



# SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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29<sup>th</sup> April 2022

*"Not every day is good but there is something good in every day."*

Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to take this opportunity to say a very warm welcome back to everyone, after what has been a very busy week in school (more about this later on in the 'Shobnall Showcase' section of the newsletter)! It seems as though everyone has had a really good Easter break (with some fantastic weather in parts) and it has been great to have seen children, parents and staff looking so well, refreshed and revitalised.



As the warmer weather now approaches, please don't forget to send your child to school with sunscreen on and sunhats when we are due to have a particularly hot day. Many thanks for your support with this.



We would also like to take this opportunity to wish all of our Muslim families a very happy, peaceful and prosperous Eid, which is due to be celebrated either on Monday or Tuesday of next week. Eid Mubarak! The children have been exploring Eid in school, and will be holding their own celebrations over the course of next week!

Please may we also remind everyone that the NHS [COVID-19 symptoms in adults](#) and [symptoms in children](#) have been updated. Adults and children who have symptoms of a respiratory infection, including COVID-19, should follow the [UKHSA guidance](#). Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can. They can go back to school, college or childcare and resume normal

activities when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend. As always, please refer to the [Covid-19 Info](#) page on the school website if you need any further clarification.

We hope that you all enjoy the long weekend ahead and look forward to seeing you all again on Tuesday!

## Eid al-Fitr

Eid al-Fitr, also known as "Festival of Breaking the Fast," is the most prominent Islamic festival celebrated by 1.8 billion Muslims all over the world that marks the end of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting. Here are some other interesting facts about this holy festival:

- ★ Eid al-Fitr is the day of celebrating the happy end of Ramadan. Many sweet treats and delicacies are consumed to celebrate the sweet end of this holy month.
- ★ The festival traditionally holds a three-day celebration which involves praying, feasting, family gatherings, exchanging gifts and helping the needy.
- ★ Eid al-Fitr is a day of thanksgiving to Allah for showering the eternal blessings and giving all a chance to enjoy the blessings of the month of Ramadan.
- ★ Zakat al-Fitr is a kind of donation where you lend a hand to the poor and needy conducting the charity at the end of the fasting month, Ramadan. Such a practice is done to cleanse a Muslim

soul from any sins, committed during the month of Ramadan as well as for inner peace and happiness. This is the most beautiful part of this festival which is done with great love. Muslims shower the needy with great gifts, sweets, clothes and food items and bless their day with eternal joys.

★ Like many festivals, Eid al-Fitr involves the practice of gifting. As we all know, gifts act as a perfect medium for expressing your emotions. Be it expressing the feelings of the heart or conveying the best wishes of the occasion; they are often given to increase the charm of the moment.

★ Hillary Clinton hosted the first Eid al-Fitr at White House in 1996. Later, the Clintons continued the tradition every year after. The dinner was attended by the prominent members of the Muslim American community, including politicians, leaders and students. With the passage of time, the Eid al-Fitr dinner tradition has continued with every president. George W Bush and Barack Obama hosted the Ramadan dinner every year of their presidency.



### 10 Top Tips for Parents to Support Children to Read

Earlier this week, the Department for Education published some advice for parents to help primary-aged children read at home. We thought it would be useful to share the link with you:

[10 top tips for parents to support children to read](#)

Parents, carers, guardians and families can use this advice to encourage and support reading.

There's further resources available online at [Online education resources: English resources](#).

### New Channel 4 Series – The Dog Academy

We have been approached by a TV company called Five Mile Films who make the Channel 4 series The Dog House. They are currently making a brand-new prime time series for Channel 4 called The Dog Academy which is all about misbehaving dogs and their owners.

They're looking to hear from people who might be struggling with their dog's behaviour and need help to overcome their dog's issues. From small quirks to life impacting behaviour, they've assembled a team of the very best trainers in Britain to help owners transform their dogs once and for all.

The series will be filmed later this year, but they'd love to start hearing from people now. At the moment, they're trying to spread the word and encourage people to apply.

A promotional poster for the Channel 4 series 'The Dog Academy'. It features two Dalmatian dogs, one standing and one sitting. A large blue speech bubble contains the text: 'Do you have a problematic pooch? Are you struggling with your dog's behaviour? Would you like help to overcome your dog's issues?'. Below the speech bubble, a teal box contains the text: 'A brand new prime time Channel 4 series is looking for misbehaving dogs and their owners. From small quirks to life impacting behaviour, we've assembled a team of the very best trainers in Britain to help you transform your dog once and for all.' In the bottom right corner, there is a small logo for 'FIVE MILE FILMS' and a logo for 'The Dog House'. At the bottom, a blue box contains the text: 'To apply, please email: [dogacademy@fivemilefilms.co.uk](mailto:dogacademy@fivemilefilms.co.uk)'.



Please see the flyer with details on how to apply.

### PFA News!

Thank you to all of those who were able to attend the PFA meeting on Thursday! A lot was discussed as usual and much has been planned for the summer term...

### PFA Midsummer Movie Night – Tuesday 24 May 2022, 3.30 – 5.15pm

After the success of the last film night, the PFA have planned for another on Tuesday 24 May for children in Reception to Year 6. Each class will select their own film to watch in their classroom. Tickets will go on sale from Monday 9 May and can be purchased at the key stage 2 playground entrance every morning from 8.45am (please look out for the sign!). They will be priced at £3.50, which includes the film, a drink and some sweets. Additional snacks will be available to purchase on the night (i.e. crisps, popcorn), so the children are allowed to bring in a small amount of spending money on the day if they would like to do this. Pick up will be from your child's usual gate at 5.15pm.



### Summer Bingo, Wednesday 6 July 2022, 6.00pm

Back by popular demand, the PFA will be holding another bingo session on **Wednesday 6 July** in the school hall. Doors open from 5.30pm with 'eyes-down' at 6.00pm. Mr Adams will be bingo caller again and tea, coffee, cold drinks, hotdogs, burgers and other snacks will be on sale during the evening. The bingo books will be available to purchase on arrival. The PFA are intending to buy a selection of wonderful prizes to award on the night and would like your help! **On Friday 1 July**, the children (and staff) are allowed to come to school in **non-uniform**! The charge for this is **£1.00** so that the PFA can use the donations to purchase some extra-special items for the children (and adults!) who are successful in calling 'house'! We do hope that you are able to come and support this event, which is always tremendous fun!



Thank you once again to everyone for supporting the PFA – your time and fundraising really does make a difference to the children of our school!

### May Day

May Day is a festival that celebrates the arrival of Spring. This day is celebrated throughout the world. In many countries it is a major holiday such as the United Kingdom, India, Romania, Sweden, and Norway. In many countries the day is celebrated as Labour Day. Here are some facts about the day...

- ✚ May Day has a long history and tradition in England. The day is celebrated with music and dancing. Perhaps the most famous part of the celebration is the Maypole. Children dance around the Maypole holding onto colourful ribbons. Many people use flowers and leaves to make hoops and hair garlands as well. A lot of towns also crown a May Queen on this day.
- ✚ May Day has changed throughout history. In Greek and Roman times, it was a day to celebrate spring and specifically the goddesses over spring. In early Gaelic times as well as in pre-Christian times in Scandinavia, May Day was also a day to celebrate the coming of Spring. When



Christianity came to Europe and England, May Day became intertwined with Easter and other Christian celebrations.

- ✚ Morris Dancers in England wear hats decorated with flowers, suspenders, and ankle bells. They stomp their feet, wave handkerchiefs, and bang sticks together when they dance. One traditional May Day dance in England is called the Cumberland Square.
- ✚ A Maypole stands all year long in Inkwell, England. It has been there since 1894. Maypoles were sometimes made from old ship's masts.



### Online Safety Tips

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.

In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as bullying, inappropriate content and unknown members.

### School Uniform Exchange

Please don't forget the *school uniform exchange*, which continues! There is a box situated just by the main school office for any parents who have items they wish to donate. Please could we ask that these are cleaned and in good condition before placing in the box! Amy Roobottom continues sorting and collating this. As previously stated, if you wish to contact Amy to ask what is available that you might be in need of, please contact the school office via [shb-office@shb.itmat.co.uk](mailto:shb-office@shb.itmat.co.uk) and we will ensure this is forwarded to her.



### Hot Lunch Options – 3 May – 6 May 2022

<b>WEEK 1</b>	4th Oct, 1st Nov 22nd Nov, 13th Dec	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>
<b>MAIN DISH</b>		Ham panini pizza	Sweet and sour chicken	Roast chicken and stuffing	Pork sausages	Battered fish
<b>VEGETARIAN MAIN DISH</b>		Cheese and tomato panini pizza	Vegetable curry	Quorn fillet and stuffing	Quorn sausages	Cheese pin wheel
<b>ACCOMPANIMENTS</b>		Herby diced potatoes Garden peas Baked beans Salad bar	Fluffy rice Carrot batons Broccoli Salad bar	Roast potatoes Green cabbage Sliced carrots Salad bar	Mashed potatoes Garlic bread Sweetcorn Cauliflower Salad bar	Chunky chips Baked beans Mushy peas Salad bar
<b>DESSERTS</b>		Marble sponge and custard	Ginger cookie	Rice pudding with fruit compote	Flapjack	Fruit and ice cream
<b>FRESH FRUIT &amp; YOGHURT</b>		Fresh fruit and yoghurt	Fresh fruit and yoghurt	Fresh fruit and yoghurt	Fresh fruit and yoghurt	Fresh fruit and yoghurt
<b>JACKET POTATOES &amp; SANDWICHES</b>		Jacket potato and sandwiches with various fillings	Jacket potato and sandwiches with various fillings	Jacket potato and sandwiches with various fillings	Jacket potato and sandwiches with various fillings	Jacket potato and sandwiches with various fillings



# SHOBNALL SHOWCASE!

Let's have a sneaky peek as to what has been going on in our classrooms this week...

## Nursery

This week in Nursery we have started our new topic on 'All Creatures Great and Small'. Having read the story Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell, we have discussed animals that would and would not make good pets and have met some pets that belong to members of staff in school! Mrs France brought in Pippy, her hamster and Mrs Farrington brought in Hetty, her Cockapoo! The children were very excited about their special visitors and enjoyed learning about the needs of the different animals, as well as showing great care whilst petting them! Unfortunately, we haven't met Mrs Sangster's pet snake yet, but did get to look at the latest skin that has been shed! This week the children have also begun their balance bike course with Mr Attwood and have made a very promising start!

## Reception

The Reception children have had an exciting start to the new term. It was fantastic to see them arrive to school eager to begin learning all about minibeasts for our new theme 'It's a Bugs Life.'

They thoroughly enjoyed carrying out their own research using books and iPads and enjoyed listening to each other as they shared lots of interesting facts.

The children were very happy to find out that a group of ladybirds is called a loveliness!

The children were very excited as we headed down to Forest School to begin our first session.

I was very impressed with the children as they listened carefully to the various expectations such as, walking around the fire circle and moving natural materials appropriately. They all became explorers as they found a variety of minibeasts including a huge worm and beetle! They also created their own minibeasts using natural materials and joined in with games and songs.

We can't wait for next week's session when we hope to bring some minibeasts back to the classroom!!

## Year 1



Year 1 have had a great first week back! In English we had a bourbon thief in the classroom and the children used their investigating skills to find out the perpetrator. The children are then going to use their knowledge of the events that took place to write a news report. In Maths we have started our new topic of division and the children have been super resilient with this tricky unit of work. We have used lots of concrete resources to help with our understanding of grouping numbers. In our topic this week, we have been looking at science and the changes in the season. Yesterday we went on a lovely walk looking for any signs of it being springtime. The children loved this activity and we even spotted some lambs.

## **Year 2**

Year 2 have come back with an abundance of energy after the Easter Holidays! This week it has been full steam ahead with SATs revision. Each day the children have been looking back at all the things they have learnt this year, from column addition & subtraction, to the difference between a verb and an adverb. It has been wonderful to see how much the children have retained and they are brimming with confidence about the upcoming SATs week. However, the highlight of the week was on Friday afternoon when Year 2 participated in Bhangra Dancing, led by JTHS. It was fantastic to see all the children participating fully and enjoying a well-deserved dance after all their hard work this week!



## **Year 3**

Year 3 have had a great first week back. We have continued learning about fractions in our maths lessons. The children have been counting forwards and backwards in tens using a number line to support them. In English, we have started our new unit 'Myths and Legends'. The children have enjoyed reading a range of myths and legends and learning about the key features included. On Friday, the children created a description of a mythological creature using a thesaurus to help them to include interesting vocabulary.

## **Year 4**

Year 4 have made a superb start to the summer term! It has been fantastic to see that some of the children have been able to create their Ancient Egyptian project over the Easter break and they look amazing! I can't wait to see what the rest of the children bring in over the coming weeks. In Maths, we have started our new unit on decimals looking at dividing a number by 10 into a decimal, where the children have been using the place value grids to aid their learning. As always, the children have continued with their revision of timetables. In English, the children have been learning about classical poetry and have created their own classical poem! Across the curriculum, the children have started their new topic in French to identify how they say the time. A great first week back Year 4!



## **Year 5**

Year 5 have settled back into school well after the Easter holidays, enjoying their first Forest School session which went very well. Despite the colder weather, the children thoroughly enjoyed the activities out in the fresh air. Miss Lord organised all activities and we were joined by Mr Hussein and Mr Rowley.

In English, this week the children have been thinking about reasons why children should be able to use electronic devices after reading a letter from Mr Hussein and Mrs Knight. The children have been learning about using persuasive phrases and writing in a formal manner.



## Year 6

After a well-deserved Easter break, Year 6 have come back to school with a hard-working attitude! The children have been spending their time revising different areas of maths, reading and writing in preparation for their SATs tests in a couple of weeks.

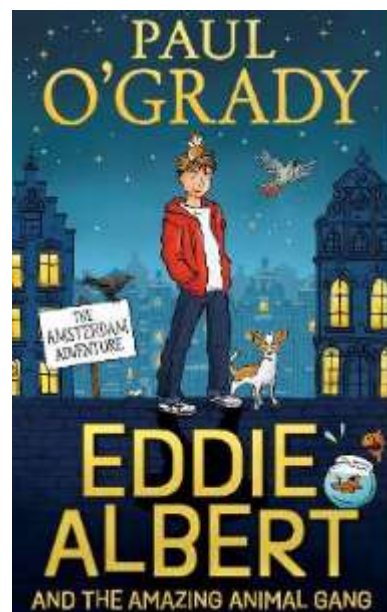
### Reading Corner

This week's recommended read is for children aged 7+...

#### Eddie Albert and the Amazing Animal Gang

*Written by Paul O'Grady*

There's something special about Eddie Albert and that is he can understand and talk to animals. He keeps it a secret of course, but even so it's got him into scrapes at school (he was rescuing a trapped seagull) plus the other kids think there's something not quite right about him. When he's sent to stay with his wealthy Aunt Budge in Amsterdam, then imagine his surprise to discover that she can do it too. His holiday gets even more exciting when he spots a kidnapped orangutan that desperately needs help. With his new friend, Flo, plus his pets Butch the dog and Bunty the hamster, Eddie sets out to rescue the creature. The adventures that follow are funny, lively and feature a fabulous cast of characters including one of the best villainesses since Cruella de Vil. The author's love for animals shines through and Butch and Bunty provide many of the best moments. There are black and white illustrations by Sue Hellard throughout, an extra treat, lovely sketches of the setting and our heroes, the two and the four-legged ones.



### Head Teacher's Awards

<b>Reception</b>	Reggie P	Charlotte M
<b>Year 1</b>	Millicent M-B	Aliz K
<b>Year 2</b>	Jacob R	Fatima S
<b>Year 3</b>	Kian S	Faryal S
<b>Year 4</b>	Oscar T	Eric W
<b>Year 5</b>	Rosie E	Ismail R
<b>Year 6</b>	Freya P	Imaan F-M

### Lunchtime Star Awards

<b>Reception</b>	Inaaya A
<b>Year 1</b>	George N
<b>Year 2</b>	Aadil F
<b>Year 3</b>	Tabitha B
<b>Year 4</b>	Zahra H
<b>Year 5</b>	Alexander H
<b>Year 6</b>	Imaan F-M

### Team Points

Team Points	Claymills	Rosliston	Sinai	Trent
Points (Week Ending 29.04.22)	162	66	105	117
Position	1 <sup>st</sup> – 4 points	4 <sup>th</sup> – 1 point	3 <sup>rd</sup> – 2 points	2 <sup>nd</sup> – 3 points
Running Total	4	1	2	3

### Summer Term Diary Dates

Event	Date/Time
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2022
Key Stage 2 SATs Week	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2022 – Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2022
Young Voices	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2022
PFA Midsummer Film Night	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2022, 3.30pm – 5.15pm
The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2022
School Closes for Half Term	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2022
INSET Day	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2022

School Reopens for Pupils	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
New Parents Meeting for Nursery & Reception Parents	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
Father's Day Lunches – Reception	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
Father's Day Lunches – Year 1	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
Father's Day Lunches – Year 2	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
Father's Day Lunches – Year 3 & Year 4	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
Father's Day Lunches – Year 5 & Year 6	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
Sports Day	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
Reserve Sports Day	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2022
Year 4, 5 & 6 Brewhouse Performance – Robin Hood	Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
Non-Uniform Day	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2022
PFA Summer Bingo	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2022
JTMAT INSET Day – School Closed	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2022
Nursery Graduation	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2022
School Closes for Summer	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2022

### Diary Dates 2021-2022

Event	Date/Time
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2022
Key Stage 2 SATs Week	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2022 – Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2022
Young Voices	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2022
The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations!	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2022
School Closes for Half-Term	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2022
INSET Day	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
School Reopens for Pupils	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
JTMAT INSET Day	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2022
School Closes for Summer	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2022





Dear parent(s)/carer(s)

I am writing to inform you of **two** vacancies for the role of parent governor on our governing body.

### **The role of the governing body**

The school's governing body is responsible for providing confident and strategic leadership, and creating robust accountability, oversight and assurance for the school's educational and financial performance. The board is passionate about education and committed to continuous school improvement to ensure the best possible outcomes for our pupils.

### **The role of a parent governor**

As a parent governor, you'll work with the governing body to ensure it effectively carries out the duties referred to above. You will also play a vital role in ensuring that the governing body is connected with, and is aware of the view of, parents and the local community.

To be a parent governor you should have:

- A strong commitment to the role and to improving outcomes for children
- Good inter-personal skills, curiosity, and a willingness to learn and develop new skills
- The specific skills required to ensure the governing body delivers effective governance

The governing body is keen for candidates to have skills in the following: education and health and safety.

### **Expectations of governors**

It would be an expectation that the successful parent/s would attend at least the 6 formal meetings a year, including any extra-ordinary meetings that usually arise. In addition to this, we would expect full confidentiality of the many aspects discussed, a thorough commitment to training and of course frequent, active visits within the school, talking to teachers, support staff and of course other stakeholders. You may also like to note that the governing body has a code of conduct and that any new governor will be expected to sign up to and adhere to that code.

### **How to apply**

If you are interested in applying for the role, please complete the attached candidate form obtaining signatures of two other parents/carers of a registered pupil at the school/at one of the schools in the academy trust and return to Mr D. Adams by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022. If we receive more applications than there are vacancies, a secret ballot will be carried out. We will inform you closer to the time if we have to do this.

If you have any queries about this process or would like to find out more about the role, please contact the school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Adams".

Head Teacher

Shobnall Primary & Nursery School



Candidate Name	
Candidate Address	
Candidate Statement	

I confirm that I am a parent or carer of a registered pupil at the school/at one of the schools in the academy trust.

Name (Print) ..... Signed .....

Date .....

Name (Print) ..... Signed .....

Date .....



# Staffordshire Day craft at Burton Library



Collect natural materials on the Washlands with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust then come back to the library to make a Staffordshire Knot dream catcher!

**Saturday 30th April 10.30am–11.30am**

Free, suitable for ages 3+ with an adult helper. No booking required.

## Contact Details

Burton Library, Riverside, High Street,  
Burton upon Trent, DE14 1AH

01283 881204





## **EAST STAFFORDSHIRE HEALTHY LIFESTYLE WORKSHOPS**

We are  
**interested in  
your opinion**



We are looking for residents within East Staffordshire to take part in a series of workshops about healthy lifestyles. There are various options of how much you can get involved and as a thank you for your time you will receive between £40 and £100 worth of shopping vouchers on successful completion.

The project is conducted by research agency Emotional Logic for Staffordshire County Council.

To register your interest please scan the QR code or go to:

[www.betterhealthworkshops.co.uk](http://www.betterhealthworkshops.co.uk) - or ring 0800 334 5359







**Woodland  
Wanderers**

## **FREE, FLEXIBLE, ONLINE FAMILY LEARNING**

**10 week course starting Wednesday 4th May. For parents and carers with children aged 5-11.**

**Support your child's development in the core subjects and beyond, through fun, outdoor focused activities. Inspire their curiosity, spark their joy for learning, nurture a love of nature. For more info contact Rebecca on 07525 120117 / [communityforestservices@gmail.com](mailto:communityforestservices@gmail.com).**

Inspired by the Forest School ethos, this online course provides a variety of nature based activities to support children's development. Each week we provide an email pack with ideas to try at times to suit you. We cover maths, science and literacy, as well as the arts and practical skills to raise confidence and build resilience. Families are also introduced to activities to help their mental health and wellbeing. And there's lots of help along the way from two experienced tutors.

**All families will be invited to an end of course celebration event, to receive a certificate of achievement and a free plant to support wildlife in their garden.**



# 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 not want 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 Buthwell 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 e-mail behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



# Big Moments of summer fun!



Every Sunday from 15th May - 3rd July 2022, 10-10:45am

**Register for All Stars Cricket today!**

Your local cricket programme for 5-8 year-olds.

**SIGN UP NOW ►**

Burton Rugby Club (BRFC) are running All Stars cricket sessions for 5-8years. Click the link below for more information and to book:

<https://ecb.clubspark.uk/AllStars/Course/b3ed29ca-6526-4fe2-b810-5b3f26e9db09?fbclid=IwAR1sHxfxSE5yRFALihuKrBSTcWKbWESmkRtZ97sSp2G1s0vsAt1BJZcmkv4>