



Tiptree St Luke's Church of England VC Primary School

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know, love, serve; God, Ourselves & Others

Data protection: Please notify the office if you change your details or change your mind about consent.

Friday 18th July 2025

End of Term Message

It comes to the day of the year where we say goodbye to our lovely year 6 children and wish them the best of luck in the next step in their learning journey. We hope they enjoy the experiences on offer at secondary school, and we cannot wait to hear about all of their achievements.

We hope everyone has a restful summer, and we will see children back in school on Tuesday 2nd September 2025.



Alice in Wonderland

Year 6 performed their production of Alice in Wonderland at the Headgate Theatre in Colchester last Friday. They had all been working so hard during rehearsals, learnt many lines, practised songs and worked on their acting skills. Performing at a real theatre is such a unique experience for children, and one they may never get to do again. A huge thank you to the staff and many volunteers for all of the time spent on costumes, props and rehearsals.



Local Opportunities for the Children

Information on [church events](#) and [local clubs and activities which are available to our children](#) are published on the school website. This now includes information on Colchester United's summer program of events.

Awards Ceremony

This morning we held our annual Awards Celebration, and congratulated children in EYFS, year 2, year 4 and year 6 on their achievements in a range of areas. Well done to all of the children who received a trophy- we are very proud of your success over the last year.



Phonics

We would like to say a huge congratulations to Mrs Spicer (Phonics Lead) and the staff who are part of the Read, Write, Inc team..... 100% of our Year 1 children passed the Phonics Screening Check in June this year. Well done!



Change in photograph consent

The legal basis for taking photographs can be legitimate interest, and is no longer by consent. The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has issued advice specifically for schools, to say that asking consent for taking photographs is no longer necessary. They say that taking photographs for promotional purposes (this could include promoting your school activities via local media, newspapers, social media, newsletters etc), can be done via legitimate interests, rather than using consent. No full names will be used for any children. An opt out option needs to be made available to parents/carers, so please contact the school office if you would like to discuss opting out.

Staff Update

We are welcoming three new teachers to the St. Luke's team: Mrs Courtier (LKS2), Mrs Rowe (LKS2) and Miss Polley (UKS2). They have been in throughout transition week, and have already become part of the team. Mrs Cuming would like to thank the PTFA and all of the parents who contributed to her beautiful rose bush and generous money collection for rugby tickets.

Special Achievement Award

Congratulations to all of the children who have received a Certificate of Achievement certificate and prize in our Celebration Worship on Wednesday 16th July.

Reminders & Dates for the Diary

Staff will aim to deal with any **emailed queries** in three working days however if you haven't received a response, please contact admin@stlukesschool.co.uk who will investigate the matter for you.

When reporting your child's absence, you must leave a message on the **absence phone line** (01621 815456 option 2). This is the first line of communication that is checked in the morning and if you email the office, staff will not see this until registers have been processed.

Second-hand uniform is available every Tuesday opposite the main reception area between 3pm-3.30pm

If your child is missing any items of clothing, parents are able to check the **lost property box** at the end of the school day via the main office.

School Dates:

The new academic year dates and **INSET** days for 2025/2026 are published on our website.

EYFS – Reception Conker		KSI – Years 1 & 2 Willow, Hazel and Chestnut		LKS2 – Year 3 & 4 Pear, Cherry and Mulberry		UKS2 – Years 5 & 6 Cedar and Sahabi	
		Event				Parents Invited / Additional	
Sep	2 nd Sep	First day of the Autumn term					
	10 th Sep	Year 6 Residential Parent/Carer meeting 3.05pm				Year 6 parents/carers welcome	
Sep	11 th Sep	School Council Voting (yr 1-6)					
	17 th September	Individual School Photos (more information to follow)					
	19 th Sep	PTFA AGM- 7.30pm in school				All welcome	
	26 th Sep	Flu Vaccine Day (more information to follow)					
	26 th Sep	PTFA Family Bingo Evening (more information to follow)				All welcome	
	3 rd October	School Council McMillan Bake Sale				All welcome	
Oct	8 th Oct	Year 5 Harvest Festival to parents/carers- 2.15pm in St. Luke's Church				Year 5 parent/carers	
	10 th Oct	PTFA Autumn disco (more information to follow)				All children welcome	
	24 th Oct	INSET DAY					
	1 st Nov	PTFA Fireworks Event (more information to follow)				All welcome	
Nov	3 rd Nov	INSET Day					
	24 th -28 th Nov	Year 6 Residential					
	10 th Dec	School Christmas Dinner					
Dec	11 th Dec	Year 1-6 trip to the pantomime (more information to follow)					

	16 th Dec	EYFS and KS1 Nativity Play- 9.30am (more information to follow)	Parent/Carers welcome
	16 th Dec	Christingle Service	
	17 th Dec	EYFS and KS1 Nativity Play- 9.30am (more information to follow)	Parent/Carers welcome
	18 th Dec	EYFS and KS1 Nativity Play- 9.30am (more information to follow)	Parent/Carers welcome
	19 th Dec	Christmas Bell Ringing Assembly 9.30am	
July	10 th July	Year 6 Production at the Headgate Theatre (more information to follow)	Year 6 parents/carers



Marvellous Me is an opportunity for us to share the great work and amazing attitude that the children show daily in school. Access codes can be collected at the school office. Links to download the app on iOS or Android can be found here: <https://marvellousme.com/parents/>

Learning Characteristics

Taking Risk

Being Inquisitive

Making Links

Co-operation

Resilience

Reflecting

Christian Values

Thankfulness

Responsibility

Compassion

Faith

Forgiveness

Hope



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SOCIAL MEDIA & MENTAL HEALTH

An estimated one-third of children have a social media account, so it's important that trusted adults know what content young people are consuming, what they're posting and the interactions they're having. On social media, it can be easy to go down 'rabbit holes' that aren't beneficial to our wellbeing. As platforms grapple with managing such 'legal but harmful' content, lives are being impacted – sometimes to tragic effect. We might be daunted by the scale of the tech giants and their content which so enthral young people, but we can still help children to be aware of their mental wellness: recognising when something isn't OK... and knowing what to do about content that upsets them.

1. UNDERSTAND THE ALGORITHM

Algorithms rank content by user interest: someone who regularly interacts with sports news, say, will see the latest results at the top of their feed. Likewise, if a user browses content that can cause harm, that's what will be recommended to them in future. Someone who's had a bad day and looks for posts which reflect their mood will find similar content being suggested to them more and more.

2. AVOID THE MAIN FEEDS

Avoiding the default feeds on social media platforms limits the amount of recommended content that's shown. Users can opt to only scroll through the accounts they follow, use restricted modes, or highlight posts that they don't want to see more of. Explore the platform safety settings to see how you can take control of what your child's phone shows them when they open the app.

3. DISCUSS WHAT THEY'VE SEEN

Chatting about what your child's seen online keeps you aware of the content they're interacting with. Don't assume that platforms are screening out inappropriate material, or even that your child would recognise content as being harmful. Discuss who they follow, what posts they like and what comes up in their feeds. It alarm bells ring, it could be time for a more in-depth talk or to seek support.

4. LEARN HOW TO HIDE CONTENT

If your child stumbles across unsuitable content on social media, there's the option to hide that post as well as indicating you'd prefer any similar material not to be suggested in future. On some platforms, you might also be able to block posts that contain specific words, which is an excellent way to start taking control of what your child sees online.

5. SET DAILY LIMITS

Phones and most apps can tell you how much they're being used. Spending too long online can mean a child misses out on other activities that are important to all-round wellbeing. You could set some family rules – for everyone to follow – around device use, such as screen time limits and tech-free spaces. Involving your child in creating this agreement makes them more likely to stick to it.

6. MONITOR THEIR ACTIVITY

Keeping a discreet eye on how your child is using social media can help ensure they're not entering potentially dangerous situations. As they grow up, of course, children need space to exercise their independence – but you can still occasionally ask to see what they're looking at, be transparent about your own social media use and try not to sound judgemental about your child's.

7. TURN OFF PUSH NOTIFICATIONS

Even for adults, it's tempting to check an email or message as soon as the alert sound pings. Push notifications encourage people to open their apps and spend time on their device, so turning them off will help your child to practise mindful use of tech. Most of us have other things that we need to focus on as a priority – and those notifications will still be there later, when we have more time.

8. USE DEVICES TOGETHER

Giving children internet-enabled devices and complete freedom to explore platforms on their own can result in exposure to hugely damaging content. You could consider making a particular area of home a designated space to use phones, tablets and so on – making it much easier to monitor what content your child is viewing and (if necessary) steer them away from any potentially harmful paths.

9. ENCOURAGE OTHER ACTIVITIES

Mental health professionals often highlight the importance of exercise, quality time with loved ones, a balanced diet and restful sleep for our mental wellbeing. Spending hours on social media can cause us to sacrifice other activities that our brains need to feel well – so encouraging your child to put down their phone and enjoy something that doesn't involve a screen can be immensely beneficial.

10. TALK ABOUT PEER PRESSURE

Most platforms default children's accounts to private, so only people they've accepted as friends can see their posts. This reduces the risk of bullying or unkind comments, but – just like offline life – the digital world can still make children feel as if they need to act or look a certain way to fit in. Talk to your child about peer pressure, and listen to any concerns so you can provide the support they need.

Meet Our Expert

Shazia Barwar-Azim is executive headteacher at a specialist primary school and, as an emotional therapy coach, works with school leaders to focus on the SEND, mental health and wellbeing agenda. A passionate advocate for vulnerable learners, Shazia is a Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and the author of *The Rainbow Within*, a book which supports children with SEMH needs.



Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-55242225>

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