



Head's Message

Theme for next week: Say No to Racism

Dear Parents,

Re: Enhancing safety in our School

At St Aubyn's, we take safeguarding and safety very seriously and constantly review our procedures. This includes making contingencies for events that are very unlikely to occur. As part of this process, we have introduced a procedure called Lockdown.

I am writing to inform you that we plan to carry out the first practice of our lockdown procedure during the Lent term. I want to reassure you that we will not be discussing terrorism, intruders or anything of a nature that could potentially worry the children. We will be describing the exercise as a way of keeping safe should an animal escape from the zoo. I'm sure our younger pupils will feel it is almost like a giant game of hide and seek.

It is highly unlikely that we will ever need to implement a real lockdown. We have never had to put into practice our fire evacuation procedure, but we continue to practise this termly. I am sure you all appreciate how important it is that we have these procedures in place, as it enables us to take the best care of your children.

What is a lockdown, and when would we carry it out?

A lockdown procedure is a standard health and safety procedure, similar to a fire drill.

Our lockdown procedure will be used if there is a perceived threat to the safety of pupils, staff and others in the School, under circumstances when it is safer for everyone to remain in school rather than evacuate. The aim is to avoid harm to groups and individuals by confining them to a secure place of safety.

Situations where our lockdown procedure may be used include:

- A potentially dangerous person or animal on the site
- A disturbance or dangerous situation in the local community that could affect the School
- A nearby chemical incident or risk of air pollution
- An incident related to terrorism

Instructions for parents in the event of a lockdown

Parents will be informed, as soon as it is practical to do so, that the School is in lockdown, e.g. via the School's website or an electronic communication system.

Parents should not attempt to call or come to the School. This may hinder the School's effort to contact and work with the emergency services.

Parents should not discuss the event on social media, as this may spread false information and create panic.

In the unlikely event that we need to evacuate the School, we will escort the pupils to St Mary's Church or Woodford Green Prep, with whom we have a reciprocal arrangement.

Prior to our drill, staff will take time to talk to pupils about lockdown procedures and explain why they are important.

They will reassure pupils after the drill that they are safe, and will emphasise that practising procedures like this will make sure the School remains a safe place to learn. I want to stress again this is simply a practice. In the unlikely event that a situation such as one of those listed above should occur, our pupils and staff will be fully prepared.

If you or your child have any further concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office or staff in your child's department.

Please be assured that we have not received any information to indicate that the School is at any risk, but it is essential that we take every step to ensure our pupils' wellbeing.

Sincerely,

Leonard Blom

**SAY NO
TO
RACISM**



On Thursday, we found out who our first ever Middle School Reading Ambassadors are. Well done to Harry, Deanna, Willow, Olivia, Aaryan, Riya, Leila, Aaliyah, Ezra, Shriya, Zita and Kieron who will all take on the role this term!



The Riot Act Theatre group visited Years 7 and 8 to deliver a powerful presentation on Road Safety. They learned about distractions such as headphones, music, phones and how giving in to peer group pressure can lead to dangerous situations.

The U11 girls played against Snaresbrook this week. The A team put into practice what they had been working on in training and won 3-1 with Hadia scoring 2 goals and Maria scoring 1. The B team's game was tightly fought and finished 2-2.



This week, 1RH has been learning about online safety. They recorded different ways to stay safe when using ipads or other forms of technology. Zayd and Neriah came up with some good ideas including keeping your password safe and informing a grown up if something online makes them unhappy.



This week, Pre Prep School Council have been brainstorming fundraising ideas to support Christel House - a charity school in South Africa which allows children from poverty-stricken backgrounds to go to school, helping to break the poverty cycle. The most popular idea was a sponsored silence!



During a critique of their work in design and technology, Year 6 pupils have been collaborating and sharing ideas. They are learning how through listening to each other, a greater development and improvement of their work can occur.



Eco-Committee are pleased to announce the installation of a new suggestion box, alongside the new Eco board in the entrance to the dining room. If you have any ideas you would like them to consider, please place them in here.



Very well done to Luke, Ben and Nia. They have all received Headmaster's Commendations this week.



In design and technology this week, Year 5 have enjoyed applying surface decoration and embellishment to their dragon puppets. We look forward to seeing the finished product!



Miss Gamble is representing St. Aubyn's in #EduFootyAid at the BETT show. It is a teachers' football tournament aimed at promoting wellbeing in teachers and pupils. Mind is the chosen charity by #EduFootyAid and donations can be made via the link. <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/fgamble>

In very wet and windy conditions on Tuesday, the U11A netball team continued their unbeaten run in the Redbridge League. Their first match against Avon House was played at a very fast pace despite the weather conditions and this resulted in a 23-0 win. In their second match against Roding Primary School, the girls won the match 10-0. In the five league matches they have played so far they have scored 80 goals and have not conceded one. Well done girls!



Tensions were running high in French after-school activity this week...the pupils were captivated by an online competition set by Mme Goodey.



A new Year 4 book activity started this week. The children selected to read 'The Boy Who Grew Dragons'. They thoroughly enjoyed the first chapter which led to many smiles and laughs.



Year 6 are debating current affairs and using critical thinking skills this term in the Library. 6NS started us off on Monday with a passionate discussion about climate change and global warming.

