



ST. STEPHEN'S JUNIOR SCHOOL

We Model What We Value

School News

February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you are all well and have enjoyed the first spring term – now we are in February, the days are getting slightly lighter – even if the temperatures are still rather cold! It has been beautiful to see the Forest school in all its frosted glory, especially with a number of the improvements Mr Kitch and the children have implemented.



We have been lucky enough to watch the Yr 5 assemblies this term, which have certainly included some fantastic performances from the children along with highlights such as the parent quiz – to really test those listening skills in the space assembly. Well done Yr 5! It has also been great to see how enthusiastic lower school are when it comes to cooking, this term Yr 3 have been making sandwiches which they have loved, and Yr 4 have made crumbles which looked delicious!



Wishing you all an enjoyable half term,
Laura Cutts and Sarah Heaney, Headteachers

Key Messages this term from our Assemblies



**NO
OUT
SIDERS**

This term in the Headteacher's assemblies we have looked at a variety of different themes which support and endorse our school values. Mrs Heaney looked at how children should be 'bucket fillers not dippers' looking at acts and thoughts which would fill their own buckets as well as the buckets of others.

We have also looked at inspirational role models, which embody our school values, such as Simone Biles. As someone who has experienced racism and has a diagnosis of ADHD, it is important for children to see that this has not limited her success and that she is an inspiration to others. Her determination and attitude along with awareness and positive promotion of mental health.

We have also held a 'No Outsiders' assembly on stereotypes and bias, using examples of a Muslim female football team, who are challenging stereotypes and providing a positive role model to young girls. Mrs Heaney along with Mr Rajan on the piano have also been leading us in learning the song "A million dreams", it sounds absolutely fantastic!



During our school council meeting this term we have decided to focus on school dinners. The school council have thought of some questions to ask the whole school to gain feedback and will be looking at examples of other menus to gain further ideas around the school menu. We will be working with Tina and her staff in the kitchen to focus on variety of healthy options, hopefully involving some tasting sessions!

Parents and carers

—Family

We would like to share some information with you around a website and Community Interest Company (CIC) that has been set up by one of our trustees, called 'For every child I wish...' If there is something that you need to support your child with such as school uniform, clothing, shoes, equipment, furniture – such as beds or bedding, please fill in the form and your request will be processed. There will be no charge to these items. To find out more please visit www.foreverychild-wish.co.uk.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Huge congratulations to Mrs Mann on the birth of her baby boy! We wanted to share the happy news with our school community.

We have been working with our local Prevent officer and our Yr 6 children to complete work around some of the issues we are facing within our local community. Key messages were around general online safety, increasing young people's awareness of radicalisation whilst giving them critical thinking skills to ensure that they are able to make good decisions online and ask for help and support when they need it. The Prevent Duty is about safeguarding individuals and communities from the threat of terrorism. We have also received training as a staff body to ensure that we are equipped to navigate these situations in school. There is further information attached to this Newsletter.



HOW TO TALK TO CHILDREN ABOUT RADICALISM

IMPORTANCE OF TALKING TO CHILDREN

Talking to children about radicalism is a delicate but essential conversation in today's world. By creating a safe and open environment, we can help our children navigate complex issues and develop critical thinking skills. This guide provides practical advice on how to discuss radicalism with children, emphasising the importance of empathy, respect, and online safety.

Through thoughtful dialogue, we can empower our children to recognise and resist extremist influences, fostering a more informed and resilient generation.



CREATE A SAFE SPACE

It's important to choose a comfortable and private setting where the child feels secure. Make sure it's a time when you won't be interrupted, allowing for an unhurried conversation. This helps create an environment where the child feels safe to express their thoughts and feelings.



BE APPROACHABLE

Encourage open dialogue by letting the child know they can share their thoughts and feelings without fear of judgment. Maintain a calm and non-confrontational demeanor to foster open communication. Your approachability will make it easier for the child to discuss sensitive topics.



LISTEN ACTIVELY

Pay close attention to what the child says, showing genuine interest in their words. Ask open-ended questions to understand their perspective and gauge their knowledge on the topic. Active listening helps you better understand the child's concerns and thoughts.

USE AGE-APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE

Tailor your explanations to the child's age and maturity level. Simplify complex ideas and avoid frightening details that might confuse or scare them. Using language that the child can understand ensures that the conversation is effective and meaningful.



DISCUSS ONLINE SAFETY

Talk about the importance of being cautious online and the risks of interacting with strangers. Highlight the dangers of consuming extremist content and teach them how to recognize it. Emphasizing online safety helps the child navigate the digital world more securely.

REASSURE AND SUPPORT

Offer comfort and reassurance, letting the child know it's okay to feel worried or confused. Assure them that they can always come to you with their concerns. Providing emotional support helps the child feel understood and less anxious about the topic.



HIGHLIGHT POSITIVE VALUES

Emphasize the importance of empathy, respect, and understanding different perspectives. Encourage critical thinking and the questioning of extreme views. Fostering these values helps the child develop a balanced and thoughtful approach to different ideas.



SEEK PROFESSIONAL HELP IF NEEDED

If you have concerns about a child's exposure to radicalism, please reach out to one of our Prevent Education Officers at Kent County Council.

You can email us at prevent@kent.gov.uk for support and guidance.



PREVENT@KENT.GOV.UK



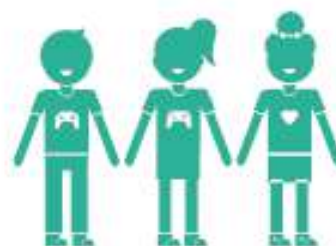
Coming up next term... World book day 6th March, Red Nose day 21st March, Parents evenings 25th and 26th March.

A straight forward guide to protecting children from online hate, extremism, and fake news



The pandemic has meant that children are spending more time than ever before learning and socialising online. Parents are juggling new technology alongside working and navigating the risks children face online. This **interactive guide has links to resources, advice, and information to help you:**

- Understand the risks and issues.
- Know where to get help.
- Find resources.
- Develop practical strategies.
- Start conversations.
- Build your child's digital resilience.



A lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes.



Mark Twain

Risks and Tactics

Extremists use the internet and social media to spread their ideology, hate, fake news, and conspiracy theories. They actively **target, exploit and groom children and young people.**

They know young people are using the internet much more, quite often by themselves, and so utilise these opportunities to exploit and recruit.

They frequently do this by exploiting our emotions, deeply held beliefs, and values and are increasingly using the social isolation, anxiety, and fear that many children are experiencing because of the pandemic.

A common approach they use is to spread misinformation to **generate anger and outrage.** Teaching our children not to **fall for this trick** is one of the most important things we can do to protect them from grooming by extremists.





Frequently used tactics includes memes, making alterations to photos, videos, and documents and using them out of context. They make up quotes and social media posts for popular public figures.

Especially ones that children and young people look up to and follow online. Their aim is to draw children into conversations and encourage them to share misinformation and hate.



Extremists often pick a genuine local issue or concern and use it to spread lies, fear and hate about the group they're targeting. This [BBC Ritesize guide](#) has some great ideas of how to talk about this to children.

Where to start?

The most important thing parents and carers can do is talk to the children and young people in their lives about what they enjoy doing online. Talk about what they think isn't so good about being online and how to make it better. Then just keep talking as your child grows up and becomes more independent online. Find out what's their plan for when things go wrong or get them down and consider having a no blame rule, so that they'll talk to you when things go wrong, if they're worried about being told off or having devices confiscated they may decide to keep things to themselves.



The more a stranger knows about your child, the easier it is to groom them and gain trust. Only share with trusted friends and family.

Support, ideas and resources



Click on the topics below to learn more about how to keep your child safe and support their wellbeing online. Learn how to identify misinformation, talk to children about hate speech and spot the signs they could be being groomed by extremists or other online predators.

Educate Against Hate

Messages of hate can take many forms. Extremist groups use them to recruit young people. Parents can find answers to common questions and resources to help protect their child from being groomed by extremists as well as ideas about how to talk to children about hate and extremism.



Fact Check

Know how to fact check and have a link to a reliable fact checking site on your devices. This link to full fact is a great place to start, its one of the best sites for identifying Fake News for just what it is.

How to know what to trust

This guide from the News Literacy Project is great place to start and has fun games and ideas for children and young people of all ages.



Conspiracy Theories



Conspiracy theories have grown significantly in the past year they have been fuelled by the confusing and unsettling nature of the pandemic and have resulted in people being drawn into extremists groups, committing violent and criminal acts. They can also be deeply disturbing and unsettling for children and young people who come across them accidentally online. The video in this link explains why they are dangerous.

Common Sense Media

This website has the latest research, tips, and tools on what really keeps children safe online. Which privacy settings should you use? What are the ins and outs of parental controls? Get tips on everything from the basics, such as smart usernames, to the big stuff, such as appropriate sharing. Plus lots of resources and strategies to look after your child's wellbeing online. What are the pro's and con's of Roblox, TikTok, Instagram or how to talk to teens about online predators.

[Digital Resilience Toolkit](#)

[Facts and advice about Online Radicalisation](#)

[The Fake News Quiz Test your skills](#)

Four ways to counter hate on social media



1. Don't feed the trolls, click on [this link](#) and read this Guide to Dealing With Hate on Social Media.
2. Watch [this video](#) with the children in your life and talk about what you can do to make the internet happier.
3. Block, mute and report [this guide](#) will show you how. If you see a hate crime [report it here](#).
4. Look after yourself and the children in your life. Switch off your devices and go for a walk, talk to a friend or do something else you like together that doesn't require technology.

Is someone you know becoming a stranger?



Act early



Kent and Medway Prevent Education Officers

Jill Allen (South & East Kent) jill.allen@kent.gov.uk
Sally Green North & West Kent and Medway sally.green2@kent.gov.uk



MATHS



In Year 3, the fantastic online learning platform 'NumBots' has been introduced. This focuses on supporting the children's understanding of number bonds and to help their addition and subtraction skills. These are the essential building blocks for higher-level maths concepts

$$\begin{array}{l} \swarrow 1+9 \\ \leftarrow 4+6 \\ \swarrow 5+5 \\ 10 \end{array}$$

$$3+1+2=$$

$$3-1-2=$$

number bonds addition subtraction

Logging In: The children have been shown how to log in and have brought home a username label containing their unique login details.

Important: Please don't allow siblings, friends or family to answer for them, as the programme progresses at the pace of each child. Do feel free to support your child if they're stuck and give them encouragement to keep trying even if it takes a number of times to complete a level.

There are lots of ways to play NumBots...



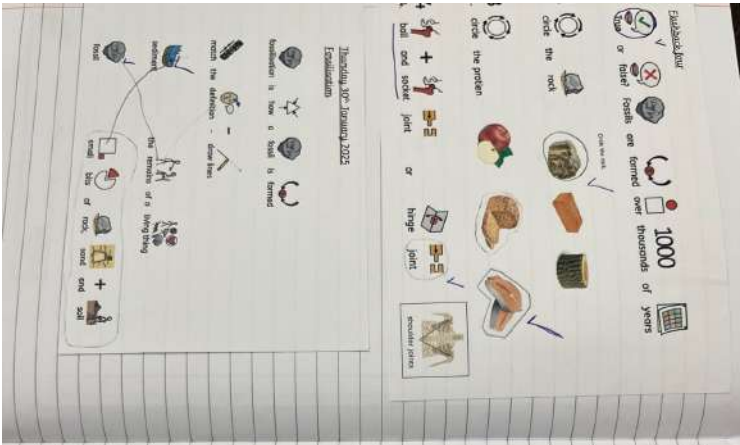
Little and often

In order to get the best out of NumBots, we recommend that children play regularly for short bursts at a time, aiming for 4 minutes, five times a week.

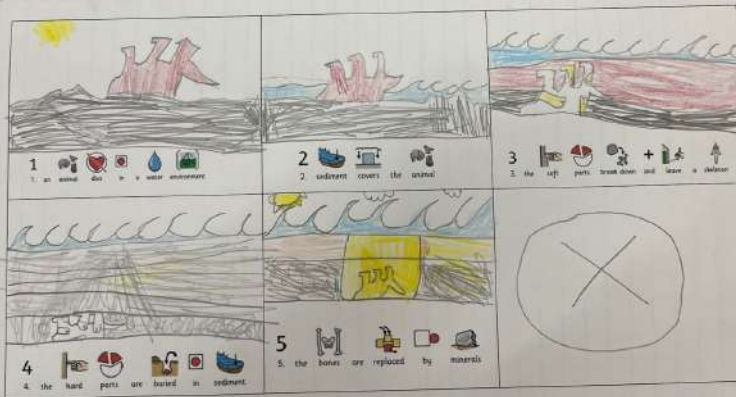
Year 3



Some excellent work from Year 3 including the fossilisation process, multiples of 10 and exploring New Delhi.



Draw a picture of each step of the fossilisation process



There are 16 tens in 160.
 $16 \times 10 = 160$ ✓

There are 18 tens in 180.
 $18 \times 10 = 180$ ✓

There are 24 tens in 240.
 $24 \times 10 = 240$ ✓

Multiples of 10	Not multiples of 10
$300 \checkmark$	$101 \checkmark$
$50 \checkmark$	$1917 \checkmark$

A ribbon is 150cm long.

Ran wants to cut the ribbon into 10 cm pieces. How many pieces can he cut? 15 ✓

Work out the calculations.

a) $42 \times 10 = 420$ ✓ b) $10 \times 35 = 350$ ✓ c) $10 \times 83 = 830$ ✓

d) $21 \times 10 = 210$ ✓ e) $28 \times 10 = 280$ ✓ f) $4 \times 3 \times 10 = 430$ ✗

Fill in the missing numbers.

a) $23 \times 10 = 230$ ✓ c) $10 \times 58 = 580$ ✓

b) $71 \times 10 = 710$ ✓ d) $910 = 10 \times 91$ ✓

Wednesday 5th February 2025

How is land used in New Delhi?

Which continent is India in?
Asia

Which countries border India?
Bangladesh, myanmar, nepal, pakistan, china

Which oceans or seas surround India?
indian ocean, Arabian Sea



5.2.25

multiples of ten

1) $236 + 127 = 363$ ✓

2) $428 - 152 = 276$ ✓


3) $3 \times 8 = 24$ ✓


4) $32 \div 4 = 8$ ✓


20	30	40	50	60	70	80
110	120	130	140	150	160	170
290	300	310	320	330	340	350


Year 4 have been looking at the journey of bananas and cocoa beans in Geography this term.


Impacts

- 


They cut down trees which causes deforestation and homeless for animals.
- 

They wash the bananas and use up so many water that the animals depend on which can make them die.
- 


Then, they put the bananas in cardboard boxes and if they do not get recycled properly it can waste trees.
- 


Next, they take a ship to get the bananas to the UK this can lead to leaking of the stool and the fish can die.
- 


Next, they put bananas in packages or that is many plastic and if you do not recycle properly it can get in the DVMP!


Super work! 





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The cacao tree grows and the cacao is harvested.
- 


The beans are covered with banana leaves to ferment them.
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They are roasted and dried into proper cacao beans.
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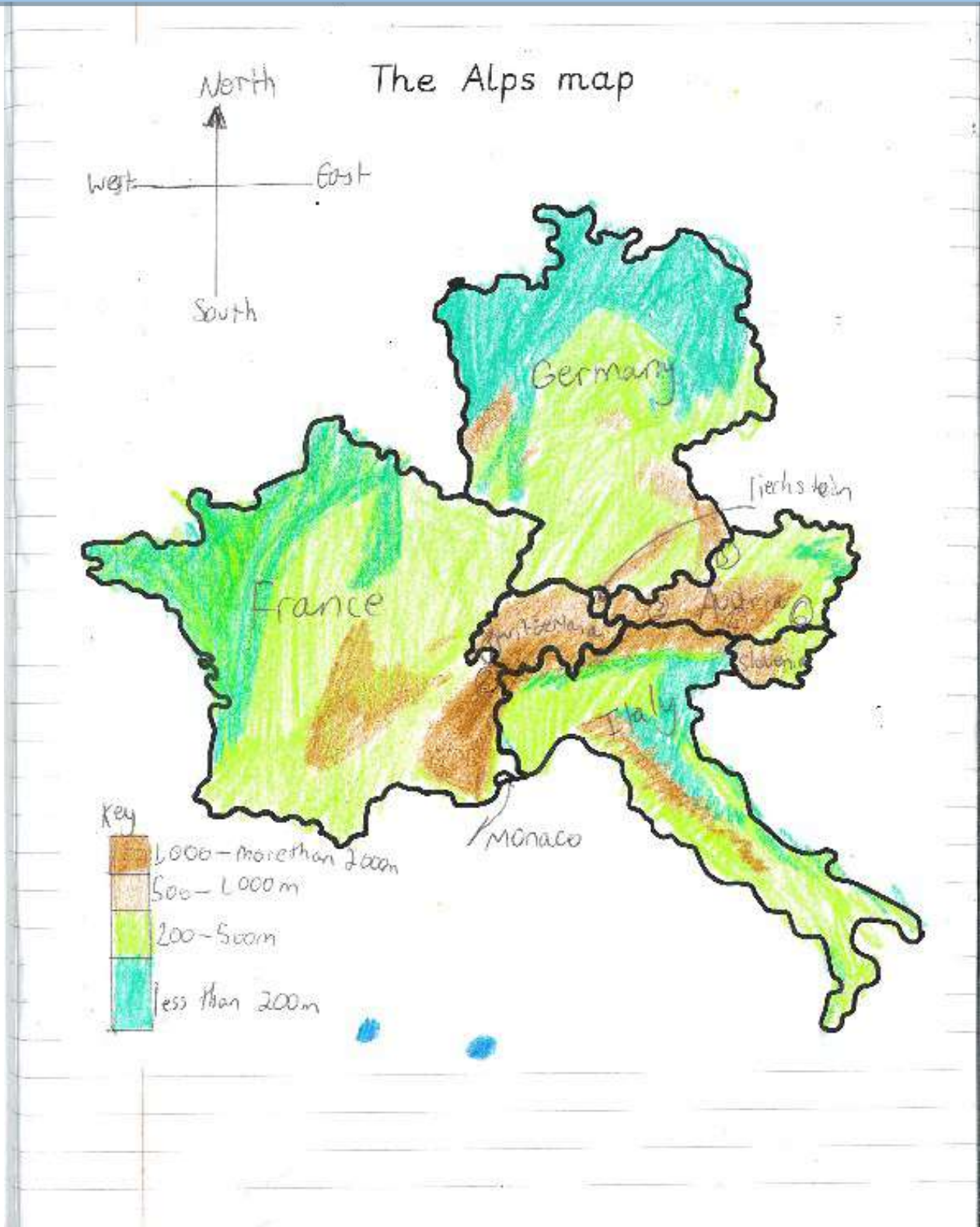
They're transported by ship to other countries.
- 

In the factories its mixed with other ingredients to make a paste.
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It goes to shops to be sold and eaten.

 This is brilliant, hana! Well done!! ☆ ☆

A brilliant piece of work from Vanessa. The class had to create their own topographical map of countries surrounding the Alps and label them.



Wednesday 6th February 2025

The life of Holly Jackson

The terrific Holly Jackson is an author of the bestselling series *A Good Girls Guide to Murder*. She has also written two other books: *The Reappearance of Rachel Price* and *Five Survive*. Read more to find out about the life of Holly Jackson.



Childhood

Holly, who was born on the 6th December 1992, lived in Buckinghamshire, in a rural part of England. She had a passion for writing at a very young age. Her mum, Jessica Jackson, had never found her jokes funny but was always helping Holly to write. At the age of 13, she had a poor attempt at a crime novel.

The start of something amazing

In 2025, Holly would be releasing a new book. In 2015, Holly graduated from the University of Nottingham. When she was at the University of Nottingham, she studied literacy, linguistics and creative writing with a first-class master's degree in English. Holly said: "I really liked my University, it inspired my crime thrillers."

Best-selling author

To further her career, Holly sold multiple books including: *A Good Girls Guide to Murder*, *Good Girl Bad Blood*, *As Good As Dead*, *Kill Joy*, *Five Survive* and finally *The Reappearance of Rachel Price*. On the 26th September 2023 Holly married to Sari Lynn Edelstein, which caused Holly to stop writing her 6th book *The Reappearance of Rachel Price* and *Not Quite Dead Yet* is coming out on the 22nd of July 2025!

Holly's legacy

Holly Jackson will be remembered for her best-selling series *AGGTM*. Holly also inspires many young people to write crime novels. Did you know that Holly was inspired by Susan Collins (the writer of the well-known *The Hunger Games*)?



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Achievements
Over Taylor's career, Taylor has won many awards such as:
 - Broken over 35 Guinness World records.
 - 40 Billboard Music awards.
 - 23 MTV video music awards.
 - 4 American music awards.

Legacy
Taylor Swift is also known for her generosity and has donated large sums of money to help children in need, global disaster funds and many other charities.

Did you know Taylor Swift has 3 cats: Meredith, Olivia and Benjamin?
MEOW!
MEOW!
MEOW!

Did you know Taylor Swift can play the ukulele?

Taylor Alison Swift

Year 6 have been writing biographies on influential figures who inspire them!