

Dear Parents and Carers,

Exciting Changes at Rectory Farm

On Monday, Ms Williams launched an exciting new project for 2025. At Rectory Farm, we think it is time we thought about our values, and how we share them with our community. Therefore, we have decided to do 3 things:

1. The children and staff are going to see if our caterpillar values are what we feel are the most important to us. We will be using the children to get their voice about what is important to them, including a chance to choose a different creature!
2. To reflect our values, we would like to redesign our logo. Again, this is an opportunity for the children to have their say by having a go at designing it themselves. If the children would like to have a go, they can redesign the logo with their ideas (with colour) and hand it to Ms Williams or myself.
3. Lastly, we are working with John Bowman, a musician, to write a song that shares our beliefs to our community, especially focusing on our opposition to racism. This is on offer to children in years 3-6. If they want to be involved, they need to write a letter to Ms Williams expressing why it is important to them and what they could bring to the project.

So many exciting things! If you have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Visit from the University of Northampton

Next week, year 6 will be visiting the University of Northampton, but this week they had a workshop where 3 people came to chat to them about what to expect. The project is all about inspiring our young people to think about their future options, including careers and the prospect of attending university. We hope they were inspired and enjoy their visit next week!

An Artist in Year 5!

This week Year 5 had the exciting opportunity to work with an artist. They spent all of Thursday immersing themselves in print making and collaging. The children created prints inspired by the work on Henry V that the class has been undertaking. Different effects were created on the prints by using a range of textured objects and blending colours. The children worked to create a range of images and then worked with the artist's guidance to create a class collage. This used artwork from all of the children to shape images which are important to the Henry V.



Curriculum

Year R — Reception have enjoyed learning about animals in our environment this week and have enjoyed making bird feeders using lard and seeds. They have been exploring our outdoor environment and have discovered different varieties of birds and squirrels.

Year 4 — Year 4 has started their new computing topic this term, all about digital paintings. In their first lesson the children have really enjoyed using turtle academy to code different types of images. The children are very excited to carry on the topic and progress in their coding skills.

Online Home Learning!

Spelling Shed 


1st: Willow 


Maxim - Year 5


2nd: Sycamore 

David - Year 5

Autumn - Year 4 


1st: Beech 


2nd: Maple 




Aanvi (1) – Super Star Collector

Mukundi (1) – Most coins

1st: Sycamore 

2nd: Willow/Maple 

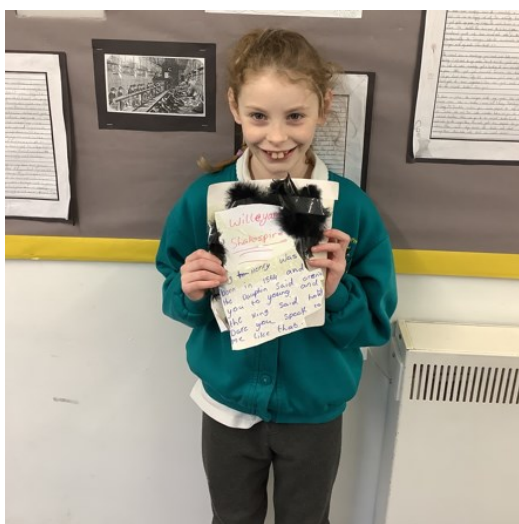


Irina (5) – Most minutes

Elliot (2) – Most coins

Emma (6) – Most correct answers

In year 3, they have been experimenting with colours and patterns. Here is Zuri's work, where she used a red colour for her work.



Leila has been inspired by her Henry V work in school to do some home learning. She wrote some sentences about Henry and decorated it in feathers. She said she thinks Henry is a bad character because he is violent.

Dates for your Diary

Date	Year Group	Event
21st January	Years 4,5 &-6	Debate Competition at University of Northampton
22nd January	Year 6	'Ignite Your Future' trip to the University of Northampton

Messages from Mrs Llewelyn (our Family Support Worker and DSL)



If your child is entitled to free school meals, you are able to apply through West Northamptonshire for a free winter coat. Please see the link for more information: <https://www.northampton.gov.uk/xfp/form/589>

From Sam L

Due to Safeguarding, we are unable to let parents use the disabled toilet at the front of the school. Please be polite to our office staff if they are unable to accommodate you. Thank you!



Miss Walker-Collins —Acting Deputy Headteacher

Mrs. Williams—Executive Headteacher

Friday 17th January 2025

School Contact details: Tel – 01604 4011820

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about JUSTALK KIDS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

JusTalk Kids is a child's version of the JusTalk app – a highly popular social networking platform – designed for users up to 13 years of age, allowing them to video call, message and participate in group chats. While adults can link their own JusTalk account to their child's and make use of parental controls, it's important to understand the risks associated with the app.

SUBSCRIPTION FOR PREMIUM ACCESS

While JusTalk Kids is free, there's the option to subscribe to a kids' premium account or a premium family account. At a cost, this feature allows children to have access to more fun features such as games they can play with others in a chat; exclusive stickers; a badge denoting them as a premium subscriber; and exclusive ringtones and themes.

RESISTANCE TO CONTROLS

JusTalk Kids endeavours to allow children the sense of having a chat-based app while allowing parents to set controls (within the app or from their own adult JusTalk account). The basis behind this is positive; however, some children are challenging their parents by refusing to use JusTalk Kids, preferring to use the adult version without any restrictions in place.

KNOWING THE PARENT PASSCODE

After downloading JusTalk Kids, parents can set a passcode which users must enter to add contacts. The parental controls help to manage which content can be viewed and who children can add as a contact: this then allows children to chat with friends in a controlled environment. However, prospective contacts don't have to know a specific username. In theory, someone could type in a random name and then add them as a friend.

POTENTIAL DATA LEAKS

JusTalk and JusTalk Kids claim to be secure and encrypted, going so far as to state that even the developers themselves won't access your data. However, a security lapse in 2022 highlighted that messages were not in fact encrypted – leading to concerns around the security of the app and the transparency of the development team.

CYBERBULLYING

Online chats can provide a sense of anonymity, leading some users to post things which they wouldn't normally say in person. Combined with the option of group chats, there's a risk that young people might join in with this kind of behaviour, escalating it further and potentially turning what should be a fun experience into something deeply negative.

TOO MUCH SCREENTIME

A report by the UK Parliament Education Committee highlighted a 52% increase in children's screen time between 2020 and 2022 – as well as finding that 25% of children used their smartphones in a manner consistent with screen addiction. Introducing children to social networking apps when they're too young can lead to bad digital habits and a reliance on technology from an early age.

Advice for Parents & Educators

JUSTIFY THE CONTROLS

If parents allow their child to use JusTalk Kids, they should explain that they're putting parental controls in place to make the app safer. Make sure the child knows not to put their full name on the account and doesn't use a photo of themselves as their profile picture. This type of open discussion will help to ensure that a child is aware of the app's potential risks and knows how to reduce them.

TALK ABOUT ONLINE FRIENDSHIPS

Young children could be excited to use this app. However, highlight that they must do so in a positive, respectful and responsible manner. While it can be easy to get caught up in a group chat, it's important to talk to others politely and call out any unpleasant behaviour. Discuss the importance of limiting their contacts to people they know in real life and use parental controls to enforce this.

DOS AND DON'TS OF SHARING

Some children might not understand the potential dangers of oversharing online. Set clear guidelines around what is and isn't safe to share on the internet, and discuss the concept of a digital footprint. Children need to understand that the things they say and share online can never be completely erased. Even if they delete it themselves, it can be saved and distributed by others.

ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Apps like JusTalk can sometimes lend themselves to bullying behaviours. Parents should monitor what their child is sending and receiving, check in with them regularly and encourage them to share their feelings (both positive and negative) at home. Remind them that they can block a contact if someone is treating them disrespectfully.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College