

AVFS NEWSLETTER

Dear Families of Hempstalls,

We have had an excellent weekend at Hempstalls. In addition to focusing on Maths and English, we have also delved into the world of Science for the next few weeks.

Congratulations to Year 4 for their fantastic launch of the class reader, "Secrets of the Sun King," where they dressed as Egyptians for the day. We also applaud Year 2 for their unique beards during the launch of their class reader, "The Twits."

A warm welcome to all our new families joining us in the cubs room. Already the children are settling into their new routines and making positive relationships.

Looking ahead, next week promises excitement as Year 4 students, along with many other Hempstalls children and some staff, will grace the stage at the Rep Theatre with their perfected dance routines. We wish them the best of luck and hope they enjoy this champion opportunity.

Wishing you a lovely weekend,
Miss A Bell



26TH APRIL 2024

TERM DATES



Friday 24th May - Finish for half term
Monday 3rd June - Inset day
Tuesday 4th May - Return to school

CUBS



Cubs have had a wonderful week this week continuing our story Sam plants a sunflower. We have finished planting our own sunflowers and these will soon be coming home. We have made collages using sunflower seeds and lots of different yellow materials. We have been using lots of skills when exploring spaghetti play showing off our maths and our independence skills. The playdough has been very popular this week too, the children have loved being creative using the flower petals and different seeds. We enjoyed practicing our cutlery skills whilst making crumpet sunflowers on tasty Thursday too.

Can we remind parents to please clearly label all items so that children's belongs do not get lost. We would also like to remind you of collection and pick up times these are as follows:
Morning sessions start at 8.45am and collection is 11.45am.
Afternoon sessions start at 12pm and collection is 2.45-3pm.
We hope you have a lovely weekend.
Team Cubs.

RECEPTION

We have had a fantastic week, our text this week has been The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle. We have been exploring how we grow plants and the children have loved sowing seeds, we look forward to observing them grow! In phonics we have been continuing to read CVCC (Consonant-Consonant-Vowel-Consonant) words.



National Bee Day 20th May – Please come to school dressed as a Bee!

Special person Forest School workshop to celebrate Father's Day:
9:15am – 10:15am Busy Bees.
10:30am – 11:30am Magic Stars

NURSERY



Our story this week has been The Growing Story by Ruth Krauss. We have been exploring how seeds grow and have been keeping a close eye on the seeds that we planted last week. The story also led us to talking about how we grow and how we have changed since being a baby. In maths this week we have been exploring more and fewer. In phonics this week we have been doing some fantastic blending and rhyming. On Monday Rhythm Time was so much fun, we were learning about rhythm in music

Swimming next week – Mrs Davidsons class – purple and yellow team.



COMING SOON! NEW PARENT COMMUNICATION APP

We are very excited to soon be launching our new parent communication app. This app will be used by school to give you an insight into the school day by posting photos, sharing updates and reminding you upcoming events.

View the Welcome Video/User Guide here: [CLICK LINK](#)

Please download the app in readiness to receive your login.

Your trash is our treasure!

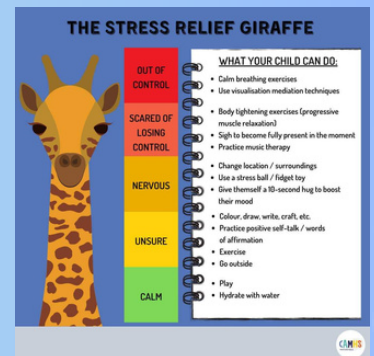
At Hempstalls, in the EYFS Department we are in the process of developing our learning environments. We are eager to gather wooden, natural & real resources for our classroom that will enhance learning and vocabulary for our children and create a purposeful, calm and inviting environment.

If you have any of the below you would be happy to donate, or you know where we could source items that are in good condition please speak to your class teacher / room leader.

We are looking for ...

- Old saucepans / kitchen utensils
- Wooden crates
- Electrical cable drums
- Picture frames
- Small Rugs / mats
- Baskets

Thank you for your continued support
Mrs Mullock (Assistant head / EYFS Leader)



HEALTHY LUNCHBOXES

We have seen an increase in the amount of chocolate, crisps, and sweets in children's lunch boxes. In order for us to promote healthy eating and wellbeing with the children, please send your child with a maximum of TWO treats to eat after their sandwiches.

Thank you for your continued support.

LUNCHTIME AWARDS!



RB - LILY
RM - RUBY



ONLINE SAFETY FOR UNDER 5s

10 Top Tips for Parents and Carers

According to Ofcom's most recent research, a significant proportion of children are already online by the time they start school, with 17% of 5-year-olds owning their own mobile phone and 50% using messaging platforms. As becoming familiar with technology is generally encouraged in younger children – and has been essential for education during the pandemic – it is crucial that trusted adults recognise both the benefits and the risks of infants and toddlers using digital devices. We've compiled our top tips to help the under-5s start their online safety journey.

1 USE DEVICES TOGETHER

This lets you monitor and control what your child is using the device for. It also provides the interaction that supports children's understanding of what they're seeing – allowing them to ask you questions, and so on.

PARENT CODE:

6 BLOCK IN-APP PURCHASES

If your child uses a device that's linked to a payment method (such as a bank card), use the parental controls to block buys from app stores, as well as in-app purchases. That will prevent your child from accidentally spending money while on your device.

2 ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Most digital devices have built-in parental controls that can limit the type of content children have access to. If your little one uses any device (even borrowing yours), it's a good idea to explore what controls the device has and enable them whenever they have access to it.

7 CHOOSE SAFE APPS AND SITES

There are some fantastic apps and platforms that are specifically designed to be safer for children. Always check the PEGI age rating before downloading an app, and test it yourself before allowing your child to use it.

3 MANAGE SCREEN TIME

This can be tricky, especially if your child is interested in a certain video, app or game. Try to agree on some ground rules and get your child into a routine which includes certain times of the day when they go without devices.

8 INVOLVE THE FAMILY

If your toddler has older siblings, it's likely that their rules for device use will be different – and that they'll access content that isn't appropriate for younger ones (a particular worry if they share devices). Encourage the whole family to be good role models and help little ones stay safe online.

4 TALK ABOUT BEING SAFE ONLINE

Just like we teach children about being safe in the real world, we need to educate them about how to stay safe online. Use age-appropriate language to help them understand, and plenty of hand gestures can reinforce what you're telling them.

9 IF IN DOUBT, ASK

The easiest way to find out what your child is doing online is usually just to talk about it with them. Developing an open dialogue at an early age helps them grow up feeling able to talk to you about their digital life – providing opportunities to intervene if you're concerned.

5 SET A GOOD EXAMPLE

Children often learn by watching and copying those around them, and using digital devices is no exception. When you're around your child, try to follow the same rules that you've set for them. Let them see you balancing your time online with interacting with people in real life, too.

10 SUPPORT CREATIVE & ACTIVE PLAY

Physical and creative activities are important for a child's wellbeing, and there are plenty of ways to incorporate technology into that. For example, you could encourage games that require physical movement; dance and sing along to songs your child loves; and follow step-by-step crafting videos.

Meet Our Expert

Konstantina Moustaka is a professional development and EYFS coordinator at an 'outstanding' nursery school in London. She has been working as a nursery and early years practitioner, both in the UK and internationally, for the past 16 years.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday





Building
stronger
families

Family Action Staffordshire Family Support and Outreach Service

Supporting Staffordshire Families
What we can support you with?

Family Support Workers are able to provide support for children and young people from 0-19 years and up to 25 years for those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

Examples of the support we can provide includes:

- parenting skills and strategies
- building healthy relationships
- emotional wellbeing
- staying safe in the community
- building confidence and self esteem
- child development
- building positive relationships between home and school
- housing and financial issues
- returning to employment or education
- developing positive community relationships
- access to local services and facilities

To contact us telephone:

Moorlands & Newcastle: 01782 228 963
Cannock & South Staffs: 01543 735 699
Stafford: 01785 558 172

Email: staffordshire@family-action.org.uk

Web: www.family-action.org.uk

www.family-action.org.uk

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34 Wharf Road
London N1 7GR

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Registered as a Charity in the Isle of Man no: 1206
Registered Company Limited by Guarantee in England
and Wales no: 01068186

Become a Volunteer Befriender

Our volunteer befrienders provide direct support to families. They help and support families to get the best from the resources and services within their community.

Please get in touch if volunteering is something you would like to explore with Family Action or scan the QR code to go to our website



**We now have a text messaging service for
parents/carers of children aged 0-19 who
live in Staffordshire.**

**Get advice from our Public Health nurses
(Health Visitors and School Nurses).**

TEXT: 07520 615722



**Feeding and
nutrition**



**Child
development**

**Parenting advice
and support**



**Emotional health
and wellbeing**

**Behaviour
difficulties**



**Family
health**



We might inform someone if we were concerned about your safety but we would usually speak to you first. Your messages are stored and can be seen by other health care staff who follow the same confidentiality rules. We aim to reply to you within one working day and you should get an immediate message back to confirm we have received your text. Texts will only be seen between 9am and 5pm. If you need help before you hear back from us contact your GP, nearest walk in centre or dial 111. Our text number does not receive voice calls or MMS picture messages. We support messaging from UK mobile numbers only (which does not include messages sent from landlines, international mobile numbers and some 'number masking' mobile apps). To prevent the health visitor from sending messages to you, text STOP to our number. Messages are charged at your usual rates.