

Chief Executive Officer: Mrs Alison Nettleship  
Head of School: Mrs Rachel Dinnis  
Assistant Head of School: Mr Simon Wilkins



Weston Mill Community Primary Academy  
Ferndale Road  
Camel's Head  
Plymouth  
PL2 2EL

01752 365250  
Westonmill.desk@discoverymat.co.uk

## Newsletter 14th Jan 2022

It's Friday again and the end of another productive week within our school. Thank you to all the parents who attended the virtual parents evening., it was a great success!

### Our School Priorities Term 3

#### 1 Behaviour:

- Staff and children know, understand and follow the Managing and Supporting Positive Behaviour policy.

#### 2 Teaching and Learning

- Focus on multiplication tables, particularly in year 4
- Focus on Reading Comprehension skills, and sequencing writing in English teaching and learning.

#### 3 STEM Skills

- STEM skills are shared with pupils (problem solving, creativity, inquiry skills, observation, flexibility and collaboration).
- Teachers plan opportunities for STEM skills to be used throughout the curriculum.

### In Our Classes This Week



This term **Matisse** class are learning about the Arctic. We started our topic by exploring ice. We found out how to make ice as well as experimenting to find out how ice melts the quickest.



This week, **Hadid** Class have been using their Inquiry STEM skills to research LS Lowry. They collated their research by designing a LS Lowry sketch and fact page in their sketchbooks. Following this activity, they used their Creativity STEM skills to sketch and produce a landscape in the style of LS Lowry.



**Y6** have started their learning focusing on the British Empire and the Industrial Revolution. They are using their inquiry STEM skills to answer: 'Why was the British Empire so successful?'. So far they have conducted research collaboratively researching different lines of enquiry related to the British Empire and then collated this research by creating idea maps. They then sequenced the key events of the Industrial Revolution collaboratively before creating their own timelines of events which they believed to be the most significant. Children then explored a Victorian Workhouse Virtually, using chrome-books as part of their Rich Experience lesson. Here are some examples of their learning:

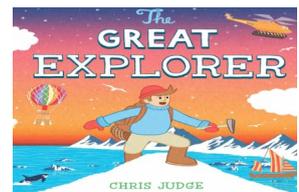
**Kahlo** class: This week we have been combining some STEM skills and thinking about our Online Reputation; we looked at how we can present a positive reputation in the online environment and then discussed what information we should keep private and protect from the online world. We used our mathematical skills of three-dimensional nets to decorate and build a security box which we filled with our sensitive data.





As part of our topic; 'to infinity and beyond!' **Goldsworthy** class looked at different satellite images of our planet, Earth. We used non fiction books to find more information about Earth and satellites, and painted our own satellite images of earth.

This week in **Mondrian** class we have started reading the book "The Great Explorer" by Chris Judge. The book is about a boy who decides to go and save his dad who is missing in the Arctic. We have written some great predictions of what might happen to Tom. In Grammar we have been learning how to use adjectives to make our sentences more exciting. After we learnt what a noun and an adjective is and we played a matching game to create exciting and sometimes funny phrases!



## Term Dates for 2022/2023



**7th Sept 2022 return to school.**

**Oct holiday:** 24th—28th Oct 2022

**Non pupil day:** 25th Nov 2022

**Christmas holidays:** 19th—2nd Jan (return to school 3rd Jan 2023)

**Feb holiday:** 13th—20th Feb 2023 (return to school 21st Feb)

**Easter holiday:** 3rd—14th April 2023

**Bank holiday:** 1st May 2023

**May holiday:** 29th May—2nd June 2023

**Non pupil day;** 23rd June 2023

**Summer holidays 2023:** start on 26th July

## FREE SCHOOL MEALS

You may be entitled to apply for Free School Meals for your child/ren if you receive Universal Credit, Income Support, Income Based Job Seekers Allowance, Income Related Element of Employment and Support Allowance, Guaranteed Credit element of Pension Credit or Child Tax Credit (without Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of £16,190 or less.

We would urge parents who may be eligible for Free School Meals for the children to contact the school office for a form as soon as possible. This is very important, even if your child does not wish to take up the free meal. The register of FSM entitlement affects our overall school budget and we may be missing out on funding as a result. Please do not confuse this with Universal Free School Meal entitlement for children in Years Reception to Year Two.

## Parking Around The School

Please be mindful and considerate when parking around the school along the roads and refrain from parking on double yellow lines or blocking driveways.



**Thank you.**

## RECEPTION SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Please be reminded that applications for Primary School Admission places are now open. Applications need to be made by **Saturday 15th January 2022.**

Please see the link below:-

[School admissions | PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK](https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/school-admissions)

# Nursery Parents

## Virtual Coffee Morning

~Thursday 20th January at 10am~

You are invited to our virtual coffee morning, where we can chat about topics such as; toilet training, play, sleep, diet and starting school. If you have any specific questions about any of these topics, you are welcome to email me ahead of the morning and I will try my best to have information ready.

Please email to confirm your attendance by Monday 17th January, and I will send you a virtual invite.

Kind regards

Claire Wilkinson

Family Support Advisor

c.wilkinson@discoverymat.co.uk

01752 365250



### ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK 10TH—14TH JANUARY 2022

Well done to this weeks winning classes: **Mondrian & Gaudi**



**It is our aim for children to be in school at least 96% of the time.**

This means that they are present for their learning, to develop their social circles and participate in progressing as planned through their year group learning. Education is so important to children's life chances, to understanding and taking part in the adult world they will join and for forming the social and development skills they need. Research has found that children with **absence over 50%**, only 3% manage to achieve 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C including math's and English. While children take their GCSEs at Secondary school, it is clear that low attendance leads to low attainment because of the amount of learning missed. Primary education is crucial to the building blocks that mean children succeed academically in the next stages of their education. 73% of pupils who have **over 95% attendance** achieve 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C. Where possible, appointments should be taken outside of school time, although we know these appointments are in high demand.

Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help, as we are always willing to find ways that can support families with attendance.

GOLDSWORTHY	92.95
MATISSE	88.52
MONDRIAN	<b>93.09</b>
KIELY	91.15
KAHLO	92.86
DA VINCI	89.52
MONET	89.64
PICASSO	95.20
GAUDI	<b>97.73</b>
HADID	94.00
HOCKNEY	97.28

## eSafety Guide

**This is for guidance only. We will be putting more information onto our school website shortly.**

As technology surrounds us and applications develop at rates faster than seen before, it is really important we keep you updated with guidance shared to us to keep children safe online. Please see below, the age guidance for many of the applications used for Social Media:



How can this be monitored at home?

Use of the widely known Familylink app provided by google, is just one application available to support the monitoring of your child's device. This app is available from both the apps stores for both android and iphone.



Additionally, as part of our subscription to the National Online Safety Platform, parents and carers have unique access to a wide range of leaflets, seminars and workshops relating to the use of devices and applications. To become part of our online community, please join below:

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/weston-mill-community-primary-academy>

Smart devices promise to make our lives easier. In many cases - they do, however these new technologies present risks too. Whether you're using a digital assistant to record your shopping list or you're controlling your lights through a smart system, many smart functions can be 'hacked' and controlled by someone outside your home. This guide will help you identify some of the ways you can stay alert and protect yourself.

1

### KNOW THE RISKS

The success of any smart device relies on it communicating with other devices using the Internet. It's an unavoidable part of using smart devices, but it does expose you to numerous risks. Attackers could use the Internet connection to steal your data for identity fraud or to make unauthorised purchases through your devices. There is even potential for more sinister exploitation, such as child grooming or cyber-bullying.

2

### WHAT IS THE INTERNET OF THINGS?

This is the term given to all the devices connected to the Internet in your home. It includes a new digital doorbell connected to your smartphone, your kettle that boils when you tell it to on your tablet or your heating that comes on when you swipe on your smart watch. The Internet of Things (IoT) is designed to make life easier, but it also opens up your home network to potential cyber-attacks. It doesn't mean you can't enjoy the benefits, but it does mean being aware of the potential negatives.

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### KEEP YOUR SOFTWARE UP TO DATE

Manufacturers constantly update and improve software used in smart devices. Some will automatically alert you to an update, but not all do. To be on the safe side, it's a good idea to set reminders in your calendar. Check the manufacturer's website for any updates and run them if necessary.



3

### CHECK ENCRYPTION SETTINGS

Whenever data is sent over the Internet, it is 'encrypted'. This makes it harder to read if it's intercepted. You should look to use a strong encryption setting, such as WPA2, rather than WPA or WEP. You can check your router manual on how to do this.

5

### RENAME THE 'GATEWAY' TO YOUR HOME

Your internet router is the virtual gateway to your home network. It needs protecting. To do this, you should change the default name (the SSID) and password. You can usually find steps to do this in the instruction manual. Don't use your family name. Choose something more obscure. Make the password complicated too, using upper and lower-case letters, numbers and symbols. Do this for your router and any other smart devices connected to the Internet.



# 12 Top Tips To Get Smart About The DEVICES In Your Home



National Online Safety®



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### USE A SEPARATE NETWORK FOR GUESTS

If your router has a feature that allows you to set up a separate network for guests, you should use it. That way, when guests use your Wi-Fi, they won't have access to your devices.

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### TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

If you ever feel something is wrong or your network is being exploited, visit the manufacturer's website or ring their technical support department. It's better to be safe than sorry.



7

### SAY GOODBYE TO SIRI AND ALEXA

It's a good idea to change the activation words on your smart devices so they are unique to you and your family. This makes it that much harder for people to break into your smart devices.



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### DEACTIVATE ANY UNNECESSARY FEATURES

Though it's a fun idea, you probably don't need to control your kettle from outside the house. In fact, there are often many unnecessary features included on smart devices. Where possible, you should look to disable these. Doing so reduces the ability for people to hack your devices. When someone sees you've actively taken steps to increase security, they're less inclined to try to compromise them.

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### BUILD A WALL

You could also purchase a dedicated 'firewall' device. This is something that plugs into your network and stops cyber threats reaching your router. Some routers do have a firewall element included, but they are no replacement for the real thing. A firewall device thoroughly analyses information coming in and out of your network and helps stop malicious attacks. A security device is strongly recommended to anyone who works from home or deals with sensitive information.



11

### SECURE YOUR SMARTPHONE

If you do use apps on your smartphone to control devices in your home, make sure your smartphone is secure. At the very least make sure the pin function is enabled, as well as any biometric authentication you have. Where possible, it's also a good idea to download some anti-virus software for your smartphone too.



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### REGULARLY AUDIT YOUR DEVICES AND CONSOLES

Every now and then you should check through all of your smart devices (including games consoles connected to the Internet). Turn them off at the mains and disconnect them from the Internet. In fact, it's good practice to disconnect any devices that aren't in use. It's a small thing but really does help. Even when you think a device might be in sleep mode, if it's connected to the Internet it could still be listening or streaming data.



## Meet our expert

Emma was a secondary school Computer Science teacher for more than decade. Since leaving education, she has been working in a cyber security firm delivering cyber awareness training to businesses and carrying out network testing. She is a mother of a five-year-old and has vast experience of controlling and managing how children access online services and use apps.



SOURCE: 8 tips (www.nos.gov.uk), 10 tips (www.getafirewall.org)

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)

Twitter - @natonlinesafety

Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

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