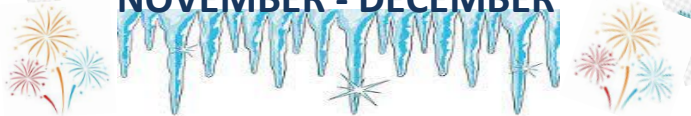


NEWS ROUND UP



NEWSLETTER 2

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER



Headstart

Positive Learning for Life



This week, students in Key Stage 4 have taken part in various activities to help progress their learning, social interaction and health and fitness development. Students have enjoyed offsite activities to the local supermarket where they could enhance on their social and independent skills. Students were able to choose items from the shop, evaluate the costings and use the self-checkout to purchase the items. The students really enjoyed the independence and behaved really well offsite in a public space.



KS4 Class

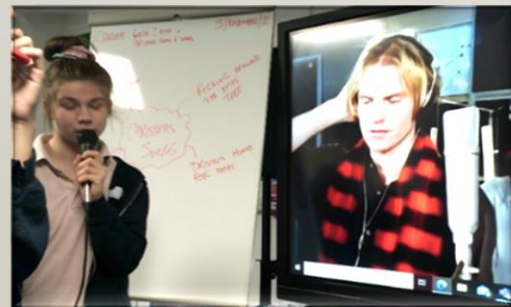


Some students in Key Stage 4 have been able to engage in card and board game activities this week. This gives students an opportunity to develop their interaction and turn taking skills. This week, the students enjoyed a few games of monopoly deal. Students are improving on their behaviours during these games and are able to understand the concept of winning and losing.

Students from Key stage 4 have also enjoyed taking part in sports lessons to aid their Occupational Therapy and sensory needs. This week, students took part in a game of dodgeball. The main focus of this lesson was to work as a team through interaction and communication. The students were able to develop their hand eye coordination and mobility skills. With dodgeball being a fast paced activity, it also allowed for development with fitness levels as the student's heart rates were raised throughout. Students thoroughly enjoyed this lesson, especially being able to throw the dodgeballs at their teachers!!



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

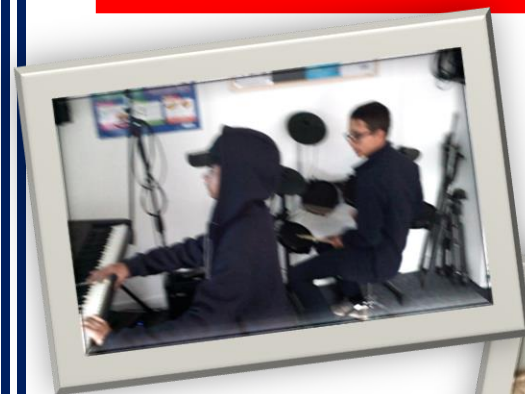


This term we are mostly preparing for the Christmas show. It will feature a lot of singing, a lot of dancing, some DJing, festive stalls, and amazing decorations all created by the students at Headstart School!

The Link students have been really getting into the festive spirit, I won't reveal the song choices yet but you are in for a treat! They are even preparing a special signed song for those that are hard of hearing!

KS4 have really come together as a group and are really looking forward to performing together and as soloist. We will have some singing, some instrumental performances, and some cross class performances!

Post 16 have been working towards their BTEC performance unit. They have been practicing their rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic skills. As well as practicing for the Christmas show.



Please take a minute to read the parent guide about Omegle. Omegle is a website specifically designed to allow users to talk to strangers. It works by randomly matching users to talk one-to-one by either text or video. It is free and anonymous to use, with no account registration or age verification.

Many concerns have been raised about the safety and use of Omegle by young people. Please talk to your children about what they are accessing and be aware that they may be attempting to access this site.

Maria (DSL and Deputy Headteacher)

Social Media Site - Omegle



Omegle is a website that pairs random strangers for live text or video chats. It first launched in 2009 and its slogan is "Talk to strangers!" There is an option for adult (18+) content and a section for people aged 13+ with parental permission. Anyone can use the site. Users simply go to Omegle.com and then choose 'Text' or 'Video' chat and the page states how many users are currently online. Depending on the time of day this can be hundreds of thousands. Omegle markets itself as a great way to meet new friends however has been known to feature pornography and inappropriate content within chats, so it's important parents are aware of the risks associated with the site.



What parents need to know about OMEGLE



NO AGE VERIFICATION MEASURES

Omegle is completely free to use and allows users to communicate with others without the need to register, supply an email address or create a profile. This means users can remain anonymous and it's hard to trust who your children are talking to. Furthermore, there are no age verification measures and other than agreeing to the terms and conditions, your child can easily start online engagement with strangers and potentially access more adult themed content.



RISK OF CYBERBULLYING

The anonymity of Omegle can increase the risk of cyberbullying on the site. Engaging in chat with strangers means that topics of conversation can lead almost anywhere including discussions about looks, body image or the sharing of other personal information. With the anonymity of video chat as well, this could lead to children being coerced or forced into carrying out activities online which could then be used against them.



UNMODERATED CHAT

Omegle encourages video chat as much as it can, prompting users during their text chat to activate their web cam. Whilst text chat has a degree of moderation, the content in Omegle's video chat rooms is not moderated by administrators and, at any time of the day, there can be thousands of users online. This means that your child could easily come across illegal, unacceptable or inappropriate images or media. Omegle currently offers no function for reporting online abuse or inappropriate behaviour on its site and instead only offers advice to 'please be careful'. It also advises to 'Use Omegle at your own risk'. Disconnect if anyone makes you feel uncomfortable.



PRIVACY RISK VIA FACEBOOK

Omegle can be linked to a user's Facebook account to match their interests and likes with other users. This means that Omegle can access your child's basic Facebook information, and Facebook friends may potentially view Omegle activity. In addition, users can save the chat log and share the link without the other user's knowledge. It is not uncommon then for users to request being added to Snapchat, Instagram or WhatsApp for further interaction, moving the conversation into a more personal setting.



RISK OF EXPLOITATION

Omegle chat picks another user at random and there is very little way of verifying who your child may be chatting to. This can lead to a number of risks including catfishing (users pretending to be of similar age), identity theft (users eliciting information to commit fraud) and sexual/psychological grooming (users coercing others to act in a way or do something they wouldn't normally do).



ADULT THEMED CONTENT

Unfortunately, Omegle is infamous for its pornographic content and it is not uncommon for users to expose themselves or engage in sexual acts. If a user selects video chat, then the other user's webcam will automatically be switched on before the action to 'end chat' can be selected. There is also no 'preview' in smaller thumbnail windows. As video chat is so easy to access, it means that unintentionally viewing more mature, inappropriate or even illegal images can't always be avoided.



Safety Tips For Parents

DISCUSS RISKS WITH YOUR CHILD

It is important to speak to your child about the dangers of Omegle. Guiding and educating young children is far more useful than ignoring the possibility of Omegle being accessed. Explain to your child that Omegle is not completely anonymous and that other users will and do use Omegle to exploit others. Try to emphasise the risk of speaking to strangers and that engaging online is no different to engaging offline.



PROTECT PERSONAL INFORMATION

Omegle does not provide advice about how to protect your personal information so it's important that children are aware of what they should and shouldn't share online and with whom. If they use Omegle, always advise against sharing any personal information such as their real name, age, phone number, address or any other personal identifiable information. This also includes details of their social media accounts or gaming ID's. You should also adjust your child's Facebook settings to control what information is shared with Omegle.



REPORT CONCERNS

If your child comes across any inappropriate content or something which upsets them on Omegle, then it's important that they are able to discuss it with you and that you provide them with the support they need. If you think the content is illegal, then it must be reported to the police.



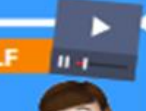
DISCOURAGE VIDEO CHAT

Try to discourage your child from using video chat on Omegle. Not only is there no filters or moderation in place, but children may be coerced into sharing intimate images or videos of themselves, which is illegal if they are under 18 and may be used against them. Omegle text chat has a degree of moderation controlled by Omegle through software and several actual moderators. The software moderates, identifies and prevents certain words and sequences of words to try and prevent bullying and grooming however is still not a 100% fail-safe.



TRY OMEGLE YOURSELF

It's always an excellent idea to get a feel for the website or app your child is using so that you can see and understand the issues and risks for yourself. More importantly, it will also provide you with first-hand experience of the risks and dangers (before you decide to speak to your child about Omegle and what they need to be aware of).



USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Omegle is a website chat service. Children can only access the text chat on their phone and would need access to a PC or laptop to engage in video chat. If you have genuine concerns over Omegle and don't wish your child to access the site, you can add www.omegle.com to the list of banned websites and URLs. However, it's important to remember that Omegle can still be used via a web browser on an iPad, tablet, smart TV or gaming device and similar controls would need to be implemented on each of these devices separately.



Meet our expert

Jonathan Taylor is an online safety expert and former Covert Internet Investigator for the Metropolitan Police. He is a specialist in online grooming and exploitation and has worked extensively with both UK and international schools in delivering training and guidance around the latest online dangers, social media apps and platforms.



SOURCE: <https://www.omegle.com>

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @nationalonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram - @nationalonlinesafety

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Science



7th November 2022

Headstart School celebrated World Science day, the day was filled with lots of fun experiments and activities for our learners. Students across both sites enjoyed their visit from “Dr Frankenslime” where there were plenty of spooky chemical reactions in his laboratory using gas, water and even fire!



Headstart School

Library News



The library has recently received ten free books from the people at Book Trust. They are the UK's largest reading charity and reach millions of children every year with books, resources and support to get every child reading, regularly and by choice.



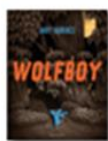
Hello, Rain!
by Kyo Maclear,
illustrated
by Chris Turnham



This Is How We Do It
by Matt Lamothe



The Dog That Saved the World (Cup)
by Phil Earle, illustrated
by Elisa Paganelli



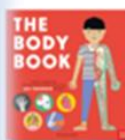
Wolfboy
by Andy Harkness



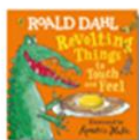
The Beasts Beneath Our Feet
by James Carter,
illustrated by
Alisa Kosareva



**Saving Sorya:
Chang and the
Sun Bear**
by Trang Nguyen,
illustrated by
Jeet Zdung



The Body Book
by Hannah Alice



**Revolting Things to
Touch and Feel**
by Roald Dahl,
illustrated by
Quentin Blake



Let's Go For a Walk
with Ranger Hamza,
illustrated by
Kate Kronreif



Look Inside Jobs
by Lara Bryan,
illustrated by
Wesley Robins



Also...

Don't forget to check out

oxfordowl.co.uk

For details contact cspokes@headstartschool.co.uk

Oxford
OWL



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

YOUTUBE

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate material. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as messaging other users directly. Connecting with strangers online, of course, can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, to cyberbullying and even to encountering online predators.

SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but can also lead to binge-watching and the risk of screen addiction, especially if 'auto-play' is activated. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

HIGH VISIBILITY

Content creators can also be put at risk – especially young ones who try to make their online presence as visible as possible. Creating and uploading content exposes children to potential harassment and toxicity from the comments section, along with the possibility of direct messaging from strangers. Videos posted publicly can be watched by anyone in the world.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends, challenges and memes that are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may harm children through either watching or copying. The painful 'salt and ice challenge', which can cause injuries very quickly, is just one of many such examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

Popular YouTube channels regularly have scammers posing as a well-known influencer in the comments section, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and sometimes offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users are not who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Carers

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate content (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence and sexual situations) to underage viewers. To prevent your child from changing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that your child uses to access YouTube.

18
CENSORED

TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows you to monitor what your child is watching, uploading and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives you an oversight of how your child is using sites like YouTube and helps you ensure they are only accessing appropriate content.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that your child is subscribed to can be hidden. If your child is only uploading videos that are protected as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS

Influential content creators usually have other social media accounts which they encourage their fans to follow. Having an open discussion about this with your child makes it easier to find out how else they might be following a particular creator online. It also opens up avenues for you to check out that creator's other channels to see what type of content your child is being exposed to.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them children. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course, and react to content differently. You may want to keep an eye on how your child interacts with content on YouTube – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand the types of videos they are interested in.

LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases: users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch, for example. If you're not comfortable with your child purchasing content online, limit their access to your bank cards and online payment methods. Many parents have discovered to their cost that a child happily devouring a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

Meet Our Expert

Clare Gidwin (a.k.a. Lunewolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2010, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunewolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



**National
Online
Safety***
#WakeUpWednesday



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Please see the separate addition attached explaining more about YouTube

This Christmas, at Headstart, we choose to support The Passionate About People Shoe Box Appeal.

Christmas Shoe Boxes make a great difference to people's lives. We could either make up boxes for the elderly, teenagers or children at home or abroad. Items we could include were; toiletries, gloves/hats/scarves, colouring books, pens, stickers, craft items, simple toys and games. Some of our classes went to the shops to make thoughtful choices of items to go in the boxes.

Thank you so much to those of you who donated money, items or a filled shoe box, it was much appreciated!

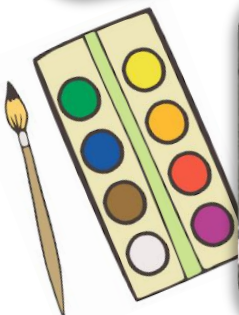
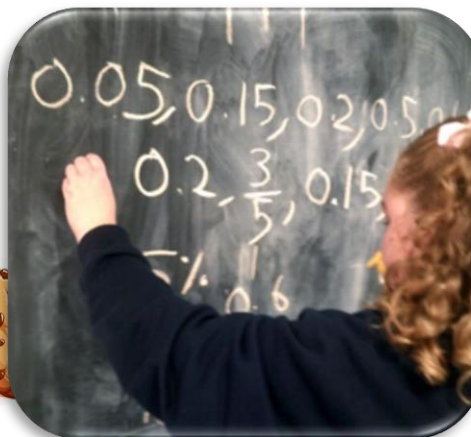
Shoe Box Appeal 2022

Sorting!

Sorted!



The Link - Oakfield



Our students have had a busy month making cookies, sour dough, and fruit salads. They have been participating in art within the classroom and decorating our playground.

English

This term, Post 16 have been completing application forms, concentrating on use of block capitals, completing personal statements and using the correct punctuation in their writing.

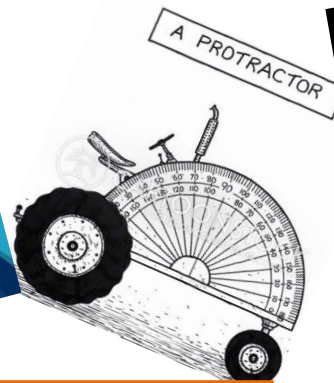
They have participated in reading a class text and taken part in a discussion about its content. The students have also completed a practise paper for their functional skills reading assessment. We have also drafted notes for independent creative writing. We will be continuing this after Christmas.

Post 16



Cooking

Post 16 have engaged brilliantly with their cooking this term. We have made a range of savoury and sweet treats including jammy dodgers, chocolate chip cookies, macaroni cheese and lasagne. The students are now experts at creating a roux!



Maths

The students have been focusing on angles, perimeter and area.

They have practised using a protractor, identified the number of degrees in a right angle and straight line. We began measuring perimeter using a grid, then progressed onto using measurements of mm and cm.

The students explored the relationship between perimeter and area, identifying that area is the measurement of the inside of the shape and perimeter the measurement around the outside. We measured the perimeter of the playground, fields and classroom.



KS3 Class



Paired English work, based on the Fable The Boy Who Cried Wolf.



Halloween social games!

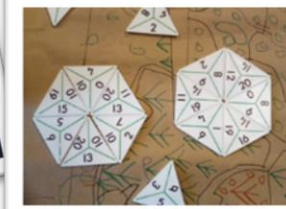


In music, they have all learnt and practised simple tunes (linked to our topic Around the World), with their right hand, progressing to using their left hand too.



Anti-Bullying Week 2022 14th – 18th November

During this year's Anti-Bullying week, we watched a range of short films, listened to stories about friendships and created some posters. We had lots of interesting and thoughtful discussions about bullying and the effects of bullying and talked about who we could reach out to if we felt uncomfortable or unsafe. REACH OUT was this year's theme.



Lots of lovely learning!

This term the pupils in our class have been working very hard with their learning in all subjects.

They have shown good listening skills (especially to the texts in English), participated enthusiastically in the activities, practised reading and handwriting regularly and persevered if they have found something difficult (looking for patterns and using strategies for 6 and 9 times tables). Also, they have worked brilliantly together, sharing the work and helping each other out.



Science; investigating friction and magnetism.

News From The Farm



The children and staff have enjoyed spending lots of time with the animals at both sites and were very excited to meet the new baby rabbit arrivals. Our ducks at Crouch Farm have particularly enjoyed our recent very wet weather creating lots of muddy puddles and Dinky the pony has been very happy with his smart new rugs to keep him dry. Old and new students and staff have worked hard helping to groom and look after the ponies every day.



The Link - Crouch



The Link group have been working hard this term across a variety of different subjects and topics. We have been going swimming weekly and the children have really enjoyed improving their swimming skills. As it has been getting colder, we have been looking at some Land Based theory and learning about older/younger animals. In the build up to Christmas, we have been learning maths with a Christmas theme as well as sharing Christmas stories.



Dear Parents and Guardians,

With Christmas fast approaching, it is the perfect time to reflect on another action-packed term.

Students have engaged incredibly well in all lessons this term, and the hard work is paying off with some excellent progress made.

Thank you to everyone who has been working hard in the build-up to the Christmas Show, and I look forward to seeing those students in action who are signing and dancing.

The students have engaged in all the extracurricular activities this term, starting with the Science specialist 'Dr Frankenslime', who wowed the students with his humour, tricky and expert knowledge. The Shoe Box appeal was as well supported as ever and will be appreciated by the 'Passionate about people shoe box appeal'. Students have been highly active at Landbased, in Cooking and Forest School. These sessions allow the students to experience a wide range of activities and develop many soft skills that one may not acquire traditionally through regular classroom teaching. These skills go under the radar and are vital to students' academic and social success.

Please read the information on online safety in this Newsletter. This topic will remain in our students' lives forever, and we need to be aware of the positives and negatives of engaging in online activities. There are new and old apps and programs that come to light and fade away in a fast-paced landscape, but we need to be vigilant and educate our students on the dangers of online safety and how to keep themselves safe.

If I do not see you at the Christmas Show, please have a restful and Merry Christmas, and I look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.

Scott Fasciolo-Barnes