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1st March 2024

Dear Parent/carers,

Another week has flown over with the children very excited to be back at school and sharing time with their friends. This week our caretaker, Bobby, is moving to a promoted post of site manger at another Durham school. This is an excellent opportunity for him and one which he will undertake with ease. He has been a wonderful asset to our school and whilst is taking this new post next week, he will be continuing with us for some time yet supporting the wider development projects we have going on in school so we will continue to see him on a daily basis! We have, therefore, employed a new Caretaker who will be taking up the role from Monday. We welcome Mrs Gail Waterhouse to her new role. Mrs Waterhouse has worked in the school for many years and is well known to staff and the children and she is looking forward to this new challenge.

This half term is a very busy one and I would advise all families to keep a close eye out for letters and messages being sent out for the many events we have planned. Next week is World Book Day and our Mother’s Day event, then the following week is our Movie Night, and we also have a church service and Easter craft event in the last week of term. Please note, whilst we do not charge for parent events, you must complete a request form to ensure we are aware of who will be on the premises and how many adults we are catering for.

Parents’ Evening

The booking system for our termly Parent’s Evening is now closed. Thank you to everyone who has booked an appointment. We look forward to seeing you all and to share with you the work your child has been doing and the progress they are making. If you have not yet made an appointment, please speak to class teachers and they can organise a mutually convenient time for you. The children love to know their family are coming in to see their work and are always very proud when they can then talk about this at home.

Mother’s Day event

We now have over 100 women coming to our Mother’s day event and we are looking forward to sharing this with you. We are pleased that the event falls on World Book Day as this is a perfect opportunity for adults and children to share a love of books together and to share book-related activities. The event will start with a bacon (or vegetarian option) sandwich and drink followed by activities. There will be plenty to do and I know many of the families will treasure having the opportunity share this quality time. Please arrive for a 1:15pm start, on the main yard where we will open the doors for you. You are welcome to take children straight home after the event (at 2.15pm) or collect them at their usual finish time.

Year 1 Bikeability

Next week our children in Year 1 will be completing a bike training session. This is a session that is delivered by external providers and therefore requires parental permission. If you would like your child to participate, please ensure you have completed the consent form that was sent out. Our children in Reception took part in this training this week and it was brilliant to watch their confidence grow across the week. I am sure the children will be very keen to tell you all about the new skills they learn.

Online safety

We have been made aware this week of a platform that is becoming very popular among younger children which many organisations believe could be very harmful to children in the way that it allows children to interact with others and the risk that it exposes them to with regard to sexual grooming.

What is Yubo?

Yubo is a social media platform, available on iOS and Android. It’s free to use, with a range of additional features – known as ‘Powers’ – available to purchase on a monthly subscription. Yubo features live streaming and is extremely popular among young people, with 4.7 million users in the UK alone.

It has been involved in controversy since it launched (originally under the name Yellow), being dubbed by media as “Tinder for teens” due to its swipe-to-match functionality which mimics the adult dating app.

Despite being age-rated 13+, Yubo has been criticised for the way some young users have been exposed to inappropriate content and harassment. This has led to some schools issuing warnings advising parents against allowing their children to use the app. Users connect and chat one-to-one or in groups. Users can also start and join live-streaming video chats known as ‘lives’. These lives can feature up to 10 streamers (those who are broadcasting) and an unlimited number of viewers.

The following places are recommended sources of information if you want to know more about keeping your child safe online.

* **Internet Matters YUBO online safety guide**: **[Yubo Social Media Privacy Settings - Internet Matters](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.internetmatters.org%2Fparental-controls%2Fsocial-media%2Fyubo%2F%3F_gl%3D1*28btrw*_up*MQ..%26gclid%3DCj0KCQiAoeGuBhCBARIsAGfKY7wxUTmaVFMCNT2v5Sj45sQKs7EPnfNcAB27aTkoaVJng6Owd05bzIoaAiEnEALw_wcB&data=05%7C02%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7Cd2bd7277be794b21aa5e08dc39431ee1%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638448212636887809%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=BrZCcDDCWxBMH8MkP0F1onFBCvmeyfgAso4gscb1MuU%3D&reserved=0" \o "Original URL: https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/yubo/?_gl=1*28btrw*_up*MQ..&gclid=Cj0KCQiAoeGuBhCBARIsAGfKY7wxUTmaVFMCNT2v5Sj45sQKs7EPnfNcAB27aTkoaVJng6Owd05bzIoaAiEnEALw_wcB. Click or tap if you trust this link." \t "_blank)**
* **Childline** - 0800 11111 available for advice via their website [**www.childline.org.uk**](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.childline.org.uk%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7Cd2bd7277be794b21aa5e08dc39431ee1%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638448212636893783%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=mbWyrbPhHRipm%2BJzbRpmGNfMHuTiFLFjX28giI1Zyms%3D&reserved=0)
* **Kooth Online** - Free and anonymous Well-being and crisis support available at [**www.kooth.com**](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.kooth.com%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7Cd2bd7277be794b21aa5e08dc39431ee1%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638448212636899359%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=4wZLMmrCGX2f%2Bp6mYbBmGKvhrYVeQcfD09n%2BEp1CB78%3D&reserved=0)
* **CEOP** - Report online sexual abuse or the way someone has been communicating with a child online [**www.ceop.police.uk**](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ceop.police.uk%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7Cd2bd7277be794b21aa5e08dc39431ee1%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638448212636904819%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=cz9GLudctZY1ZeyZoWm749hXxbZ7Jn8OoRU0aWy2Wrw%3D&reserved=0)
* **Yubo online safety Guidance hub**: Yubo themselves recognise how risky this application is for young people, noting that it can place children at risk of exploitation on their own website for me details read their FAQ’s[**www.yubo.live/faq**](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.yubo.live%2Ffaq&data=05%7C02%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7Cd2bd7277be794b21aa5e08dc39431ee1%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638448212636910324%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=DYc%2BSdAFcyoW1kw6WXMvnEJYJBpphdN0s1hVpmOYKTk%3D&reserved=0)

**Upcoming diary dates:**

Monday 4th- Friday 8th March- Key stage 1 and 2 parents’ evenings

Monday 4th – Wednesday 6th March – Year 1 ‘Bikeability’ sessions

Monday 4th March – Reception children parent stay and play session

Wednesday 6th March- Nursery parent stay and play session

Thursday 7th March- World Book Day

Thursday 7th March- Mother’s day event 1.15pm-2.15pm

Thursday 14th March – Movie night 3.15-5.30pm

Monday 18th March – Year 6 SATs information session for parents at 5pm

Thursday 28th March- Easter service at St Andrew’s Church 10:30am

Thursday 28th March – Easter Craft event for families 1-2pm

Thursday 28th March- School closes for the Easter break.

As always, if you have any queries or concerns please speak to class teachers on the yard or make an appointment to speak to them at a mutually convenient time.

Joanne Bromley

Head Teacher