

The Federation of St Mary's Catholic Schools

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"

Philippians 4: 13

8th September2023

Respect

Compassion

Resilience



What a wonderful week we have had, welcoming all our children back to school. We have also been delighted to welcome both new children and new staff to our St Mary's family.

Thank you for your patience this week, in particular with some of our IT systems that have been affected by the St Helens council cyber attack. Thank you also for your support with uniform and appearance.

Class Dojo

All parents should have received a code to join their child's class today, either by email or as a paper copy. Information letters regarding this have also been sent to you. We look forward to sharing more of our school days with you.

Pick up and pray

Year 6 parents are invited to a short prayer and liturgy session on Wednesday at 3.00pm. Please come in through the office and join your child's class for this short worship.

Lunches

Our lunchtimes have changed this week and although there have been some teething problems, on the whole, both staff and children have been positive about the changes. We will continue to monitor this very closely and once elected, our school council will also be heavily involved in ensuring the quality of our lunchtimes are improved.

Action short of strike action

Teachers in the NASUWT will be taking action short of strike action, commencing Monday 18 September. For this reason, there will be no after school clubs run by school staff up until at least October half term. Private sports clubs who are offering extra-curricular activities will be running as normal. These will be sent out next week.



This week we have launched our brand new curriculum. Our Arches Curriculum has been designed by the to develop the whole child by providing a broad, balanced and challenging education that is rooted in our Catholic faith. We aim to create ambitious, resilient and well-rounded learners who place Christ at the centre of their lives. We strive for excellence in all aspects of our teaching and learning, recognising that each child is unique and has individual needs. Our curriculum is designed to be inclusive and to ensure that every child is given the opportunity to succeed. We provide a range of experiences and opportunities for our children to develop their knowledge and skills, whilst encouraging them to be curious, creative, and independent learners who are confident and prepared to be successful for the future. Within this broad and balanced approach, we place an important emphasis on promoting health and wellbeing.

This half term we will be encouraging and focusing on **ambition and being ambitious**. Our Stars of the Week are going to be focusing on this during the weeks up until October half term.

Preloved Boutique

Both schools have lots of preloved uniform that need a new home. Please call into either office and help yourselves to any of our uniform that you might need.





	Star of the Week	Bee Award
3Ri	Riley	Lucas
3Ro	Zac	Harry
4W	India	Logan G
4M	Saffron	Lewis S
5D	James S	Sofia
5HQ	Avril	Sophie R
6W	Lola B	Lola R
6R	Jack C	Jude
6M	Niamh B	Lola B

Shaper J's	School Values Award	Riley A
	Millionaire Reader	
<u>k</u>	Rock Hero	

Attendance Matters

Every Day Counts....

Attendance Ladder

tow close is your child to 100%?

o Days off school	100%	perfection!
Equates to 2 days off school each year	99%	Excellent!
Equates to 5 days off school each year	97%	600d
Equates to 10 days off school each year	95%	slight Concern
Equates to 20 days off school each year	90%	Concerned



6 REASONS TO JOIN THE PTFA

FOR THE CHILDREN FOR YOU FOR THE SCHOOL **VOLUNTEERING IS A** HELP THE SCHOOL TO RAISE BECOME A ROLE MODEL TO SHOW YOUR CHILD YOU **REWARDING EXPERIENCE** FUNDS. VALUE THEIR EDUCATION. WE PLAN TO HOST MANY HAVE A VOICE IN THE PURCHASES THAT ARE MADE TO SUPPORT THE CHILDREN. THE EVENTS WE PLAN WILL SOCIAL EVENTS TO RAISE **IMPROVE YOUR CHILD'S** MONEY AND ALSO TO ENJOY SCHOOL EXPERIENCE. EACH OTHERS COMPANY. **BE CONNECTED IT IS FUN! KEEP THE PTFA GOING!** THERE IS NO BETTER WAY OF WE AIM TO ENIOY AS PARENTS LEAVE SCHOOL WE NEED TO KEEP THE **KNOWING WHAT'S OURSELVES IN ALL OUR** COMMITTEE GOING. **HAPPENING IN SCHOOL.** ROLES. MEET OTHERS THAT SHARE COME IOIN OUR FRIENDLY FROM PLANNING EVENTS THE SAME COMMON GOALS **TO RUNNING A STALL IS** TEAM AS MANY HANDS TO HELP IMPROVE THE EXCITING! MAKE LIGHT WORK! SCHOOL. 8 ۲ didn't realise how rewarding it would be Tre made life long friends e full time and when I am able "I really enjoy seeing " grown up help out at eve



RAFFLE Fickets coming home in book bags soon. .imited extras will available at the school office.

EI PER TICKET



Great news - we came top & have been awarded £1,500 towards projects at the Junior School!!



ers must be 16 years of age or older. See website for Terms & con

ns. Enter by 24th June 2023.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AGE-INAPPR[®] PRIATE C[®] NTENT

"inappropriate" means different things to different people. What's acceptable for one age group, for example, may be unsuitable for a slightly younger audience. Online, young people can chance upon inappropriate content in various ways – from pop-up ads to TikTok videos. The increasingly young age at which children become active in the digital world heightens the risk of them innocently running into something that they find upsetting or frightening. Trusted adults need to be able to help children be aware of what to do if they're exposed to age-inappropriate content.

F@!#



SOCIAL MEDIA

æ Age-inappropriate content is asily accessible through many ocial media platforms. TikTok, or instance, is hugely popular with young people but is arguably best nown for clips featuring sexualised lancing or profanity. Some social media isers also express hate speech or oromote eating disorders and self-harm, which could cause lasting damage to a child's emotional and mental health.

XXX

+

PLAY NOW

GAMING

Gaming is an enjoyable source of entertainment, but many popular titles can expose children to inappropriate material such as violence, horror, gambling or sexually explicit content. Playing games unsuitable for their age risks normalising to children what they are seeing. Some games also include in-game chat, where other (usually older) online players often use language that you probably wouldn't want your child to hear or repeat.

06

STREAMING

OU.P

\$10

The range of video streaming services available online means that users can find almost anything they want to watch on demand. Children are therefore at risk of viewing TV shows and movies which contain mudity, drug and alcohol abuse, explicit language and extreme violence. Unfortunately, these streaming platforms can't always determine that it's not an adult who's watching.

ADVERTS

Online adverts frequently include age-inappropriate content: usua Online adverts frequently include age-inappropriate content: usually gambling and nudity or partial nudity, although adverts for alcohol or e-cigarettes are also common. Some search engines also feature adverts that are responsive to your search history: so if you've recently looked up a new horror movie, shopped for lingerie or ordered alcohol online, then the ads appearing on screen could reflect this the next time your child borrows your device.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK IT THROUGH

Embarrassment or fear of getting into trouble can make it difficult for children to talk openly about age-inappropriate content they've watched. Remind your child they can always come to you if they're troubled by something they've seen online, without worrying about consequences. Before offering advice, discuss what they saw, how they felt and how they came to find the content in question.

BLOCK, REPORT, CONTROL

After discussing the problem, you and your child can take action together. This could include blocking any inappropriate sites and reporting any content which violates a platform's rules. To further safeguard your child online, set up parental controls on internet-enabled devices that they use. This will significantly reduce the chances of your child being exposed to age-inappropriate content in future.



GET SPECIALIST HELP

Age-inappropriate content can potentially have a negative impact on a child's mental health, which is sometimes displayed through changes in their behaviour. If the problem becomes more severe, you might consider reaching out to a mental health professional or an expert in this field who can provide you and your child with the proper support.



CONNECT, DON'T CORRECT

If your child's been particularly distressed by exposure to content that wasn't suitable for their age, it's important to offer guidance to prevent them from repeating the same mistake – but it's equality vital to help them deal with the emotions that the situation has raised. You could tell them about any similar experiences you might have had at their age, and how you dealt with it.

STAY CALM

Even though it is obviously difficult to stay rational in a situation where your child has been put at risk, it's essential to think before you react. Your child may well have hesitated to open up to you about watching inappropriate content for fear of the consequences, so being calm and supportive will reinforce the notion that it would be easy to talk to you about similar issues in the future.

RIME



Meet Our Expert

ley Jorgensen is a Registered Counsellor with The Health essions Council of South Africa, and she runs a private ctice offering counselling to children, teenagers and families. main focus is creating awareness and educating the munity on the mental health pressures of today's world, as as resources and techniques to understand and cope better.

Sources: https://www.aducation.vic.gov.cu/boournents/about/programs/bubystoppons/uminappm https://www.ewealingroatity.couk/wpi-content/up/sada/2004/54/chidnene-madia-lives-yoor7.pdf

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 01.12.2021

🥑 @natonlinesafety

f /NationalOnlineSafety

O @nationalonlinesafety