



# A COMMUNITY OF FAITH, HOPE and LOVE in action

## Newsletter

Issue: 24

Spring term

Friday 27th April 2024

### Heads Message

Last weekend the Year 11 language students completed their spoken assessments of their GCSE and our Year 11 art students completed their ten hour GCSE art exam. Well done to all of those students. We continue to encourage and wish all our year 11 students the very best in their revision.

We've ended the week on a sunny day and the students enjoyed playing rounders for their PE lesson.

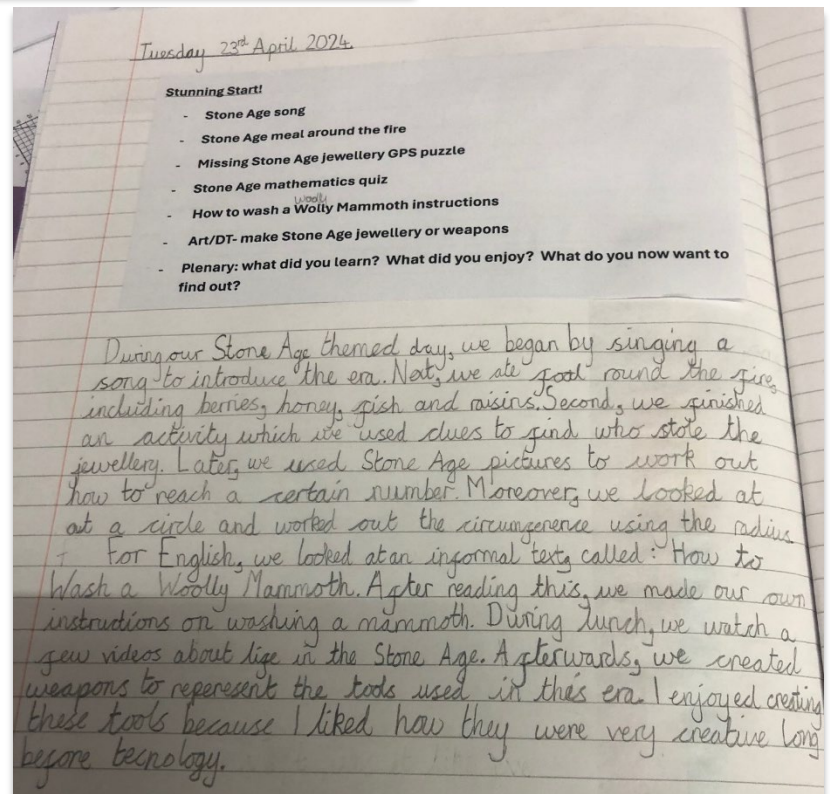
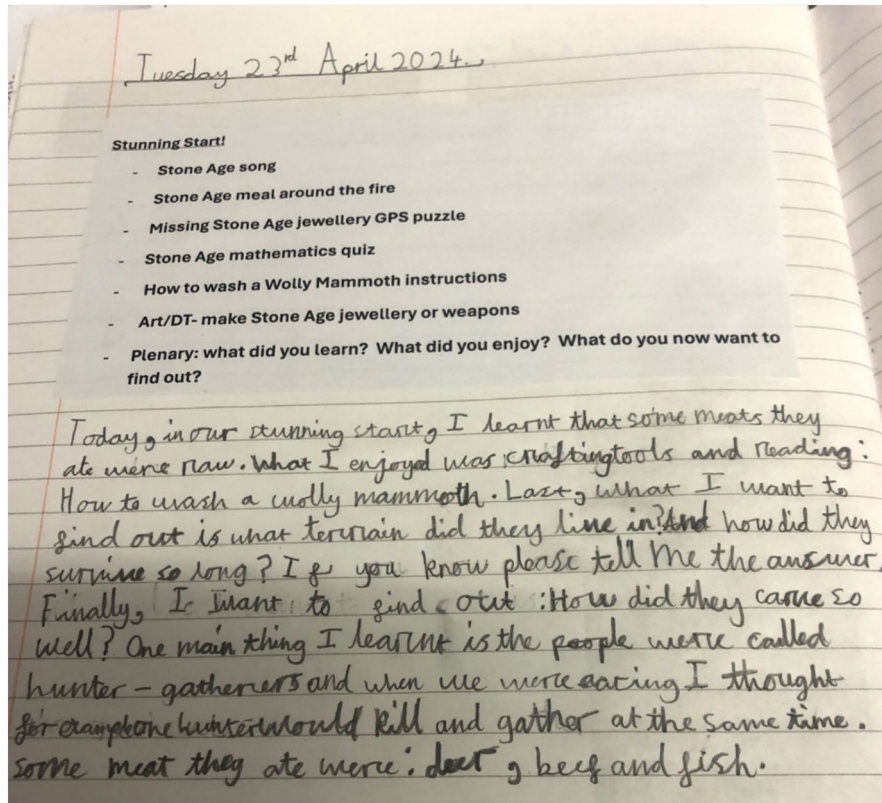
### This week's content:

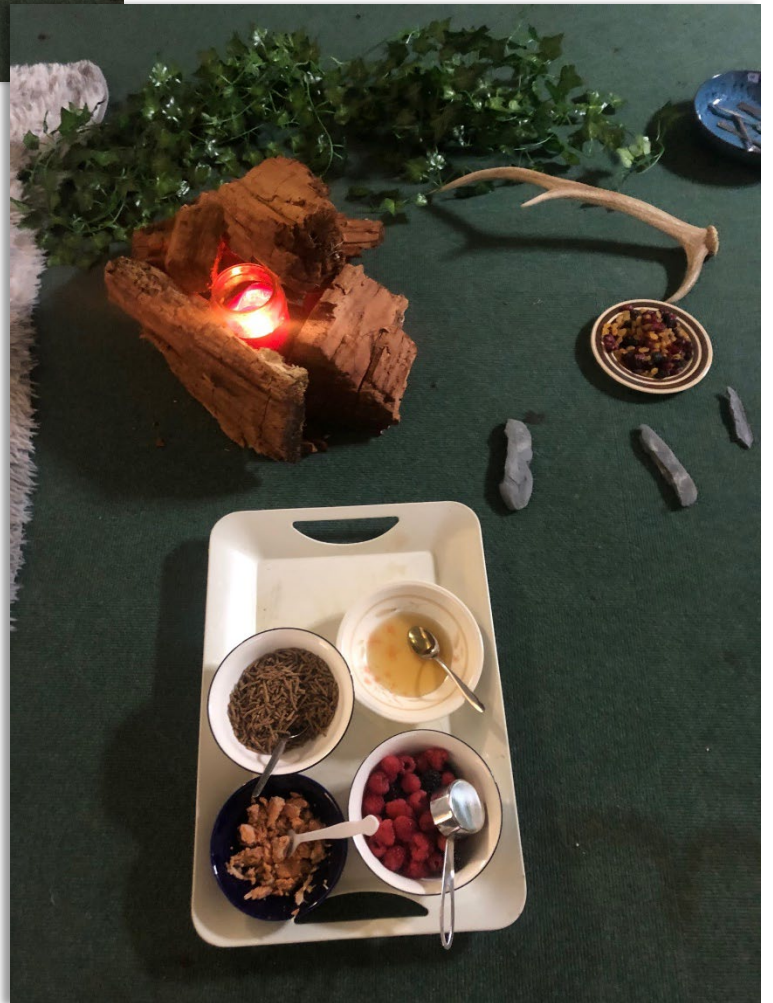
- Juniors History lesson
- Bake Sale
- New Lego Club



## Juniors

We thought you might like to see what some of the juniors have been writing up in their history books!





## The Bake Sale

Last week we held our first bake sale of the term, organised and run by Year 10, to raise money for the leavers assembly. Thank you to all those who came along to support. The baked goods sold like hotcakes!

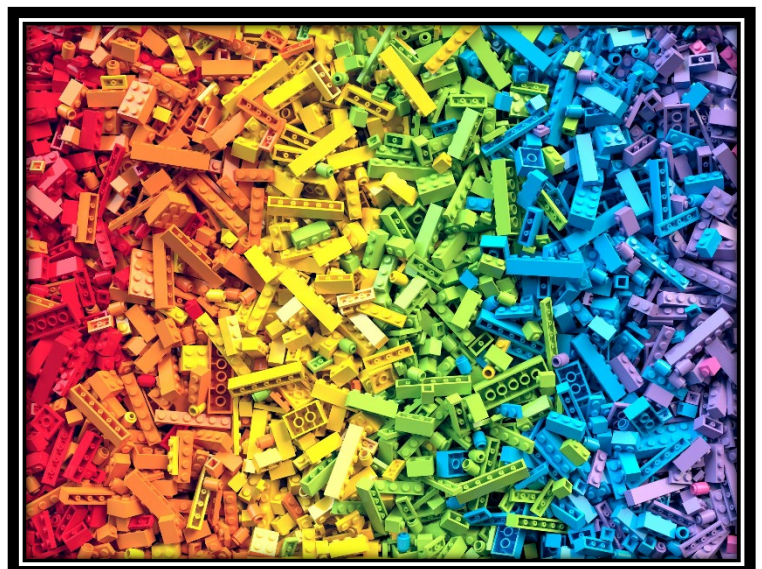
Watch this space for another bake sale in the near future!



## Lego Club

Carina will be running a lego club every Wednesday after school until 4.30pm. This is for everyone in Juniors and Seniors. It will include a variety of building challenges that will stretch the abilities and improve the skills of all pupils. The cost is £5 per child. If you haven't already signed up and would like to, please contact the front office to request a form.

Lets get creative!



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SHOPPING PLATFORMS

For people looking to make purchases on their phones, several shopping apps – such as Temu – allow users to buy goods at reduced prices. Others, like Vinted and Depop, let you sell items you no longer want. As internet shopping continues to grow, however, so does the risk of scammers, hackers and breaches of privacy.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### MISSING ITEMS

Users of Vinted, Depop and Temu have reported not receiving their products despite payment being taken. Users can initially contact the seller to query a missing item, and they have between two and five days (depending on the app) to tell the company what has happened. However, once the money has reached the supposed 'seller', it can be quite difficult to get back.

### SCAMMERS AND PHISHING

Scammers are always on the lookout for unsuspecting buyers or sellers. Common tactics include cancelling shipment of an item once the payment has been processed or asking to conclude the chat and payment outside of the app, where the victim is no longer protected by the buyer protection plan. This should, naturally, be avoided at all costs.

### DATA MISUSE

Apps of all kinds frequently collect our data, often asking for more information than is necessary to set up an account. Data gathered in this way is then usually sold on to third parties for marketing purposes. Lately, certain apps have been under scrutiny for using spyware to track their members' activities – but all too often, the user's consent to this practice has been hidden away in the terms and conditions.

### FAKES OR REPLICAS

It's certainly not unheard of for poor-quality products to be falsely marketed as luxury items, using misleading pictures or clever wording. These disingenuous sales are sometimes outed by suspiciously low price tags, but this isn't always the case. For children and young people especially, there's a risk that the promise of bagging a high-end item for a fraction of its usual price will outweigh any suspicions they may have.

### SLOW REFUNDS

While all apps offer a refund if the product is damaged or doesn't match the description, it can take up to a month to be compensated for this. For many people (especially during a cost-of-living crisis) that can be a long time to be without both the product you bought and the hard-earned cash you spent on it.

### MISLEADING DESCRIPTION

Some people will be able to notice when, say, a product's photo and its description don't seem to match. This isn't a reliable means of picking up on misleading marketing, however – especially not for children and young people, many of whom may not yet realise that such practices even exist. While it's illegal to advertise one thing and sell another, plenty of shady traders use clever wording and omissions to get around this.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ALWAYS STAY ON THE APP

It's vital that users pay for any goods through the same app on which they found them, to ensure they are covered by buyer protection. This means users can access support if the item arrives damaged, isn't as described, or doesn't arrive at all – allowing them to seek compensation for the loss. Such regulations can't protect you, however, if you didn't do the deal through the app in question.

### CHECK REVIEWS

Take time to read the reviews and comments left by other users – not just of products, but of sellers and buyers, to ensure they're legitimate and reliable. Before buying an item online, check the reviews for comments about the product's quality, the seller's communication and the delivery time. If you're selling, check the reviews of your buyer for red flags such as frequent requests for refunds or claims of 'missing' items.

### BE WARY OF PHISHING ATTEMPTS

Scammers frequently send messages within these apps to steal personal and financial information from other users. Don't respond to these messages – and under no circumstances should you follow any links they contain. Check for spelling errors, as well as inspecting the name of the sender. Report any suspected phishing emails to the app's help centre – and notify your bank if you think your financial information has been compromised.

### KEEP SAFE AS A SELLER

Sellers can be exploited just as much as buyers. Some users may purchase an item, for example, then pretend it didn't arrive to secure a refund. Always take photos of the shipping label, along with a picture of you posting the item. Send the package's tracking number to the buyer and keep a copy for yourself, letting you investigate any future claims that it never arrived. When taking photos of items you're selling, ensure nothing personal is in the background.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BCyberAware, who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety workshops and policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at [nationalcollege.com/guides/shopping-apps](http://nationalcollege.com/guides/shopping-apps)



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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 24.04.2024

Our music teacher, Angela, has recently joined a concert band and will playing in a concert in Dunmow this Saturday evening. Tickets are available online at:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/takenotessex>



**Take Note**  
CONCERT BAND

**Music from the British Isles**  
Saturday 27th April 2024  
Doors 7 | Start 7:30

IN AID OF  
**foodbank**

**GUEST ARTIST**  
**Mark Maguire & the Shanty Boys**

Foakes Hall, Dunmow  
CM6 1DG  
Bar available

Scan the QR code or book tickets at  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/takenotessex](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/takenotessex)



### Homework club

Homework club will run for senior pupils from 3.45pm-4.30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays this term. Please let the office know if your child would like to take advantage of this opportunity to complete homework before they go home!

Sessions are supervised by a teacher and parental permission must be given in advance. **Please note homework club is only for Seniors.**

## Attendance Stats for the week

### Information Corner



One child equals 3.6%.



### Big Battery Count

We have reached the 152 batteries milestone!

Please bring in your used household batteries and place them in the special container in reception. TCST Eco Team will then recycle these on your behalf as part of [bigbatteryhunt.co.uk](http://bigbatteryhunt.co.uk)

You can support the school via Easyfundraising,  
or  
PayPal using the QR code:



## Important dates for 2024 Academic Year

Monday 6th May	Bank Holiday
Week of 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Junior Reports
Monday May 27 <sup>th</sup>	Bank Holiday & Half Term Holiday
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	<b>Pupils return to school</b>
10 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> July	Residential Trip / Activity Week
17th July 2024	<b>End of Year</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2024	<b>Pupils return to School - Autumn Term</b>