



Smarden Newsletter 27th January 2023

Dear Parents,

We have had a busy and productive week at Smarden. Work to the big tree by the main entrance took place yesterday, and is now completed on the school side. They will still be working on the Minnis Field side on Monday, but the gates will be accessible at drop off in the morning and we will continue to cordon off the area to keep the children safe at playtime.

Please make sure your child has a pair of named wellies in school - we like to use the field and woods for playtime as much as we can.

Remember that you can always contact us regarding any incidents of online bullying which happen out of school- we are here to help you and your child to sort these out, and difficulties online always affect friendships in school.

Do take a look at our new website if you haven't already. The Deputy CEO of TKAT mentioned our website as one of the three top TKAT websites on safeguarding today which made us very proud! <https://www.smardenprimaryschool.co.uk/>. There are sections entitled 'Feeling Worried' on both the parents' and the children's tab where you can find a list of organisations to help with a range of issues. Don't hesitate to get in touch if you ever need support of any kind.

We look forward to seeing as many parents as possible for a parents' information session on online safety on Safer Internet Day - Tuesday 7th February at 2.30pm in the school hall. There will be free tea and coffee and cakes and all parents are welcome - from Nursery to Year 6.

The School council met this week to consider the results of their pupil survey. Pupils were asked to vote for a charity for the pupils to raise money for this year and the World Wildlife Fund received the most votes. The school council will be organising a cake sale and non uniform day on Friday 10th February to kick off the fund raising efforts.

Mrs M

Important Announcements



LUNCHES NEED TO BE BOOKED

From Monday onwards, school lunches will be cooked at the North School and delivered to Smarden. You **MUST** pre-book lunch on parent pay and make a selection for your child; without this, your child will not be able to have a school lunch. Children will no longer be able to make their own choices on the day. This is only a temporary measure until the end of term 4, when Chartwells end their contract catering at Smarden, as well as at all other TKAT schools. TKAT are in the process of choosing a new catering company and have promised to ask the new provider whether it would be possible to commence the contract early. It is regrettable that we are having our food brought in for the next few weeks, but I will be personally ensuring that the food meets our expectations.

SCHOOL OPEN AS USUAL NEXT WEDNESDAY 1ST FEBRUARY

The only change to school next Wednesday is that there will be no Forest School for Year 1. Breakfast and After school club, and clubs will run as usual. Some classes will have slightly different staff that day. Mrs Miller is really looking forward to teaching Blyton Class for the day, Mrs Taylor

will be teaching Austen and Miss Coventon and Mrs Smith will be teaching Sassoon. All other classes will be taught by the usual staff.

Coming up



SAVE THE DATE:

Safer Internet Day - Tuesday 7th February. Parents are warmly invited to an online safety information session in the hall at 2.30pm. Come and find out all about the safer school app and how to keep your children safe online. Free tea, coffee and cakes.

Open classroom - Thursday 9th February. Please come and look round your child's classroom and see all the children's learning from 2.45pm on Thursday 9th February. If you have more than one child, you are welcome to visit each class in turn.

Home Clothes Day and Cake Sale after school - Friday 10th February, in aid of the pupils' chosen charity this year, the World Wildlife Fund.

Half term - Friday 10th February at 3.15pm. Pupils return on Monday 20th February at 8.45am.

Caterpillar Class



This week Caterpillars have been learning about the Lunar New Year which is celebrated in China amongst many other countries. We have looked at number two and the phonic a this week.



1 - Even though it's been cold and a bit gloomy, we've still had lots of fun outside.

Blyton Class



Blyton's (less than) amazing Science investigation!

You may have been told about our Science investigation this week...

We experimented with putting mentos into cola to make an explosion that reached as far as space!

On our first attempt (after a big build up from myself) the cola failed to launch.

So like all good scientists we redid our investigation the next day. This time we used more mentos, a different brand of cola and didn't screw the lid on the bottle at all. There was a slight launch but nothing like we'd seen in the videos online.

If you'd like to have a go at home, you need 7 mint mentos and a bottle of diet cola. Let me know how you get on if you do try!



Donaldson Class



This week we have been focusing on creating our own stories in English, starting our new unit in Maths which is Time, and working on collecting the rainbow challenge colours in the afternoon.





Austen Class



Austen Class have had another brilliant week. The children have enjoyed looking at the difference between the 1st, 2nd and 3rd class on board the Titanic. We explored the difference in the bedrooms, dining areas, outdoor space and even the food menus! The children were appalled by some of the food choices on the 3rd class menu and did not like the idea of eating gruel for supper! We have been busy creating our own non-chronological reports in English about a particular animal of their choice - which the children are very proud of! Finally in Maths, we have been learning to tell the time, with a particular focus on o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to. It would be wonderful if you could challenge the children this weekend to tell you the time - see if they can surprise you with their knowledge.



Sassoon Class





In English this week, we have been publishing our newspaper final copies and making sure that we have all of the key features for this text type. In maths, Year 4 have been extending knowledge of fractions by considering mixed numbers, improper fractions and simplifying. Year 3 have been using place value to help with multiplication and division. We investigated the hardness of different rock types using the Mohs scale in science, while in history we considered the impact that the Romans had on modern day theatres.



Dickens Class



2 - This week we have continued to investigate fractions in maths and in english we have started a new unit on discussion writing. In History we have looked at Viking beliefs and compared them to modern day religious ceremonies.

In science we have investigated friction by designing our own experiments to see whose shoes have the best grip.







Rowling Class



This week in Rowling we started investigations into our scarecrow science project but experimenting with how many batteries we could use to make the brightest bulb. The children are so knowledgeable and it is lovely to see them working collaboratively.

Also this week, writing partners have been hard at work innovating our suspense story model text - they are fantastic writers and have the most amazing imaginations.

Inside, the house was infected with ancient objects. Paintings with questionable scratch marks, the smell of reek, mouldy cheese hung in the air. Spiders wove their delicate webs, undisturbed by the children. It seemed as though the hair-raising house had been untouched for millennia.
By Madi and Joseph.

***BRING!** The bricks were smashed into pieces at the impact of the **FIGURES**. They both came to a halt and turned back to see what had happened. Zac slowly but carefully climbed over the rubble and carefully inspected the supposedly dead **FIGURE**. They let out a sigh of relief and both left the horrible mansion. Will anyone ever believe what happened on their trip to the house?
By Oscar and Freddie W*

Headteachers' Awards



Headteacher's Awards:

Nursery:

Clara for her fantastic listening and helping her friends by being a wonderful role model.

Blyton:

Ralphie: For being an amazing role model to the other children.

Katie: For fantastic effort and progress in reading and phonics this term.

Donaldson:

Head Teacher Awards are Riley and Alice for their effort and attitude to learning.

Austen:

Charlie - For his incredible perseverance and ambition when learning to tell the time.

Ezra - For supporting his peers and showing wonderful ambition when learning to tell the time.

Sassoon:

Freddie - Showing curiosity in science and history

Pearl - challenging herself during maths

Dickens:

Suzie - for fantastic work in all subjects this week

Andrea - for improvement in maths in particular problem solving and reasoning with fractions.

Rowling:

Ava for fantastic effort with reading this week - keep it up!

Henry F for some great grammar work this week



Jigsaw Awards



This week we are celebrating children that

Blyton:

Evelyn for demonstrating great ambition completing her homework tasks.

Donaldson:

Jigsaw was awarded to the whole class for our positive attitude towards having high expectations.

Austen:

Mazie for always being a positive influence in Haven!

Dickens:

Isobel S - for always smiling and having a positive impact on other people's positivity!

Rowling:

Elsa who always approaches work (in and out of the classroom) with a positive mindset and a smile on her face.

Nominations from staff for children demonstrating our values this week



Dolly-Belle in Dickens for being such a kind, helpful and polite student.

Isaac M for being so friendly, chatty and kind in the lunch hall this week and offering for Mrs Speight to sit at his table.

Willoe for making Miss Powell smile after school on Thursday.

Ava for coming in to breakfast club and listening to the little ones reading. She has tried hard both with reading at home and in School. Keep it up Ava...

Skylar for stepping back out of the doorway so she could let me go first and holding the door open for me.

Olivia and Eloise for organising a game at lunch time, encouraging anyone to join in.

Freddie W for helping Miss Powell carry bits down to the classroom as she couldn't do it all with her hand! What a great role model for our school!

Freddie W and Danny for helping Mr Pickles carry heavy items up and down the corridor. Freddie always greets me with a smile and usually some form of joke each morning....some funnier than others!



3 - Freddie was awarded the certificate this week. What a kind and respectful member of our community - we are proud of you, Freddie!

Attendance



Our target for attendance is 98%.

This week, our whole school attendance was 98.6%! WOW!

Blyton: 99.6%

Donaldson: 98%

Austen: 98.9%

Sassoon: 98.1%

Dickens: 100% 2 weeks in a row - amazing! Well done!

Rowling: 97.5%

That means that all classes, apart from Rowling reached our target this week! Well done!

Overall attendance in year to date is 95.4%. Boys are doing better than girls at the moment on 95.6% compared to 95.2%. Year 3 have the highest attendance in year to date on 97.5%. Keep it up, year 3!

Attendance Ted went to Lily May Cosier and Riley Ovenden this week. Lily May has reached our target of 98% attendance for three years in a row and Riley has improved his attendance this year. Well done, everyone!

Woodland Warriors



This term our theme for Woodland Warriors is "Empowerment" We are using different sources to find out more to support us in our eco journey. We are very grateful to Smarden Stores who have provided us with some Science and National Geographic magazines that we are placing in the library. We have also found out how to create "Eco bricks" from pupils at another school. We are making some at school but if you would like to make one at home we would happily take it off you

once full. To make an eco brick -wash out a 2 litre drinks bottle, push in any "soft plastic" such as film lids, crisp packets, plastic bags etc. Push down with a wooden spoon handle until your brick is really solid. Each brick apparently holds 8 plastic bags full of plastic litter and prevents it going into landfill. With thanks Miss Judge



This week's focus on the Curriculum



Each week, we will bring you a different feature on the curriculum. This week, we invite you to take a look at the curriculum page of our new website:

[Our Curriculum](#)

Science at Smarden

At Smarden Primary School our vision is reflected through the belief that scientific enquiry is at the core of all scientific learning. This vision is delivered by enthusiastic members of staff whose aim it is to inspire our children by giving them opportunities to peruse their natural curiosity; allowing them to explore a rich learning environment, providing them with a range of scientific resources;

developing their investigative skills in and out of the classroom in a range of contexts and assisting them in developing an appreciation of the nature of science. We encourage our children to ask questions, make observations, take risks and we listen to their ideas, using these as the foundations for their learning, to ensure that they are able to continually evolve their knowledge and understanding of the ever changing world around them.

Science Leaders – Mr Pickles and Miss Reynolds

<https://www.smardenprimaryschool.co.uk/our-curriculum/science/>

Online Safety



Tik Tok....so, your child tells you that all their friends have it? But did you know that the age limitation on Tik Tok is 13?

Particularly worrying can be the Tik Tok Challenges. A 'challenge' is a type of video that is widely shared and copied by others. Many of these can be fun and engaging, incorporating things like dances, songs, and filters. There are some, however, that can be riskier and potentially harmful - which can make them even more tempting for children to try. These can include dangerous stunts, mean pranks, or reacting to upsetting content.

How to keep your child safe on TikTok using safety settings

There are six security settings that can help you to keep Tik Tok safe for your child and prevent them seeing anything that might worry or upset them:

1. **Family Pairing** This allows you to connect your child's account with your own. It gives you access to parental controls to help manage who they can speak to and how long they can spend on the app.

2. **Private account.** Setting your child's account to private means that only approved followers will be able to watch their videos.
3. **Restricted mode** This feature helps to filter out videos that may contain inappropriate or adult topics and stop them appearing on your child's 'For You Page'.
4. **Comment filters.** Enable to manage who can comment on your child's videos and stop inappropriate comments from appearing on their feed.
5. **Direct messages** This can help them manage who can contact them privately on the app. You can choose who can send them direct messages by selecting 'Friends only' or 'No one'.
6. **Daily screen time.** This setting allows you manage how long your child can spend on the app. You can set a daily time limit, and once it's up you'll need to enter a passcode to keep using the platform.

Check out the safer schools app for more information or see

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/child-safe-settings-tiktok/>

If you have any concerns about your child's safety online, please do not hesitate to contact the Designated safeguarding leads at Smarden, Mrs Miller, Mrs Speight, Mrs Taylor and Ms Judge on dsl@smarden-tkat.org.

ALL ABOUT TikTok

TikTok is a video sharing social media platform used to create and share short form videos that allows users to express themselves through singing, dancing, comedy, and lip-syncing. It exploded in popularity during the COVID-19 pandemic and has only continued its rise since.

58% of children aged 3-15 use TikTok (alongside other social media).

1 billion global daily users by early 2022.

Online Safety Shareable by:
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SAFER SCHOOLS

THE FYP

TikTok wants users to see the content they want to see – which is where the 'For You Page' comes in. The platform uses algorithms to figure out a completely unique feed for every individual user.

HOW IT WORKS

- SHARE**
Upload short videos for other users to view, comment, and like.
- EDIT**
Change or alter videos to include popular filters or themes.
- STITCH**
Use snippets of existing videos to create a new video or trend.
- COLLAB**
Add popular music or audio (including from other users) to videos.
- DUET**
Create a video that is posted directly alongside another user's video.
- MESSAGE**
Users aged 16+ can send private messages to one another.

RISKS

- PUBLIC VIEWS** - For users registered as 16 and over, their profile is 'public' by default and their videos can be viewed and downloaded by anyone.
- INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT** - Some videos include suggestive language, mature situations, and sexualised content without warning.
- SCREENTIME OVERLOAD** - The continuous scrolling design of the app makes it harder for users to look away from their screens, and is likely to increase screentime.
- PAID ADS** - Many brands and companies have taken to TikTok to try and boost product exposure with paid adverts that mix into normal content.
- INFLUENCERS** - Young people may be 'influenced' by popular creators on TikTok, and could spend time or money following someone or trying to become an influencer.
- IN-APP PURCHASES** - Users can make in-app purchases to get 'coins', which can buy virtual gifts to send to influencers on the platform.

NOW

The TikTok Now feature prompts users to take an 'in the moment' photo or video at a random time once a day. Make sure the young person in your care knows to check the content before uploading so they're not unknowingly sharing personal details under pressure!

TOP TIPS

- KEEP PRIVATE.** Ensure your young person's privacy settings are appropriate for their age. Remember – a private profile gives the most control!
- TALK IT OUT.** 'Digital life' should be as much a part of everyday conversation as every other aspect of a young person's life.
- DISCUSS TOGETHER.** Find out what videos and influencers they view, what they like, what they dislike – and why!
- BE HONEST.** Talk about how social media content is often a far from accurate depiction of real life, especially for influencers.
- STAY SAFE.** Some TikTok challenges could be potentially harmful to young people. Remind them that their safety is #1 always!
- GIVE SPACE.** Give them room to voice any concerns they might have around harmful or inappropriate content they come across.

WATCH OUT FOR... #TikTokChallenges

Hardly a day passes without a new TikTok Challenge popping up. A 'challenge' is a type of video that is widely shared and copied by others. Many of these can be fun and engaging, incorporating things like dances, songs, and filters.

There are some, however, that can be riskier and potentially harmful - which can make them even more tempting to try! These can include dangerous stunts, mean pranks, or reacting to upsetting content.

ALERT

TikTok says users must be 13+ to use the app, but our research shows that it is extremely popular with younger children.

You may be interested in...



There is currently a really important regarding consultation around Kent's bus to school transportation. 50 children over 16 may be unable to get to our local secondary schools via Smarden as there is talk of the bus is being withdrawn. For more details, go to

<https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/school-transport-policy>

And finally,



Thank you again to all the volunteers who help out so much - in particular those who run clubs - Sarah Frow, Sian Thomas, Hayley, Rose Pullar and Amanda DW. We are lucky to have you. The netball team are very excited about getting some matches in the diary.

Don't forget to rate us on Ofsted's parent view site:

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. We are always here to listen

01233 770316

head@sarden-tkat.org

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs Miller