

Friday, 26th April 2024

VJS NEWS



Proud To Be Me, Proud To Belong
Mrs. Barham, Upper Phase Leader

Well done to William in Elm class who has been named a runner up in the Recycling Mascot competition that Mrs Wolczynski shared a few weeks ago. The judges were really impressed by his original idea to make a costume so that he could become the mascot.



Well done to everyone who entered the competition!



Over the Easter break, Year 5 were tasked with researching the Ancient Greeks and presenting their research in the form of a knowledge organiser, presentation or model. They did a fantastic job, particularly Satvika and Samaira in Holly Class. Well done!





WHAT'S NEW!

Year 3

For the last two weeks in Year 3, we have had in coaches from Duke Meadows. Because of this, our PE days have changed. Please make sure your child is wearing their PE kit on the correct day.

Elm - Monday

Oak and Ash - Thursday

In Design and Technology lessons, Year 3 have been learning about movement using levers, axles and CAMs. Each child has designed and made their own automated moving toy. We have decorated cardboard boxes to house their CAM wheels that make the toys go up and down. We have seen excellent creative ideas come to life, including ballet dancers, sharks and a whack-a-mole!

Year 4

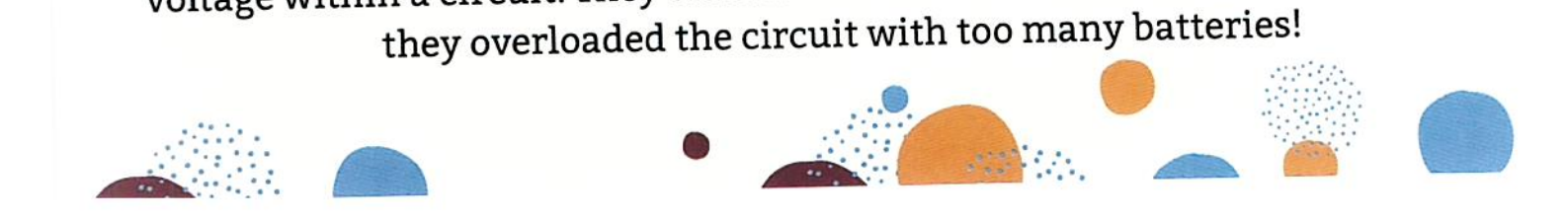
In Writing this week, Year 4 continued to write their own narrative linked to Journey by Aaron Becker. In Maths we have concluded our understanding of decimals with ordering, rounding to the nearest whole number and equivalent fractions. Geography has taken us around the world looking at mountains and their features. Rowan class had their first swimming lesson on Tuesday and we look forward to see them grow with confidence each week as they learn a valuable life skill.

Year 5

In Year 5 this week, we have been writing a balanced argument about whether or not we should have a school uniform. The children have come up with some brilliant reasons for and against uniform and we can't wait to see the final write up!

Year 6

Year 6 have settled into their SATs preparation timetable this week and are showing lots of resilience and dedication. In the midst of this, they have also polished their brilliant newspaper reports which have been a lot of fun to read! In Science this week, children have been investigating the effect of increasing voltage within a circuit. They were fascinated to find out what happened when they overloaded the circuit with too many batteries!



Anyone for tennis?

Mr Tavey, PE Lead

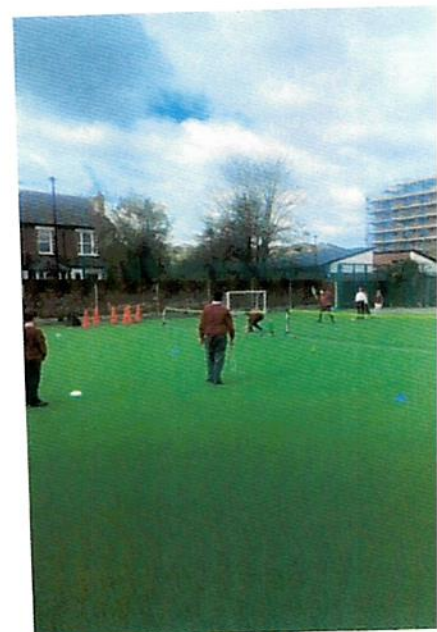
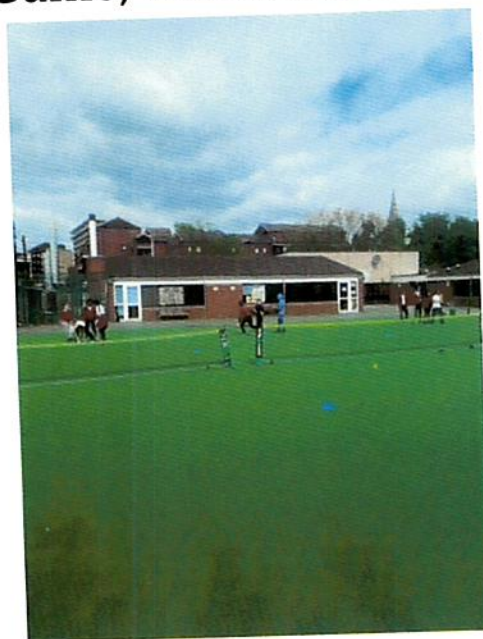
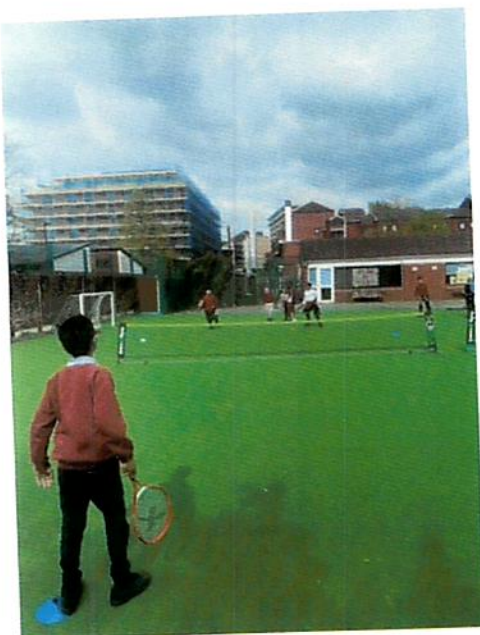


Wimbledon fever has arrived at VJS a little earlier than usual this year with our Year 3 and Year 5 classes working on their tennis skills, with coaches from Dukes Meadow Tennis Club and our Sports Coach Mr Hemmings, as part of their PE unit.

Despite the lack of strawberries and cream (and 30 degree temperatures), we have been 'served' up some 'smashing' matches and it has been fantastic to see the enthusiasm on the children's faces whilst making sure they don't make a 'racket'.

They certainly seem to 'love' their lessons and have been 'smashing' it all week, making sure they hydrate themselves with 'deuce' as they're doing so.

Game, Set and Match!



Year 6 Leaver's Hoodies

2024 LEAVERS' HOODIES!

Our Leavers' Hoodies are about to be ordered!

To make sure that you get yours, please speak to:



Mrs Barham

They cost:

£20

PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW!



FiZZ
HOODIES

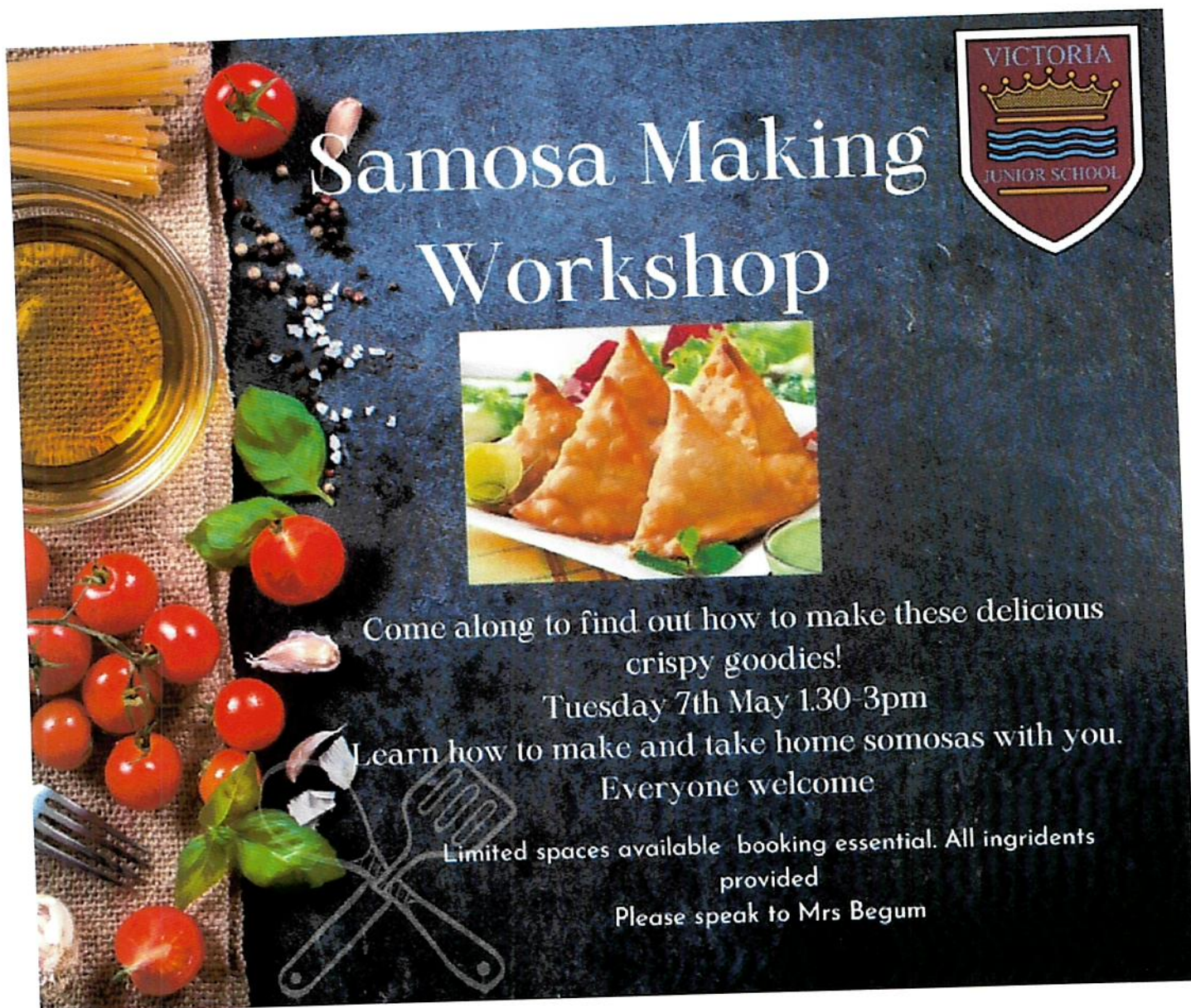
Sorry - after this date:
it's just too late!

Wednesday
1st May

Events for Parents

There are some exciting events coming up during the Summer Term for parents, which have been organised by Mrs Begum.

We would love to see lots of you there!



Samosa Making Workshop

Victoria Junior School

Come along to find out how to make these delicious crispy goodies!
Tuesday 7th May 1.30 - 3pm
Learn how to make and take home somosas with you.
Everyone welcome

Limited spaces available booking essential. All ingredients provided
Please speak to Mrs Begum



VOLUNTEER'S AFTERNOON TEA

**TUESDAY 21ST MAY
1.45PM-3PM**



a selection of sandwiches, scones
a selection of sweet treats
tea with a wide range of flavors



WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY AND
THANK YOU ALL FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK AND
SUPPORT.

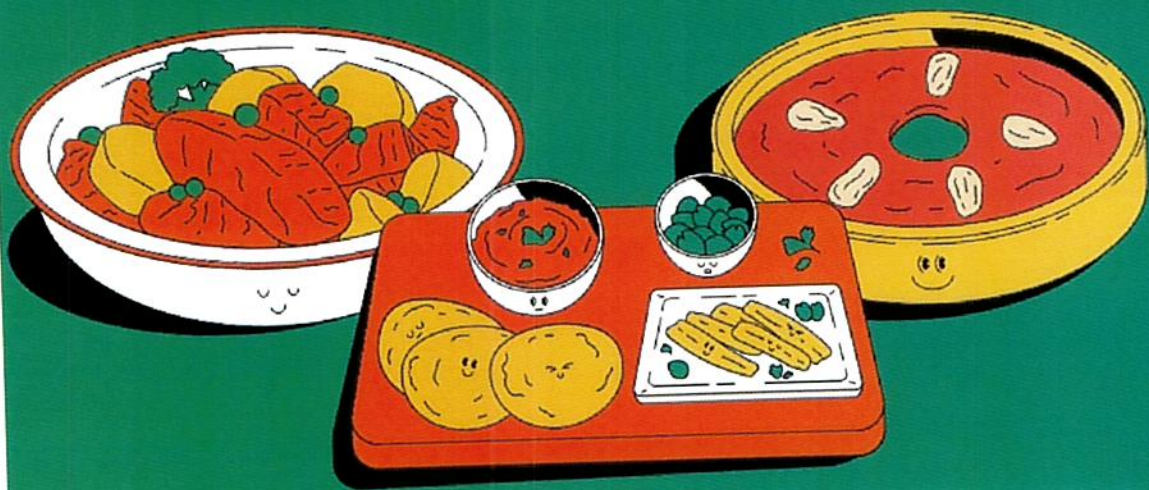
PLEASE BOOK IN ADVANCE
FOR MORE INFORMATION SPEAK TO MRS BEGUM

BRING & SHARE!

THURSDAY 13TH JUNE
1.45PM-3PM

VJS ARE ORGANISING OUR
SECOND BRING AND SHARE
AFTERNOON FOR PARENTS &
CARERS.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN COMING, PLEASE SPEAK TO
MRS BEGUM TO BOOK A SPACE AND DISCUSS WHAT
YOUR DISH WILL BE. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO COME, BUT
WOULD LIKE TO SHARE A RECIPE WITH US, PLEASE EMAIL
THE SCHOOL OFFICE.



PLEASE SPEAK TO MRS BEGUM FOR MORE
INFORMATION
BOOKING ESSENTIAL

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways, starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert: potentially this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

ENCOURAGE TO REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

