



LPS EASTER NEWS

March 2024

Welcome to our March newsletter, where we will share news, celebrations and diary dates for the term ahead.

So far...

The second half of the Spring Term seems to have flown past, but as always the children have had lots of exciting adventures, from another residential trip, to a lunch date with an MP! We had a visit from some Tranmere Rovers players too which the children were so excited about. Our commitment to providing these valuable experiences to support our children's understanding of the wider world is something we are so proud of, and are looking forward to continuing as we move forward.

Year 6 trip to Barnstondale



Our incredible group of Year 6 children had an absolutely brilliant time on their trip to Barnstondale, and the feeling was mutual; staff there said that our children were the best group that they had had there in a long time and they were a credit to us all!

While away the children sang around a campfire, enjoyed a night walk, climbed a climbing wall, did some orienteering and enjoyed team building activities too. They practiced archery, crossed a river, built dens and so much more!

A group of very tired but very happy children came home at the end. Thank you to all of the staff who went along with the children and who loved every minute too.

Lots more photos available to see on Dojo and on the School FB page

Attendance

Attendance continues to be a high priority focus for the school. Each Monday we hold a designated attendance assembly, where the highest attending classes are celebrated and rewarded with a treat for playtime! Our weekly attendance target for the whole school is 97%.

Regular attendance at school avoids missed learning, supports friendships and raises attainment. We are a way off our target yet and ask for your support in improving what is a crucial element of your child's education. The attendance champions will be celebrated on our FB page and on our class Dojo pages too.



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We also have a small number of children arriving late to school. Please ensure that your children are in school by 8.55am to ensure that no learning time is lost.

New for this term is the weekly raffle ticket for all children who have attendance of 98% and above. Raffle tickets will be drawn at the end of each term and a special prize will be received by the winners.

Diary Dates for our Summer Term..

Thursday 28th March- *School closes for Easter break.*

Monday 15th April - *Children return to school*

Tuesday 16th April - *F2 and Class 1 Trip to Gordale Garden Centre*

Friday 26th April - *School Photographer in school for individual and sibling photos.*

Tuesday 30th April - *NSPCC workshops for all children*

Week Commencing Monday 13th May- *Year 6 SATS week*

Friday 24th May - *Break Up for Half Term*

Monday 3rd June - *Children return to school*

Week commencing 3rd June - *Class 2 Swimming lessons all week*

Week Commencing 10th June - *Class 3 Swimming lessons all week*

Friday 28th June- *School Photographer in for Year 6 leavers*

Week Commencing 8th July - *Class 4 Swimming lessons all week*

Week Commencing 15th July - *Year 2 Swimming lessons*

Friday 19th July- *School Closes for Summer*

******DATES FOR OUTSTANDING TRIPS, Yr6 END OF YEAR PROM AND PRODUCTION AND FOR SPORTS DAY TO FOLLOW******



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All that remains for now is to wish you all a very Happy Easter and we can't wait to welcome you back to school on Monday 15th April. Breakfast club will be on as usual. We hope that our lovely children enjoy their chocolate! See you on Monday 15th April ❤️

Thank you all for your continued support,

Your LPS Team



We are proud of our school, and the entire staff team are dedicated to supporting the education and emotional wellbeing of every child and family in our care. Verbal abuse of staff will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

#theskyisthelimit

#includeandbeincluded

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 issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

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.

Advice for Parents & Carers

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.

