

DATES FOR THE DIARY

November

Thur 16th – Flu vaccinations (nasal spray) Rec to Y6

Fri 17th – Own clothes for Children in Need,

£1 suggested donation please. See Page 2.

December

Wed 6th – PTA Christmas Discos! 3:15 – 4:15 (Rec & KS1) & 4:30 – 5:30 (KS2)

Tue 12th – 9:15am Butterfly & Reception Xmas Performance

10:15am KS1 (Y1 & Y2) Xmas Performance

Wed 13th – 1:15pm Butterfly & Reception Xmas Performance

2:15pm KS1 (Y1 & Y2) Christmas Performance

Thur 14th – Christmas Jumper & Christmas Dinner

Day. £1 suggested donation to charity

Fri 15th – 9am & 2:30pm KS2 Carol Concert

3:15pm ALL FINISH FOR CHRISTMAS

January

Tue 2nd – INSET DAY – School closed to pupils

Wed 3rd – ALL pupils back for spring term

Residentials: please put these dates in your diary:

Year 4 Residential to London: 21st – 22nd March 2024

Year 2 Residential to Tattenhall: 3rd – 4th July 2024

Year 6 Residential to Min-y-Don: 8th – 12th July 2024

FLU VACCINATION DEADLINE

Please complete the online application form by Monday 13th November if you would like your child to have the flue spray. This is when the NHS will close the form. The information on your email contains the code for our school, which you will need when you provide consent.

PTA DISCO TICKETS FOR SALE

From Monday, Christmas Disco tickets will be on sale on the playgrounds and at the main office.

Wednesday 6th December

3:15 - 4:15 (Rec & KS1)

4:30 – 5:30 (KS2)

£1.50 per ticket, which includes a drink and snack.

FOOTBALL #TEAMACORNS

The Acorns are Football mad at the moment! Not only did our #TeamAcorns team, which included lots of pupils who don't usually get the chance to play, have a great match against William Stockton earlier this week, but our Y5/6 Football stars were also in action this week. Next week, there are 2 football competitions for girls in years 3,4,5 & 6. We continue to do everything we can to ensure equal access to football for all!



ATTENDANCE

Huge congratulations to Miss Underwood's class, who have remained above national (96%) with their class attendance every week since September! This is an exceptional achievement and means that the pupils in this class have accessed every opportunity available to them at The Acorns so far this autumn term!

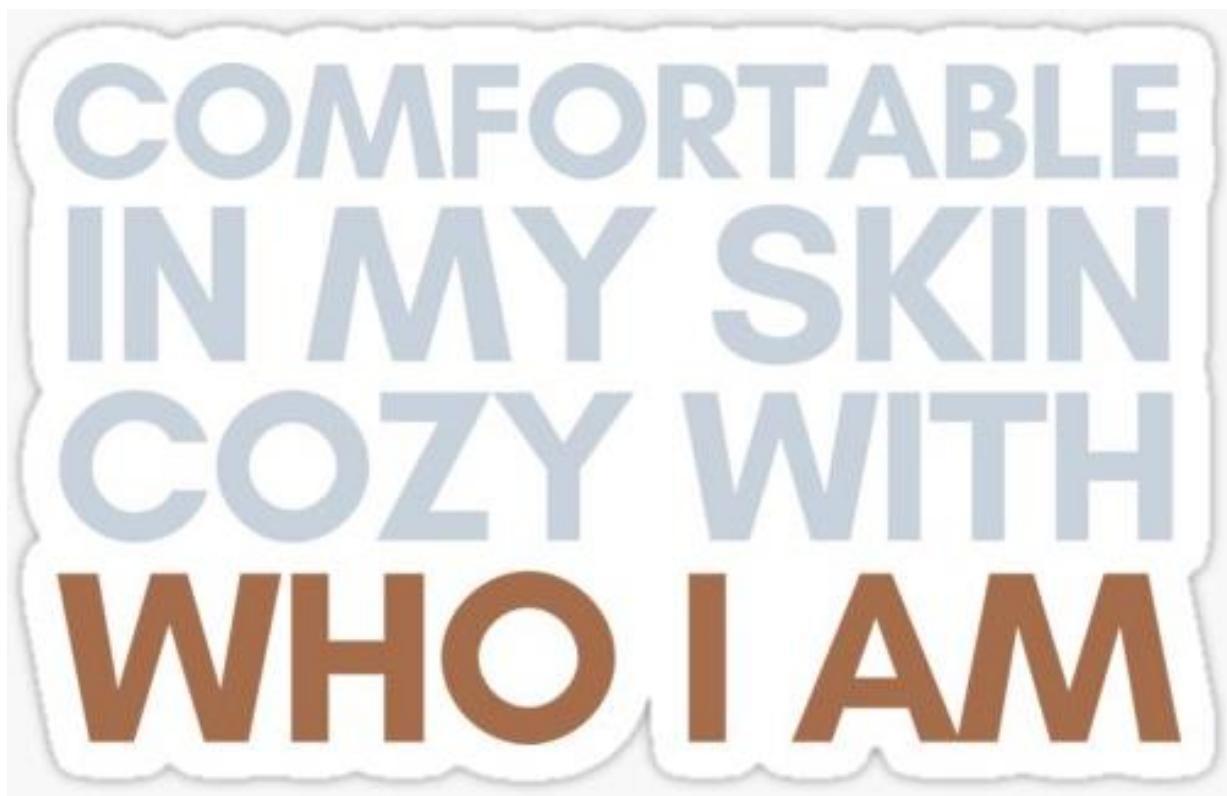
We currently have over 60 pupils however, who have attended school less than 90% of the term so far, which is, on average, half a day absent each week! This is 2 classes of pupils who have not accessed their right to a full education. #attendancematters

Well done to our Rights Respecting Ambassadors who have come up with a super theme for our Dress Down Day for Children In Need! See page 2 for details...

On Friday 17th November...



by having a Dress Down day to
celebrate our school vision, which
includes being...



Wear clothes which represent the REAL YOU
for a suggested donation of £1

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

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.

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 be unable 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.

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.



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