

World Book Day - Thursday 4th March

It is unlikely we will all be back together for World Book Day this year. However, that won't stop us at Red Oaks as we have lots of exciting activities planned for you at home and in school. We won't be dressing up this year but one of the exciting activities is going to be a competition to turn a wooden spoon into your favourite book character! If you would like to use a spoon, please can your child bring one into school on Thursday 4th March or have one ready at home? It isn't essential as you can always cut the shape from a cardboard box if you'd rather.



Class Dojo

Almost all families are signed up to use Class Dojo. This is a great form of communication between home and school and children enjoy posting their work on here. If you not have Dojo yet, please contact the school and we can help you to set this up.

YouTube

Did you know that your child can watch pre-recorded lessons on any smart device? Lessons do not have to be watched just on a laptop, computer or phone. Games consoles, Smart TV and other Smart devices can also be used to watch the lessons. This may help if you have limited devices in your household and many family members trying to use them at the same time.

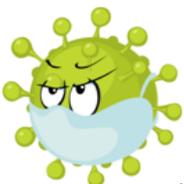


Well Done Everyone!

This has been a really tough term for everyone and we just wanted to say a huge well done to all the children for being so resilient and positive; this is not easy. Thank you to all the staff who have been providing lessons and support to our learners and to parents for all the positive comments that have kept us going. Parents, you are doing an amazing job in supporting your children at home, often when you are trying to work yourselves. We do understand how difficult this is and only ask that you do your best. We are all human and have days when it all feels wrong but please hang on in there everyone - spring is coming, Covid numbers are dropping and hopefully better days are coming soon. We hope you all have a restful half term.

Facebook

Please find us and like 'Red Oaks Primary School' on Facebook. By liking us, you will receive any posts we put up.



Social distancing

As a reminder whilst waiting outside school in the mornings and after school, please keep your children with you so that they cannot run around and mix with others. **Can parents also remain distanced and wear masks at all times?** Thank you.

Last day of term

A reminder that we break up for half term this Friday 12th February at 3.00pm.

If your child tests positive within 48hrs of last being in school, please inform us as soon as possible. Emails will be regularly monitored during the break. We will then endeavour to contact close contacts in the usual way.

Exercise books

When working at home, can children first fill their homework books. If you need an additional book, please pop to the office, we will be happy to supply you with one.



Can you help bring cheer to those who are elderly, isolated, or lonely this Easter?

Following the fantastic response to Home Instead's Be A Santa to a Senior - 'Santa-gram' project at the end of last year, they have been asked if something similar could be done to support those who are elderly, isolated or lonely this Easter.

Due to the current lockdown restrictions they are unable to offer a collection service for the contributions and as they appreciate that many of our students are working from home, items can be posted directly to them or sent via email (including pictures/scanned items). Maximum 'size' for items is to fit in Royal Mail large letter i.e. less than 35.3cm x 25cm x 2.5cm. Please see the attached poster below for further details on email and addresses of where to send the items to.

They are working with Swindon Seniors Forum, MHA Communities, Swindon Carers Centre and local care homes and hope to be able to provide some Easter cheer for around 400 of their elderly and isolated members/residents. The deadline for items is **FRIDAY 12th MARCH 2021**, to enable them to quarantine, sort and package the envelopes and get them distributed during the last week of March.



Together we can make a difference to the lives of all generations in our communities!

Festival of Tomorrow

The Festival of Tomorrow Families are signing up for Swindon's festival of science, engineering and technology. This is the second year of this festival, and this year will be a virtual festival on 19th and 20th February. This is a free online event, showcasing exciting research set to shape the future. As well as exploring a wide range of activities to try at home, visitors can join an exciting agenda of talks and shows, covering everything from the future of food and medicine to the latest in space exploration and climate change. Families will be able to visit a virtual discovery zone, and have the opportunity to meet scientists and engineers.

Intel will be demonstrating the latest in Artificial Intelligence, Explorer Dome will be offering virtual planetarium sessions throughout the day and there will be live demonstrations on making your own space blanket, or science-inspired art.

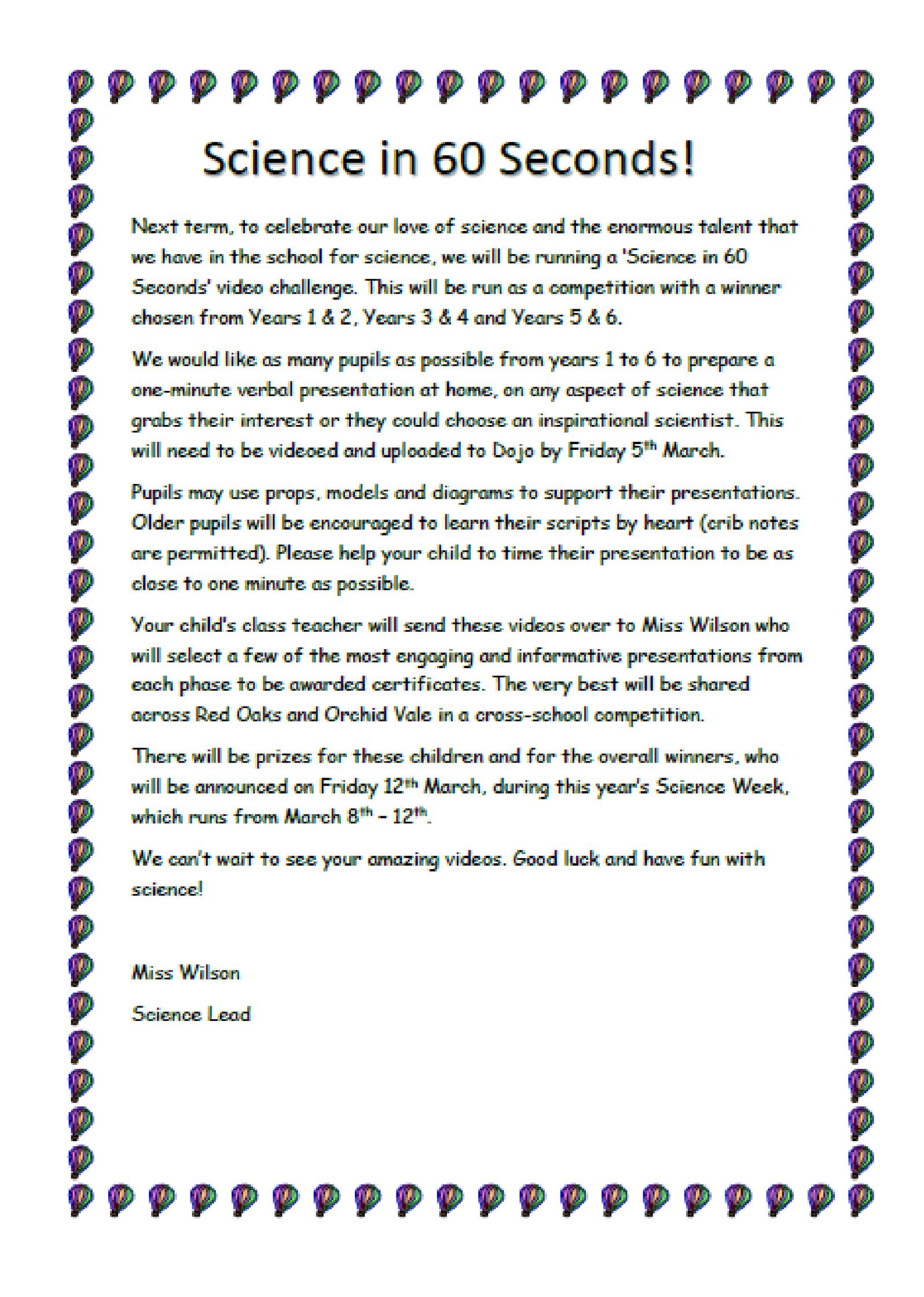
To register for your free place, visit www.scienceswindon.com/festivaloftomorrow



Online Safety- Protecting Personal Data

Personal data is a strange commodity. Cyber thieves can buy huge quantities of personal data on the black market for very little, yet your own personal data is hugely valuable to you. If your personal data falls into the wrong hands, it could lead to identity theft, bank fraud or something even more sinister such as stalking. The severity of that threat is multiplied when it comes to the personal data of children, when threats such as internet grooming begin to emerge. The guide attachment to the newsletter will show you how you can protect your own and your family's personal data.

As always if you have any questions or if you have a suggestion for something online safety related you would like covered in the newsletter. Please contact Mr Lee.



Science in 60 Seconds!

Next term, to celebrate our love of science and the enormous talent that we have in the school for science, we will be running a 'Science in 60 Seconds' video challenge. This will be run as a competition with a winner chosen from Years 1 & 2, Years 3 & 4 and Years 5 & 6.

We would like as many pupils as possible from years 1 to 6 to prepare a one-minute verbal presentation at home, on any aspect of science that grabs their interest or they could choose an inspirational scientist. This will need to be videoed and uploaded to Dojo by Friday 5th March.

Pupils may use props, models and diagrams to support their presentations. Older pupils will be encouraged to learn their scripts by heart (crib notes are permitted). Please help your child to time their presentation to be as close to one minute as possible.

Your child's class teacher will send these videos over to Miss Wilson who will select a few of the most engaging and informative presentations from each phase to be awarded certificates. The very best will be shared across Red Oaks and Orchid Vale in a cross-school competition.

There will be prizes for these children and for the overall winners, who will be announced on Friday 12th March, during this year's Science Week, which runs from March 8th - 12th.

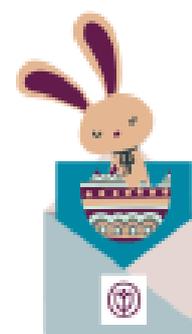
We can't wait to see your amazing videos. Good luck and have fun with science!

Miss Wilson

Science Lead



 **Home
Instead.**
To us, it's personal



Can you help us bring cheer to those who are elderly, isolated, or lonely this Easter?

Introducing the Home Instead Eggcellent Easter Envelope Eggtravaganza

We are looking for cards, letters, pictures, wordsearches, crosswords etc – handwritten, typed or purchased that we can distribute to make people smile.

Contributions can be made by post to:

Home Instead, Unit 29C, Shrivenham 100 Business Park, Majors Road, Watchfield, SN6 8TZ

or via email to rachel.jannaway@homeinstead.co.uk as due to the current lockdown restrictions we are unable to offer a collection service from partner schools.

Deadline for items to be received at our offices is Friday 12th March 2021 to enable us to quarantine and sort and package the contributions prior to distribution during the last week of March.



If you would like to request an Easter Envelope for a relative, friend or neighbour who is elderly, isolated, or lonely, please contact Rachel Jannaway, Community Engagement Officer on 01793 232585 or email rachel.jannaway@homeinstead.co.uk



Please note items **MUST** be able to be folded flat to fit in an A4 envelope (Royal Mail Large Letter size maximum)



Personal data is a strange commodity. Cyber thieves can buy huge quantities of personal data on the black market for very little, yet your own personal data is hugely valuable to you. If your personal data falls into the wrong hands, it could lead to identity theft, bank fraud or something even more sinister such as stalking. The severity of that threat is multiplied when it comes to the personal data of children, when threats such as internet grooming begin to emerge. The bad news is that children aren't always great at safeguarding sensitive information, which is why they need parents' help and guidance. That's why we've created this guide to show you how you can protect your own and your family's personal data.



What parents need to know about PROTECTING PERSONAL DATA



EVERY DETAIL IS KEY

Which info should you be wary of sharing online? Aside from the obvious, such as full names, date of birth and address, think of the type of information you're asked for when answering security questions for services such as online banking. The name of your first school, your mother's maiden name, the names of your pets, your favourite band. Data thieves will harvest as much of this information as possible, so don't make it easy for them by publishing it anywhere online.



SOCIAL MEDIA VISIBILITY

Social media sites, such as Facebook, encourage us to share sensitive information in order to build our online profiles. Many people are lulled into thinking that only their friends can see such information, but that's rarely the case. Such information can easily be shared with 'friends of friends' or even anyone searching for you online because privacy settings are opaque. Keep social media profiles to the bare minimum. If you wouldn't be comfortable hanging a sign with that information on your front door, don't enter it into social media sites.



DANGEROUS GAMES

Online games are a particular risk for children. Many of the most popular games – such as Fortnite, Minecraft or Roblox – have voice or text chat facilities, allowing them to talk to fellow gamers. Or, sometimes, people pretending to be fellow gamers. It's very easy for children to be seduced into divulging personal data such as their address, birthday or school. It's critical parents both educate children on the dangers on online chat in games and take safeguards to protect children.



IMPOSTERS AND PHISHING ATTACKS

Even if you're scrupulous about keeping your data private on social media, it's easy to be lulled into handing it over to imposters. There are two golden rules for you and your children to follow: 1. Never divulge personal information to phone callers, unless you can be absolutely certain you know who they are. 2. Never click on links or open attachments in emails or social media, unless you're 100% certain they are genuine. So-called phishing emails are growing ever-more sophisticated, with fraudsters able to replicate the exact look of bank emails and even include details such as account numbers and IDs.



THE RISKS OF PASSWORD SHARING

Password sharing – using the same password for multiple sites – is one of the easiest ways to lose control of your personal data. Hacking of major websites, including usernames and passwords, is common. If you're using the same password for a hacked site as you do on your Gmail account, for example, you're handing data thieves an easy route into your inbox, where they will doubtless find all manner of sensitive information, such as bank emails and contacts. Your email account will often also let them reset the password on multiple other accounts. Don't share passwords; use password managers to create strong, unique passwords for every site.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Safety Tips for Parents & Carers

LOOK OUT FOR LEAKS

Many security software packages have features that look for personal data leaks or prevent people from entering it into risky sites in the first place. For example, Bullguard Premium monitors dangerous sites for usage of data such as your email address, debit card numbers, passport number and more, and then sends you email alerts and details of how to take remedial action if it spots them being used. Such software also issues warnings if it sees personal data being entered into unprotected, high-risk sites.



KEEP DATA GUARDED

Don't give the thieves a head start by handing them pieces of sensitive information for free. For example, it's very common to see email address such as davesmith1976@gmail.com – an immediate clue that you were born in that year. If you have a less common name than Dave Smith, thieves could immediately start using that information to cross reference against public records or other database breaches, allowing them to start building a profile of information about you. Likewise, don't use your date of birth in a password. If that's hacked, you've handed the thieves another big clue.



DON'T OVERSHARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The biggest threat to your child's privacy is you. Parents often overshare personal information on social media: full names, names of schools, children's birthdays, names of their friends. All of this can be easily gleaned to build profiles that could be used to groom your child in online games or in real life. Exercise extreme caution with social media posts concerning your children.



BE WARY OF SHARED NETWORKS/SYSTEMS

Avoid entering any personal data into a web browser when you're using public Wi-Fi (in a coffee shop or airport, for example) or when using shared computers. Shared Wi-Fi connections are much easier to eavesdrop on than your home network, especially if they are not password protected or the password is shared freely with customers. Don't do online shopping, banking or enter any logins/passwords when using shared Wi-Fi. Likewise, if you're using a shared computer at work, for example, as it's very easy for a browser to save logins that could be used by others.



PLAY SAFE IN ONLINE GAMES

Children must be taught to treat strangers in online games with the same caution as they would treat strangers in the street. Don't allow children to use their real name as their username in games to prevent imposters conning kids into thinking they are real-life friends, and only allow them to add friends in the game that they know in real life. Regularly ask to monitor your child's friends list in such games and ask them to identify who the players are. With younger children in particular, ask them to only use voice chat in family rooms, so that you can hear conversations.



Meet our expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as *The Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *BBC Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and the *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and has written regularly about internet safety issues over the years.

