

Red Oaks Primary School  
10<sup>th</sup> March 2021  
Newsletter



### Return to school

It has been so lovely to welcome all of the children back to school this week. This seems to have gone smoothly but we do appreciate that some children will need a while to adapt to another new routine. This week, alongside the usual curriculum, children have spent some time reconnecting with their friends and taking part in team challenges. Over the coming weeks, teachers will identify gaps in knowledge and be planning how to take learning forward. Where possible additional interventions will be offered during the school day but some children will also be offered additional group tutoring at the end of the day.

### Science Week

This week has been science week and the children have taken part in all kinds of exciting challenges and experiments. This has been aided by our school professors.



Please also keep your eyes on the website for our termly science challenges.

### Incredible!

During lockdown, since January 5<sup>th</sup>, our teachers, parents and children have exchanged the following:

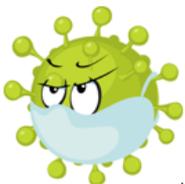
**39,510 Photos and videos of work and activities**

**11,036 messages**

**1,022 lessons**



Thank you so much to all the staff for their hard work and to so many parents who have sent messages of support and thanks; this is very much appreciated. Well done too to parents who have been home schooling children and trying to juggle their own commitments - you have done a great job! Most of all, well done to the children who yet again, have amazed us all with their resilience - you are all superstars! 🌟



### Drop Off & Collection

A polite reminder to all adults to wear a facemask or covering at drop off and collection times. Please also wait at a safe distance from other parents or family groups and keep your children with you so that they cannot run around. Many thanks.

### TD Days 2021/22

We know that it can be useful to parents to get these dates on the calendar early. These are the dates for 2021/22:

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2022



### Online Safety - Signal

Signal is a multimedia messaging service (previously known as TextSecure) that provides secure chats between users. It is encrypted, so any intercepted communication cannot be read by attackers. Users can send one-to-one messages or set up group chats. The service is free, has no adverts and doesn't track users' location like many other messaging platforms. The app experienced a popularity boom in early 2021 as large numbers of users left WhatsApp over perceived privacy issues.

In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as a false sense of security, vulnerability to hackers and disappearing messages.

### Contacting School

School office hours are 8.30am-3.30pm please be aware that calls are not answered outside of these hours. Our phone number is 01793 493920. If you have any questions or concerns, please use the following contacts:

Mrs Surch - [head@redoaks.org.uk](mailto:head@redoaks.org.uk)

Mr Lee - [deputyhead@redoaks.org.uk](mailto:deputyhead@redoaks.org.uk)

General queries - Admin team - [admin@redoaks.org.uk](mailto:admin@redoaks.org.uk)

Mr Lee - [fsmanager@redoaks.org.uk](mailto:fsmanager@redoaks.org.uk) - Foundation Stage - Nursery & Reception

Mrs Maxfield - [Yr123@redoaks.org.uk](mailto:Yr123@redoaks.org.uk) - Years 1, 2 & 3

Miss Gerrard - [Yr456@redoaks.org.uk](mailto:Yr456@redoaks.org.uk) - Years 4, 5 & 6



### Friday 19<sup>th</sup> 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 in **Nursery to Year 5** will be in uniform on this day, (Y6 in Red/White/Blue for VE Day celebrations) 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.

### Letter from Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service

Dear parents/ carers

During lockdown, the roads have been a lot quieter than usual. As the school run starts again, we want to keep all children safe and well as they travel to school. Over the last few months, there have been less vehicles on the road. We anticipate the roads will become busier when schools reopen fully, so now may be a good opportunity to remind your child about the importance of being aware of their safety, however they are using the road (as a pedestrian, cyclist, on a scooter or as a passenger). This is especially important if they are beginning to make this journey independently.

Why not spend a few moments looking at the "Tales of the Road" with your child, helping to remind them about staying safe. [Tales of the Road \(think.gov.uk\)](https://www.think.gov.uk) The interactive booklet can be viewed online, just follow the instructions on page 2 to navigate to the sections relevant to your child, or if you wish you can print a copy. If you would like to look at additional resources to help discuss road safety with your child, visit [Education resources – THINK!](#)

If you've been staying at home, with only maybe the odd trip to the shops or to care for a vulnerable loved one, the chances are you may feel a little nervous getting back on the road yourself. Please have a look at this leaflet to ensure you are as safe as possible. [DWFRS-Back-on-the-Road-4.pdf \(dwfire.org.uk\)](#)

Please remember as the school runs start again for all children, the roads around the school can become busy with vehicles such as cars and buses as well as children walking, biking and scooting. Please take extra care, both as a pedestrian or a driver, and be aware of the many other, very young road users around the school during drop off and pick up. We understand the pressure when dropping off and picking up children; most people are considerate when parking and understand the risks of blocking the road for other road users, but there have been a few issues in the past when emergency service vehicles have not been able to get easy access to school premises. Please watch this video for further guidance on driving with emergency vehicles. [Blue Light Aware \(YouTube\)](#)

Education and Road Safety Teams  
 Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service  
[www.dwfire.org.uk](http://www.dwfire.org.uk)

### Following on from letter sent out last week



### Up-coming Dates

- 19/3 Comic Relief - Crazy hair & Socks (full school uniform to be worn)  
 Year 6 **only** - VE Day Celebrations - come in Red, White & Blue
- 26/3 Wear Rainbow colours in aid of Avaya's fight against Neuroblastoma - donations on ParentPay.
- 1/4 School closes for Easter Holidays at 1.30/1.40 (as per start times)
- 19/4 School reopens
- 22/4 Parents Evening - school closes at 1.30/1.40 (as per start times)
- 29/4 School Class Photos

# Red Oaks Primary School



Is your child entitled to  
30 hours free



Nursery Provision?

Come and talk to us

Tel: 01793 493920



email: [tylerm@redoaks.org.uk](mailto:tylerm@redoaks.org.uk)





## What Parents & Carers Need to Know About

# SIGNAL



Signal is a multimedia messaging service (previously known as TextSecure) which provides secure chats between users. It is encrypted, so any intercepted communication cannot be read by attackers. Users can send one-to-one messages or set up group chats. The service is free, has no adverts and doesn't track users' location like many other messaging platforms. The app experienced a popularity boom in early 2021 as large numbers of users left WhatsApp over perceived privacy issues.

### Disappearing Messages

Messages on Signal can be set to disappear (from both the sender and the recipient's devices) a specified time after they are first opened – potentially as little as five seconds. So it is difficult to monitor the app and see what your child is talking about. Should someone behave inappropriately towards them, unless they record evidence instantly there is no way to prove what has happened – making it difficult to take the proper action.

### Risk of Screenshot

Because messages can be set to disappear on Signal, some young people assume that nobody else will ever see them and let their guard down as a result. But a recipient could still capture a screenshot of your child's message before it vanishes from their device. This screenshot – which might be of something inappropriate or deeply personal – can then be shared with others or even made public on the internet.

### False Sense of Security

The feeling of total privacy and security within the app can make young people feel like they are invulnerable – and possibly that they could get away with behaving in ways they normally wouldn't. This behaviour could range from the harmful (such as participating in cyber bullying or sharing age-inappropriate images or videos) to the extremely dangerous: perhaps chatting to strangers, who might potentially be predators.

### Vulnerability to Hackers

Like virtually any piece of software, Signal has been shown to have flaws in its security. One hacker was able to make a call to a target device using the app and could then listen in on the victim through their phone – without needing them to even answer the call. Afterwards, the hacked user was completely unaware that the eavesdropping had taken place.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### Gather Any Evidence Quickly

If your children are old enough to use Signal, they will likely already know how to take a quick screenshot on their phone. It's best to confirm this with them, however, because if they're sent something inappropriate or offensive, they will only have a very short opportunity to screenshot it as evidence of misconduct before the message disappears. Once they've captured the screenshot, they should then come to you or another trusted adult.

### Talk about Online Bullying

Before your child downloads Signal, have an open discussion about the potential risks of this app and others like it. Ensure your child is aware of the possibility of bullying or hurtful messages on such platforms. They should understand that the app makers themselves do not help with investigating incidents – and that it may be difficult to prove someone has done something to upset them.

### Think before Sending

The messages a young person sends on Signal don't last forever, but the effects of those messages very well might – for your child and for others. You could suggest to your child that, if they're unsure whether to send a particular message, they should ask themselves if they would be comfortable showing the content to you. And if they wouldn't, should they really be sending it at all?

### Stay Updated

It's wise to make sure your child knows how to keep their software up to date by downloading the latest version. Developers will often release software updates that (as well as occasionally adding new features or improving functionality, etc.) help to fix any security flaws and stop hackers from exploiting possible weak points in the app.

### Consider Online Reputation

Talk to your child about the implications if a message they sent was made public without their consent. Remind them that once an image (for example) is out there, there's no way to control what happens to it or erase every single copy. It's a good way to get young people to start considering how their digital footprint might have repercussions on their future prospects.

## Meet Our Expert

Emma Davis is a cyber security expert and former ICT teacher. She delivers cyber awareness training to organisations nationally and has extensive knowledge and experience of managing how children access services and apps online.



SOURCES: <https://smartsocial.com/signal-app/>, <https://www.signal.org>