20th November 2026

With respect, kindness and resilience, we flourish together.

Dear Parents and Carers.

As we move through another busy term, it is impossible not to notice the changes happening around us. Some changes are exciting and bring new opportunities, while others take a little longer to become familiar with. Change can feel uncomfortable at first, but it is often through change that we grow, learn and discover new strengths. As the saying goes, "The only constant in life is change." Whether it is a new routine, a new challenge, or a new way of doing things, our children continue to show remarkable resilience and adaptability. Together, by embracing change with a positive mindset, we help our children understand that new experiences are not something to fear but opportunities to learn and flourish. As author Heraclitus wisely observed, "No man ever steps in the same river twice," reminding us that growth comes from moving forward and embracing what lies ahead.

Words also have the power to create lasting change. The language we choose each day can have an impact far beyond the moment in which it is spoken. Words can encourage confidence, build friendships and lift someone's spirits, but they can also leave a lasting mark when chosen carelessly. A single unkind comment can ripple through a classroom, a playground or even beyond the school gates. Conversely, a thoughtful and encouraging word can inspire someone for years to come. This is why we continue to encourage our children to think before they speak and to choose words that are kind, respectful and truthful. As the saying goes, "Be careful with your words. Once they are said, they can only be forgiven, not forgotten." By using kind words, we help create a school community where everyone feels valued, supported and able to thrive.

With best wishes,

Gabby Stevens
Acting Headteacher

From the Classrooms...

Preschool/Reception









What a super week we've had in Preschool and Reception! Inspired by Supertato, the children explored different fruits and vegetables, designed and created their own super veggies, and became vegetable heroes as they worked together to save frozen vegetables trapped in blocks of ice. There was plenty of teamwork, investigation, and excitement along the way!

Year 1/2







Year 1 and 2 have had a busy week! We have been putting the finishing touches to our firework poems, carefully practising our letter formation to develop our handwriting skills, and painting our clay hedgehogs.

The children have shown great focus and creativity in all their learning, and we are very proud of the effort they have put into their work this week.

From the Classrooms...

Year 4



In PE, Year 4 have been developing their invasion game skills through activities such as end ball and football. They have worked hard to improve their attacking and defending, showing precision, teamwork and purpose in every lesson. Even on rainy days, the children stayed focused and enthusiastic, practising key skills and tactics to become more confident players.

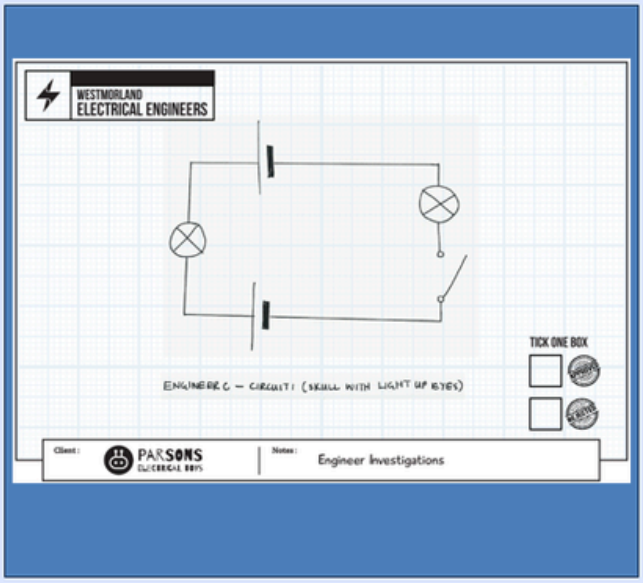
Year 5



This week in PSHE, Year 5 have been learning about what makes a good friend. We discussed the qualities of positive friendships, including kindness, trust, honesty, respect and good listening. The children reflected on how their actions can help others feel valued and included and explored ways to build and maintain healthy friendships. It was wonderful to hear the thoughtful ideas the children shared about being supportive friends both in and out of school.

From the Classrooms...

Year 6



Electricity

For the last few weeks, year 6 have been learning about electricity. They have learnt the main symbols used in circuits and have learnt to build them using our practical resources. Now, our children are making an important decision... The toy factory has three trial engineers. They need to decide who to hire and who to fire based on the engineer's circuit diagrams. Who will it be?

Explorers







EVERYBODY DESERVES KINDNESS...

We are all different and we must be respectful about peoples' differences. The Explorers have been busy this week designing and decorating biscuits to share with their friends and they all enjoyed playing 'Random Acts of Kindness' bingo.

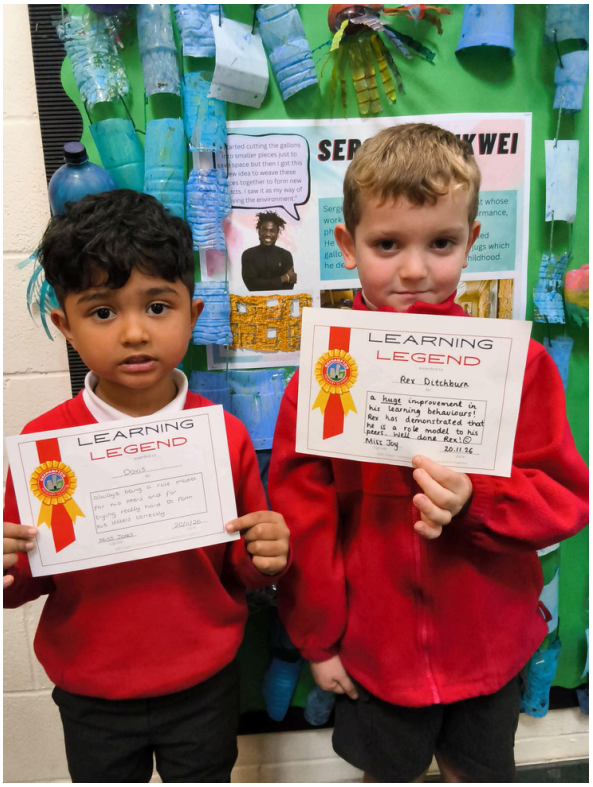


LEARNING LEGENDS



Well Done!

Well Done!



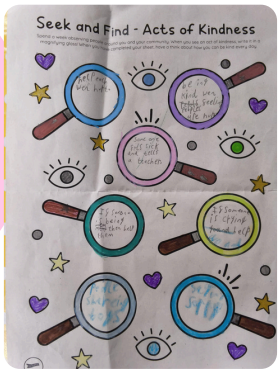
Well Done!

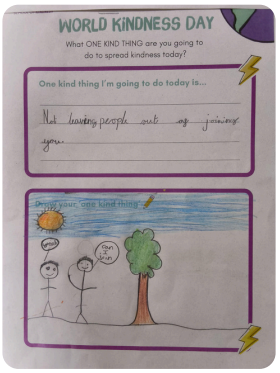
KINDNESS

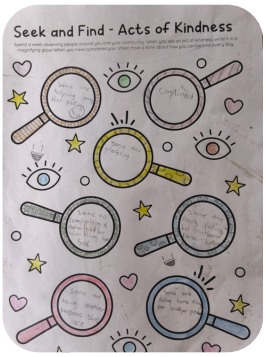
Last Friday was World Kindness Day but, as it coincided with Children in Need, we decided to have our very own OPS Kindness Day today!

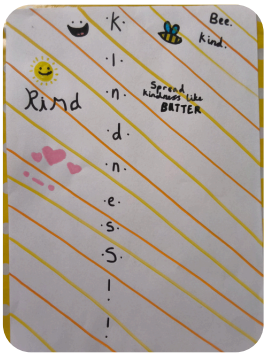
The children watched assemblies by The School of Kindness and carried out kindness activities!
The Mental Health Ambassadors have also been busy this week looking out for and recording acts of kindness in school and on the playground!

We have had a lovely day focusing on Kindness and will continue to spread kindness every day!!!

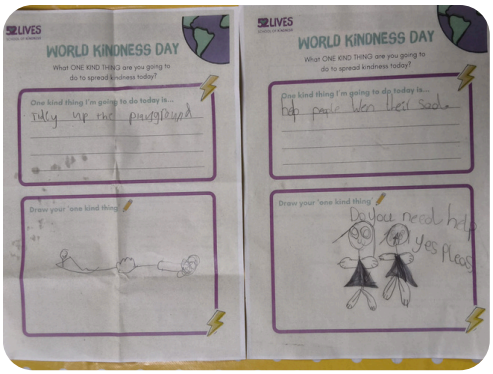


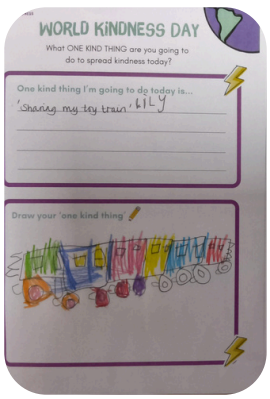












BEE KIND

SPREAD Kindness



ABSENCE REPORTING, MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS & OFFICE HOURS

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please ensure you notify the school office by email or telephone before **08:00am** on the day of absence.

PLEASE NOTE: Absences should be report to the new email address: **absence@okehamptonprimary.org.uk** or via telephone: **01837 52866**

For planned medical appointments, parents/carers must inform the office in advance by completing the S2 Absence/Holiday form, available on our website or at reception:

https://www.okehampton-pri.devon.sch.uk/Parents/Forms-and-Documents/

The completed form should be submitted either by hand or via email, and must include **evidence of the appointment where possible.**

We understand that emergency appointments can arise; however, the school office must still be notified as soon as possible.

Please note that the school office is open from 8:30am to 4:00pm, Monday to Friday, during term time.



Important Reminder Regarding Punctuality

We have noticed an increase in the number of children arriving late to school and would like to remind families of our attendance expectations.

- Children should arrive on site by 8:40am.
- The register opens at 8:45am and closes at 9:00am.
- Arrivals after 8:45am are recorded as late.
- Arrivals **after 9:00am** are recorded as **late after the register** has closed and will be marked as an **unauthorised absence** for the morning session.

Arriving on time helps children start the day positively and ensures they do not miss important learning.

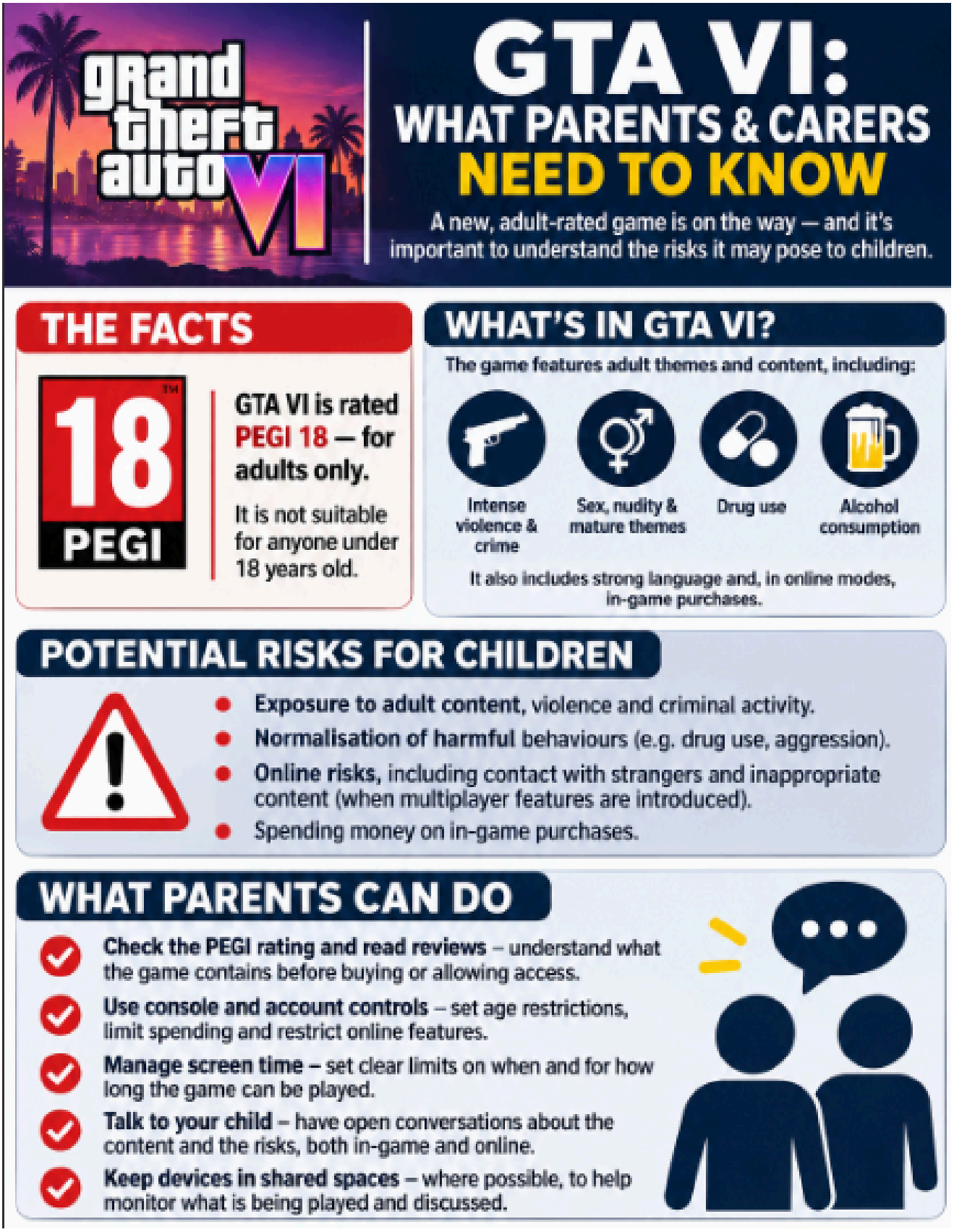
Please refer to the school Attendance Policy for further information.

https://www.okehampton-pri.devon.sch.uk/Policies/ (pg.19)

Thank you for your continued support.

Video Game Suitability

There has been much talk in school this week about the release the new GTA VI game and its gameplay. We would like to remind parents that this game has an 18 certificate due to its adult themes and is not suitable for children.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

27 NOV	**YEAR 3 TRIP**	Kents Cavern	9:00AM
30 NOV	**OCRA INDOOR ATHLETICS EVENT**	Okehampton College	10:00AM
01 DEC	**SINGING AT MEMORY CAFE**	Memory Cafe	AFTERNOON
02 DEC	**PANTOMIME - R, Y1, Y2, Y4, WINTER TOR**	Northcott Theatre	9:00AM
02 DEC	**BANDSTARS PERFORMANCE**	OPS	2:45PM
03 DEC	**EDWARDIAN EVENING - CHOIR SINGING**	Okehampton	5:00PM
08 DEC	**CHRISTMAS SINGING**	Ashbury	12:30PM

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

09 DEC	**PANTOMIME – Y3, Y5, WEST TOR, EXPLORERS**	Northcott Theatre	9:00AM
09 DEC	**CHRISTMAS SINGING**	Ashbury	12:30PM
09 DEC	**YEAR 1 AND 2 CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE**	OPS	1:30PM
09 DEC	**YEAR 3 AND 4 CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE**	OPS	5:00PM
10 DEC	**YEAR 1 AND 2 CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE**	OPS	10:00AM
10 DEC	**YEAR 3 AND 4 CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE**	OPS	1:00PM
14 DEC	**PTFA CHRISTMAS SALE**	OPS	ALL DAY

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

15 DEC	**EYFS CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE**	OPS	2:30PM
16 DEC	**CHRISTMAS LUNCH**	OPS	11:45AM
17 DEC	**YEAR 5 CAROL PERFORMANCE**	OPS	2:45PM
18 DEC	**END OF TERM**	OPS	3:25PM
05 JAN	**FIRST DAY OF TERM**	OPS	8:45AM

Date available on website: you can add it to your phone : Add dates to calendar

NOTICES





Rotary
Okehampton and District

Save the dates and help save the planet!

2027 dates

13th January
10th February
10th March
7th April
12th May
9th June
7th July
11th August
8th September
6th October
10th November
8th December

The Rotary Club of Okehampton and Devon and Cornwall Food Action are holding monthly food hubs at the Okehampton Rugby Club.

Visit the Rotary Club Okehampton website or scan the QR code below for full details and to book.



Everyone welcome!

Bring a Friend to Rainbows





Bring a friend evening on
Thursday 26th November 6-7pm

Okehampton Parish Hall (next to CO-OP)


ORFC
OKEHAMPTON RFC
U12 GIRLS
Years 6/7
TRAINING
TUESDAYS
6-7pm
AT ASHBURY 3G
EX20 4NL
vocally.flitting.uniforms
ALL ABILITIES WELCOME
COME AND GIVE IT A TRY!
Contact Helen on
07795 251505