

Dear Parents and Carers,

It feels as though the summer may be finally arriving, although even saying this is tempting fate. The children have been playing on the field now for a couple of weeks and there is a happy atmosphere in school as we move towards the summer holiday. As many of you will know Year 6 did not take the 'official' SATs this year as we have joined the boycott of the SATs organised by the two main Headteachers' unions. However, our own assessment procedures continue and we are confident that we will be able to give you a very accurate picture of your child's strengths, as well as areas for development, when we send out the children's end of year reports to parents later this term. Next week 44 children from Year 6 will be taking part in our annual school journey to the Isle of Wight. We are using a different centre this year called 'Little Canada' which we understand is the best on the Island. We hope Year 6 have a great time and if all goes well we hope to take another group of children there next year.

1. E-Safety

I have written about e-safety on this newsletter before and assured you that the school computer systems are constantly under review to ensure that pupils have no access to inappropriate materials. However, every week I have examples of how systems in the children's own homes are not secure and that children are using the Internet unsupervised. A show of hands in assembly this morning revealed that over 25 children have computers in their rooms that they are allowed to use without adult supervision. Each week we deal with incidents in school that have originated out of school through the children's use of the internet. I would advise that **unsupervised use of the Internet is dangerous** and can leave children at risk of online exploitation or cyberbullying. I have said to the children that if they have concerns with things that other children are sending them they should bring a printout of the material to school and staff here will try to help to resolve the situation. In addition governors have asked me to remind you of the age limitations on several popular websites:

Facebook 13	minimum age limit 13	Bebo	minimum age limit
Myspace age limit	minimum age limit 14	Youtube (account)	minimum

I am asking that in order to keep your children safe you keep a close eye on what they are doing on the computer. Don't be afraid to look at what they are doing on the screen—if they're not keen to show you then they are probably doing something that they shouldn't be. To see the safeguards that we apply at school please see the school's e-safety policy in the policies section on the school's website.

2. Independent research for thematic curriculum

Our school's new thematic curriculum has been a tremendous success and is being used as a model for other schools. It is now in place for all year groups and we plan to have a whole week later in the term where we 'showcase' work in this area. In assemblies I am now encouraging all children to continue their studies on their theme at home—through books or (supervised) Internet research. I have a new display outside my room that I hope to fill by the end of this term so please encourage your children in this sort of work at home.

3. Dates for your diaries

Tuesday 18th May—Some Year 6 to Olympic site with Ms Smythe

31st May—4th June Half term week

18th June—Inset day. School closed.

30th June—Cake sale for Cancer research

1st July—International day