



Packmoor Ormiston Academy Newsletter

Friday 9th February 2024



February Half Term Holiday Club

Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February

£22.50 per day

Fun and Games

Breakfast and lunch provided

Please bring evening snack box

8.00am - 5.00pm

For further information, please email:

club@packmoor.co.uk

Bookings on the day will be turned away due to staffing ratios

Sports

Art Attack

Fun and Games

Baking

Have a lovely Half Term

School opens on

Monday 19th February

France Residential

The children have had an amazing week in France.

They have visited French towns, climbed the Eiffel Tower, been on a boat trip down the River Seine and visited a chocolate factory.

An amazing experience for everyone!



World Book Day

Thursday 7th March

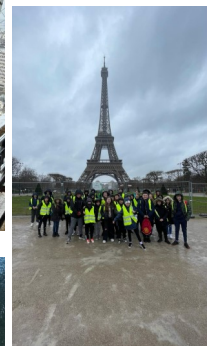
World Book Day is nearly upon us again! This year, we will celebrate it on Thursday 7th March 2024.

To celebrate World Book Day, we are asking the children to get creative and make a 'Story in a jar'.

The children are to make a scene from their favourite book, in a jar. This might be through the use of drawing and pictures or could be something like building a scene out of plasticine or Lego.

These creations will be displayed in our library areas for everyone to see. The completed 'Story in a jar', can be brought into school on Thursday 7th March.

On the day, we are asking the children to come to school dressed as a character from their 'Story in a jar'.



Spring Term 2024

Friday 9th February - School Closes

Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February
(Half Term)

Monday 19th February - School Opens

Friday 22nd March - School Closes 1.00pm

Monday 25th March to Friday 5th April -
(Easter Holiday)

Dates for your Diary

Friday 9th February - Half Term School Closes

Thursday 7th March - World Book Day

Term Dates 2024 2025

Change of Inset Day 3

New date - Monday 24th February 2025

Y6 SATs Week

Monday 13th May - Thursday 16th May

Please can we stress the importance of attendance up to and including these dates.

Thank you for your continued support.

Change For Life Day

Friday 9th Feb

Change for Life today was based around the theme of Resilience.

The whole school have learnt a new dance routine in a short period of time, showing resilience to keep trying and not to give up!

Children have also enjoyed a whole school line dance in the hall with our fabulous Mrs Byrne.

5,6,7,8....



Attendance

Our challenge this year is to achieve 97% attendance overall by July 2024.

Current whole school attendance since September is 95.7%

Whole school attendance this week is 96.2%

This weeks class with the best attendance is **5EB 99.3%**

Well done.

Thank you for contacting the absence line if your child is off school. Polite reminder to give reason for your child's absence on the message.

Thank you for your continued support.

PTA Disco

Wow! What a turnout we had for our disco yesterday.

The children had an amazing time. It was great to see them all dressed up and enjoying themselves.

Huge thank you to the PTA Team, Lisa and Nikki for arranging the evening, and thank you to the volunteers and staff for helping out on the night.

Harri's Special Letter

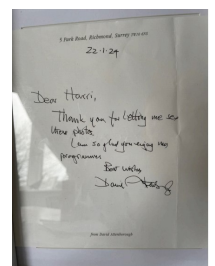
Careers Day

We thought you may like to see Harri's special letter written to him by David Attenborough.

On Careers day back in September, Harri, Reception 2 dressed up as David Attenborough.

Harri's parents sent a photo of Harri to David, and he received a lovely letter back from him.

How amazing!!



Tips for Encouraging Open Discussions about DIGITAL LIVES

The online world is an entirely familiar and commonplace part of life for today's children and young people, far more so than for previous generations. There are many positives to children being able to access online materials, so it's important not to demonise the internet, games and apps, and limit the benefit of their positive aspects. At the same time, we do have a responsibility to educate children about the hazards they may encounter online (just as we would about real-world dangers) so it's essential that we don't shy away from talking to them about the complex – and often sensitive – subject of what they do and what they see when they're online.

Here are some suggestions for kicking off conversations with your child about their digital life ...

MAKE YOUR INTEREST CLEAR

Showing enthusiasm when you broach the subject signals to your child that you're keen to learn about the positives of their online world. Most children enjoy educating adults and will happily chat about what they use the internet for, or what games and apps they're into and how these work. Asking to see their favourite games and apps in action could help you spot any aspects that may need your attention – such as chat functions which might require a settings adjustment to limit contact with strangers. Keep listening even if your child pauses for a long time; they could be considering how to phrase something specific, or they may be gauging your reaction.

BE OPEN AND HONEST, APPROPRIATE TO THEIR AGE

At various stages, children and young people become curious about puberty and how their body changes; about relationships; about how babies are made; and about sexual health. If your child knows that they can discuss these sensitive subjects with you, they tend to be less likely to go looking online for answers – which can often provide them with misleading information and, in some cases, lead to them consuming harmful content. Don't worry if you don't immediately know the answers to their questions – just find out for yourself and go back to them once you have the facts.

REMIND YOUR CHILD THEY CAN ALWAYS TALK TO YOU

In my role I work with many children and young people who admit being reluctant to tell a trusted adult about harmful content they've viewed online, in case it leads to having their devices confiscated. Emphasise to your child that you're always there to listen and help; reassure them that if they do view harmful content, then they are **not** to blame – but talking about it openly will help. Children shouldn't be expected to be resilient against abuse or feel that it's their job to prevent it.

KEEP TALKING!

The most valuable advice we can give is to keep talking with your child about their digital lives. You could try using everyday situations to ask questions about their online experiences.

DISCUSS THAT NOT EVERYTHING WE SEE ONLINE IS REAL

Here, you could give examples from your own digital life of the online world versus reality – for example, those Instagram posts which show the perfect house: spotlessly clean, never messy and immaculately decorated. Explain to your child that there are many other aspects of the online world which are also deliberately presented in an unrealistic way for effect – such as someone's relationship, their body, having perfect skin and so on.

TRY TO REMAIN CALM

As much as possible, try to stay calm even if your child tells you about an online experience that makes you feel angry or fearful. Our immediate emotions frequently influence the way we talk, so it's possible that your initial reaction as a parent or carer could deter a child from speaking openly about what they've seen. Give yourself time to consider the right approach, and perhaps speak with other family members or school staff while you are considering your next steps.

CREATE A 'FAMILY AGREEMENT'

Involving your whole household in coming up with a family agreement about device use can be immensely beneficial. You could discuss when (and for how long) it's OK to use phones, tablets, consoles and so on at home; what parental controls are for and why they're important; and why it's good to talk to each other about things we've seen or experienced online (both good and bad). Explaining your reasoning will help children to understand that, as trusted adults, we want to make sure they are well informed and kept safe. Allowing children to have their say when coming up with your family agreement also makes them far more likely to stick to it in the long term.

Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings of RASE (Raising Awareness in Sex Education) has almost 20 years' experience delivering relationships and sex education and training to schools, colleges and other education providers. A published author on the subject, she also advises the Department of Education on the staff-training element of the RSE curriculum.



National
Online
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday