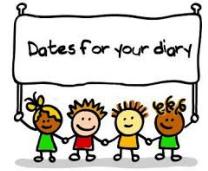




Happy New Year!!



I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and a fun New Year. Despite the weather we have had a great first week back and it is lovely to welcome Miss Janis Purtz to the staff team. Miss Purtz is teaching some of the Y5/6 children during the mornings and will be with us until the end of the school year. Being able to split Willow Class into smaller numbers is a fortunate position to be in!

Message from Dame Rachel de Souza (Children's Commissioner) Schools have received and been asked to share the following message from Dame Rachel de Souza:

'Supporting children's safety is a shared responsibility between families, schools and wider society. For parents and carers, this responsibility has become increasingly complex as children's lives are now deeply intertwined with the digital world. Many parents face difficult decisions about how to balance protecting children from online harm with enabling access to spaces that are now central to learning, socialising and play.'

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>



Weather Warnings Whilst the rest of the country is being battered with wind, snow, rain, sleet and goodness what else, we seem to have escaped much of the really bad weather. In the event that we do get bad weather, (so bad that we have to close) you will receive a text via Arbor and there will be a message on the home page of the school website. In all cases, assume that school **is open** unless you hear from us that it is not! In the meantime, please continue to send the children to school in suitable clothing! Thank you.



Why Reading for Pleasure Matters for Children Reading for enjoyment is one of the most powerful ways to support your child's learning and well-being. Children who read regularly for pleasure develop stronger vocabulary, better comprehension, and often achieve higher results across all subjects—not just

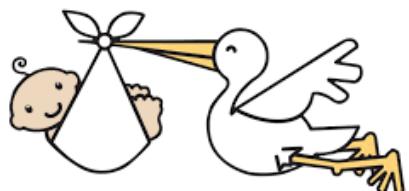
English. Beyond academic benefits, reading sparks imagination, builds empathy, and helps children understand different perspectives. It also promotes emotional resilience and provides a calming activity that reduces stress. Most importantly, it nurtures a lifelong love of learning, giving your child the confidence and curiosity to thrive both in school and beyond. If you don't already, please make extra special time to read for pleasure with your children on a daily basis! Thank you



This half term our whole school topic is: 'Invaders'

Big New Year Congratulations to the Lund family on the safe arrival of Betsy - wishing you lots of exciting times ahead!

And finally... Our Trust has launched a new initiative called **Strive**. It is the trust's belief that "Every child deserves to **Achieve, Belong and Thrive** and we **strive** to make that happen"



INCLUSION VISION STRIVE



Support

We provide tailored support to meet the needs of every child, ensuring barriers to learning and participation are removed.



Trust

We foster trusting relationships between families, staff and communities, creating safe and respectful environments



Respect

We celebrate individuality and promote mutual respect, valuing every child's voice, identity and lived experience



Inspire

We inspire ambition and curiosity, nurturing every child's potential through high-quality teaching and inclusive opportunities



Value

We value diversity as a strength, embedding equity and fairness in all our policies, practices and curriculum



Empower

We empower children to be confident, resilient and active participants in their learning and school communities



At YCAT, our schools

STRIVE to ensure that every child *Achieves, Belongs and Thrives* – through a collaborative approach that puts children first.

We believe inclusion is not just a principle, but a practice embedded in every aspect of school life.

Through **STRIVE**, we ensure every child can:

Achieve their full potential academically, socially and emotionally.

Belong to a community where they feel seen, heard and valued.

Thrive in an environment that nurtures wellbeing, growth, and lifelong success.

THE DANGERS OF FROZEN WATER

TOP TIPS TO STAY SAFE

NEVER GO ON THE ICE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

This includes attempting to rescue another person or animal who may have fallen through the ice.

ONLY USE WELL LIT AREAS

Try to take walks in the daylight but if you must walk in the evening, only use well lit areas and avoid anywhere with water.

KEEP AWAY FROM THE EDGE OF THE WATER

Never go close to the edge or lean over to touch the ice. You may overbalance or trip and fall in.

ALWAYS WALK WITH AN ADULT OR A GROUP OF FRIENDS

Look out for each other and if someone does fall through the ice there will be others around to raise the alarm and get help

Every year children are at risk when they are tempted to play on the ice formed on open waters and adults find themselves at risk as they attempt to save them. Over 50 % of ice related drowning involved an attempted rescue of another person or a dog.

Areas with frozen waters can be beautiful to look at but they are also extremely dangerous. Here are some useful tips to help you enjoy these areas safely.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Keep calm and shout 'help'

Spread your arms across the surface of the ice in front of you

Try to kick your legs and pull yourself out of the water and on to the ice

Lie flat, spreading your weight across the surface and pull yourself to the bank. you may find it easier to roll.

If you cannot climb out, wait for help and keep as still as possible. Keep your head above the water, press your arms by your side and keep your legs together

Once you are safe, it is important that you go to hospital immediately for a check up



WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE SOMEONE FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Shout for 'HELP' and dial **999** or **112** if you can

DO NOT walk on to the ice to attempt a rescue

Shout to the person to '**KEEP STILL**' and offer reassurance.

If they are close enough, **LIE DOWN TO AVOID OVERBALANCING** and falling onto the ice, and try to reach them with a tree branch clothing tied together or anything else which can extend your reach.

If you cannot reach them, **SLIDE SOMETHING** which floats across the ice, such as a plastic bottle or a football, so that they can hold on to it to stay afloat whilst help is on the way.

If they are too far away, **WAIT FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES** and reassure the casualty from the safety of the bank.