School Office Friday Update

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEKS AHEAD	
Monday 5th February	• **CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK** • Qualitas Club after school – KS2 Fitness – *use ParentPay to book* • **Online Safety Workshop for parents 5.00pm in school**
Tuesday 6th February	• **Football - St Giles V S. Darley – after school** • Qualitas Club after school – KS1 Fitness - *use ParentPay to book*
Wednesday 7th February	• Qualitas Club after school – KS2 Dodgeball • **NSPCC Workshop on Zoom – 7.00pm**
Thursday 8th February	• Little Smiles Parent and Toddler Group 9-10.30am • Class 3 Swimming • Choir after school with Mr Titterton Y1-Y6
Friday 9th February	• Year 3 Forest Schools
Monday 12th February	• Qualitas Club after school - KS2 Fitness – *use ParentPay to book* • Parents' Evening – Class 1: 3.30pm - 5.30pm • Parents' Evening - Class 3: 3.40pm – 6pm
Tuesday 13th February	• Qualitas Club after school – KS2 Fitness - *use ParentPay to book* • Parents' Evening – Class 2: 3.00 – 6.30 • Parents' Evening - Class 3: 3.40 – 6.30
Wednesday 14th February	• Qualitas Club after school - KS2 Dodgeball • Parents' Evening – Class 4: 3.30 – 6pm
Thursday 15th February	• Little Smiles Parent and Toddler Group 9-10.30am • Class 3 swimming • Choir after school • Parents' Evening – Class 4: 3.30 – 5.30
Friday 16th February	• Year 3 Forest Schools • Last day of half term

Other news:

- **Online safety workshop for parents and guardians: Monday 5th February at 5 p.m**. We are delighted to welcome Traci Good back to school to lead an informal session for parents on how to support children with online safety. During the hour, we'll consider what children and young people are doing online and how we can all support them to navigate this space carefully. We'll look at the pros and cons of parental controls, including tracking apps and the importance of engaging with our child's online life. As part of the session parents will be directed to excellent sources of support that they can tap into, free of charge. Grandparents and extended family members are also encouraged to attend this informative session. This workshop is open to all families across the partnership and is hosted here, at St. Giles, on Monday 5th February. We hope to see you on Monday.

- **It is Children's Mental Health Week next week. Children will be taking part in activities during their PHSE Lessons. Please watch on Class Blogs to find out more. Please use this link for more information** Childrens Mental Health Week
- **School Car Park** – The car park gates are now closed between 8.30am and 9.00am and 3.00pm and 3.30pm following feedback from parents and to ensure the safety of all children. **PLEASE PASS THIS MESSAGE ONTO FAMILY AND FRIENDS WHO HELP WITH BRINGING YOUR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL**
- A reminder that the school car park and the entrance to it must not be used for dropping off or collecting children at the start and end of the school day unless previously arranged.
- **Monday 4th March – ADVANCE NOTICE - Due to mandatory staff training for all school staff from 4.00pm until 6.00pm AFTER SCHOOL CLUB will only be available until 4.00pm today. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience**

Please do not hesitate to contact us on 01629 56813 or by email enquiries@st-giles-matlock.derbyshire.sch.uk with any questions or queries.

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

FURTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
Monday 19th – Friday 23rd February	**Half Term**
Monday 26th February	**INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS**
Tuesday 27th February	SCHOOL REOPENS
Thursday 29th February	PTFA SCHOOL DISCO 3.30PM – 5.30PM Further details to follow
Monday 4th March	**AFTER SCHOOL CLUB UNTIL 4.00PM ONLY** **Mandatory Staff Training**
Tuesday 5th March	After School Football – St Giles v Darley Churchtown
Thursday 7th March	WORLD BOOK DAY
Monday 11th March	STAY AND PLAY - CLASS 1 AND 2 - 2.45PM-3.15PM
Wednesday 13th March	BOOK LOOK - CLASS 3 AND 4 - 3.15PM-3.45PM
Thursday 28th March	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL BEFORE SCHOOL CLOSES FOR EASTER
Monday 15th April	SCHOOL REOPENS FOR THE SUMMER TERM
Thursday 18th April	NO SWIMMING THIS WEEK
Thursday 25th April	SWIMMING FOR YEAR 5 AND 6
Monday 6th May	Bank Holiday
Monday 13th May	KS2 SATS – English Grammar and Spelling Papers 1 and 2
Tuesday 14th May	KS2 SATS – English Reading
Wednesday 15th May	KS2 SATS – Maths Paper 1 and 2
Thursday 16th May	KS2 SATS – Maths Paper 3
Friday 24th May	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL BEFORE SCHOOL CLOSES FOR HALF TERM
Monday 3rd June	SCHOOL REOPENS
Monday 17th June	**INSET DAY SCHOOL CLOSED**
Tuesday 23rd July	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL BEFORE SUMMER BREAK NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

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 nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MYLOL

AGE RESTRICTION: 13-19

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MyLOL is a free social networking and dating site aimed at teens. Profiles can publicly display users' images and information, including sexual orientation and personal interests. The service bills itself as "the number one teen dating website in the world", claiming to have more than a million users globally. Despite its popularity, the MyLOL app is no longer available from Google Play or the App Store, although the site is still active. In some countries, police forces and schools have previously warned parents about "sinister predators" and "inappropriate activities" on the site.

FLIMSY AGE GATES

Although MyLOL states it is exclusively aimed at users aged between 13 and 19, there is no credible age verification system to prevent a younger child – or an older adult – from signing up to the platform. Coupled with the fact that it's impossible to establish a user's true identity on MyLOL, this raises a serious concern that the site could be used for grooming.

IN-APP SPENDING

MyLOL is free to join and use, but it also offers paid-for memberships. Users who have paid money get their profile promoted at the top of the site and in search results. They can also earn additional credits for increased engagement with the platform – such as sharing, replying to messages and voting. At the time of writing, the monthly membership fee was $9.95 (just under £8).

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

MyLOL maintains that it monitors all uploaded images for nudity or sexual content. It also claims to be able to detect suspicious keywords. However, there have been numerous reports of explicit content being found on the platform, with users often posting provocative, semi-nude pictures of themselves and engaging in flirty or sexually explicit conversation.

DATA COLLECTION

According to its privacy policy, MyLOL collects user data including email addresses, contact details and interests. While the company says it is committed to protecting users' privacy, the small print states that information may be shared externally. MyLOL claims to follow procedures to keep data secure, but does not specify what these procedures are, or whether such information is encrypted.

POTENTIAL CYBER-BULLYING

MyLOL lets users 'vote' on other people based solely on their appearance, much in the same vein as the now-defunct site Hot or Not. This feature could easily lead to distress and bullying, especially if a young person's profile pics receive an unfavourable response. Various reviews of MyLOL have noted that bullying frequently becomes an issue in the platform's chat groups and private messages.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

MyLOL makes it easy to connect with strangers. In fact, the site's rewards feature encourages users to send private messages to people they don't know. There have been several media stories of adults posing as teens on MyLOL to connect with minors, which could lead to extremely dangerous situations, such as a young person meeting up with someone who has been posting under a false identity.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DISCUSS ONLINE DATING

It's vital to talk to your child about the possible dangers of platforms like MyLOL – particularly the threat of online predators. Remind them of the risks of sharing intimate images and information with strangers and emphasise that most people don't realise they're being 'catfished' until it's too late – it really isn't wise for a young person to meet up with someone they've only spoken to online.

EXPLAIN PRIVACY RISKS

Before your child begins using a service such as MyLOL, it's important that they understand the potential pitfalls of giving out their personal data on this type of platform. Explain to them, for example, that they shouldn't divulge any personally identifying information to people who they don't know, as scammers can be quite convincing when attempting to steal someone's identity.

RESTRICT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child has access to a bank card or other payment method, they may be enticed into signing up for MyLOL's premium features. Having their profile boosted and receiving more attention could be especially tempting if their friends also use the site. You could consider altering their device's settings to disable internet purchases, or at the very least keeping an eye on their online spending.

SET UP LOCATION ALERTS

If you're worried that your child may be planning to meet up with someone they've met on MyLOL, you could consider utilising GPS or WiFi location tracking technology to follow their whereabouts in real time. You can even set up a virtual boundary or 'fence' and opt to receive an alert to your phone if your child enters or exits a specified area.

Meet Our Expert



Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.

The National College

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#WakeUpWednesday

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