinks

Bouncy Castle

All welcome!

HORNETS HOLIDAY HOCKEY

**Thursday 11 April
Friday 12 April**

For Boys & Girls aged 8 to 14

**10.00 to 12.30
13.30 to 16:00**



£25 half day / £40 one day / £75 two days
Book via the SHOP on Pitchero or braintreehc.co.uk

All enquiries: junior.admin@braintreehc.co.uk



Swimming Crash Courses

Easter school holidays

5 day crash course at our private pool in CM4 0LA

5 x 30 minute 1.2.1 lessons

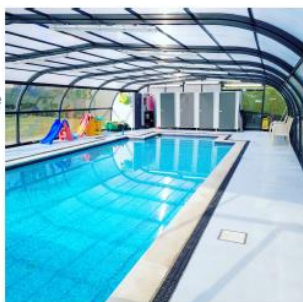
Build strength 🐟 Gain confidence 🐟 Learn to swim

All swim aids are provided,
apart from goggles

Parents watch from poolside

All classes tailored to your
individual needs

All teachers fully qualified
and first aid trained



Please email liz@bigswimlittleswim.co.uk to book spaces

**Essex
ACTivate**

FREE EASTER HOLIDAY CLUBS WITH ESSEX ACTIVATE!

1st April - 12th April

Eligible school aged children and young people are invited to book onto FREE, fun-filled activity clubs who are run by a network of locally, trusted organisations and brought to you by Active Essex, Essex County Council and Thurrock Council, on behalf of the Department for Education!



IS MY CHILD ELIGIBLE?

Clubs offer spaces to primary and secondary school aged children (4-16 years) who are eligible for benefit based free school meals. Limited spaces are available for young people who are also from 'low-income' working families, as well as children who may be vulnerable to inactivity or social isolation.

WHERE WILL THE CLUBS BE RUN?

Clubs will be running across Essex in Braintree, Basildon, Brentwood, Castle Point, Chelmsford, Colchester, Epping, Harlow, Maldon, Rochford, Tendring, Thurrock and Uttlesford!

WHAT DO THE CLUBS PROVIDE?

Clubs provide a range of different physical, enrichment and food activities to support children's physical and mental wellbeing, as well as a delicious, nutritious meal! We also offer specialist youth, SEND and mental wellbeing clubs.

HOW DO I BOOK ONTO A CLUB?

If you have received a Holiday Activities voucher code, click the link on the voucher to book your child/ren onto a club. If you're still awaiting a voucher code, please contact your school. If you aren't eligible for a Holiday Activities voucher as your child/ren do not receive benefits based free school meals, please contact a local club directly to book on by heading to our website below.

www.activeessex.org/children-young-people/essex-activate 

APR

WEEK 1

EASTER HOLIDAY EVENTS AT
HANNINGFIELD NATURE
DISCOVERY CENTRE

MONDAY 1ST

BANK
HOLIDAY -
NO EVENTS

TUESDAY 2ND

DROP OFF
DAY:

9AM-12PM
FULLY BOOKED!
£30 PER
CHILD

WEDNESDAY 3RD

POND
DIPPING:

10AM-11AM
11AM-12PM
1PM-2PM

£5 PER CHILD

THURSDAY 4TH

FAMILY
FOREST

10AM-12PM
FULLY BOOKED!
£7 PER CHILD

FRIDAY 5TH

NATURE
TOTS EAST
SPEC

11AM-12PM
FULLY BOOKED!
£7 PER CHILD

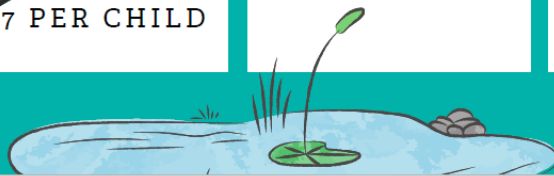
SATURDAY 6TH

SUNDAY 7TH



FOR MORE
INFORMATION CHECK
OUT OUR WEBSITE
AND FILTER FOR
'HANNINGFIELD'

[HTTPS://WWW.ESSEX
WT.ORG.UK/EVENTS:](https://www.essexwt.org.uk/events)



APR

WEEK 2

EASTER HOLIDAY EVENTS AT
HANNINGFIELD NATURE
DISCOVERY CENTRE

MONDAY 8TH

POND
DIPPING:

10AM-11AM
11AM-12PM
FULLY BOOKED!

£5 PER
CHILD

TUESDAY 9TH

DROP OFF
DAY:

9AM-12PM
FULLY BOOKED!
£30 PER
CHILD

WEDNESDAY 10TH

FAMILY
FOREST FUN:

10AM-12PM

£7 PER CHILD

THURSDAY 11TH

HANNINGFIELD
FAMILY
ACTIVITY DAY:
BEES, BIRDS,
BUDS &
BLOSSOMS

£10 PER CHILD

FRIDAY 12TH

NATURE
TOTS
TAST

11AM-12PM
FULLY BOOKED!

£7 PER CHILD

SATURDAY 13TH

SUNDAY 14TH



FOR MORE
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[HTTPS://WWW.ESSEX
WT.ORG.UK/EVENTS:](https://www.essexwt.org.uk/events)





St Michael's C of E Primary School



Online Safety Newsletter

April 2024

Poppy Playtime

It is important that you are aware that whilst the name and characters suggest a playful game, it is a survival horror game with graphics that may not be suitable for your child. It includes characters such as 'Kissy Wissy' and 'Huggy Wuggy.' Please view this game before allowing your child to play it as it may not be appropriate for them – particularly young children.

Children may be playing the game or just watching videos of it on sites such as YouTube or playing replicated versions on Roblox for example.

Further information

Safer Schools NI have produced this informative:

<https://saferschoolsni.co.uk/huggy-wuggy-online-safety-review/>

Talking to strangers online

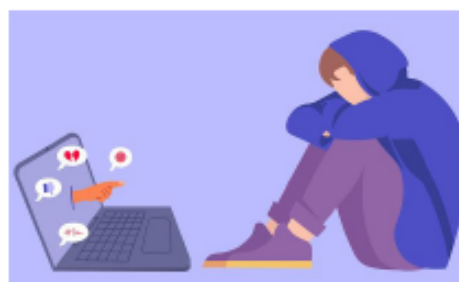
There are many apps/websites where your child may come across strangers contacting them. Some platforms will allow you to set who can contact your child as well as switch off communication so ensure appropriate settings are explored and set up. This article from ThinkUKnow talks about how to protect your child from adult content and contact:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Concerned-about-your-child/Online-contact-and-staying-safe/>

Cyberbullying

What is cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying is bullying online and can take many forms such as sending malicious messages, leaving nasty comments, excluding somebody from a group chat, blackmailing or setting up a fake profile. Cyberbullying can take place across many different platforms such as WhatsApp, Snapchat and on games such as Roblox and Minecraft.



What should I do if my child is being bullied online?

If your child is being bullied, then try to stay calm and let them know that it is not their fault. It is always useful to keep evidence of any online bullying and inform their school so that they are aware. Show your child how to block and/or report any users/content and review their privacy settings to limit what others can see. You may also wish to set up any parental controls that are available.

Further information

There is a vast amount of information available online about cyberbullying. The following links provide further information on types of online bullying, how to support somebody who is being bullied and who you can contact if you need any further advice or support.

- <https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/online-bullying/>
- <https://www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk/cyberbullying.html>
- <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with-life/bullying/>

Group Chats

Group Chats are available on various messaging apps, social media apps and in some games. When your child is part of these groups, they may not know all the other members and it may even include people that they have previously blocked. Your child may come across inappropriate content and bullying can take place within these groups. Talk to your child about how they speak to others online and encourage them to talk to people online with kindness, like they would if they were face-to-face. The NSPCC provide further information about group chats here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/chat-apps/>

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into.
Current as of the date released 01.04.24.

TikTok

You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok.

TikTok is a social media platform for sharing and watching short video clips. Some of the videos may not be appropriate for your child to view and there is also the risk of strangers contacting your child. If your child is using TikTok then make sure appropriate security/privacy settings are applied.

Account set up

As always, it is important that when setting up an account, your child enters their real date of birth as accounts are tailored by age e.g., direct Messaging is disabled for accounts aged 13-15. In addition, advertisements are tailored to their age. By default, accounts for people under 16 are set to private and we would recommend keeping it as this. This means your child must approve follower requests. You can read more about the other settings available, such as switching off comments and switching on restricted mode here: <https://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy/account-privacy-settings>.

Family Pairing

This allows you to link your own account to your child's account. You can then set controls such as restricted mode. You can find out more here: <https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en/guardians-guide/>

Inappropriate content, themes and challenges on TikTok

Whilst against TikTok's guidelines, explicit and inappropriate content can be found on this platform, for example nudity/sexual content and hate speech. We often see viral challenges on social media, some of which can be dangerous. If your child is using TikTok, chat to them regularly about what they are viewing.

Trends and Influencers

We often see trends on social media, for example a latest trend found is around skin care routines, which can lead to children purchasing products that are completely unsuitable/dangerous for their skin. You can find out more here: <https://www.bark.us/blog/skin-care-tweens/>. Influencers are people who have a large following on social media who through recommendations and promotions, influence the behavior or buying habits of others. The NSPCC discuss what we need to be aware of here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/2023-05-16-the-influence-of-influencers/>

Stranger contact

Talk to your child about who is following them online and ensure that they understand that people may not be who they say they are when online. It is important that children know not to share personal information.

Blocking and Reporting

Ensure your child knows how to use the safety features available to them, including how to report comments, direct messages and another user.

Further information

- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/tiktok>

Online Challenges

Our children may not have developed the skills and ability to critically analyse all situations yet so it is important to talk to your child about hoaxes and challenges that may appear on the internet. Some challenges are fun and provide no risk, however there will be challenges that are risky/dangerous. Just recently, a child sadly died after participating in a challenge - more information here:

<https://ineqe.com/2024/03/19/dangerous-challenge-safeguarding-risks/>

Your child may see others complete certain challenges online without being harmed and therefore may want to repeat them and not consider the potential risks to themselves. Make sure they know that they should talk to you (or another trusted adult) about what they see online, particularly if they plan to try a challenge.

We would always advise that if your child has not heard about an online challenge, then do not draw attention to it as this may lead to them searching for it out of curiosity, so just talk about challenges in a general sense. Furthermore, reassure your child that challenges that suggest that terrible things will happen if they do not complete the tasks are not real.

The following link will provide you with further information as well as content to help you talk to your child:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/connecting-safely-online/advice-for-parents/tackling-the-hard-stuff-on-social-media-to-support-young-people/online-challenges-are-they-harmless/>

TikTok have also produced this resource to help you talk to your child about challenges and the potential risks:

<https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en-sg/online-challenges/>