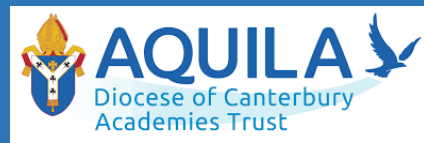


# Charing CE Primary School

## Weekly Newsletter

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



Telephone: 01233 712277

Email: [office@charing.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@charing.kent.sch.uk)

Website: [www.charingschool.org.uk](http://www.charingschool.org.uk)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CharingPrimary/>

What a week! What a term! We reach the end of the first term and I am delighted with how hard the children have worked and I am so pleased with their achievements.

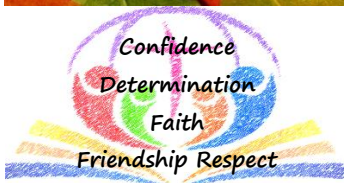
As you are all aware, the school received a Section 8 Ofsted inspection on Wednesday. The report will be published during term 2. I would like to thank all the parents for their support towards us during the inspection; the kind words, the gifts and the participation in the parent survey have all been so helpful and so important. I would also like to thank the staff who have worked so hard since I have been in post at the school. Together with the parent community and children we make a fantastic team. The children really were a credit to us all yesterday as they showed the inspection team how brilliant they are. I am very proud to lead such an amazing and unique school.

The second session of parents evening will now take place on Tuesday 16th November, Mrs Halliday will be in contact with you early next term to make the arrangements. I am sorry for any inconvenience caused by the postponement of meetings originally arranged for Tuesday.

Another big success this term, has been the reintroduction of after school clubs. The arrangements for these clubs will remain the same until Christmas. We will then offer different clubs from January and open places for the Reception children. If your child was taking part in a club, they will still be on the register for that club in term 2. If your child is not yet involved but would like to join a club, please contact the office to see if there are any spaces. Clubs will resume on the first week back but there will not be a film club on Monday 1st November.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a well deserved, half term holiday. Have a great time with your family and let's hope for some wonderful autumnal weather. I look forward to seeing you all again next term so that together with the children we can continue to take the school from strength to strength.






Kind regards,  
Thomas Bird  
Head of School



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# Attendance



Rabbits 	Squirrels 	Otters 	Foxes 	Owls 
96	96	78	96	88
Whole School – 90%		Year to date – 91%		Target – 96%

## Individual Pupil attendance

Percentage Attendance	Days Off Of School / Year
100%	No days
95%	9
90%	19
85%	29
80%	38
75%	48
70 %	57

Attendance is important to us because if your child is not in school we cannot teach them, and they miss important learning.

Research has shown that those children with poor attendance perform less well at school, and in their exams.

Please help us to ensure your child reaches their full potential, by encouraging your child to attend school as regularly as possible.

The national expectation for attendance is **96.6%**. Figures of **90%** or less are classed as persistent absence.



As part of our ongoing work to keep children safe online, we are continuing to share information about how to keep your children safe on social media apps and online. This week's poster about **SOCIAL BOTS** is at the end of the newsletter. Please continue to monitor your child's online behaviour and access. If you need help with a specific app we have not highlighted yet, please talk to Mrs Hammond.



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# CELEBRATION COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

**Bobby**   **Spencer P**   **Elloius**   **Tristan**   **Dre**  
**Harry H**   **Casey**   **Fraser**   **Savanna**  
**Lenny-John**   **Reuben**   **Amber**   **Aoife**  
**Lia**   **Zyanyah**   **Freya**



Prayer

Father God,

Thank you for our school

Help us to:

Grow in **CONFIDENCE**

Learn with **DETERMINATION**

Live by **FAITH**

Build good **FRIENDSHIPS** and

Show **RESPECT** to all

Amen



Our worship this week has focused on Psalm 23: The Lord is my Shepherd. We have explored how this teaches Christians about God and that he is always there to help in times of difficulty.

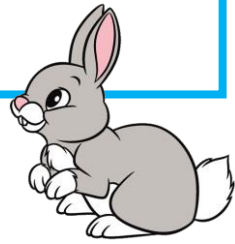


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# What We Are Learning

Next term Rabbits are going to be learning all about 'Amazing Animals'. We will be exploring wild animals and pets, from bears and elephants, to cats, dogs and Guinea pigs! We will be reading 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', 'Dear Zoon', 'Elmer' and 'Mog' stories, amongst many others. Look out for details about a teddy bears picnic!

Of course, we will be looking forward to going on our first big trip out with the school to see the pantomime and enjoying lots of Christmas activities later in the term.



Next term, Squirrels' topic is 'The Great Fire of London.' We will be basing our English writing on the story of 'Toby and the Great Fire of London' and linking this to our History lessons. To link into this time period, we will be continuing our science topic of 'Materials' and focusing on more experiments and investigations. We will also be doing Design and Technology this term and look at what makes a house strong, looking at different materials that will keep a house strong and the different techniques we can use to make them. Finally, we will be learning about Gymnastics in PE.



Next term, Otters' topic is 'The Gunpowder plot'. We will be basing our English writing on the story of 'Mr Fawkes, the King and the Gunpowder plot' and linking this to our History lessons. To link into this time period, our science topic will be 'Materials' and focusing on more experiments and investigations. We will also be doing Design and Technology this term and learning about ingredients for cooking. In RE will be looking at why Christmas matters for Christians. Finally, we will be learning about Gymnastics in PE.



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# What We Are Learning

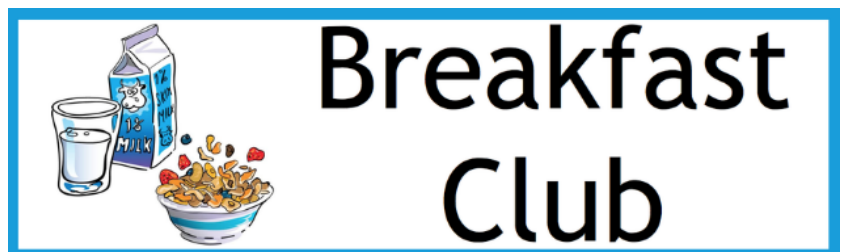
I'd like to say an enormous well done to everyone. You've worked so hard and been so determined to learn this term. I'm super proud of every one of you! Well done!

Next term we will be practising our multiplication and division skills in maths as well as focussing on learning all our times tables to 12. In English we will be reading *The Last Bear* which complements our geography topic of climate zones. We will investigate animals including humans in science and I'm very excited about all the practical experiments we will design to answer our questions. In music we will continue our ukulele learning and hopefully put on a concert to show off all our fantastic learning.

Brilliant work Foxes! Have a wonderful half term and I can't wait to see you all again on 1st November ready for a fun filled, busy Term 2!



After a very successful term 1, we are now looking forward to term 2! We will be learning about Victorians as part of history in term 2. Please keep your eyes peeled next term for an announcement for dress up day! Our English lessons will also be based on a text set in the same era. For science we will learning about human bodies and for RE, we will be looking at Judaism. Owls class have shown great enthusiasm for learning this term and the entire teaching team is proud of them! We wish all children and their families a restful and safe half term break.



If you would like your child to join, places are available at £3 per session. Please contact [office@charing.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@charing.kent.sch.uk) for more information.



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We're very excited that works are scheduled to begin on our new perimeter fence this weekend. The contracted company are due to start on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October and over the half term break. Please be advised that there may be some disruption and noise but it will be kept to a minimum. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to improve the school.



Don't forget that UK clocks go back 1 hour at 2am on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021

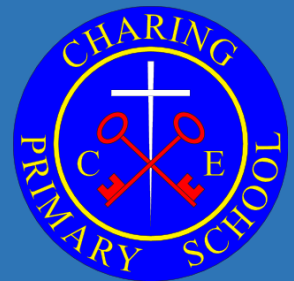
Please support our PTFA by donating your unwanted clothes in the collection bags that have been sent home. Eco kids will be collecting your donations on the 18<sup>th</sup> November. We will accept donations at school from the 15<sup>th</sup> November.



We are very much looking forward to cooking in our Life Skills lessons for Term 2.



# Upcoming Events:

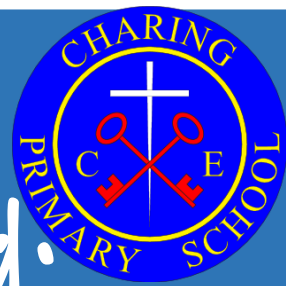


## Coffee Club

**Friday's at 2:45pm with Mrs Nunn in the Hall**  
**Parents are invited in for coffee and a casual chat**



# Upcoming Events continued:



Back by popular demand!

**PTFA Quiz Night**

**12<sup>th</sup> November 2021**



£5 per ticket plus interval games. Doors open at 7:30pm. Bring your own drinks and snacks.

Book your place at [ptfa@charing.kent.sch.uk](mailto:ptfa@charing.kent.sch.uk) or at the school office.

## **Armistice Day 11<sup>th</sup> November.**

Children that belong to a uniformed organisation (Beavers, Rainbows, Brownies, Girls/Boys Brigade etc) are invited to wear their club uniform to school in honour of Armistice Day.



**Remembrance Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November**

St Peter and St Paul's Church for the Remembrance Service.



Individual school photo day.

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November**

Please note that on this occasion we are unable to invite pre-school siblings into school for photos.



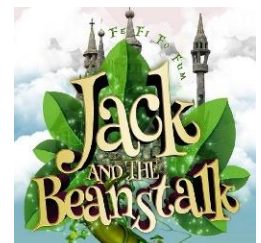
## **Children in Need Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November**

**More details coming soon....**



**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

Hazlitt Theatre Maidstone





# What Parents and Carers Need to Know about SOCIAL BOTS

## WHAT ARE SOCIAL BOTS?

Bots are computer-generated accounts which sit on social media, masquerading as humans. While many are harmless or even have good intentions, others are designed to extort, sell products, spread propaganda or bully human users. Bots – short for ‘robots’, of course – are often confused with state-funded troll accounts; the two can be difficult to tell apart. However, if the results are the same, then both should be treated similarly.

## KNOWING THE RISKS

### ASTROTURFING

Propaganda and conspiracy theories are usually niche interests on social media. But with an army of thousands of bots amplifying posts through retweets and shares, people can make their messages travel further and appear to reflect mainstream opinion. Known as ‘astroturfing’, this can make children more susceptible to questionable beliefs.

### CYBERBULLYING

Bots can be set to hunt for certain search terms or opinions and then automatically reply aggressively to anybody who uses them in a message. This means that if your child posts something that whoever programmed the bot doesn’t like, they may be deluged with angry messages from fake accounts – which can be overwhelming and comparable to cyberbullying.

### EXTORTION

Criminals use bots to trap users into sextortion or online blackmail scams. The bot cultivates a flirtatious online relationship with the victim, then persuades them into a video chat during which they are tricked into posing inappropriately or carrying out a sexual act. This footage is recorded, and threats are then made to release it to the victim’s friends and family unless money is paid.

### SHADY SELLING

Bots are often used for illicit advertising – that is, they spam social media platforms with links to commercial websites. Additionally, some unscrupulous influencers have been found to use bots to artificially inflate their number of followers and the engagement with their account – making them seem more popular and therefore able to charge companies more to work with them.

## SPOTTING THE SIGNS ...

### BEWARE PROLIFIC POSTING

Bots post a superhuman amount of content. A visit to their profile usually proves they’re responding to people far faster than a human could. Check their join date and number of followers. If the account has been around for ages and still doesn’t have any friends, it probably isn’t a real person. A brand-new page is also a red flag.

### NOTICE ODD USERNAMES

Finding a social media username that isn’t taken can be difficult. People often end up with their name and some numbers – but not the way bots do it. A username like johnsmith5273 is either a sign of a random number generator or a site offering an unwieldy alternative because the preferred name is taken, which isn’t something most humans would accept.

### VERIFY PROFILE PICS

Check a user’s authenticity by investigating their profile picture: bots obviously don’t have faces, so they tend to skim publicly available photos to try to fool people. Put suspicious pics through a reverse-image search like TinEye – you might find they actually belong to someone else or are stock images.

### CHECK THE CONTENT

Bots can’t think for themselves and usually just exist to amplify somebody else’s message. Try copying and pasting the text into the search function on Twitter, for example, and see if it’s being said anywhere else. If a lot of similar-looking accounts are saying the same thing, you’re probably looking at a bot army.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### SPOT THE BOTS

Forewarned is forearmed, so if your children aren’t that familiar with the world of bots yet, explain what to look for using the tips in this guide. At the moment, most bots still aren’t that sophisticated – so finding accounts which are designed purely to troll people or spread misinformation isn’t hugely difficult, even for an untrained eye.

### BLOCK AND MOVE ON

Your child isn’t obliged to be friends with anyone online, bot or not. Pretty much every social media app has a block button, and you should encourage your child to use it whenever something or someone is making their digital lives less than pleasant. If everyone blocked malicious bots rather than engaging them, they wouldn’t pose a problem.

### BE SUSPICIOUS

While many people have made lifelong friends over the internet, it’s important not to be too trusting. Random strangers adding you on Facebook could well be bots, so do some background checks: do they have any mutual friends? Is it a new account? Even if everything seems fine, encourage your child to be cautious: warn them of potential risks.

## Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist and the former deputy editor of technology and internet culture website Alphr. Now freelance, he has contributed articles to publications including the New Statesman, CNET, the Evening Standard, Wired, Rock Paper Shotgun, Gizmodo, Pocket Gamer, Stuff, T3, PC Pro, Macworld, TechRadar and Trusted Reviews.



SOURCES: <https://www.computing.co.uk/techtips/3085226/the-positive-case-for-twitter-bots> | <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/18/world/europe/russia-troll-factory.html> | <https://thetruepublica.org.uk/united-kingdom/propaganda-automated-bots-defending-the-government/> | <https://www.bbc.co.uk/radio/presenters/steve-obrien/what-are-the-twitter-users-with-eight-numbers/>

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