



# Altofts Junior School

## Newsletter w/e 4/4/25



Dear Parents/Carers

This week I had the privilege of taking a group of our pupil leaders on a visit to London to visit the Royal Courts of Justice and Parliament. The children participated in a mock trial featuring a cyberbullying case and at the end they learnt it was a real cyberbullying case where a teenager was jailed for 3 months for harassment on a social media site. The children will replicate the trial in an assembly next term to highlight to the school that things they write on social media and messaging apps can have devastating consequences for both the victim and the perpetrator. This was followed by a tour of Parliament followed by a workshop in which they got to observe questions to the education secretary in the House of Commons. Yvette Cooper visited the children in the workshop and they talked about laws they would implement followed by a debate about how old children should be before they can have a smart phone and use social media. Our Junior Leaders conducted their selves in an exemplary way. They thoroughly enjoyed the day and have come away with a vast amount of new knowledge. We certainly discovered children suited to a career in law or politics! This is a visit we intend to run each year going forward.

Yesterday we were inundated with entries into our Easter competitions. We were amazed by the creativity shown by the designs and it was incredibly difficult for our House Captains to judge the competition as the standard was so high. Well done to all of the winners and all of the entries. Thank you to parents for your support as we appreciate that your input in these competitions is essential.

Year 6 raised £ 350 this week as a result of their hard work to host the competitions and their Easter Fayre. It looks like they are on for an extra special treat to reward their hard work after their SAT tests. Well done Year 6.

### **School uniform**

Thank you to the vast majority of parents who support the school uniform policy. Not only is it essential for high standards, it is also an excellent way to teach children that in life there are rules we must follow and consequences happen if we don't follow the rules. As stated in previous correspondence, children who do not wear the correct uniform will be asked to change into appropriate uniform supplied by the school. The main issue we are seeing is branded sportswear for PE. The policy clearly states an unbranded, plain, white t-shirt and unbranded shorts or joggers in navy or black. These are available in many supermarkets at a very reasonable price: much less than the branded items. We ask that all parents support school in ensuring their child is in the correct uniform. Teachers will check uniform but are very busy teaching so we do task some TAs with the job of enforcing the uniform policy. If your child would not want to change into school supplies, please ensure that they are wearing the correct uniform. If there is a problem, e.g. shoes have split, please let the class teacher know via Dojo and aim to replace in a timely manner. Thank you for your support on this matter.

### **Volunteer speakers**

Our RE curriculum aims to ensure that pupils know about and understand a range of religions: Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and Humanist communities. We are looking for visitors, who follow one of these religions, to come and talk to the children about their religion and to explain aspects of their religion e.g. festivals and places of worship. If you would be interested in talking to the children or know someone who is interested, please contact school via the office. The talks will really help to bring RE lessons to life.

### **E-safety**

If you have watched the wonderful 'Adolescence' on Netflix, you will understand that the online world is a scary place for children and teenagers and a world where adults are getting left behind. Without giving away the plotline (for those who haven't seen it) I have included a list of emojis that all adults should be aware of. Most of these messaging apps are for 13+ children but we know from our children that lots of them are using them. Please have a look at the emojis so you are equipped with the knowledge to help keep your child safe. If there is any part of online safety you would like help with, or have any ideas what else we can do to support, please contact me via the office.



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## You said we did

Parents have said that meetings at 4pm are not convenient due to work. In order to reach as many parents as possible, we are trialling filming the presentations. Miss Cottrell has filmed the Year multiplication Check presentation and sent it out to parents. Parents can then ask any questions at parents evening. The feedback we receive will determine the strategy moving forwards. Following any presentation sent home, we will always offer a drop in time for any questions.



Wishing everyone an enjoyable Easter break. Mrs Vickers



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### Reminders

#### School dinners

Increased price to £2.80 from 22nd April

#### Belongings

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

#### Parents evening

Please ensure you have signed up to meet your child's teacher after the holidays.

#### Dogs and vaping

This morning we have had 2 dogs and someone vaping on site. Please ensure that this does not happen.

#### Diary dates

4th April Last day of term—3pm finish

22nd April First day of Summer term

22nd April Earth Day

22nd April Parent's evening

23rd April Parent's evening

7th and 8th May Year 4 Nell Bank

12th-16th May SATs week

22nd May Year 6 railway safety visit

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

2nd June First day back

3rd June Class 7 inspire 1pm

4th June Class 8 inspire 1pm

5th June Class 9 inspire 1pm

9th—11th June Year 6 Bike ability

16th—18th June Bike ability

18th June Class 9 Barley Hall

19th June Class 8 Barley Hall

20th June Class 7 Barley Hall

26th June Summer Fair

2nd—4th July Year 6 London residential

9th July Transition day

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

**Further dates will be added as events get planned in**



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### The Hidden Meanings Behind Emojis, an article from Smoothwall.

People of all ages use emojis in their digital communications. In addition to adding humour or emphasis to messages, for some communities and peer groups, these symbols can form a language of their own. This is particularly true of young people and teenagers, who sometimes use emojis as a code to disguise their true intentions from adults.

While hidden meanings behind emojis used by young people can be harmless, some may indicate risks including extremism, drugs, sexual interactions and bullying. This was recently brought to life on the Netflix limited series, [Adolescence](#), which depicted the devastating consequences of harmful online interactions, and the warning signs (in the form of emojis) that are easily missed by adults.









To help schools and parents decode potentially harmful messages, we've compiled a list of emojis commonly used in dangerous contexts. This includes specific emojis used on the show, and others highlighted by the work of Olivia Brown, Associate Professor in Digital Futures at the University of Bath.

Emoji(s)	Potential Meaning
	The red pill emoji is linked to incel, or “involuntarily celibate”, culture, where misogynistic and extremist views are prevalent. The meaning originates from The Matrix films, but has been adopted by the manosphere to represent those who see the “real truth” in the world.
	The blue pill emoji is used in incel culture to represent the opposite of the red pill - those who are blind to the real truth and adhere to more mainstream views about gender dynamics.
	The 100 emoji is used in relation to incel culture. It represents the idea promoted by those in the manosphere that 80% of women are attracted to 20% of men.
	The dynamite emoji is used in incel culture to represent the exploding red pill, in other words, breaking out of societal norms and myths.
	The kidney beans emoji is tied to incel culture. It is thought to represent coffee beans, which link back to a series of memes mocking women.
	The plug emoji can be used to mean drug dealer, also known as a person's “plug”.
	The snowflake, nose and petrol pump emojis are all used to represent the drug cocaine.



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	The horse emojis can be used to represent the drug ketamine.
	Skull, alien and devil emojis may represent the drug ecstasy.
	The balloon emoji may be used to represent the drug nitrous oxide.
	Camera emojis can represent a request for nude/explicit images or videos.
	Peach, aubergine and cherry emojis can all be used to represent body parts in a sexual context.
	The sweat emoji may also be used in a sexual context.
	The face with no mouth emoji can convey the message “Do not tell anybody”. It may be used in a bullying context or when sharing inappropriate, illegal or sensitive information.
	The frog emoji can mean “You’re ugly”. It is used in bullying or harassment contexts.



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## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

6 days or less  
absence per year  
**97% or above**  
**VERY GOOD**  
**THIS IS YOUR**  
**TARGET**

Between  
7 and 19 days  
absence per year  
**90% - 96%**  
**BELOW**  
**EXPECTATIONS**

More  
than 19 days  
absence per year  
**Under 90%**  
**POOR**  
**ATTENDANCE**

This week's highest attendance goes to Class 6 with an attendance of 96.11%. Amazing attendance—very well done!