

Red Oaks Primary School
24th February 2021
Newsletter



Return to school - 8th March

We are looking forward to welcoming back all our children on 8th March. We understand that some may feel a little apprehensive but we are here to support as best as we can. The Government have said that attendance will be compulsory for all children. Behind the scenes, we are busy updating risk assessments and preparing information about start/finish times etc. This information will be winging its way to you ASAP, please look out for important emails.

Values Based Education

The value this term is **COURAGE**. Please visit our website values page to participate in our values task this term. <https://www.redoaks.org/values01.php>

PE Kits

Please can all children have PE kit in school every day. Please do not be offended if we contact you because your child doesn't have a kit. PE is a compulsory part of the curriculum and all children must take part unless parents have contacted the school via letter, email or phone call. Thank you.

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.



Introducing Ollee - a virtual friend

What is Ollee?

Ollee is a digital friend for children aged 8-11, created by Parent Zone and funded by BBC Children in Need's A Million & Me initiative, which aims to make a difference to children's emotional wellbeing.

It's designed to help children reflect on how they feel and to process their experiences with the support and help of their parents and carers - and it does this by offering them advice about a range of subjects: school, family, friends, their body, the internet and the world.

For each of these subjects, children can choose an emotion that matches how they feel about it: happy, angry, sad, confused, frustrated, stressed or worried.

Next, they can choose from a list of topics - for instance, a child who was worried about school might be able to select 'I haven't done my homework' as the cause of their worry. Finally, they'll see a page of advice about the topic, presented in child-friendly bite-sized chunks they can read then or save for later.

Parents can also follow the same pathways to get advice on the subjects and emotions they think their child might be struggling with. This advice is presented in the same bite-sized format but is tailored to the parent audience.

Go to

https://app.ollee.org.uk/?utm_source=Parents+Newsletter&utm_campaign=bec7d3d3a6-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_12_9parentnewsletterxmas_COPY_&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_87fb043a40-bec7d3d3a6-179429013#/welcome visit the website and meet Ollee.



Friday 19th March- COMIC RELIEF

This year's comic relief couldn't come at a better time, as we are all in need of a good laugh!

The children will take part in a KS1 and KS2 Red Oaks quiz at school and teachers will be sharing funny video clips throughout the day to keep the giggle momentum going.

Children will be in uniform on this day, but we want to see the most funny/crazy hairstyles worn to school. In addition to this, if you have some silly socks, why not put those on too!? We will be sharing some photos of the children, so you are able to see some of their wackiest styles! Comic relief noses are also allowed on this day. If your child is having school dinners, we will be having silly sausages and a little pudding surprise too!

To support this great charity, in a year where we need it most, please donate via ParentPay.

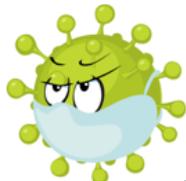


Class Dojo

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.



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.

Online Safety Guide - Among Us

Among Us is one of the most popular games of 2020. A space-themed 'social deduction game' where 4-10 players take on the guise of Crewmates, who must complete various tasks around their spaceship, while randomly selected Imposters must try their hardest to sabotage the others' efforts. The Imposters have to remain undetected through rounds of voting to win. While Among Us is a largely safe game, it's still prudent to be aware of any potential risks young ones might encounter when playing.

In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as hacking, mild violence and inappropriate language.

Travel to Tokyo

Get ready! Red Oaks is getting active with Team GB and Paralympics GB by taking on the Travel to Tokyo virtual challenge. We would like you to join us on a 47,349km journey to Tokyo by getting active as a family and logging your activity. There are lots of prizes to be won too for Red Oaks and for families.



Our first challenge is to reach Paris - each year group has its own team so which year group is going to get to Paris first? I will post weekly updates about which year group is in the lead and there will be prizes available for the winning year group!

Log activity: Logging your activity takes less than a minute and you can access this by following this link or scanning the QR code on the poster attached! You can log any physical activity you do at home; from bouncing on a trampoline, to going for a run, log your activity and help get your team to Tokyo!

<https://www.getset.co.uk/travel-tokyo/log-activity>

(You may need the school's postcode: SN25 2AN)



Here's to getting active! 😊 Mr Newton 😊

National Online Safety - Online Safety Parent Courses

As a school we subscribe to the National Online Safety Hub. There are lots of brilliant courses for parents - I have selected two and provided the links below.

Online Safety Course for Parents of Children aged 4-7 -

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/hub/view/course/online-safety-klass-for-parents-and-carers-ages-4-7>

Online Safety Course for Parents of Children aged 7-11 -

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/hub/view/course/online-safety-klass-for-parents-and-carers-ages-7-11>

In order to access the content please create a free account using this link:

<http://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/red-oaks-primary-school>

After that please watch the videos below. Please feel free to view any of the other content on the hub. As always, if you have any feedback please email me on deputyhead@redoaks.org.uk.



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

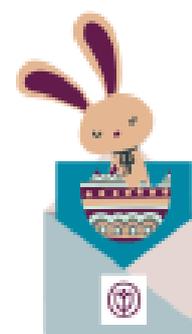
Following the fantastic response to Home Instead's Be a Santa to a Senior - 'Santa-gram' project at the end of last year, they have been asked if something similar could be done to support those who are elderly, isolated or lonely this Easter.

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!



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)

Travel To Tokyo!

Get Ready! Red Oaks is getting active with Team GB and ParalympicsGB by joining the Travel to Tokyo challenge. We are aiming to virtually travel to Tokyo! There are chances to win some prizes too! :)

Simply scan the QR code below to record your activity or follow this link <https://www.getset.co.uk/travel-tokyo/log-activity> You might need our postcode which is SN25 2AN



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What parents & carers need to know about ... AMONG US



Among Us is one of the most popular games of 2020. A space-themed 'social deduction game' where 4-10 players take on the guise of Crewmates, who must complete various tasks around their spaceship, while randomly selected Imposters must try their hardest to sabotage the others' efforts. The Imposters have to remain undetected through rounds of voting to win. While Among Us is a largely safe game, it's still prudent to be aware of any potential risks young ones might encounter when playing.

Inappropriate chat



While Among Us can be enjoyed locally via wi-fi, it is commonly played online. Between rounds, players come together to discuss who they think the Imposter is with a text chat, and it's here where children will come into contact with others. There is a profanity filter on the game as standard, but it can very easily be disabled and (like any unmoderated chat groups) children can be exposed to inappropriate, sexual or explicit language.

In-game purchases



Among Us is currently available on both PC (via the gaming service Steam) and mobile devices. On the PC, the game costs a flat amount of £3.99 and has some in-game purchases, whereas the mobile version is free to play but contains adverts and in-game purchases. You can pay to remove the ads or purchase in-game cosmetic items. While these amounts are relatively low, there's still the possibility that young ones could accidentally spend lots of money on the game without realising it, as the process is complete in a couple of taps if a card is connected to your store account.

Risk of hacking



Among Us has been the target of hacking activity. Indeed, only recently the game's developer, InnerSloth, tweeted advice that users play private games or with people they trust, in response to hacking issues. As yet, there has been no breach in player accounts. However, if a big enough hack were to take place and player details were accessed, it could lead criminals to having access to credit card data and other personal credentials.

Use of external apps



Many players use external apps like Discord to voice chat with each other while they're playing. The problem with this is that it is unregulated by the game. Usually on Discord, players will only talk to other people they know in private chats, but a stranger could add a child on an external app: pretending to be interested in playing Among Us with them, when in reality they could be attempting to bully, groom or extort.

Mild violence



The art style of Among Us is cartoony but does contain some very mild violence. Imposters must kill off Crewmates one by one and can do this in a number of different ways. Some younger children might find this uncomfortable and could get scared or become upset when an Imposter is chasing them, or if they are the Imposter and are forced to kill. An age rating of PEGI 7 should help guide you in deciding if the game is appropriate or not.



Safety tips

Play with your children

Playing with your kids is one of the best ways to understand the game, and what makes it so popular. Among Us is free on mobile and is incredibly easy to pick up and play. It's also a great way to bond with your young ones - unless of course you're the Imposter or vote them out of the spaceship! You can do this by picking 'Local' on the main menu then 'Create Game'.

Use private lobbies



Among Us uses private lobbies to let players keep track of who they're gaming with. Using a uniquely generated code that can be given to friends prior to a game starting, it gives parents peace of mind knowing who their kids are playing with. To get a game code, simply select 'Host', choose the game settings, press 'Confirm', then send the six-digit code at the bottom of the screen to friends to invite them.

Deactivate credit cards



Having your credit card automatically paired with any online accounts that can be accessed by children is asking for trouble. A solution could be setting them up with their own account with no credit card attached. They can still ask you when they want to make a purchase, but it's totally up to you as and when that transaction happens.

Use an alias




By default, your name on Among Us will be set to whatever name your device recognises you as. If this is your child's real name, you'll want to ensure they change it before hopping into a game. This is really easily done by clicking 'Online' on the main menu, then simply typing in a new name at the top of the screen.

Talk about the risks

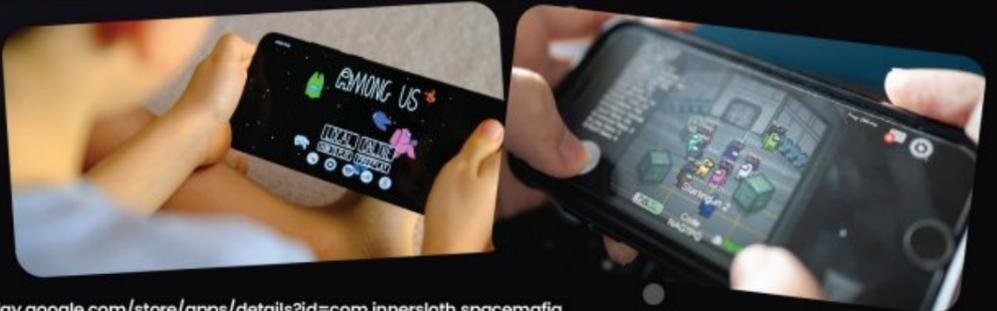




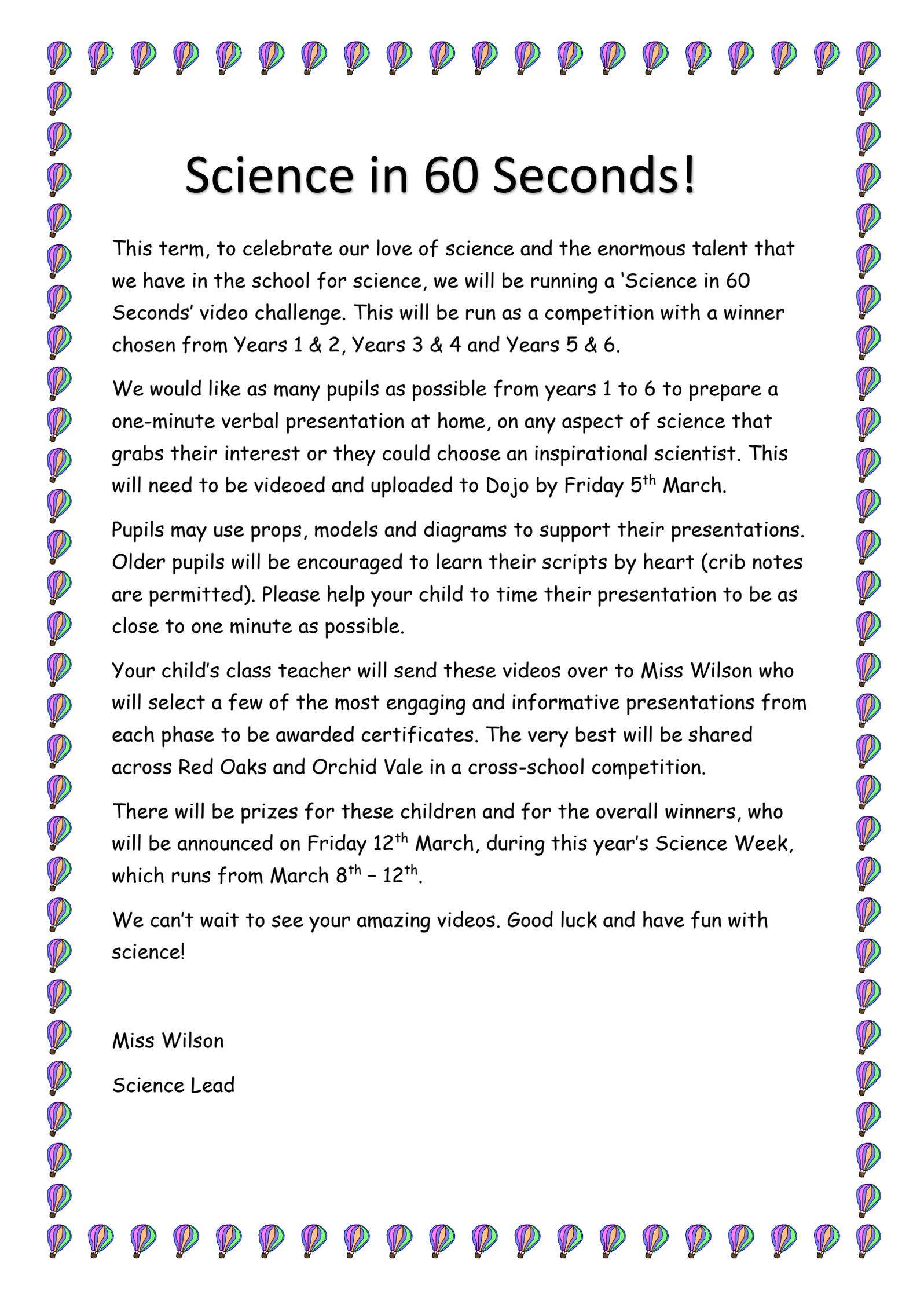
It's a good idea to talk to your child about the risks associated with online gaming, especially when there are chat options and an ability to communicate with others. Try to maintain an open dialogue with your child: talk about their experiences of the game and who they're playing with. This will help you to stay on top of how they're feeling and ensure they know they can come to you if ever they feel upset or uncomfortable about anything they've experienced.

Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for five years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGbible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work - but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



Sources: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.innersloth.spacemafia>

A decorative border of colorful hot air balloons surrounds the text. The balloons are in shades of purple, blue, green, and yellow, and are arranged in a grid-like pattern around the page.

Science in 60 Seconds!

This 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