

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

17.05.24 - PTA Food Fair
24.05.24 - INSET Day - EWrap OPEN

Ofcom Survey & Computing Curriculum

TCS Mini Marathon
Climate Champions & Recycling

Edmund Waller WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

3rd May 2024

Comments about the newsletter - what would you like more of/less of??? Send them to hello@edmundwaller.lewisham.sch.uk



Safety - Online and In Class

There is no doubting that our children have access to an almost endless amount of information and entertainment online. What is also irrefutable is that teaching them how to navigate these safely, is one of the key concerns of the challenges of bringing up and educating children in the 21st century.

Each year, Ofcom conduct a wide reaching survey and review of online habits - you will find this year's key takeaways on the second page of this newsletter. The reach and impact of online learning and usage cannot be overstated, with 77% of 5-7 yr. olds using a tablet to regularly go online.

However, this access comes with negative side effects - just, take a moment to read over the list of parental concerns in the Ofcom review! As a parent myself, striking the balance between allowing my children freedom and access to the wealth of useful (and quite a lot of useless) information, whilst shielding them from the more concerning elements, is a daily battle!

In terms of learning, we have a relatively new computing curriculum. Each year group has an e-Safety unit and we look at ways of staying safe online as part of our PSHE curriculum. Teaching our children how to stay safe is really important. As well as planned curriculum time, we also listen to our community and react to unforeseen challenges: we recently had our Community Police Team come and talk to Year 6 about using WhatsApp & social media responsibly.

The curriculum reaches beyond safety lessons. This week, Mr Rennie & I have been going around the school to see what else is taught during computing lessons. We were blown away by the range and complexity of the children's work - we saw Computer Aided Design (CAD) in Year 5, programming in Y4 and Y1!! There was also stop frame animation in Year 2! Wow! Ask your child what they are learning about in class, we think you might be pleasantly surprised (and, possibly, slightly baffled!!)



Y1 animating sprites in Scratch Jr!

Y4 programming a MicroBit



Keep On Running!

The playground is alive with red-faced children, all enthusiastically taking part in the school based TCS mini-marathon. Each child has been set the task of completing 2.6 miles over the course of the week. They have thrown themselves into this challenge with gusto. The event has been organised by our PE lead, Ms Lepere, who emailed the community last week. This is also a fundraising opportunity, you can make a donation via ParentPay - or **click on the photo** of the participating children to donate via SumUp.



Y5 @ Imperial War Museum



PTA International Food Fair - Fri 17th May 3.30pm

We are excited to announce the return of the Edmund Waller International Food Fair after school on **Friday 17th May!**

This is a free event held in the playground after school that invites families to share their favourite food dishes with the wider school community and gives children the opportunity to taste new foods from around the world.

We are looking for parents & carers who would like to organise some food to share and either host a table or bring a dish along to share with our children and families.

In the past we've been proud to host tables by parents from **Serbia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Lithuania, India, Lebanon, Argentina, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Ireland, New Zealand** and many more. Dishes from within the UK also welcome!

If you would like to take part please let the PTA know via ptaedmundwaller@gmail.com or send a message via your class group. We know that ingredients can be expensive and can cover costs of up to £15 per family to provide a dish for the fair - please contact the PTA for more details.

Climate Champions

Our Climate Champions - one of the school's student bodies - are on a bit of a roll at the moment. They successfully secured £400 from Lewisham council to carry out a series of eco-friendly initiatives. They are starting with buying two Terracycle bins. These bins will be for hard to recycle plastic - Pritt Sticks, pens - neither of which are accepted in standard recycling schemes; both of which we get through a fair few of! They will be leading an assembly on Tuesday to introduce these to the whole school.



WE'RE OPEN 4 INSET DAY

We are delighted to be able to confirm that EWrap will be **OPEN** for INSET Day - **Friday 24th May**. School will be closed on this day, but EWrap will be open and ready for business. Whether you are working, or just need a moment's peace before the half term kicks in!! Get booking now via the School Gateway app.

SUMMER TERM DATES

SUMMER #1

Monday 15th April - Summer Term Starts

Monday 6th May - BANK HOLIDAY - school closed

Friday 17th May - International Food Fair

Friday 24th May - INSET DAY

Mon 26th - Fri 31st May - Half Term

SUMMER #2

Mon 3rd June - Thursday 25th July

Saturday 20th July - PTA Summer Fair



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to have meaningful conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, for further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Can Learn from the OFCOM MEDIA REPORT 2024

Each year, Ofcom - the UK's regulatory body for communications - produces an overview of children and parents' media experiences over the course of the previous year. At the time of writing, the latest of these reports, 'Children and parents: media use and attitudes 2024' has just been published, and we've plucked out some of its most thought-provoking findings regarding online safety.

ONLINE LIVES

- 99%** of 8-17s had regular access to the internet
- 65%** of 13-17s prefer short videos to films and TV
- 34%** experienced harassment or bullying online
- 11-18s** felt more confident communicating online (71%) than in person (53%)
- 87%** of 8-17s felt pressure to be popular on social media

SCREEN TIME

By children's age group, the percentage of parents who felt less able to manage their child's screentime were ...

Age Group	Percentage
3-4	34%
5-7	32%
8-11	37%
12-15	46%
16-17	49%

POPULAR PLATFORMS

Most used by children ...

Platform	Under-12s	Over-12s
YouTube	89%	88%
WhatsApp	37%	82%
TikTok	35%	78%
Snapchat	27%	73%
Instagram	22%	69%

ONLINE GAMING

- 68%** of children played video games online
- Who did these children most commonly play with?
 - 74%** played with someone they know
 - 32%** played with strangers

PARENTAL CONCERNS

The things that most commonly worry parents and carers about their child being online include ...

- 77%** seeing age-inappropriate content
- 70%** being harassed or bullied
- 68%** seeing pro-self-harm content
- 62%** having their data gathered by companies
- 59%** being influenced by extreme views
- 55%** having their reputation damaged
- 51%** being pressured to spend money

ONLINE SAFETY IN SCHOOLS

- 93%** 8-17s had at least one lesson about online safety
- 93%** of children are aware of at least one thing they can do to stay safe online
- 91%** children found these lessons useful
- 78%** of 8-17s were aware of age restrictions for apps
- 40%** admitted to faking their age to bypass these limits

DEVICES MOST USED TO GO ONLINE

Age Group	Percentage	Device
3-4s	67%	use tablets
5-7s	77%	use tablets
8-10s	73%	use tablets
11-15s	95%	use phones
15-17s	97%	use phones

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College