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Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers

We had such a lovely time on Friday at Sports' Day—thank you so much to those of you who were able to attend. The children all did their best in their events and encouraged and congratulated each other, showing great sportsmanship. We were very proud of them.

Some of you are asking about classes and teachers for next year. We are making plans for a 'move-up' afternoon, where the children can be with their new teachers and support staff and perhaps even meet the new children who will be joining NS82 in September. We are also compiling social stories for each class so that the children can check through the holiday who their key staff are and where they will be. School Council will this week be advising whether the children wish their classes to remain as trees or whether they would like a whole new name-change theme.

From the next few pages you can see that our wonderful staff continue to plan exciting and engaging activities as part of the children's learning. I have especially enjoyed this week reading the stories that children have been bringing to show me. It also has been heart-warming to see older children showing interest and kindly supporting younger children as they have shared their work. The kindness gem jars are filling up in many classes!

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Tapsfield'.

Amanda Tapsfield
Interim Headteacher

Lime class's science investigation



During our Science lessons this term we have been looking at plants and tasting fruit, because it grows on plants and trees. We were very careful using the knives and chopped up our own fruit salad. The blueberries and grapes were our favourites.

We have been exploring the plants in the garden and the Forest School area, looking at which trees will lose their leaves in Autumn and which will stay green all year.

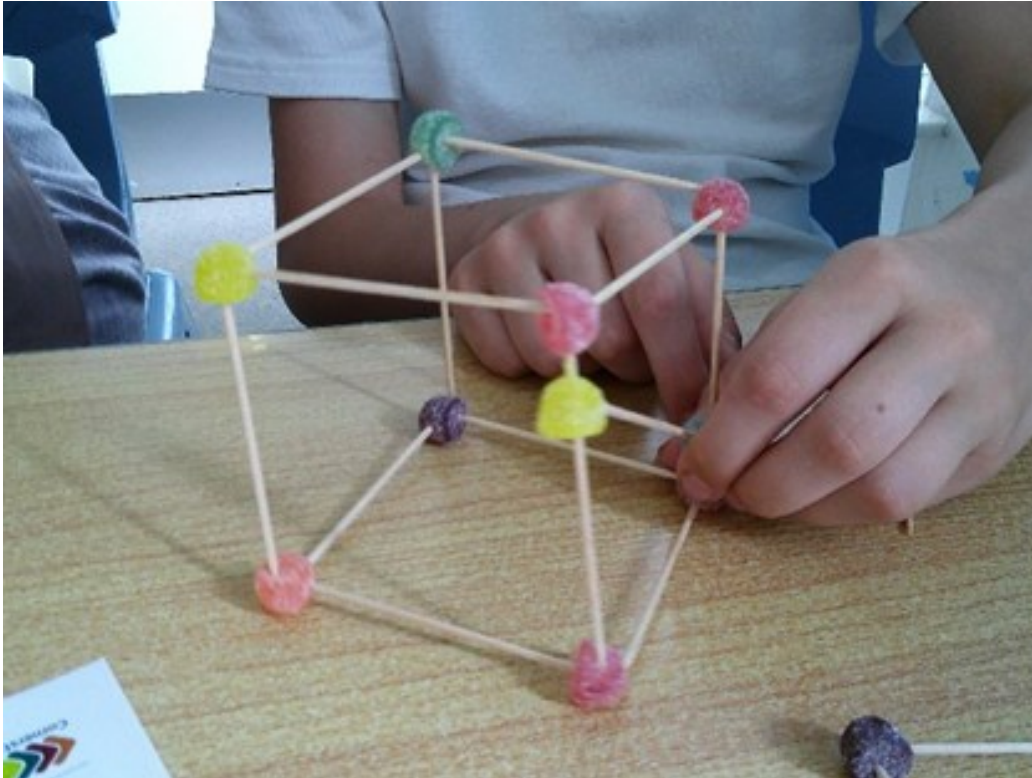
Life in Ash class this week



Ash class have had another busy week. We started the week with Animal club who told us lots of amazing facts about the animals she brought. We talked about how the tortoise was as old as some of us and wondered if he could remember things that happened when it was younger. As a result we had a great conversation about what we all did as young children and the children all shared their favourite moments from their childhood so far. In Maths we have been working on arrays and the link between times tables and repeated addition while in English we have practiced extending our sentences to make them more interesting. For forest school this week we have made mini mallets to help us with our den building.



DT in Oak class



In Oak Class, we have been learning about construction techniques in our Design Technology lessons and investigating the structures of greenhouses. The children made pyramids and cubes with cocktail sticks and sweets and tested which made a stronger structure. Then, we tested the sweets! This was all in preparation for next lesson when we will be using saws and clamps to make wooden structures.

Fun at Innoflate



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.

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.

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

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.

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.

#WakeUpWednesday

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