School Office Thursday Update

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEKS AHEAD	
Monday 20th May	• Class Photographs • Qualitas Club after school – KS2
Tuesday 21st May	• Cricket tournament – Matlock Cricket Club 10-3 • **Football training after school - match postponed** • Qualitas Club after school – KS1
Wednesday 22nd May	• Qualitas Club after school – KS2 Netball - *use ParentPay to book* • **Choir at lunchtime**
Thursday 23rd May	• Bunting Cup Cavendish Fields 10am • Little Smiles Parent and Toddler Group 9am – 10.30am • Class 4 Swimming
Friday 24th May	• **Wear Purple for JIA** • **Last day of term**
Monday 3rd June	• First Day of Term •
Tuesday 4th June	• Football training after school •
Wednesday 5th June	• Choir at lunchtime
Thursday 6th June	• Class 4 swimming
Friday 7th June	• Forest School – details to be confirmed next week

OTHER NEWS

- **PTFA FAMILY WALK – SUNDAY 19TH MAY- Everyone is welcome to join us for this pushchair and dog friendly event. Please meet at school at 2.15pm for a 2.30pm start. We aim to stop for a drink and snack halfway round and there will be cake at the end!**
- **Friday 24th May – Children are invited to wear purple for JIA. This is an annual campaign dedicated to raise awareness for the benefit of those living with Juvenile idiopathic Arthritis.**
- **SPORTS DAY is on Friday 21st June from 1.00pm - 3.30pm. Everyone is welcome**
- **ADVANCE NOTICE – NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB ON THE LAST DAY OF TERM – Tuesday 23rd July**
- **Please check ParentPay and clear any outstanding balances as soon as possible.**

Please do not hesitate to contact us on 01629 56813 or by email with any questions or queries.

Friday updates can be found in the Newsletters section of our school website.

FURTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
Sunday 19th May	**PTFA Family Walk – Further details to follow** **2.15pm Meet at school** **2.30pm Start** **Approx. 2 hours** **Pushchair and dog friendly**
Monday 20th May	Class photographs
Tuesday 21st May	Cricket Tournament Matlock Cricket Club Football training after school – match postponed
Thursday 23rd May	BUNTING CUP – Cavendish Fields 10-4
Friday 24th May	**Wear Purple for JIA** **LAST DAY OF TERM BEFORE SCHOOL CLOSES FOR HALF TERM**
Monday 3rd June	**SCHOOL REOPENS**
Monday 10th June	Football match after school – St Giles v South Darley
Thursday 13th June	SOUTH PEAK SPORTS – Darley Dale Primary School
Monday 17th June	**INSET DAY SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS**
Tuesday 18th June	Class 2 to All Saints Juniors for Sports Event - Qualitas New Starters meeting for parents 5.00pm
Thursday 20th June	RESERVE DATE – SOUTH PEAK SPORTS
Friday 21st June	**SPORTS DAY 1.00PM - 3.30PM - Everyone Welcome** **PTFA QUIZ NIGHT – Starkholmes Village Hall 7.30pm** **Further details to follow**
Tuesday 25th June	Football match after school – Darley Churchtown v St Giles
Tuesday 2nd July	New Starters – Stay and Play between 1.15 and 3.00
Wednesday 3rd July	New Starters Transition Visit 9.30 - 11.30 Y6 – Transition Day to Highfields for pupils joining in September
Thursday 4th July	LAST SWIMMING OF THIS SCHOOL YEAR Y6 – Transition Day to Lady Manners for pupils joining in September
Tuesday 9th July	Football match after school – St Giles v Castle View
Thursday 11th July	New Starters Transition Visit 1.30 - 3.00
Tuesday 23rd July	**Leavers Service in St Giles Church at 11.00am – Y6 parents** **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL BEFORE SUMMER BREAK** **NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**
Wednesday 4th September	**INSET DAY – school closed**
Thursday 5th September	**INSET DAY – school closed**
Friday 6th September	**First Day of Term**

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

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.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

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