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Hothfield News

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Terrific Scientific

Year 5 are taking part in the BBC's 'Terrific Scientific' series of investigations and national live lessons.

The first investigation is about taste and finding out how many people are 'Supertasters':

Supertasters experience bitter tastes more strongly than other people because they have a higher number of taste receptors within their fungiform papillae – the big pink bumps on your tongue which contain your taste buds. By counting the number of fungiform papillae on your tongue, you will be able to determine whether you are a supertaster, a taster or a non-taster.



Visit

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/terrificscientific> to learn more about the investigations – including some that you can do at home...

Earlier in the year, we shared the children's 'Code for Happy and Safe Communication', helping our children to use social media and other communication in a positive way and avoid this becoming an area for bullying, unkindness and upset. One part of the code is: ***Don't... try and solve problems or arguments through texts or online – it only makes the problem worse***

We can help our children to get this right by following the same guidance as adults. Some parents have expressed their concern that there are some posts by adults on social media regarding their children's relationships in school. The parents are concerned that discussing problems online in this way makes problems worse not better. It can lead to misunderstandings and misinterpretations of situations by some who do not know the whole story. It can also be demoralising and upsetting for staff who are working with such skill and determination (and success!) to provide a happy school for our children. As noted by inspectors in December, the commitment of the staff of Hothfield School to the welfare and care of our children is second to none. Suggesting otherwise on Facebook or anywhere else undermines the great work of the school in caring for our children.

I appeal to parents to talk directly with staff in school if there is a problem or issue and work with us to make it better – and follow the message we try and give to our children – to ***'not try and solve problems or arguments through texts or online'***.



Hothfield Safer Internet Week 6th-11th February

Messages that keep children safe online are emphasised throughout the year, but next week we link in with the national Safer Internet Day to reinforce the SMART rules for safe internet use:

Safe: Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information – such as your full name, email address, phone number, home address, photos or school name – to people you are chatting with online.

Meeting: Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents' or carers' permission and even then only when they can be present.

Accepting: Accepting emails, IM messages, or opening files, pictures or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems – they may contain viruses or nasty messages!

Reliable: Information you find on the internet may not be true, or someone online may be lying about who they are.

Tell: Tell your parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online.

Some good games for children to reinforce these rules, as well as advice for parents, is available at www.kidsmart.org.uk as well as www.thinkuknow.co.uk.