

Newsletter!

'Live life to the full and create a better future for all'

Welcome Back, we hope you have had a great summer holiday!



Diary Dates

September

Monday 22nd: PTFA Meeting

Monday 29th Sept to Friday 3rd Oct: PGL for Blue Class

October

Tuesday 7th: Harvest Collective Worship

Thursday 9th: Year 5 & 6 Tag Rugby Tournament

Friday 10th: Individual Photos

(a text message will go out closer to the date)

Tuesday 14th: Annual Flu Vaccinations

Thursday 16th: Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thursday 23rd: Last day of Term

November

Monday 3rd: First Day Back

Tuesday 4th: Parents Evening for all classes.

Tuesday 11th: Parents evening for Yellow, Green and Blue.

Medical Appointments

For medical appointments, please can you complete a form before the appointment (where possible) and we require proof of the appointment that has the child's name, date, and time on it. We understand this might be inconvenient, but it is something we have been asked to do.

Parking

When parking vehicles down School Lane while dropping off or picking children up, please be mindful about where you are parking.

We understand you may be parked up briefly. Still, we have some residents who are being affected by this regularly so if you could refrain from parking over or opposite driveways that would be greatly appreciated. Also, please ensure access to the school car park for staff to get into spaces.

Please be aware that you can no longer park in the band stand car park.

Wraparound Care

JB Sports will still be providing wraparound care after school on Thursdays and Fridays.

Play Barn will continue to provide this on Mondays, Tuesday and Wednesdays.

Breakfast Club

Gate opens at 7:55am and closes at 8:15am. If your child is having breakfast, please bring them on time.

Clubs

Monday: Sports Club for Years 1, 2 & 3.

Tuesday: Logic Puzzle Club for Year 4, 5 & 6.

Friday: Sports Club for Year 4, 5 & 6

Water bottles & Lids

Please make sure your child has their name on their water bottle. We only allow water in the classroom.

For replacements, please pay via ParentMail.

Bottles- £2

2X Lids - £1

PE Days

Children need to wear their PE kits to school on these days

Red & Yellow: Mondays & Thursdays

Green & Blue: Tuesdays & Fridays

School Opening Hours

School gates will open at 8:35 am and close at 8:45 am. Anyone coming in after the gate is closed, please bring children to the school office, where you will be asked to sign your child in.

Absences

Please report any children's absences by 9 am. This can be done via ParentMail or by contacting the school office either by email or phone call/voicemail.

Parent Governor

We are still looking for a new parent governor, if you would like to apply for the role please get in touch with the office.

On our premises

Smoking and Vaping on our premises is strictly forbidden. Please ensure you are away from the area. This is during school hours and during events held at school.

Mobile Phones

Children are not permitted to have mobile phones in school. If you wish to discuss this matter, please get in touch with the school office. Also, a reminder that parents/carers are not permitted to use mobile phones when in and around school.

PTFA

The PTFA have a meeting on Monday 22nd September at 7:30 pm in school.

All parents / carers are welcome. Please come along if you would like to be involved and would like to share any exciting new fundraising ideas.

Absences during term time

There is an attendance sheet attached at the bottom of this newsletter to outline when a parent will be fined for taking children out of school for holidays or repeatedly missing school.

Please note a separate fine will be issued to both parents. This is all dealt with by Lincolnshire County Council not by the school.

Feedback from Questionnaire

We would like to thank all families who completed our Summer 2025 questionnaire. It was wonderful to hear that the vast majority of children are happy at school, feel safe, and enjoy the range of learning opportunities we provide.

Many parents praised the dedication and warmth of staff, the strong progress children are making, and the positive relationships that help children feel settled and supported.

We are also delighted that communication methods such as Parent Mail, texts and our app are working well for most families, and that our Christian Values and behaviour systems are clearly understood by the children.

We do recognise there are areas to improve and will look carefully at how we can offer more opportunities such as trips for the children and workshops for parents in maths and phonics, and parent-accessible collective worship to celebrate children's achievements. We will also continue to refine the timeliness of communications and consider additional ways to support parents in helping their children at home. Thank you once again for your constructive feedback - together we can ensure our school continues to go from strength to strength.





Vacancy.

We are looking to appoint a Midday Supervisory Assistant to join our small, friendly school.

The position is temporary until 31st August 2026, to start as soon as possible

The hours of work are 11:45am to 1pm Monday to Friday, term time only

Pay Scale G2 - Actual salary £3,456 per annum

We are looking for someone who will help the children during lunchtime, always putting the welfare of our children at the heart of everything they do.

The successful candidate must be able to work within a small team, show initiative and be flexible.

Main duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to, preparing the hall for lunchtime including setting out tables, serve meals, clear tables and collect rubbish, clean dining area as appropriate.

For further information and to request an application form please contact the school office.



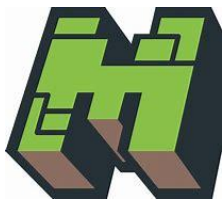


Online Safety

Online safety and the troubles that the internet may bring is a hot topic throughout schools. It is important to have regular conversations about staying safe online and to encourage children to speak to you if they come across something worrying online.

Talk to your child about the importance of creating a safe online environment, including keeping any log-in details and passwords safe.

We have gathered some advice sheets if you need below. You can also find some information and useful links on the Gov website: [Support for parents and carers to keep children safe online - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online)



ONLINE CONTENT

10 tips to keep your children safe online

The internet has transformed the ability to access content. Many apps that children use are dependent on user-generated content which can encourage freedom of expression, imagination and creativity. However, due to the sheer volume uploaded every day, it can be difficult for platforms to regulate and moderate everything, which means that disturbing or distressing images, videos or audio clips can slip through the net. That's why we've created this guide to provide parents and carers with some useful tips on keeping children safe online.



1 MONITOR VIEWING HABITS

Whilst most apps have moderation tools, inappropriate content can still slip through the net.



2 CHECK ONLINE CONTENT

Understand what's being shared or what seems to be 'trending' at the moment.



3 CHECK AGE-RATINGS

Make sure they are old enough to use the app and meet the recommended age-limit.



4 CHANGE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Make accounts private and set content filters and parental controls where possible.



5 SPEND TIME ON THE APP

Get used to how apps work, what content is available and what your child likes to watch.



6 LET CHILDREN KNOW YOU'RE THERE

Ensure they know that there is support and advice available to them if they need it.



7 ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING

Talk about what people might post online and why some posts could cause distress.



8 LEARN HOW TO REPORT & BLOCK

Always make sure that children know how to use the reporting tools on social media apps.



9 KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

If a child sees distressing material online; listen to their concerns, empathise and offer reassurance.



10 SEEK FURTHER SUPPORT

If a child has been affected by something they've seen online, seek support from your school's safeguarding lead.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Snapchat is a photo- and video-sharing app which also allows users to chat with friends via text or audio. Users can share images and videos with specific friends, or through a 'story' (documenting the previous 24 hours) visible to their entire friend list. Snapchat usage rose during the pandemic, with many young people utilising it to connect with their peers. The app continues to develop features to engage an even larger audience and emulate current trends, rivaling platforms such as TikTok and Instagram.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects on the app with people they know, they may still receive friend requests from strangers. Snapchat's links with apps such as Wink and Hoop have increased this possibility. Accepting a request means that children are then disclosing personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features. This could allow predators to gain their trust for sinister purposes.

EXCESSIVE USE

There are many features that are attractive to users and keep them excited about the app. Snap streaks encourage users to send snaps daily. Spotlight Challenges give users the chance to obtain money and online fame, and the Spotlight feature's scroll of videos makes it easy for children to spend hours watching content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat are not suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's Discover function lets users swipe through snippets of news stories and trending articles that often include adult content. There is currently no way to turn off this feature.

SEXTING

Sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature makes it easy for young people (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse. While these pictures do disappear – and the sender is notified if it has been screenshotted first – users have found alternative methods to save images, such as taking pictures with a separate device.

DAMAGE TO CONFIDENCE

Snapchat's filters and lenses are a popular way for users to enhance their 'selfie game'. Although many are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beauty' filters on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations and create feelings of inadequacy. Comparing themselves unfavourably against other Snapchat users could threaten a child's confidence or sense of self-worth.

VISIBLE LOCATION

My Places lets users check in and search for popular spots nearby – such as restaurants, parks or shopping centres – and recommend them to their friends. The potential issue with a young person consistently checking in to locations on Snapchat is that it allows other users in their friends list (even people they have only ever met online) to see where they currently are and where they regularly go.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add function helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this feature could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).

CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

Talk to your child about what is and isn't wise to share on Snapchat (e.g. don't post explicit images or videos, or display identifiable details like their school uniform). Remind them that once something is online, the creator loses control over where it might end up – and who with. Additionally, Snapchat's 'Spotlight' feature has a #challenge like TikTok's: it's vital that your child understands the potentially harmful consequences of taking part in these challenges.

CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

Snapchat has recently announced that it is rolling out a new safety feature: users will receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check Up' encourages users to delete connections with users they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.

KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Your child can send Snaps directly to friends, but Stories are visible to everyone they have added, unless they change the settings. If they use SnapMaps, their location is visible unless 'Ghost Mode' is enabled (again via settings). It's prudent to emphasise the importance of not adding people they don't know in real life. This is particularly important with the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchatters to see the places your child regularly visits and checks in: strangers, bullies and groomers could use this information to engage in conversation and arrange to meet in person.

TALK ABOUT SEXTING

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it is important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sending, receiving or sharing explicit images, as well as the possible emotional impact. Emphasise that your child should never feel pressured into sexting – and that if they receive unwanted explicit images, they should tell a trusted adult straight away.

BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending explicit images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and choose report or block. There are options to state why they are reporting that user (annoying or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).

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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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 03.11.2021

"Feel confident talking to your child about staying safe online with the 10 pointers in this factsheet. They give you practical advice on what to tell your child to do and not do, and what to watch out for."

10 tips to stay safe online

Pass our pointers on to your child to help keep them safe online. You can read through these with your child, or give them this sheet, depending on their age and what you think would be most helpful.

Be careful talking to people you don't know and trust in real life – anyone can pretend to be a child online. If you do talk to people you don't know, don't tell them your personal information – such as your name, age, what street you live on, your school's name, or your location. If they ask for images or videos of yourself, say no, stop talking to them and report this to a trusted adult

You need to be 13 years old to use most social media apps. If you do use them, keep your profiles private, to limit what others can see. Think carefully about what you share and with who – once you've shared an image, you can't control what the other person does with it. Remember, it's against the law to take, share or view sexual images of under-18s

Use AI chatbots carefully – not everything they generate is real. They may also tell you to do things that could harm you or someone else. Don't give them your personal information or photos – they could be used to make fake images, or to bully or blackmail you

Keep in mind that what you post online now could be seen by people in the future, like when you're trying to get a job when you're older

If you see something upsetting, or you're bullied online, tell an adult you trust. Ask them to report it by following the instructions on the website, game or app – they'll probably need to select the 3 dots next to a post or comment

When you read, listen to or watch the news online, think about where the information comes from, and if it could be made up or a hoax

Look out for hoaxes and scams, like messages you're meant to forward on or ones that ask you for payment details or your password

Be wary of schemes promising easy cash for receiving and transferring money – they're almost definitely criminal activity

Watch out for loot boxes or other parts of games where you pay money to take a chance on getting a reward – you can end up spending lots of money on them

Remember, people make their lives look more exciting and interesting online. People often edit their photos to make them look better, or make fake images with AI tools, so don't believe everything you see. This includes gang lifestyles – they're not as glamorous as they look

Don't feel confident talking to your child about online safety?

Read this [advice from the NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety): <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety>

Further information

This factsheet was produced by [The Key Safeguarding](http://www.thekeysupport.com/safeguarding): www.thekeysupport.com/safeguarding

- [‘Top-selling mobile games break rules on loot boxes’, BBC News](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c748ww9y9nno)
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c748ww9y9nno>
- [‘Chatbot ‘encouraged teen to kill parents over screen time limit’’, BBC News](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cd605e48q1vo)
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cd605e48q1vo>
- [How to spot fake news, Childline](https://www.childline.org.uk/get-involved/articles/how-to-spot-fake-news/) <https://www.childline.org.uk/get-involved/articles/how-to-spot-fake-news/>
- [Money mule and exploitation action plan, GOV.UK – Home Office](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/money-mule-action-plan/money-mule-and-financial-exploitation-action-plan-accessible)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/money-mule-action-plan/money-mule-and-financial-exploitation-action-plan-accessible>
- [County Lines Programme overview, GOV.UK – Home Office](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/county-lines-programme/county-lines-programme-overview) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/county-lines-programme/county-lines-programme-overview>
- [Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people, GOV.UK – Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, UK Council for Internet Safety](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sexting-in-schools-and-colleges)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sexting-in-schools-and-colleges>

Attendance

Supporting you to understand the new rules



A National Framework for Penalty Notices for school absences, including unauthorised leave of absences in Term Time, is being introduced following changes to the law.

These new government regulations will come into effect from **19th August 2024**.

What are these changes?

If a pupil has **10 unauthorised sessions**, which is equal to **5 school days**, within a **10 week period**, a penalty notice may be issued.

This will come under 3 categories: First, Second, and Third offence.



First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time leave or unauthorised absences the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child if paid within **28 days**, reduced to **£80** per parent, per child if paid within **21 days**.

Second Offence

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time leave or unauthorised absences the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child to be paid within **28 days**. No reduced rate will be offered.



Third offence and any further offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time leave or unauthorised absences a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates Court.

Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child. Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on a Parents future DBS certificate, due to failure to safeguard a child's education.

For any further inquiries about school attendance please visit:
www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-attendance