Sacred Heart R.C. Primary School Newsletter

The school gates are now operational. For our children's safety please refrain from driving down the side road off Waithlands Road to our car park.
Thank you

DIARY DATES

Tuesday 12th December AM Y5 to visit St Cuthberts to see their production. of Oliver am

Tuesday 12th December Y3 Ukulele Concert 2.15 pm

Wednesday 13th December Y5 + Y6 Christmas Carol Concert 3.15 pm

Thursday 14th December KS1 Nativity tea/coffee mince pies 3.15 pm

Friday 15th December Y5 Ocarina Concert 9 am

Tuesday 19th December EYFS/KS1 Christmas Party am KS2 pm

Tuesday 19th December Christmas Dinner day Pupils Only

Please inform the office if your child, who normally has a packed lunch, would like a school dinner on Christmas dinner day and on the Christmas Market Day

TRIPS
Thursday 14th December EYFS Imagine That Liverpool
Monday 8th January Y2 Runway Manchester Airport
Friday 26th January Y3 Manchester Jewish Museum

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2023

SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER
6.00PM VIGIL MASS - SACRED HEART

MONDAY 25TH DECEMBER
12.00AM MIDNIGHT MASS - SACRED HEART
9.00AM DAWN MASS - HOLY FAMILY
11.00AM DAYTIME MASS - SACRED HEART

School closes Wednesday 20th December
re-opens Thursday 4th January

MERRY CHRISTMAS

MASS TIMES

Sacred Heart Church Mass Times
There are two Churches in our Parish. Holy Family in Kirkholt and Sacred Heart on Kingsway. The Parish Priest is Father Simon and he resides in Sacred Heart Presbytery.

Saturday at Sacred Heart
5.15 Confessions
6.00 Vigil Mass
Sunday
9 am at Holy Family
11 am at Sacred Heart

PENALTY NOTICES

Poor attendance

Children who miss more than 20 sessions/10 school days unauthorised absence in a 12 week period will receive a Penalty Notice which is £60 per parent.

Holiday absences

Children who miss 10 sessions/5 school days unauthorised absences will receive a Penalty Notice which is £60 per parent, per child. Holiday requests will be reviewed separately and in some circumstances may be approved.

CAPTAINS TABLE

Captains Table children (and friends) all chosen this week for happy helpful behaviours, excellent behaviour and manners excellent table manners and for setting a good example by eating quietly

HEADTEACHERS AWARD

Headteachers award children chosen this week for (R) having so much enthusiasm and cheerfulness, for making safe and sensible choices all week (Y1) excellent reading in phonics lessons and in Guided Reading, for using stem sentences appropriately in maths (Y2) for always having a smile on her face, always being kind and having beautiful manners (Y3) for working hard and helping all staff with lots of jobs and not moaning, being the friend who helps someone who finds things difficult (Y4) for being a polite, well-mannered and very helpful pupil in and around the classroom, for demonstrating good behaviour and respect to others during breaks and lunchtimes (Y5) for sharing super ideas in English and for always being willing to help others with their learning (6) for excellent work on multiplying and dividing fractions and for producing an excellent newspaper report.

Well done everyone.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our School Council will be visiting each class next week selling
Christmas bracelets/pencils/rulers/hot chocolate cones all for 50/£1

Congratulations to Matilda and Rhys
who have today received the Golden Heart Award

Severe Weather Plan 2023-2024- A Guide for Families

Severe weather is classified as weather conditions which have an impact on service delivery. This weather may include heavy snow, black ice, fog, floods, extreme heat or strong winds.

In the event of severe weather

In the event of ice or snow, as much as practically possible, rock salt will be spread on the paths around the school grounds.

If necessary parents will be notified via text message and Facebook advising them of a safe route to access the school and classrooms.   For their own safety, Parents and children must stick to the cleared, gritted pathways.

If staff are delayed getting into school, as a consequence of severe weather, upon their arrival at 8:45am the children will be taken into the hall to read, watch a film or do an activity, where they will be supervised by staff members. Once the appropriate number of teaching staff have arrived, the children will be sent to their classrooms for learning as usual.

Playtimes – whether play is indoor or outdoor will be made by the most senior member of staff on site. Please ensure that your child attends school wearing clothing appropriate for the weather:

- Cold, ice, snow: a warm coat, hat, scarf, gloves, wellington boots and a change of shoes to wear in school.

Hot and sunny weather: light clothing and a sun hat. Please ensure that your child attends school with a water bottle and that sun cream is applied before school.

School finish times will remain the same (3:15pm). If a decision is made to close the school early because of adverse weather, parents will be notified by text message and by phone. Staff members will remain at school with the children until they have all been safely collected by an adult. Please note that the school's dismissal and collection practices will remain in place for safeguarding purposes.

In the event of a school closure due to extreme or severe weather

The decision to close the school is with the Headteacher and the Chair of Governors; who will make the decision in accordance with guidance from the Local Authority.

Please note that the Headteacher and Chair of Governors will only make a decision to close the school when the state of the weather makes it absolutely necessary in the best interests of the children.

Parents will be advised of a school closure as early as practically possible using the following methods of communication: Facebook, text message, school phone and website.

Parents will be advised as soon as practically possible regarding the plans for the following day. A message will be communicated using Facebook and text message advising parents/carers if the school is to open the following day or remain closed.

If there are any safeguarding concerns whilst the school is closed, please contact the Rochdale Safeguarding Board on 0300 303 400

ATTENDANCE

Well done to Y5 on achieving the highest percentage attendance this week of 98% and to our Reception Year for most improved. Who will get to 100% first?

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) SOLUTIONS

AI solutions are becoming increasingly popular. Trained on vast datasets of text (such as books, articles and websites) in order to learn patterns and relationships, AI solutions can generate text, images, audio, video, code or synthetic data, and can be used for things such as crafting poems or books, creating digital imagery or delivering video content. Recently there's been significant discussion in relation to the benefits and risks of AI solutions, with many undecided on whether it will be a force for good or potentially reduce the need for some job roles.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ROOM FOR INACCURACY

AI solutions, such as language models, generate their responses purely based on the data they've been trained on, which often comes from sources on the internet. Whilst questions will often illicit relevant responses, if some of the information they've been 'fed' is incorrect, it follows that the answers too may contain factual errors or inaccuracies.

REINFORCING BIAS

AI solutions, such as those generating content or images, can perpetuate existing biases present in the data they were trained, whether through the algorithms written by humans or the content taken from the web. This could easily lead to biased responses and potentially reinforce existing stereotypes, such as those around gender, race or disability.

IRRELEVANT INFORMATION

AI solutions don't have the ability to understand the context or meaning behind a question or a user request. Although highly advanced, the AI relies entirely on the data it's been exposed to and is devoid of independent thought or reasoning, which could lead to irrelevant or even nonsensical responses to queries.

LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY

Fundamentally, AI solutions are machines or technology programmes that don't have the ability to take responsibility for the responses they generate. This could lead to confusion or misunderstandings in certain cases if the answers are taken as given. For instance, image-generative AIs can lead to output clearly derived from other peoples' content but without any attribution to the original source artist's work.

STIFLING CREATIVITY

One of the potential risks of children and young people continually using AI solutions for things (such as their homework) is that eventually, they might become reliant on it. In the long term, this could potentially impact their development and hamper their ability to think creatively or solve problems independently without the aid of an AI tool.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If possible, try to be around when your child uses any type of AI solution and employ content filters to try and reduce the chance of profanity or age-inappropriate subjects appearing in responses. As with any kind of technology, it's important to ensure that children are using AI solutions responsibly and to be there to enable opportunities to discuss their use as part of a safe environment.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Explain to your child that AI solutions can be used as one of many tools to help them research and learn, but that they shouldn't simply accept the responses they receive as the truth. Encourage them to question, verify and think critically about the information they get back – all of which apply equally to any website or platform they use.

DISCUSS BIAS

Talk to your child about the potential biases that may be present in the data that AI solutions are trained on, and how these viewpoints might find their way into the responses that AI generates. Again, with many things children might read online, it's healthy for them to consider whether the information is factual and presented fairly.

ENCOURAGE HUMAN INTERACTION

Not only should children supplement any use of software like AI with additional resources such as books and reputable internet sites, but they also should remember what they can learn from interaction with other people. Discussing things with teachers, relatives and friends isn't just an important and often invaluable aspect of learning – it's an essential part of life, too.

CHECK SCHOOL RULES

Make yourself aware of any rules or guidance your child's school might have about the use of AI solutions. Most software is still extremely new, so many schools may not yet have a policy, however, it's important to make sure your child is aware of how to use it appropriately and will be using it for the right reasons.

Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that adults and children alike become more aware of the risks associated with technology, as well as the many benefits.

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