

Newsletter



Friday 9th February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a wonderful week in school this week as we continue our focus on providing opportunities for families to see what is happening in school.

The reading cafes continue to be well-attended and this week we welcomed EYFS parents to enjoy a school meal with their children. It was also lovely to see so many parents attend our Celebration Assembly this morning.

This week's newsletter contains some information about an upcoming workshop for parents, led by qualified nurses, focusing on managing your child's emotions. Please do take a look and complete the forms if you are interested - this promises to be a really helpful workshop!



If you have any questions relating to your child, or key messages for your class teacher, please do contact them via a message on Class Dojo, or using admin@placefarm.org.uk.

Wishing you a lovely weekend,

Mrs McConnell
Head of School

Upcoming dates:

February

15th February: Reading Café for 6EJ - 9:00-9:30 in school hall
2SA visit to Haverhill library

Half term: 19th-23rd February

28th February: Parent Workshop led by OM nurse 4:00-5:00pm (further information below)

29th February: Reading Café for 6SL - 9:00-9:30 in school hall
2LA visit to Haverhill library

March

7th March: World Book Day (further information below)
Reading Café for Rainbow - 9:00-9:30 in school hall

13th March: EYFS share session for parents 9:00-10:00 (further information to follow)

14th March: 1ES visit to Haverhill library
Reading Café for 1ED - 9:00-9:30 in school hall
Provisional date for Spring disco (further information to follow)

21st March: Rainbow visit to Haverhill library
Reading Café for 1ES - 9:00-9:30 in school hall

25th March: Parents' Evening (further information to follow)

26th March: Parents' Evening (further information to follow)

28th March: 1ED visit to Haverhill library
Reading Café for 2LA - 9:00-9:30 in school hall

29th March: Start of Easter Holidays

Parking and Driving around school

We would just like to take the opportunity to remind parents to please drive and park considerately on the roads around our school – to help support with community relations and also keep our families and children safe on their way to and from school. This is particularly important around the ambulance station.

Thank you for your support with this!



Schools Football Week

Across the country this week is Schools Football Week. Schools' Football Week is an ongoing ESFA initiative designed as an opportunity for schools from across the country to embrace schools' football and the wellbeing benefits it provides to pupils. This year there is a particular focus on girls having the chance to play with each other in an environment where they feel safe to express themselves.

In PE this week, the coaches have given the girls that opportunity to play football and learn about all the benefits that it brings, physically, mentally and socially.

As you can see from the photos below, they all had a fantastic time playing and it would be great to see them representing the school in the future!



3KM Library Visit

This week, 3KM visited the library and had great fun finding new books and reading together before choosing one to bring home. We finished the visit with lovely stories read by the librarian.



Photographs from our EYFS Lunch

It was lovely to welcome parents in for lunch this week. The children demonstrated our PROUD values brilliantly, showing good table manners and chatting about what they had been doing that morning.



Thank you to all who came – we hope it gave you some insight into part of your child's day at school.



OLP Reading Café

On Thursday, we held another hugely successful Reading Café for OLP. The children loved sharing books with their families, we even had some younger siblings joining us! We are trying something new this year, and giving the children a question or statement to think about when they are sharing stories. We had some lovely responses to "Tell me about your favourite book". I hope you enjoy reading their thoughts.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our Reading Cafes, and we look forward to seeing more of you very soon 😊



Celebration Assembly

Congratulations to everyone who received a certificate in celebration assembly this week. We had lots of children receiving their coloured certificates today, with several children receiving their first Green 1 certificates. We also had children receiving their PROUD certificates and we had two certificates for outside-of-school achievements we, which we also love to celebrate.



We are also continuing to celebrate maths achievements on tt rockstars. Not only did we have the usual weekly winners, we also had individual and whole class winners from the Nationwide NSPCC Rocks competition that took place last Friday.



Times table knowledge and fluency are so important in many areas of maths. Please continue to encourage your children to use tt rockstars at home. Thank you for your ongoing support with this.

Free Parent workshop

'Meerkat or Grizzly – which is your child?

Top tips for taming both' a session for parents about managing your child emotions.
(50mins – 1hour)

Parents and Carers,

We would like to invite you to attend a parent workshop (led by an OM nurse) on Wednesday 28th February 2024 at 4:00PM. This session will allow you to find out more about how to manage your child's emotions. This session is for adults only; however, we will provide a creche for parents that are unable to find alternate childcare arrangements. Please can you complete the forms link below.

<https://forms.office.com/e/v7ByPqYLY7>

Yours sincerely,
Miss Graham



Bags for Outdoor Trainers

To support with keeping our school clean and tidy after PE lessons, we ask please that parents provide a bag for children to put their muddy boots/trainers in after PE lessons. This can be brought into school on PE days.

This can be as simple as providing a carrier bag – please do not go to the expense of purchasing anything new!

Thank you for your support with this 😊

Fundraising

Thank you for your ongoing support with our fundraising activities.

What we are fundraising for:

- Currently, we are fundraising to enhance our **outdoor provision**. We have worked with the School Council Representatives to look at ways to enhance the courtyard space.
- In the future, we are also looking to enrich our curriculum (for example with books, resources, visitors coming into school)

Current totals:

Here are the totals raised from activities that have happened this year



Going forwards:

We will keep you regularly updated on how much we have raised and what we have spent this money on.

World Book Day

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

Save the Date!

World Book Day is Thursday 7 March.

This year, children can come to school **dressed as a character from their favourite book**. Please find some easy costume ideas below.

If your child **does not want to dress up**, please send them to school in their **usual school uniform**.

We would like every child to bring in their favourite book so they can share it in class.

Mr Bump or Little Miss Whoops

LITTLE MISS WHOOPS

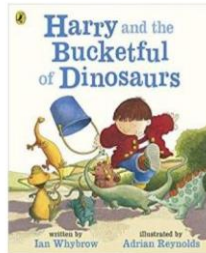


This one is wonderfully simple, and potentially very accurate for those of use with accident-prone children! Mr Bump and Little Miss Whoops are classic characters from the Mr Men series.

What you will need:

- Blue clothing
- Toilet roll for bandages around head and arms

Harry and his Bucket Full of Dinosaurs



Most of us have a bucket somewhere, usually a beach one, and dinosaur toys are popular with most kids. This book is a well-loved one and Harry is an instantly recognisable character.

What you will need:

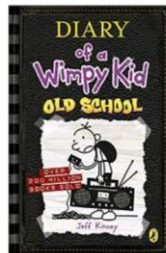
- A bucket to carry
- Toy dinosaurs to put in the bucket (or printed pictures of dinosaurs to stick onto it)

Diary of a Wimpy Kid

Diary of a Wimpy Kid is a book with simple illustrations of its every-day child protagonist, which makes it ideal for easy costume ideas. A kid going to school with a backpack on? Now where have we seen that before...

What you will need:

- Cardboard or paper and a pen for a mask (think stick man; simply draw dotted eyes, and a thin mouth)
- Normal clothes
- Backpack

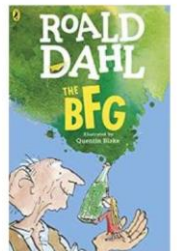


Sophie from the BFG

Sophie is the befriend of giants and a key character in Roald Dahl's famous book, but it's lucky for us she is also a down-to-earth dresser.

What you will need:

- Pyjamas
- Glasses (although you can always draw them on)



Stick Man

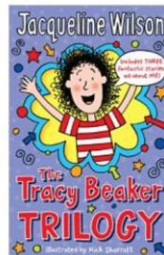
Julia Donaldson's Stick Man is perfect for a last-minute WBD costume, especially if your child has some brown clothes and is fond of the outdoors.

What you will need:

- All brown clothes
- Grab some sticks/leaves on your walk to school for added effect!



Tracey Beaker



Tracey Beaker is the original kid with attitude and her 90's wardrobe is, thankfully, still similar to what kids wear today.

What you will need:

- A red or striped red shirt
- Curly hair if possible
- Anything denim

Upcoming Reading Cafés

Reading Cafés – Below is a list of the Reading Cafés for all classes. Please look closely at when your child/children will be having theirs. They will take place in the school hall like last year. When the temperature starts getting warmer, we will begin to hold Booknics instead which will be the same event however it will be on the school field instead, with blankets and pillows to sit on. For any new parents, this is a time to come into school and read books with your child. All are welcome 😊

Thursday 7 th March	Rainbow – 9:00 – 9:30
Thursday 14 th March	1ED – 9:00 – 9:30
Thursday 21 st March	1ES – 9:00 – 9:30
Thursday 28 th March	2LA – 9:00 – 9:30
Thursday 18 th April	2SA – 9:00 – 9:30
Thursday 25 th April	3SJ – 9:00 – 9:30
Thursday 2 nd May	3KM – 9:00 – 9:30
Thursday 9 th May	4RG – 9:00 – 9:30
Thursday 6 th June	5CM – 9:00 – 9:30
Thursday 13 th June	OAP and OLP – 9:00 – 9:30
Thursday 20 th June	5JG – 9:00 – 9:30
Thursday 27 th June	6EJ and 6SL – 9:00 – 9:30
Thursday 4 th July	4KM – 9:00 – 9:30

Donations of old blankets

To facilitate the use of the field for Booknics, we are asking for donations of old blankets that the children and their parents/ carers will be able to sit on to share books. Please bring these into school and give them to Miss Jenkins or Mrs Brassington.

20 is plenty!

Children who read for
20 minutes a day...



Will have a world of
imagination & creativity
opened to them



Will have better
general knowledge



Will be exposed to 1.8
million words a year



Will improve critical
thinking skills



Will improve their
communication skills



Will have a broad
vocabulary



Will have reduced
stress levels



Will learn how to
develop empathy



Will improve their test
results



Please continue to gather any items together. We welcome parents waiting until the collection day/day before to bring these in to school please!



SCHOOL FUNDRAISING

More clothes - more funds for your organisation. It's £0.55 / kg

YOUR COLLECTION IS ARRANGED FOR

14th February

FILL ANY BAGS WITH UNWANTED CLOTHING AND BRING THEM TO SCHOOL WE WILL COLLECT AND WEIGH THEM

WE ACCEPT

- Good quality clean clothing (adult's & children's)
- Paired shoes
- Accessories, bags, belts
- Swimwear
- Lingerie
- Clean underwear & socks
- Jewellery
- Perfumes

WE DON'T ACCEPT

- Dirty, wet, ripped, damaged clothing
- Single shoes
- Duvets & pillows
- Bric-a-brac & electrical items
- Toys, stationery
- Books, CDs, DVDs
- Workwear & uniforms
- Carpets, rugs, mats, curtains
- Stationery
- Hygiene items, diapers
- Linen & towels

PLEASE NO UNIFORMS & DUVETS!

RAISE MONEY FOR YOUR SCHOOL BY GIVING AWAY YOUR UNWANTED CLOTHES

hello@thelittlerecyclers.co.uk • 07476406699 • thelittlerecyclers.co.uk

Online Safety

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalonline.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MONKEY

Also known as Monkey Cool, this platform aims to fill the gap left by Omegle (which has now shut down) by placing users in random video chats with strangers. Participants use their mobile number and Snapchat username to connect to the service, where they can make matches, message other people and join group chats. The mobile version has been removed from the App Store due to safety concerns, but iPhone owners can still access the site via their web browser. The app remains available on Google Play, where its listing claims that Monkey has more than 30 million users worldwide.

AGE RESTRICTION
17+

Even though the lack of age verification means that someone younger could easily log in with a fake date of birth.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The app claims to use AI to detect sexual content or activity that violates its policies, along with having a 24/7 moderation team. However, reports in the media continue to indicate that explicit content remains commonplace on Monkey (including sexually graphic or violent material) and is therefore accessible to anybody who uses the app – including those aged under 18.



CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

The obvious risk in accepting random video chat partners is that users cannot know what or who they will see on their next connection. Talking to strangers is, of course, potentially dangerous – especially for children who might be persuaded to meet up with these people offline. The app lets users find each other by location, increasing the chances of a child being matched with a stranger from their local area.



IN-APP SPENDING

While Monkey is free to download, it nevertheless offers in-app purchases promising to unlock access to premium features. For example, users who wish to make use of 'Knock Knock chat' (Monkey's text-based messaging option), rather than the app's Chatroulette-style random video calling feature, will need to pay to be able to do so.



INTRUSIONS ON PRIVACY

According to Monkey's privacy policy, personal information (such as name, profile picture and date of birth), user-contributed content (any photos, texts, videos and screenshots shared) and each user's browser and IP address are collected. That is a considerable amount of data for Monkey to gather on its users – and all of this information is shared with third parties.



Advice for Parents & Carers

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

Even if you're comfortable with your child using Monkey, it's still important to talk about the potential dangers. It's crucial, for instance, that young people recognise the risks that stem from video chatting with strangers; that they understand not to share identifying information (like their street or school name); and that they know what to do if they are exposed to inappropriate content.



RESTRICT IN-APP PURCHASING

If your child is accessing Monkey via an Android device, you can prevent them from making in-app purchases through the device's settings. If you do allow your child to use the site, we'd recommend that you enable this feature: young people have been known to spend significant amounts of money in their desire to unlock more features in apps such as this.



REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Monkey states in the safety section of its site that "people are given the power" and that, to a large extent, Monkey is "self-governing". If a user is exposed to sexually explicit or inappropriate content on the platform, they can select the 'police' emoji in the top right corner of their screen to submit a report for Monkey's moderation team to review.



SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Monkey – or that they may have been exposed to inappropriate or distressing content – it's important to watch for potential indications that they've been affected emotionally. They could be unusually irritable or unable to concentrate, for example, or failing to complete their homework or even to eat regular meals.



Meet Our Expert

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



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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

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WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert: potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

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Advice for Parents & Carers

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CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

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.



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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

FACEBOOK

AGE RATING

13+

With 2.9 billion users, Facebook, owned by the recently rebranded Meta, is the world's most popular social media platform. It encourages interaction with other people by (among other things) adding them as friends, reacting to or commenting on their content, sharing images and videos, posting status updates, joining groups and playing games. Facebook is free, and anyone over 13 can join – but with no age verification, younger children can easily create an account: it's likely your child is already familiar with the platform, even if they don't yet use it themselves.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Facebook's quick reward cycle of likes and comments on shared posts can be hugely addictive, it encourages users to keep returning to post things and increases FOMO (the Fear Of Missing Out), which leads to people checking the app even more frequently and finding themselves endlessly scrolling through content.

CYBERBULLYING

A 2021 Ofcom report found that around one in four UK 12-15-year-olds had been cyberbullied or trolled (intentionally antagonised online). On Facebook, this can happen through private messages (on Facebook Messenger); hurtful comments on their profiles and posts; pages or groups set up purposely to torment a victim; or exclusion from pages or groups.

FUTURE IMPACT

Like most social media platforms, anything posted on Facebook leaves a permanent 'digital footprint'. This can have future consequences for young people: many universities and employers, for example, now review someone's Facebook timeline during the application process.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Just like in the offline world, there are people on Facebook with malicious intentions. Ofcom reports, for instance, that 30% of 12-15-year-olds have received a friend request from a stranger. This sadly, can include individuals seeking to take advantage of impressionable youngsters.

OVERSHARING

Facebook encourages you to post "what's on your mind", but children should be wary of revealing too much about themselves online. Users can give away their location by checking in or using Facebook Live, for example, while some photos can also be traced using file data.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Facebook monitors and removes material like hate speech or extreme political views, while adverts on the platform are now forbidden from targeting under-18s based on their interests. Offensive content isn't always taken down instantly, however, so there's still a risk of children encountering it.

VIDEOS AND STREAMING

Facebook Live lets users stream video live to their friends or watch others' broadcasts. Viewers can comment in real time, which is problematic to moderate. Short, user-created clips called Reels can now also be displayed on profiles and feeds. These video features could contain unsuitable material or allow children to be coaxed into doing something on camera that they wouldn't normally do.

Advice for Parents & Carers

KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

In the settings area, you can choose whether a Facebook profile is public or private. By far the safest option is to switch your child's to private, so they can only interact with people who they are friends with on the platform. Facebook's settings can also prevent your child's personal information (such as contact details, school name or date of birth) from appearing publicly.

ENCOURAGE SAFE FRIENDING

Facebook can help your child to stay connected with the people and the things that they care about. However, it's important for them to understand that they should only accept friend requests from people who they know. The key questions to consider are "has your child met them in person?" and "do they know and trust them enough to feel comfortable accepting them as a Facebook friend?"

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your child watch you using Facebook – this will demonstrate how it can be used safely and appropriately, reducing the risk of them encountering harmful content themselves. Teach them the habit of thinking before sharing anything online and try to follow the same rules that you set for them – so if you agree time limits on your child's Facebook use, then you should stick to them, too.

SAVVY SHARING

Make sure your child realises that what they share online with friends can end up being shared again by others. It's important that they think about what they share online and who they share it with. Facebook's Audience Selector gives users the option to filter who sees what they are sharing, whenever a status is updated, photos are uploaded or anything is posted.

RESPECT BOUNDARIES

Once you've talked about Facebook safety with your child, give them some space and trust them to make smart choices. Make it clear, however, that you're always open to discussing social media if they need to, in the early stages, you could occasionally review your child's social media activity with them to put your mind at rest – but take care not to become reliant on checking it every night.

BLOCK AND REPORT

On Facebook, you're able to report harmful content and block particular people or groups so they can't contact your child or view their profile. Before they start spending serious time on the platform, show your child how these features work and explain why they might need to be used. Facebook's Bullying Prevention Hub offers advice on dealing with harassment on the platform.

Meet Our Expert

Alex Wright is a former Facebook employee and social media expert with more than 15 years' experience in digital media. He has worked with some of the biggest organisations on the planet and has a vast understanding of how social media platforms work and how they engage their audience.



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