



As many of us prepare for Christmas there is often the discussion about presents. Unfortunately, Christmas time can often be less about spending time with family and friends and more about "The Christmas list" and what we need to buy for people. Whether you celebrate Christmas or not I am sure that you have purchased a technology item for your child, or you see in gifts from others, new phones, computers, games consoles and other high cost items. Hopefully, your child looks after these and treats them with the respect that a high value item deserves. We know that accidents happen, we have all gasped as we have dropped a mobile phone and hoped on picking it up that the screen is not smashed.

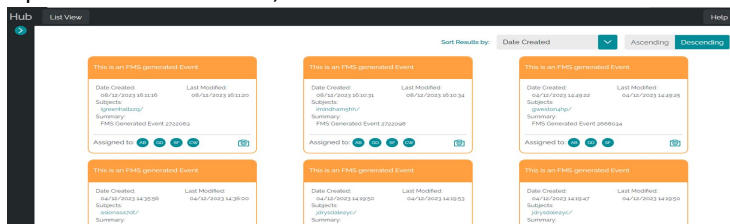


However, what is harder to fathom is why anyone would vandalise an item of value, that someone has bought for you, or why it would not be carefully looked after. In school this week we have been talking about this and thinking about how we treat the Chromebooks that every student in Thorpe St Andrew School and Sixth Form is lucky to have. We have also been talking about why we need to look after them, treat them with care and certainly not vandalise them. At home we would really appreciate you discussing this with your child and impressing on them the educational and financial value of our Chromebooks.

P. Biggell

Online Safeguarding

Our Attendance and Safeguarding Team play an active role in protecting our students from the dangers that can be encountered online. As part of that protection, we employ a service called **Securus** to help us to monitor online activity. Securus scans all our internet traffic for certain trigger words, for suspect search queries and for access to specifically banned websites. Some of the alerts that Securus triggers tell us that a student has used foul language, or attempted a suspicious internet search, or tried to access a banned site. Securus works while students are on their Chromebooks at school and home.



Clearly, students should be focused on their learning when they are in lessons, so we log these alerts as a ClassCharts negative and post an explanation of the concern. If your child receives a "Chromebook Misuse" negative, please discuss this with them. Other alerts at home are also followed up as necessary.

If the Securus alert causes us to suspect that a student is at immediate risk of harm, we will call parents to raise the concern and to check that the student is safe and well.



Drama Lessons

Our local employers tell us that they value soft skills like communication and teamwork and actively recruit employees by looking for these skills. We are aware of this and every minute of our students' time at school plays a part in the development of these key skills. From being on time to lessons, to taking part in the House's Human Hungry Hippos, to being a member of a Year committee, to working in a team in a Drama lesson, we are actively working to develop our students into the workforce of tomorrow. Being in school, on time, and actively engaged in learning develops those key skills our students need to make their way into their chosen career.



Hungry Hippos House Event



Learning Arabic and Arabic Culture



Wii Sports House Event



Respect

Engage



A BIG FESTIVE
Thank You

to Geoff Lawton and our Chaplaincy Team, for their time over the weekend organising 21 hampers and vouchers for our nominated families. All families were very appreciative.



We are looking forward to seeing everyone in something "Christmasy" on Thursday 21 December 2023, in support of our Charity of the Year, EduSpots. We are asking students or parents to donate £1 or more to this [link](#) in support of EduSpots.

From jumpers, tinsel, earrings, baubles to Santa outfits - anything goes as long as it has a Christmas theme!

You can learn more about EduSpots, Zangablun Spot and this partnership directly from EduSpots' Founder and CEO Cat Davison, who gives a personal message to the school [here](#) from Accra, combined with some footage from the community.

The PE Santa Run will take place in the last week of term, an Inter House Event with every lap completed to count as a point for your house. Don't forget your Santa/Christmas Hat!!



Friday 15 to Wednesday 20 December 2023

- Santa Dash

Monday 18 December 2023 - Critical Screening - The Truman Show, Sixth Form

Tuesday 19 December 2023 - Private Peaceful Dress Rehearsal

Wednesday 20 December 2023 - Christmas Lunch, Private Peaceful Primary Performance, Private Peaceful Evening Performance

Thursday 21 December 2023 - Whole School Christmas Jumper Day, Private Peaceful Evening Performance

Last Day of Term - Thursday 21 December 2023 school finishes at 12.15 pm. We return to School on Monday 8 January 2024.

Check out our [website](#) for future dates.



Wednesday 20 December 2023

Christmas Lunch

Roast Chicken with Sticky Chipolata, Roasties, Christmas Vegetable Medley & Gravy

Or

Roasted Vegetable, Cranberry & Cheese Puff Pastry
with Roasties, Christmas Vegetable Medley & Gravy

and

Christmas Pudding Rice Krispie Ball
Price: £2.50, pay on the day

FOOD FESTIVAL

By Aspens

Join in the Christmas Festivities

HURRY!!
Tickets are selling fast!

THORPE ST ANDREW SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM PRESENTS

BY
MICHAEL MORPURGO

7:00PM
WEDNESDAY 20TH DECEMBER
& THURSDAY 21ST DECEMBER

SOUTH SITE HALL

PRIVATE PEACEFUL

ADAPTED
BY
SIMON READE



SCAN FOR TICKETS