



Newsletter

Issue: 09

Autumn term

Friday 1st December 2023



Heads Message

It's been a very cold week but a very industrious one. Our Year 11's have worked so hard on their mock GCSE's this week completing their final exam this Friday morning. Our Greenwich trip had to be postponed due to the freezing weather, but we look forward to it again next year. Thank you to all those that have donated to the Christmas bazaar so far.

THIS WEEK'S CONTENTS

- Dyslexia Talk
- Juniors
- Christmas Bazaar
- Christmas Carols

DYSLEXIA

Jonathan is giving a 1 hour talk on Dyslexia on Monday evening, and warmly welcomes those who wish to find out more. Please come along with friends and families if this is of interest to you and spread the word. Thank you.

DYSLEXIA

WHAT IS IT? • HOW CAN YOU HELP THOSE WITH DYSLEXIA?

An informative and practical evening for all

MONDAY 4TH DECEMBER

6.30-7.30PM

The Christian School, Takeley

CM22 6QH

01279 871182

Complimentary refreshments served upon arrival

•
Certificate of attendance upon request

•
Handouts given

•
Networking opportunities

Get your **FREE**
tickets here:



Delivered by Dr
Jonathan Beckett

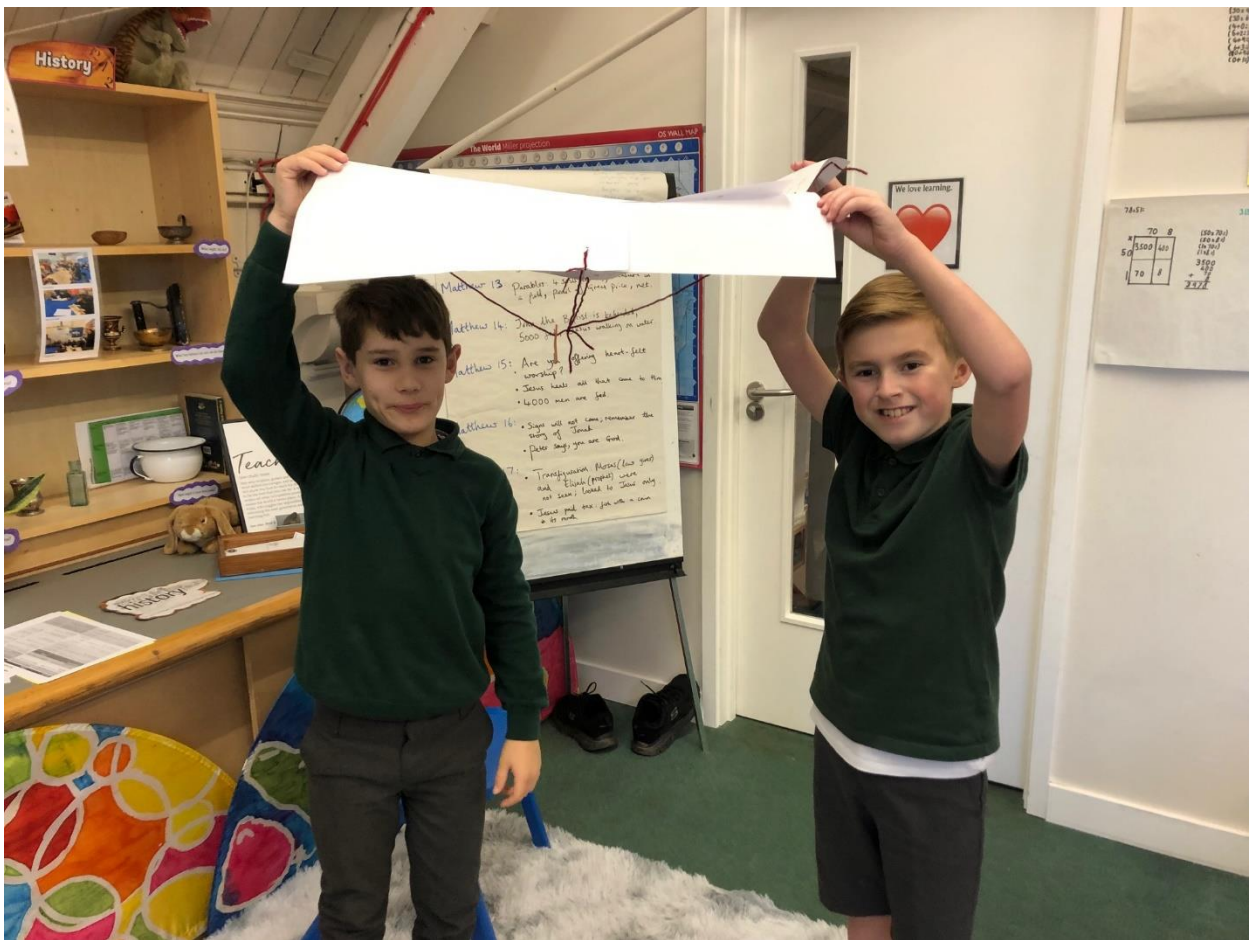


The Christmas Tree is now up in the Front Office. Thank to Amy for the lovely tree decorations and Charlotte for putting the tree up 😊.



Juniors Department

This week in Science, Key Stage 2 pupils were continuing the theme - forces in action. The children learnt about air resistance. They explored the impact of changing the surface area when creating parachutes!



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR – PLEASE NOTE CORRECTED TIME 3.35-4.15PM

This year the Christmas bazaar will be a little different to how it has been in the past. It will be held after school on Monday 11th December **3.35-4.15pm** and parents and other family members are invited to join us. We are planning a few fun stalls as well as our traditional gift shopping stall for pupils to purchase gifts for family members.

Because we are such a small school we rely on everyone chipping in to make this a success and an enjoyable occasion. With that in mind we would appreciate donations of the following:

'Giftable' second hand items - ideas include, jewellery, toiletries, ornaments, books, mugs, soft toys etc

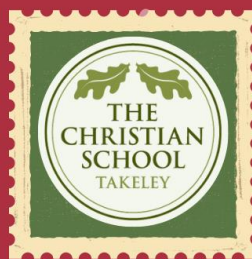
Home-baked cakes, biscuits etc

Home-made craft items, jam, chutney etc

Jars filled with sweets

Would you be able to run a small game table?

There will be a box in reception for donations of any of the above items, apart from cakes etc which should be delivered on the morning of 11th December please. If you have any suggestions for games that you could run please could you let Carina know? Thank you.



The Christian School, Takeley's

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Monday 11th December 2023

3.35-4.15pm in the Chapel

Donations of **good quality items** which could be sold would be greatly received!
Please donate by Friday 8th December 2023.

We would also appreciate donations of **home-baked cakes**.
Please deliver on the morning of 11th December.



THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL TAKELEY

PRESENTS:

King in a manger
A carol service

FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER
2023

7pm in the Chapel



What Schools Need to Know about THE ONLINE SAFETY ACT

The Online Safety Act was passed into UK law in October 2023, with the aim of establishing major new layers of protection for children when they're online. The government has pledged "a zero-tolerance approach to protecting children from online harm" – and the act certainly includes more powerful legislation which should help to safeguard young people in the digital world. Our guide summarises the key points for schools ...

WHAT THE ACT WILL DO

HARMFUL CONTENT

Social media sites must rapidly remove illegal and/or harmful content such as bullying or harassing comments; pornography; and content that supports extremist activity or encourages or depicts violence, suicide, self-harm or eating disorders. If they fail to do so, they can be fined up to 10% of their global revenue while their executives may even face jail time.

ANIMAL CRUELTY

Content featuring cruelty to animals is now prohibited, even if it originates from abroad (where the law may be different). Again, it is the platform's responsibility to remove this.

MORE TRANSPARENCY

Sites must be transparent about the hazards that any children using them could encounter – by publishing risk assessments for their platforms, for instance.

HOSTING MISLEADING ADVERTS

Scams and fraudulent adverts must be blocked or removed, or the hosting companies are liable to be fined.

NON-CONSENSUAL SHARING

It's now easier to convict online abusers or people who share intimate images without consent, while legislation on the criminality of deepfakes has been clarified. The new laws also relate to any individuals who even threaten to share such images. This should help to protect women and girls in particular online.

REPORTING AND FILTERING

Sites should have easy reporting mechanisms for children (or their parents and carers) to flag up problems quickly. They must also provide options to filter out unwanted content.

AGE-RESTRICTED MATERIAL

Sites must prevent children from accessing age-inappropriate material. This includes enforcing age limits and implementing robust age verification.

What this means for you

The act has some specific implications for schools: it's essential that leaders understand the new legislation's scope and limitations. The act is certainly a positive step, but as artificial intelligence and other advances in tech continue to produce new challenges, schools will still need to remain extremely vigilant.

KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Look out for the Code of Conduct that Ofcom is creating in response to the Online Safety Act. Note that the new legislation doesn't mean an instant change: many of its elements will only come into force at the end of 2023. An Ofcom consultation on 'protecting people from illegal harms online' will be running until February 2024.

REMEMBER THE ESSENTIALS

Remain mindful of your organisation's own online activities: the legal duty for schools to maintain appropriate software monitoring and filtering, for example, will not change.

WATCH FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

There are some issues on which the legislation remains less clear for now: whether it's possible for Ofcom to scan encrypted private messages (such as on WhatsApp) has yet to be resolved, for instance – making this an area where, for the moment, young people have less legal protection.

UNDERSTAND AND EXPLAIN

Staff should learn how to raise concerns with tech companies whose platforms contain anything upsetting or unpleasant. Students also need to be made aware of the newly strengthened laws relating to cyber-bullying, sexting or posting inappropriate content. Young people do make mistakes online – so the clearer their understanding of the possible consequences, the better.

ENGAGE WITH PARENTS

Schools should also explain to parents and carers the new possibilities that the Online Safety Act affords them in terms of protecting their children. Many parents may have previously felt that there was little they could do about changing online platforms' content; they now have a far greater level of support when complaining about a company or the behaviour of an individual.

Meet Our Expert

Luke Rowden is Senior Deputy Headmaster and Director of Safeguarding for the St Benedict's family of schools. He is a regular speaker at conferences and writes in the *18* (among other journals) on school leadership, pastoral care and safeguarding. In 2022, he was named Pastoral Leader of the Year at the National Awards for Pastoral Care in Education.



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Information Corner



Homework club

Monday-Thursday from 3.35-4.30pm on the Stage. Come and complete homework before you go home! Sessions are supervised by a teacher and parental permission must be given in advance.

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO HOMEWORK CLUB NEXT WEDNESDAY 6TH DECEMBER.

Important Dates for 2023 / 2024 Academic Year

11th December	Christmas Bazaar
15th December	Carol Concert
18-20th December	Christmas Events
20th December	Last Day of Term
Friday 5 th January 2024	Staff Training Day
Monday 8 th January	Pupils return to school
8 th January	Functional Skills Maths (Y10 & Y11)
9 th January	Function Skills English (Y10 & Y11)
11 th January	Upper Seniors Parents Evening (Y10 & Y11) -
31 st January	Intermediate Mathematical Challenge
8 th February	Junior Pupil Consultations (Y2 – Y6)
19 th to 23 th February	Half Term Holiday
February – TBC	Launch of Tenner Challenge
Week of 20 th February	Midyear Senior Reports (Y7 to Y11)
29th February	Lower Senior Parents Evening (Y7, Y8 & Y9)
Thursday 7th March	World Book Day
March - TBC	School Open Day / Afternoon
TBC	Swimming Gala
26 th & 27 th March	Easter Concert & Play
Friday 29th March	Last Day of Term
Monday 15 th April	Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 16 th April	Pupils return to school
25 th April	Junior Mathematical Challenge
Monday 6th May	Bank Holiday
Week of 22 nd May	Junior Reports
Monday May 27 th to 31st May	Bank Holiday & Half Term Holiday
10 th to 14 th June	Senior Exams Week
Friday 21st June	Leavers Assembly
TBC June	MFL Picnic
Week of 1st July	Y10 Work Experience
TBC July	Sports Day
Week of 10 th July	Residential Trip / Activity Week
17th July 2024	End of Year