



Altofts Junior School

Newsletter w/e 16/5/25



Dear Parents/Carers

Congratulations to Year 6! They've completed their SATs with determination and resilience, and now it's time to celebrate their hard work. They should be incredibly proud of themselves. These tests are just one step in their journey, but the confidence, skills, and knowledge they've gained will carry them forward. A big thank you to the Year 6 team for preparing the children incredibly well and thank you to parents for your continuous support. Now the treats begin. They have a colour run this afternoon, which they independently organised events to raise the money to pay for it followed by a trip to Alton Towers next week. We always worry how the children will cope with the week but one child said it has been the best ever week as he gets extra playtime!

Esafety

I have included a fact sheet about online group chats which gives advice for how parents can support their children. We have had children, this year and last, telling us that they have ended up in group chats with people they didn't know so please do read the leaflet for advice.

Playtime—OPAL project

Mrs Sheard has developed our playtime offering for the children so that there is so much more for them to do. This is now being developed for when they are on the field. She has trained the lunchtime supervisors and playground leaders so they can help support the play and games that happen. One element of OPAL is to teach children to assess risks and work out if what they want to do is safe. This is an excellent skill to develop their independence as they move away from parental supervision to becoming independent: responsible for their own safety. An example of this is if they want to roll down one of the hills on the field they must first check the path for anything that may cause an injury eg large stones.

Academy consultation

Thank you for your responses to the consultation. One of the questions that parents would like to know is, 'Did the Governors speak to other academy trusts?' Yes the governors spoke with 3 academy trusts. Governors and leaders met with the CEOs and senior staff of each trust and visited a selection of academies. This allowed them to compare each trust and decide which they felt would be best for our pupils. Staff were interested to know if they can have a Q and A session with the trust to discuss pay conditions etc and this is something that will be facilitated. All responses have been shared with the governors and we will seek answers from Waterton regarding specific questions.

Transition

Miss Hartley has started working with our two feeder infant schools to plan the transition for our new year 3 pupils. Year 6 teachers have met with the relevant high schools to discuss pupils on an individual basis. After the May half term internal transition for some of our children will be starting and the majority of children will find out their class in July. Once we have finalised teachers I will share who is in which year group.

INSET days

Monday 1st September

Tuesday 2nd September

Friday 24th October

Friday 19th December

Monday 20th July

Wishing everyone an enjoyable weekend.

Mrs Joanne Vickers



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Reminders

Belongings

Please label all belongings so we can get them back to their owner.

Breakfast club drop off

Please do not leave your child unaccompanied before our breakfast club leaders have collected the children at 7:30am.

Diary dates

22nd May Y6 Alton Towers

23rd May Last day of half term—finish 3pm

2nd June First day back

2nd June Class 1 and Class 3 Bagshaw Museum

3rd June Class 2 Bagshaw Museum

3rd June Evening theatre trip—Mary Poppins

3rd June Class 7 inspire 1pm

4th June Class 8 inspire 1pm

5th June Class 9 inspire 1pm

9th—11th June Year 6 Bikeability

16th—18th June Bikeability

18th June Class 9 Barley Hall

19th June Class 8 Barley Hall

20th June Class 7 Barley Hall

26th June Summer Fair

1st July Class 4 inspire afternoon

2nd July Class 5 inspire afternoon

3rd July Class 6 inspire afternoon

2nd—4th July Year 6 London residential

9th July Transition day

9th July Summer disco for Year 3,4 and 5

10th July Year 3 and 4 sports day 9:30am, Year 5 and 6 sports day 1pm

Further dates will be added as events get planned in



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

GROUP CHATS

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On messaging apps, social media and online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they can be great for connecting with others, there are several risks posed by these tools.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BULLYING

Teens are often trying to find their place in their social group. Unfortunately, group chats can sometimes lend themselves to unkind comments being shared freely, putting people down to make their peers laugh – often creating a vicious circle that encourages others to join in. Being bullied so publicly – in front of friends and acquaintances – can also amplify the hurt, embarrassment and anxiety that the victim feels.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: for instance, starting a new group, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one person 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 events that exclude them – for example, sharing photos from a day out that they didn't attend.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by a child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some apps have features that cause messages to disappear after they're viewed, so children may be unable to report something they've seen, as it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

Group chats can feel more private and protected, allowing children to share inside jokes and video calls with a smaller group of friends. It's important to remember that while the chat's content is private between those in the group, individual users can easily share material with others outside of the group, or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something a child intended as private becoming public is higher if there are strangers in the chat.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely for children to communicate with people they don't know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly towards everyone present. It's wise for young people to avoid sharing personal details and remember that they have no control over what others do with the material they send into the chat.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications they tend to generate. Every time someone sends a message, each member's device will be 'pinged' with an alert. This could result in hundreds of notifications a day. This is often highly distracting, and young people's fear of missing out (FOMO) can cause increased screen time as they try to keep up with the conversation.

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Advice for Parents & Carers

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CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats can become an arena for young people to compete for social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse which could upset others. Help children consider how people might feel if they behave in this way. If the child does upset someone, encourage them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Group chats are an excellent way for children to connect and feel like they belong. However, remind them that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their feelings and empower them by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. You can also encourage children to speak up if they witness others being picked on.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If a child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block whoever sent the material, report that person to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could put a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise that it's OK for children to simply leave any group chat that makes them feel uncomfortable.

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. Ensure children understand 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 can't be certain where it might end up and how it might be used.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their identity to gain a child's trust and serve their own ends – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure the child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and why they should never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a device bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be an irritating distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to children that they can still be part of the group chat while disabling notifications – and that it would be healthier for them to do so, avoiding a situation where they could feel pressured to respond.

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.



The National College

Sources: https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11_18/lets-talk-about/sociating-online/group-chats/ | <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/chat-apps/>



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AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

@ Butterflies Family Hub

FREE



Board Games
Lego
Music
Arts & Crafts
Group Activities

Details:

- ✓ Wednesdays (Term Time Only)*
- ✓ 3:30pm - 4:45pm
- ✓ Ages 5 - 11 years
- ✓ Light Tea/Snacks provided

*Please call to book your child's place. A place can be booked from 9am every Wednesday for the following week. First come first served basis, limited spaces available.

Our Contact Details

☎ 01924 307835 📍 Wakefield Rd, WF6 1BB

🌐 wakefieldfamilies.together.co.uk





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SUPER STAR SPORT

MAY HALF-TERM CAMPS

Altofts Junior School
Normanton, WF6 2NF

King's Meadow Academy
Fitzwilliam, WF9 5BP

St John the Baptist CP School
Normanton, WF6 2HZ

Tue 27th May - Fri 30th May

FULL DAY: 9am - 3pm 5 - 11 year olds	HALF DAY: 9am - 1pm 4 - 11 year olds
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SCAN HERE

To Book: **Early drop off at available at 8am**

Visit www.superstarsport.co.uk/booking & search for the postcode WF2. For more information call 07359 431 480 or email info@superstarsportwakefield.co.uk

There is a 4.5% platform fee for every booking

- DODGEBALL & SOFT ARCHERY GAMES
- OLYMPIC SPORTS DAY
- DRESS-UP PARTY
- NINJA WARRIOR CHALLENGES
- SUPER-HERO DAY



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ATTENDANCE MATTERS



This week's highest attendance goes to Class 11 with an attendance of 99.21%. Amazing attendance—very well done!