

Our Weekly Update



Headteacher update

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

There is so much learning that takes place during the Spring Term that supports children's wider personal development and enriches the curriculum we have in place at school.

This week, children in Reception began their Balanceability sessions, where they use balance bikes to help support their coordination and appropriate movement. This is the precursor to riding a bike with pedals and helps children develop so many skills linked to spatial awareness and safety.

Reception also enjoyed a wonderful visit from Little City on Tuesday. They had the opportunity to participate in a range of role play scenarios linked to their topic of 'Who Is In My Community?' This was a fantastic experience for the children and brought out some brilliant creativity and communication.

A group of Year 5/6 children have also started some Play Leader training this week. Working with a teacher from the Hunts Schools

Sports Partnership, they are learning a range of games they can lead younger children in at break and lunchtimes, as well as the skills needed to make these successful. After their training, we look forward to them putting this to good use on the playground.

Hopefully this week you will have seen an email from Mrs Ballester, our Science Leader, about our upcoming Science Week. The theme of this will be 'Smashing Stereotypes' and, to echo Mrs Ballester's plea, if any parents, carers or family members work in science and would like to share their role and experience with the children, we would love to welcome you in to school. Please just get in contact via the office.

Best wishes for a lovely weekend,

Jonathan Clarke and the SPS Team



Key Dates – updates in blue



Wednesday 21 st January @ 17:30	SATs Information Evening for Parents/Carers of children in Y6
Tuesday 10 th February	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 10 th February	Years 3 and 4 Ancient Egypt Day
Thursday 12 th February	Year 5/6 Ancient Greece online workshop
Friday 13 th February	Year 5/6 Ancient Greece Day
16 th – 20 th February	Half Term
Friday 6 th March	World Book Day (details to follow)
Week beginning 9 th March	Science Week
Friday 20 th March	Sport Relief
Tuesday 24 th and Wednesday 25 th March (09:20)	Year 3 and 4 production to parents/carers
Friday 27 th March	Last day of the spring term
Week beginning Monday 11 th May	Year 6 SATs week
Monday 30 th March – Friday 10 th April	Easter break
Tuesday 19 th and Wednesday 20 th May (09:20)	Reception production to parents/carers
Friday 12 th June	Sports Day: KS2 AM and Reception/KS1 PM (timings tbc)

Parking – a notice

Unfortunately, since the beginning of term, we have received a number of concerns from residents on both King Street and Parkhall Road about dangerous or obtrusive parking. This has involved driveways being blocked, dangerous reversing and parking across kerbs.

Everyone understands how busy the school rush can be, and that people need to leave quickly after drop off or pick up. However, please avoid driving dangerously, stopping someone from gaining access to their property or preventing an emergency vehicle from gaining access to a home.

Please ensure that you park considerately and fairly to local residents and to keep all the community safe. Thank you for your understanding.



Little City



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ELECTRICAL SAFETY AND DEVICES

Electrical safety is a vital topic for parents and educators, especially with the growing use of devices like smartphones, laptops, and power banks. Electrical fires are a major risk and are the cause of many deaths and injuries each year. There are reportedly nearly 20,000 accidental fires of electrical origin each year in the UK. This guide offers practical advice to help families and schools prevent electrical hazards, and promote safety when using everyday devices.

1 CHECK FOR OVERHEATING

Devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartphones can overheat if used for long periods or when charging. Ensure that children don't use devices on soft surfaces like beds or sofas, which can block ventilation. If a device becomes unusually hot, turn it off and unplug it. Overheating can lead to fire hazards if left unchecked.

2 INSTALL RESIDUAL CURRENT DEVICES

Ensure that homes and schools are equipped with Residual Current Devices (RCDs). These devices cut off the power if an electrical fault occurs, preventing electric shocks and reducing the risk of fires. RCDs should be tested regularly to ensure they are working properly. More information about RCDs is available from Electrical Safety First.

3 AVOID OVERLOADING SOCKETS

Plugging too many devices into one socket can overload the electrical system and cause a fire. In schools and homes, ensure extension leads are not overloaded and never 'daisy chain' multiple extension cords together. Educate children on the dangers of connecting too many devices to a single outlet.

4 POWER BANKS: SAFE USE

Power banks are a handy way to charge devices, but they can also pose a risk if misused. Ensure power banks are of high quality and comply with UK safety standards. Teach children never to leave power banks charging unattended, and to avoid placing them under pillows or bedding where they may overheat.

5 REGULAR DEVICE INSPECTIONS

Regularly check devices for signs of wear and tear. Frayed charging cables, cracked device casings, or devices that are slow to charge may indicate electrical problems. If any issues are noticed, stop using the device until it can be repaired or replaced by a qualified technician. This proactive approach helps prevent fires caused by faulty devices.

6 UNPLUG DEVICES WHEN NOT IN USE

Encourage children and pupils to unplug devices when not in use, particularly overnight. Devices left plugged in unnecessarily can overheat or become fire hazards, especially if left charging unattended for long periods. Simple habits like unplugging can prevent serious incidents.

7 USE GENUINE CHARGERS

Always use chargers supplied by the manufacturer or from a reputable retailer. Faulty or counterfeit chargers can cause devices to overheat, short-circuit, or even catch fire. Teach children the importance of avoiding poor-quality chargers, and regularly inspect charging cables for signs of wear or damage. More tips on safe charging can be found at Electrical Safety First.

8 WATER & ELECTRICITY DON'T MIX

Teach children that water and electricity are a dangerous combination. Devices should never be used near sinks, bathtubs, or swimming pools. Parents and educators should ensure that any electrical appliances near water sources have proper waterproof casings and are plugged into RCD-protected outlets.

9 KEEP DEVICES VENTILATED

Devices need proper ventilation to avoid overheating. Avoid stacking items on top of plugged-in devices like laptops or gaming consoles, and make sure there is enough space around devices to allow for airflow. Proper ventilation helps prevent dangerous heat build-up, reducing the risk of fires.

10 SUPERVISE YOUNG CHILDREN

Younger children may not understand the dangers of electricity, so it's important to supervise them when they are using devices. Keep electrical cords out of reach and always remind children never to put objects into electrical outlets.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is an experienced health and safety expert who is a Chartered Member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. He provides services to educational settings as well as many other industries to help them maintain a safe working environment.



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