

SCHOOL NEWS

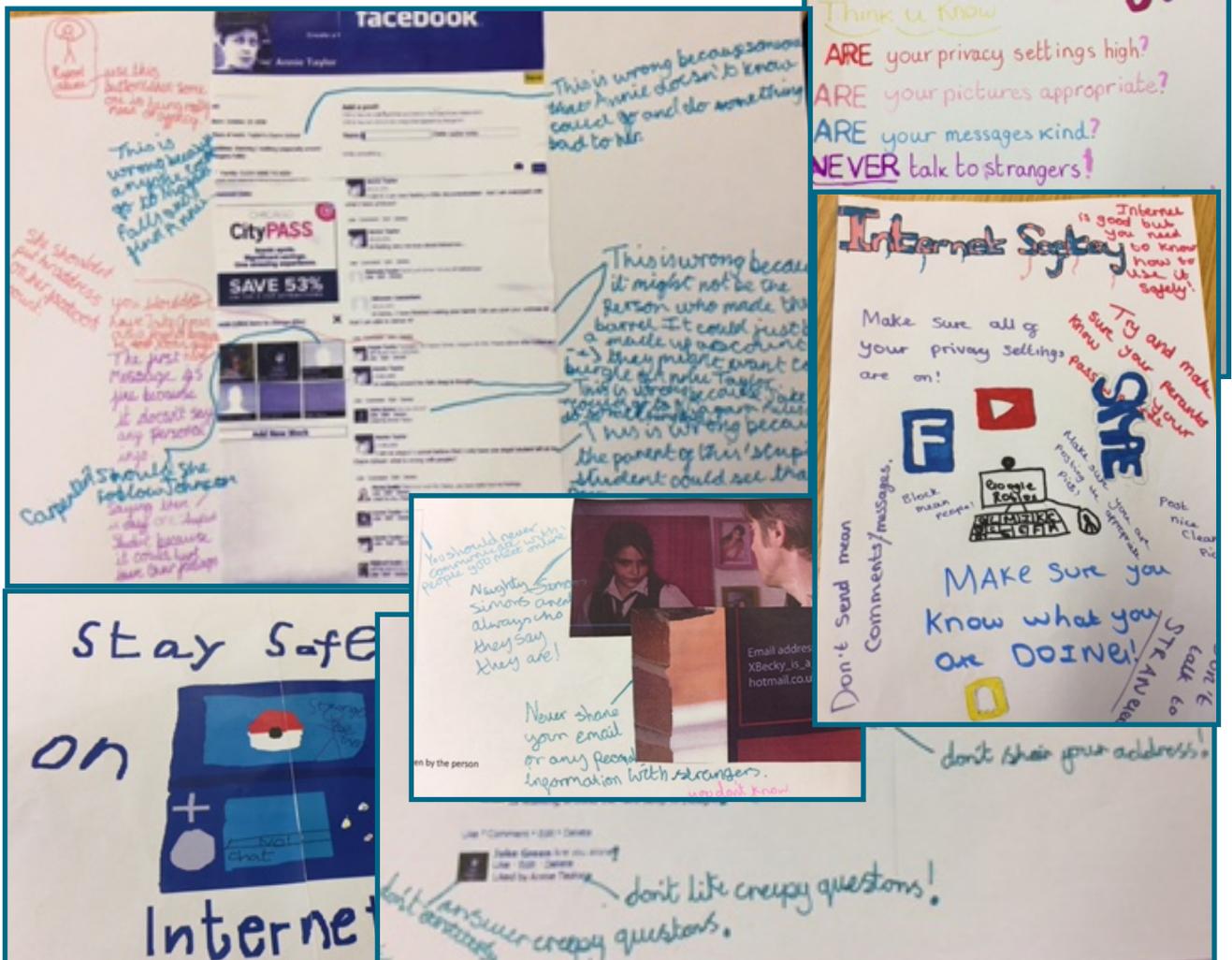
Spelling | Safer Internet Day | Mobile Phones

Safer Internet Day

We have had a really successful week raising the awareness of safer practice on the internet. On Tuesday, workshops and special activities were being held throughout the school with posters being made, instructional writing, advice points around social media usage and top tips which can be used by everyone.

Parent Involvement

Thank you to all the parents who came to the Safer Internet Workshop on Wednesday. There was a very good turn out and I think both parents and pupils benefitted from the joint discussions and activities. We will be running this event again in the future.



Farewell/Hello!

On Wednesday next week we will be welcoming back Mrs Townsend after her maternity leave. We will be sadly saying goodbye to Mrs Vedvik who has been covering the maternity leave, supporting groups of children and taking classes whilst the teachers have their PPA (Planning, Preparation and Assessment time) and Leadership and Management time. Our thanks to Mrs Vedvik for such a seamless continuation of the role and we hope she will be back at Etchells in the future.

Goodbye and Good Luck!

At the end of next week we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Peters who has been working in our Resource Base. She has also taken classes for PPA cover, utilising her excellent art skills. We wish her every success in her new post.

Mobile Phones



It has come to our attention that children are bringing mobile phones into school and using them secretly at break times to take photos which are then uploaded. Mobile phones are NOT allowed in school apart

from special circumstances. All of Year 6 were sent a copy of our mobile phone policy yesterday and a consent form if needed. We appreciate that some children may need a phone for safety reasons for their journey to and from school if they are unaccompanied. If this is the case, a consent form must be completed and returned to school. Phones must be handed into the office before registration and collected at 3.15pm.

Spelling

We have been discussing as a staff the importance of spelling and the emphasis that is placed on it with the New National Curriculum. If the children can't spell ALL the words for their year group in their books or tests, they will not meet the Age Related Expectation for writing. This is a really tough ask and in years gone by we have been able to apply a 'best fit' assessment to writing, making allowances for occasional spelling mistakes if the writing is of good quality.

The position now is that if a child's writing is of an excellent standard, but includes mis-spelt words, they will not meet expectation. After half term, we will be sending home mid-term reports in advance of Parents' Evening taking place the week after. The teachers will indicate if spelling is a concern with your child's writing and will ask for you to support the learning of these words at home.

If you don't have them already, word lists are available on our website, from the internet or from your child's class teacher.

Parent Governor Needed!

Yesterday, we sent home letters and emails containing the governor nomination forms. Please read these carefully if you are interested and return the form by Wednesday 1st March. We would like to welcome a new dedicated governor to the Governing Board who is committed to the best interests of our children and the quality of their educational provision.

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows and the Etchells staff

