



## Head's News...

A big welcome back to you and your children after the half term break. It was lovely to see the children waiting at the gate for school and all run, excitedly to class. I hope that you all had a good week away from school and enjoyed some extra late mornings.

This week's highlight was our Mass with Father Ryan. Ash Wednesday was beautifully celebrated by our children who read clearly and confidently and to our wonderful choir who sang beautifully. As we approach the period of Lent, we are reminded how lucky we are to have our community.

Next week our children will be learning about internet safety. This is discussed with them every week in assembly but will be reinforced during class time. Please speak to your children about the legal age required to own social media accounts. It may be difficult to enforce these rules at home as the children face a barrage of external pressures, but unregulated internet activity is becoming an increasingly more common problem for our children.

Thank you for your continued support at school. The children are blessed to have teachers and parents working together to give them all the support required to thrive.

## Stars of the Week

**Congratulations to the following pupils who received awards this week:**

**Early Years: Heron, Margaret, Elvis**

**Year 1: Aben, Ayaan, Jackson**

**Year 2: Jack, Stefan and JP**

**Year 3: Sean, Freddie and Isabella**

**Year 4: Matthew, Noah, Arianne**

**Year 5: Nathaneal, Brodie, Anceline**

**Year 6: Bisan, Saif and Daisy**

## Prayer

Heavenly Father,  
Plant in us Lord,  
seeds of love, for you,  
for creation  
and for all people.  
Help us to grow, each  
day,  
to be more like Jesus,  
so that our words and  
our lives,  
show people your love.  
Amen.



## ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK

*'Attend today, achieve tomorrow'*

Early Years: 94%

Year 1: 93%

Year 2: 99%


Year 3: 97%


Year 4: 88%

Year 5: 96%

Year 6: 90%

## HOUSE POINTS

 Earth 118

 Water 104

 Air 89

 Fire 70

# St. John's RC Primary School

*Inspired by the Holy Spirit and guided by the teaching of Jesus*

## PTFA News

**What a great turnout we had at the Valentine's Disco! The PTFA raised £226! Thank you to all the parents and grandparents who helped on the evening – your support is invaluable!**

**Since September 2023, we've raised a total of £1304! Amazing!**

**Our next event is the Mother's Day stall.**



## Governor Update

We are pleased to announce that we have four new governors joining St. John's. We welcome Roisin Phillips, as our new Chair of Governors, Karen Turner, Tinelly Sambo and Philippa Moggridge as foundation governors.

We would also like to thank Catherine Weaver, Julie Hart, Brenda Beale and Christine Tiedman for their commitment to St. John's over the years and wish them the very best in their future endeavours.



## SAFEGUARDING

If you have concerns that a child may be in immediate danger, call the **police on 999** or **MASH on 0345 050 7666**.

If you have safeguarding concerns about a child or family, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01295 263740 and ask to speak to a member of the safeguarding team. Alternatively, you can email our DSL directly [louise.kenny@st-johns-banbury.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:louise.kenny@st-johns-banbury.oxon.sch.uk)

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 <b>Dates for Spring Term</b> 	
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Sacramental First Reconciliation Preparation-4pm St John's Church for Year 3
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	World Book Day Potential Strike Day-NEW
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5 School Parliament Trip - NEW Dartmoor Residential Meeting at 3.30 - NEW
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Early Years & Year 6 Height & Weight checks NEW
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> March- Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Scholastic Book Fair in school NEW
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> & Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Potential Strike Days NEW
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	PTFA Mother's Day Stall
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Mini Grey Author visit-NEW
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Meetings
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Youlbury Parents Meeting Year 4/5 - NEW
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	End of Term
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	New Term Starts
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 3 Trip Ashmolean Museum
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	Sponsors' Mass Confirmation-Time to be confirmed
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Matilda Theatre Trip
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	King Charles' Coronation-SCHOOL CLOSED-NEW
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> May-Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATs Tests
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Holy Communion Preparation 4pm St. John's Church
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> May-Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	KS1 SATs Tests
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Class Pictures
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	End of Term

# Internet Safety

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# SPOTIFY

Spotify is a digital music, podcast and video service which gives users access to millions of songs and other content from creators all over the world. Since launching in 2008, Spotify has revolutionised the way music is listened to: it now offers the ability to manage and share more than 100 million tracks and five million podcast series, plus personalised recommendations, new release updates and the option to create collaborative playlists. As of February 2023, it is the world's most popular audio streaming subscription service with 489 million users globally.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### EXPLICIT LYRICS

As per Spotify's terms and conditions, people need to be at least 13 to use it. That said, the platform doesn't censor lyrics unless instructed to do so in the settings – so it's worth noting that young teenagers could still be exposed to age-inappropriate songs which contain explicit references to sexual behaviour, violence, discriminatory language and swearing.

#### GROOMING TACTICS

Although Spotify doesn't come with dedicated chat functionality, concerns were raised in January 2023 after reports of an 11-year-old girl being coerced into sharing explicit pictures of herself on the platform. The case highlighted predators' tactics of sharing empty playlists with other users: their messages were being exchanged undetected through edited song titles and descriptions, bypassing security measures.

#### OVERSHARING

Spotify provides a perfect way to play music, with the ability to connect to another device, such as a Bluetooth speaker or an in-car stereo. While this is a useful feature, it's also easy to forget your surroundings and inadvertently play content which isn't appropriate for all listeners (especially those under the age of 18), potentially causing alarm or distress.



#### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE PODCASTS

Spotify's podcast community has grown exponentially and it's become a popular base for millions of users to listen to shows, stories, interviews and more – with content covering an array of topics. This includes some material which isn't suitable for minors, including audio which is obviously adult-themed, but can be just as easily accessed as everything else.

#### ACCESS TO SPOTIFY LIVE

If your child has a Spotify account, they'll also be able to access the platform's audio-only chat service: Spotify Live. While it's a separate stand-alone app, Spotify Live allows people to listen to live discussions on the main Spotify platform and, more notably, lets users enter virtual rooms to chat with other users, opening up direct conversations with strangers and individuals who might not necessarily be there for the right reasons.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

#### SWAP TO SPOTIFY KIDS

If you're concerned about what your child might hear while streaming music, Spotify Kids is a separate, ad-free service specifically designed for children aged 12 and under. It allows younger users to enjoy human-curated, child-friendly content (such as music and audiobooks) and is available to users with a Spotify Premium Family subscription – meaning that parents can view and manage the content their child listens to.

#### TALK ABOUT THE RISKS

As with any platform, it's good practice to talk to your child about what they should be aware of when using Spotify. For instance, it's important they're aware never to share any personal information with strangers, and what they should do if they're exposed to inappropriate content. Encourage them to think critically about what they see and hear so that they feel comfortable raising any concerns with you.

#### CENSOR EXPLICIT CONTENT

Regardless of what type of account your child uses to access Spotify, there is an option to turn off explicit content in the settings – greying out all songs marked with an 'E' tag. If your child has their own individual account, it's easier for them to turn it back on – whereas with a family plan, you're in control and your child can't alter the setting without knowing the password.



#### KEEP AN EYE OUT

If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Spotify or you've noticed they're being particularly secretive about how they're using it, encourage them to talk about what they're listening to. It's always prudent to show an interest in their online habits from the outset – so you're confident they're using apps and services in the right way, for the right reasons, and they're not being drawn into anything they shouldn't be.

#### Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 12 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.spotify.com/company-info/> | <https://www.spotify.com/privacy/for-parents-16-and-under/> | <https://www.spotify.com/live/> | <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/technology/news/spotify-18-rated-explicit-content-16-and-under-2023-01-26/>