



## **Personal Development Newsletter Spring - Making a positive difference**

### **The Big Garden Bird Watch**

During February we have been looking at the birdlife around our grounds. The Big Garden Birdwatch is the UK's biggest citizen science wildlife survey. By taking part we became part of a huge scientific data collection team that helps us understand how our garden birds are doing right now. Some of the most common birds onto our school grounds are:

- House sparrow
- Blue Tit
- Starling
- Wagtail

1	 House Sparrow 1,401,338	↑
2	 Blue Tit 904,637	↑
3	 Starling 904,079	↑

You can join in at home to see what you can spot by following this link  
<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch/submission>

### **Children's Mental Health Week**

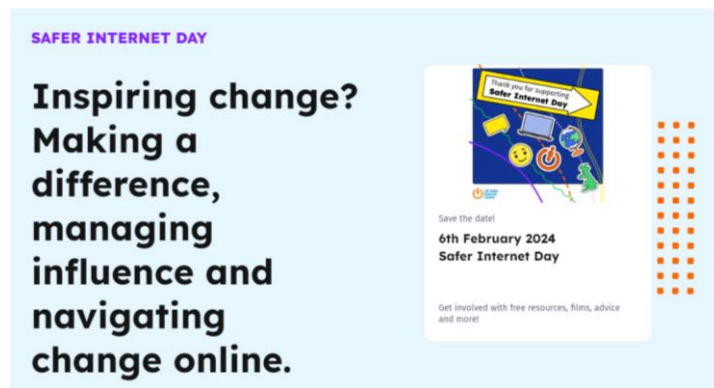
Also in February, we also took part in Children's Mental Health Week. We started the week by wearing something in a colour that made us happy. In assembly there was a rainbow of colours. We learnt that our voice matters and that we can all work together to make a difference and bring about positive change.



In Friday's assembly we celebrated and shared together all that we have learnt.



## Safer Internet Day



The internet can be a great thing but needs to be used responsibly and positively. In February we celebrated Safer Internet Day. Each year we cover an online issue or theme that speaks to the things young people are seeing and experiencing online. For 2024 the focus was how we can change our habits online.

Some of the older children in school joined in a live BBC workshop which discussed the exciting changes and potential risks about new AI technologies. Younger children looked at how sometimes we see changes online like pop ups and messages, they discussed what to do in each scenario and how it is important to speak to a trusted adult if something suddenly changes and they don't know what to do.

## Year 5 and the PCC Challenge



Some of the Year 5 children have been awarded their badges and certificates for completing their PCC Challenge!

We were introduced to the challenge in September, when we had a visit from Emily who works with the Durham Agency Against Crime. She set the whole of Year 5 a "Durham Police and Crime Commissioners Challenge" (PCC Challenge).

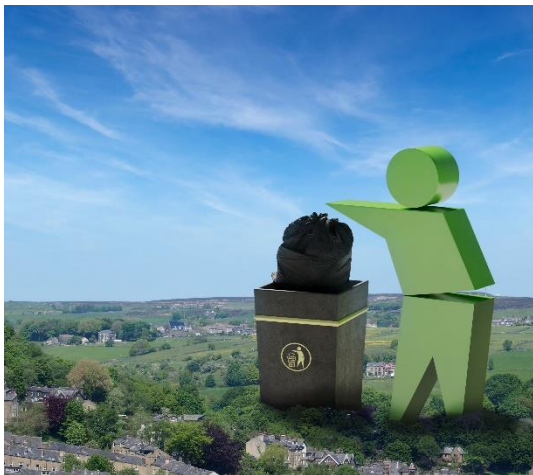
It was created for young people in County Durham and Darlington to give a little extra to help make their local community safer and stronger, as well as more resilient to crime and anti-social behaviour.

The children were given a booklet to work through at home (as well as a fancy UV pen!). Their challenges included finding ways to make their own home safer against crime, helping out in the community and carrying out acts of kindness.

Well done to those who completed it!

### **Taking Responsibility**

One of our assembly themes this half term focuses on how we can take responsibility. We are looking at how we can take responsibility for different aspects of school life and our student leaders play a very important role in this. Our Play Leaders, Reader Leaders, School Council and Eco Ambassadors host assemblies to feed back about their work and the improvements they want to make to our school. Our Eco Ambassadors have shown us how we can recycle better and will be organising our annual Spring Clean litter pick. Our School council are working with staff on looking at how we can improve lunchtimes even more and our Play Leaders award certificates in our celebration assembly in recognition of pupils who make a positive contribution to play on a lunchtime.



Later this term we will be taking part in the Great British Spring Clean where we all take responsibility by participating in this mass-action environmental campaign. Details and pictures to follow.