

NEWSLINE

North Primary School and Nursery

A Town Centre School with a Strong Community Ethos



February 2018
Issue 3

UNDERSTANDING E-SAFETY

What do our children know?

Before the holiday Year 6 had two E-Safety workshops which they enjoyed very much. As you know all year groups are taught e-safety but we do more with year 6 because they are the most independent age group.

In the first workshop the children shared what devices they have and what they use them for. Time was spent considering what the benefits are and what the risks are for their various uses. Children raised a number of questions around safe use which were addressed in the second workshop.

What did we learn about our children from these workshops? Well, boys love gaming and more girls are gaming online now than in previous years. WhatsApp and snapchat are a very big parts of girls' social lives, but boys use these more than in previous years. Roblox is still the most popular game. 3 other most popular games are FIFA, Call of Duty and Minecraft.

It is fair to say that this year group are very confident users and know their way around their phones and tablets. They have greater awareness of risk than previous year groups. However, that does not mean that they always make good choices.

In the second workshop they taught each other how to report, block or remove people on a range of social media. It would appear that they do this a lot – mainly around friendship issues.

They were very clear that they would not always tell parents if they reported things – they were worried about what you might do. Teachers reinforced the message that children should talk to an adult they trust about such matters if they were concerned about their own or another's safety.

It is vital that children do feel that they can speak to parents about these matters without worrying their parents may "overreact". This is a conversation all parents should have with their children who have online activity.

UNDERSTANDING E-SAFETY

Parents - when should you start teaching your children?

Think of road safety. Would you let your children ride a bike on the road without teaching them how to ride it, what the rules of road safety are and how to use the brakes? Well, that is pretty much what we as parents are doing with children's social media and online activity usage. Most children are learning on the road as they go along. And this is not necessarily because we are not good parents making sure they are road safe before they set off. It is because these are new rules and we are learning them at the same time. In fact, many of our children are more confident users than we are. But confident does not always mean safe. We have probably all seen what can happen to over-confident cyclists.

To continue with the road safety analogy. As parents, we taught our children how to cross a road many years before we thought they were old enough to do it by themselves. This is how we should approach e-safety. When they are young, use devices together. Allow them to learn from you how to get the best from our technology. And also how to spend time without it being used. Children are inquisitive, listen to their questions, ask them what they think the answers are and then find out together. Be open with them. Then, if they do have a problem they are more likely to come to you for advice. Then as you become confident in their awareness and understanding you can trust them to be independent.

The children in Year 6 agreed the rules in the poster below. Do you think anything is missing? What would a poster designed by parents look like. Here is the title.

Keeping Your Children and Their Friends Safe Online

Keeping Yourself Safe and your Friends Safe

- ✓ No personal information
- ✓ Never do anything you know to be wrong
- ✓ Never agree to meet someone you do not know -speak to an adult immediately
- ✓ Block
- ✓ Remove
- ✓ Report
- ✓ Turn off before bedtime

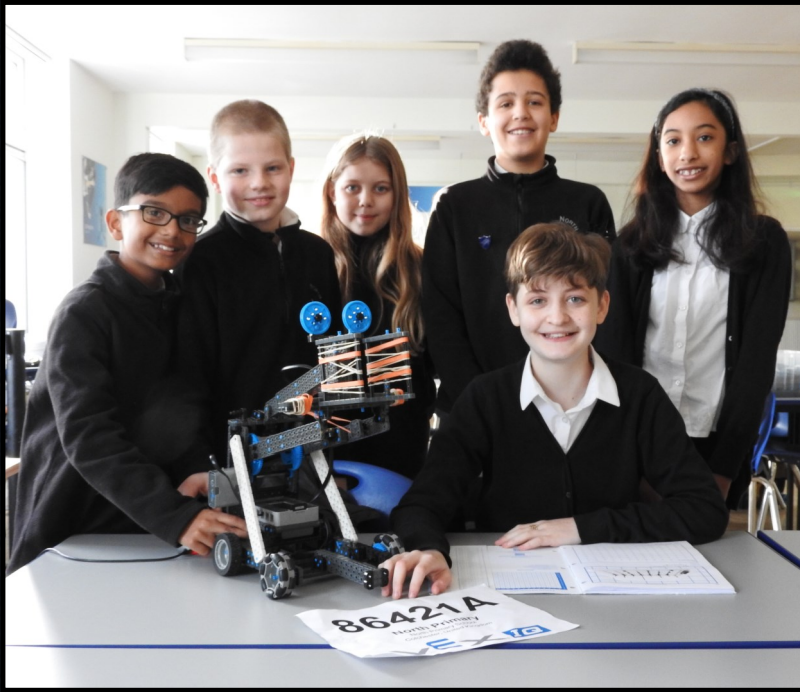


PURPLE PINKY DAY

WEDNESDAY 21ST MARCH

**COME TO SCHOOL DRESSED
IN PINK AND PURPLE**

**DONATIONS FOR ROTARY
CLUB CAMPAIGN TO
ERADICATE POLIO**



PLUCKY NORTH

Mart, (codename 86421A) was put through its paces for four hours at Stanway Secondary School on Saturday 10th. Our computer programming team of 6 (pictured) completed skills tests with hand help controls and pre-programming as well as challenges with other teams. This is the second year North have taken part in this national Vex Robotics competition sponsored by Rapid Electronics. The children all belong to an after school club run by Mrs. Walker. North were up against teams from Stanway, Thomas Lord Audley and St. Helena. It was great to see former pupils Seb and Taylor. Their teacher, Mr. James, was very complimentary of North, saying that the experience their Year 7s had when with us has made such a difference to their design and programming skills this year – and they won comfortably to prove it! Through the morning our team worked hard to improve the robot design and tweak the programming with the help of Chris from Rapid. They showed great individual skills and good team work. The children loved the experience. Halim said, “I can’t believe we are the smallest school and the youngest team and [for so long] we were coming second.” Toleen said her highlight was playing with St. Helena in the team match Q2 when they got 135 points. Mathilde loved the opportunity to see old friends and meet new people. Well done Team North. No visit to the national finals this year but a tremendous effort to get this far against secondary age pupils. Finally, a big thank you to Mrs. Marsh for looking after the children on the day.

Wed 21st February	Purple Pinky Promise
Friday 9th March	NSA Craft Fair
Tuesday 20th March	Reception Stay & Learn - Squirrels
Wednesday 21st March	Reception Stay & Learn - Hedgehogs
Friday 23rd March	Reception Stay & Learn - Badgers
Sunday 25th March	Colchester Half Marathon
Tuesday 27th March	Y1-6 Open Afternoon
Thursday 29th March	Easter Parade and last day of term

Tuesday 17th April	First day of Summer Term
Friday 11th May	NSA Bingo Night
Friday 25th May	Penny Race and last day of Half Term
Tuesday 5th June	Return to school
Friday 29th June	NSA Summer Fete
Friday 20th July	End of Term
Monday 3rd September	Year 6 Weymouth Residential
Thursday 6th September	First day of Autumn Term

 **SUPPORT OUR COLCHESTER HALF MARATHON TEAM**