

Robert Miles Junior School Newsletter – 20th October 2023

Dear Parents,

I hope everyone manages to get home safely in the wet weather tonight. Indoor playtimes have been the order of the day today but thankfully, as I write this, there has been no flooding in the school.

Year 6 Residential This week has been the annual Dukes Barn residential week where the Year 6 children head off to rural Derbyshire for a break from the daily school routine and a chance to learn new skills in an outdoor environment. As well as the chance for the children to experience and learn new skills, it is also a chance for the teachers to see the children in a different environment and enjoy watching them try new things. I had the pleasure of joining the children yesterday and it was great to spend the morning kayaking with them – they all happily jumped in the water afterwards! – and join a group for abseiling in the afternoon. The picture on the left shows where they did it and they were so brave in giving it a go! Year 6 parents have received a link to school folders which contain the photos. The remainder will be added over the coming days. We will also include more photos in the newsletter next week.



End of Term Performance I am used to residentials taking place at the end of the school year so it has been interesting to reflect on an October trip and how it will, hopefully, set the children up for a really strong final year at our school. Given that the residential takes place in October, we have decided to switch the traditional Year 6 production in December to the end of the year. This will give the staff (and children) significantly more time to rehearse and prepare and will limit the impact on the curriculum especially given that the children will have completed their SATs exams by then. We will, of course, still be hosting some end of term performances as is traditional at Christmas – details will be confirmed shortly after half term.

Finally, a reminder that the Halloween Disco is taking place this coming Monday evening – we are looking forward to seeing lots of children coming along and having a fun time. Thank you to all the parents who have kindly volunteered to help out

Have a great weekend.

Best Wishes



James Evelyn
Headteacher, Robert Miles Junior School

Dates for the Diary

23 rd October	Halloween Disco
w/c 30 th Oct	Half Term
31 st October	Deadline for Secondary School Applications

School Attendance

Excellent attendance is vital to success at school. We track attendance closely and celebrate excellent attendance. Our target is for each child to have an attendance figure of at least 95%.

3B	95.2%
3J	98.8%
4H	99.1%
4G	97.4%
5AR	94.1%
5M	94.4%
6L	98.8%
6M	97.8%
All	96.9%



Congratulations to
4H who have the
best attendance
this week!

Parent Governor

My name is Simon Hitchcox and I have recently taken up the role of Parent Governor on the Robert Miles Junior School Local Governing Body.

I wanted to volunteer as a Governor in order to give something back, supporting and challenging the school to ensure that our children are given the best education and experiences possible during their time at Robert Miles. In my day job I work in the sports sector and, while I am also a former primary school teacher, experience of education is not essential for the role as full training and guidance is offered, opening up some great CPD opportunities.

We are currently looking to recruit more Parent Governor volunteers, so if you are interested in finding out about the role or have anything which you wish to discuss about the school, then please feel free to chat to me on the school run or send me an e-mail at simon.hitchcox@governor-equalstrust.org.



Mr Evelyn: As Simon has mentioned, we are looking for an additional parent governor. We will be advertising this to parents in the next few weeks. As well as speaking to Simon about this role, I am also happy to speak with any parents interested to find out more.

House Points

Children are earning House Points each and every day for showing the REACH values, making good choices and doing their very best. Each Friday in Honours Assembly, we announce the latest scores. At the end of each term, the house with the most points earns a non-uniform day.

This week's overall totals:

Jupiter	522
Mercury	416
Neptune	469
Saturn	454



Pupil Parliament

Last Friday, Harriet (6M) and Sam (6L) went to County Hall and joined children from other Rushcliffe primary schools to take part in the Pupil Parliament. They took part in a debate about equal pay for men and women in sport and also learned more about our system of democracy.



Disco

Thank you to Ruby (3J) for creating this disco poster!



Honours Assembly

Congratulations to these children whose success was celebrated at Honours Assembly this week and some of their work was shared with all the children in the school.

3J	Stuart Fisk & Koey Yiu
3B	Felix Russell & Roman Correia de Jesus
4G	Henry Tweddle & Marcus Ko
4H	Molly Clayton & Joshua Dickinson
5M	Holly Askham & Ethel Chan
5AR	Elliot Palmer & Ella Bensley
6M	No Year 6s this week
6L	as it is Dukes Barn Week!

Halloween Disco



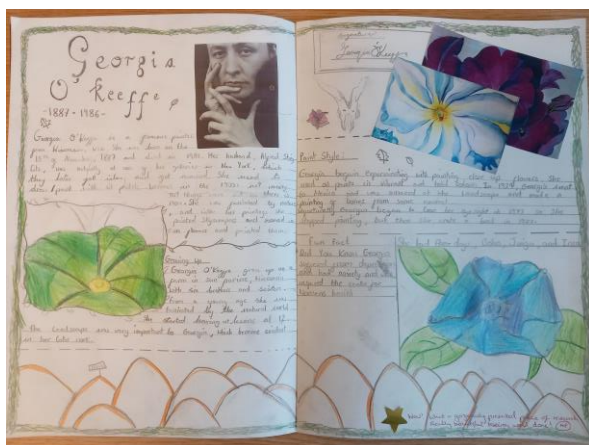
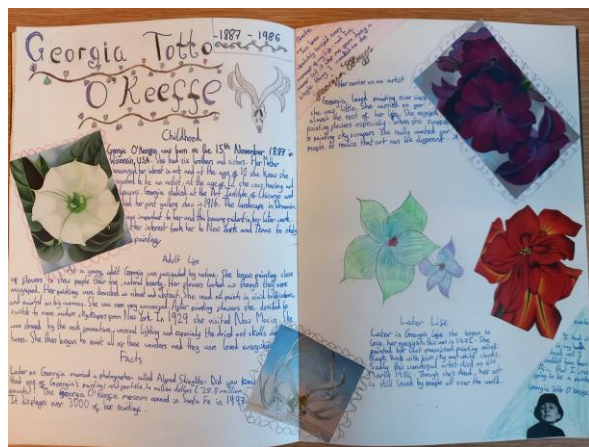
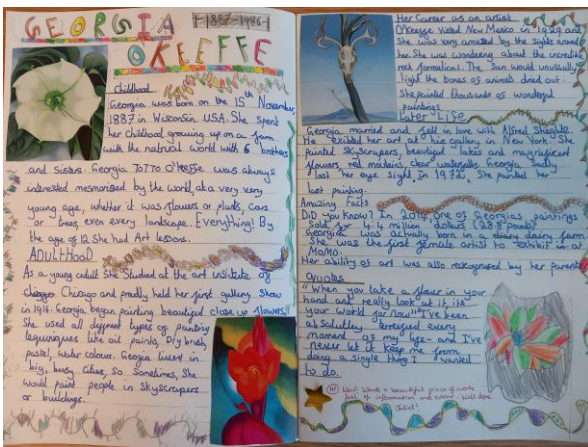
Excellent work under the Spotlight



5M have been investigating mechanisms as part of their science lessons on forces and how some mechanisms allow a small force to create a large effect. Part of the lesson involved investigating fulcrums, challenging the children to make a smaller weight exert a greater force than a heavier weight, through clever use of a fulcrum.



Also in the spotlight this week are some of our Year 6's. When they weren't enjoying the delights of the Derbyshire countryside at Dukes Barn, they were in school completing a detailed study of the artist Georgia O'Keeffe. Here you can see just a few absolutely stunning examples of the children's work. After researching the artist's life, career and inspirations, the children presented their findings along with images and illustrations drawn in the style of the artist. As you can see, this took time, patience and creativity and the children should be very proud of the high standard of work produced. As well as researching the artist, the children have each created a piece of art which encapsulates the eye-catching, bright, bold style of the artist and this will be on show very soon. Well done to all of Year 6 for an amazing week!



We share E-Safety information from National Online Safety with parents in the Robert Miles newsletter. This is to help you in ensuring that your child can use technology safely. Please read the following information.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION 13+

Snapchat is an instant messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to people in their friends list. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures and messages 'disappear' 24 hours after they've been viewed; however, this content isn't as temporary as many believe – with some users saving screenshots or using another device to take a photo of their screen. This year, Snapchat added 'My AI': a customisable chatbot with which people can chat and share secrets, as well as asking for advice and suggestions of places to visit.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects with people they know, they may still get friend requests from strangers. The Quick Add option lets users befriend people the app recommends – but these 'friends' are merely a username, which could have anyone behind it. Accepting such requests reveals children's personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features, potentially putting them at risk from predators.

EXCESSIVE USE

Snapchat works hard on user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). Spotlight Challenges tempt users into spending time producing content in search of cash prizes and online fame, while it's easy for children to pass hours watching Spotlight's endless scroll of videos.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat aren't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beauty' effects on photos can set unrealistic body-image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy if a young person compares themselves unfavourably with other users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

VISIBLE LOCATION

Snap Map highlights a device's exact position on a virtual map which is visible to other users. There are options to restrict who can see this information: all friends, only you (Ghost Mode) or selected friends. Snapchat also has real-time location sharing, which is intended as a buddy system to ensure friends have reached home safely – but which could also be used to track a young person for more sinister reasons.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add feature helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).

CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

In 2021, Snapchat rolled out a new safety feature: users can now receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check Up' encourages users to delete connections with users that they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.

DISCUSS AI

Although My AI's responses can often give the impression that it's a real person, it's essential that young people remember this certainly isn't the case. Encourage your child to think critically about My AI's replies to their questions: are they accurate and reliable? Remind them that My AI shouldn't replace chatting with their real friends, and that it's always better to talk to an actual person in relation to medical matters.

CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it's important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Remind your child that once something's online, the creator loses control over where it ends up – and who else sees it. Likewise, it's vital that children understand that some challenges which become popular on the platform may have potentially harmful consequences.

KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Snap Stories are visible to everyone your child adds, unless they change the settings. On SnapMaps, their location is visible unless Ghost Mode is enabled (again via settings). It's safest not to add people your child doesn't know in real life – especially since the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchat users to see where your child regularly visits and checks in.

BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger *does* connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user (annoying or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing Internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

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#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/320678835692-What-is-My-AI-on-Snapchat-and-how-do-I-use-it> | <https://www.snap.com/en-gb/news/early-learning-from-misinformation-and-new-safety-enhancements> | <https://blogs.nos.com/2023/04/04/snapchat-live-location-sharing-challenge/> | <https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/702304046644>

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Weekly Menu

This term, we have a new catering company supporting us and other Equals Trust schools. Their new systems require parent notification when a child has a special dietary requirement.

All parents have received a link to a form where you can submit information about your child's dietary requirements. If you have not already done so, please complete the form here if your child has specific dietary requirements: <https://orders.lunchhound.co.uk/medicaldiets/request>

Monday

- Homemade Cheese & Tomato pizza, garlic bread, sweetcorn and peas.
- Loaded cheesy bean hot pitta parcel.(V)
- Jacket potato with tuna mayonnaise or cheese or beans.
- Apple & sultana crumble bar

Tuesday

- Hearty pasta Bolognese with peppers, green beans and carrots.
- Plant based Bolognese pasta with lentils, peppers and basil.(V)
- Jacket potato with tuna mayonnaise or cheese or beans.
- Homemade lemon cake with custard.

Wednesday

- Toad in the hole, roast potatoes, gravy, cauliflower and seasonal greens.
- Quorn sausage toad in the hole, roast potatoes and gravy.(V)
- Jacket potato with tuna mayonnaise or cheese or beans.
- Banana cake and fruit slices

Thursday

- Mexican style chicken, bean and sweetcorn burrito, mixed vegetables and sweetcorn.
- Homemade macaroni cheese.(V)
- Jacket potato with tuna mayonnaise or cheese or beans.
- Chocolate cookie

Friday

- Cod fish fingers, chips, baked beans or peas.
- Cheese & onion pastry roll and chips.(V)
- Jacket potato with tuna mayonnaise or cheese or beans.
- Fruity strawberry jelly

Upcoming Dates w/c 23rd October

Monday 23rd October 2023

- Film Club 3.30 - 5.15pm. The film showing this week is Alvin and the Chipmunks-the squeakquel. £2 charge for this club. Please pay for this using the School Money app. Soft drink and biscuit provided. No sweets or chocolate please.
- Halloween disco 6.30-8pm. £2 entry. Tuck shop available. Please bring change.

Tuesday 24th October 2023

- Last Handball session for group one. 8.15-8.55am
- Girls cricket club 3.30-4.30pm
- Young Voices rehearsal 3.30-4.30pm.
- Boys football team trials at lunch time.

Wednesday 25th October 2023

- Bible explorers at lunch time.

Thursday 26th October 2023

- NO SWIMMING THIS WEEK
- Tag rugby 3.30-4.30pm

Friday 27th October 2023

- Honours Assembly
- Non-uniform day for the house point winners.
- Last day of term. Back at School on Monday 6th November.