

AVJS Bulletin: 9th December 2022

It was really great seeing so many of you at St Mark's church on Tuesday for the Christmas Concert. Thank you for coming along and supporting us and the children had a lovely time, we hope you did too. Yesterday was Christmas Jumper day and everyone looked incredibly festive as you can see below.



There is still time to book Christmas dinner which is being served next Thursday. Please make sure that you make your booking by the evening of Sunday, 12th December, thank you. The children can also wear their Christmas jumpers on that day too if they want to.

Club Vale held their Christmas party on Wednesday evening, they had party food, Christmas music and enjoyed a number of games too.



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You will have seen in the news about the deaths of a few children from Strep A. A letter was sent out yesterday informing you of the symptoms of scarlet fever and what to do. It is extremely rare for the bacteria to be fatal, and we will make sure that we handle this sensitively with the children. We will focus on the importance of maintaining the standards of hygiene including regular hand washing and the catch it, bin it, kill it approach to sneezing. There is also an information pack from the Health Security Agency attached alongside this bulletin which can also be found on our website by following the link below:

<https://www.arnovale.co.uk/scarlet-fever-and-strep-a/>

Our very popular tuck shop will be starting again week commencing 9th January 2023. You can book and pay for it on your ParentPay account from today. The deadline for payments is midnight Sunday 1st January 2023. The cost is £11.00, and this will take you up to the Easter holiday in April.

I would like to remind year 4 parents that the 3rd instalment for Dukes Barn of £60 is due by 15th December. The final balance of £60 is then due by 13th January 2023. Thank you.

Today the children in year 6 have been trying on the sample sizes for the leaver's hoodies. The item is on your ParentPay account for you to order and pay for; the deadline is 27th January 2023.

Next week, the children will be having their Christmas parties. The children in years 3 and 4 have theirs on Monday afternoon, year 6 children have theirs on Tuesday afternoon and the party for the year 5 children is on Wednesday afternoon. The children should come to school in their uniform as usual but may bring a change of clothes for the afternoon.

You will be aware that the children have been bringing in their Pokemon and football cards regularly. On the whole, this has been great but we have noticed that recently, we have had to deal with issues regarding cards going missing, unfair swaps and children getting upset. With this in mind, we are going to reduce the days in which we will allow cards into school. From next week, the days that cards can come in will be on a **Monday and Friday only**. We will appreciate your support by not allowing your children to bring them in on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. After Christmas we will review the situation. We will be letting the children know in assembly on Monday.

Online Safety News

HiPal is a trending social media app which turns phones into walkie-talkies, allowing people to have voice conversations with friends or strangers. There are two account options: one for users aged under 12 and one for those aged 12 or above. The former has fewer features and limits interaction with strangers; enabling use of the walkie-talkie feature or photo sharing with friends and family only. The 12+ accounts offer more options, including adding strangers as friends, sharing photos and videos publicly, send private messages and holding voice chats with strangers as well as friends.

In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as contact with strangers, dangerous challenges and intrusive features.



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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 app of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about HiPal

AGE RESTRICTION
12+
(with reduced functionality for under-12s)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

HiPal is a trending social media app which turns phones into walkie-talkies, allowing people to have voice conversations with friends or strangers. There are two account options: one for users aged under 12 and one for those aged 12 or above. The former has fewer features and limits interaction with strangers, enabling use of the walkie-talkie feature or photo sharing with friends and family only. The 12+ accounts offer more options, including adding strangers as friends, sharing photos and videos publicly, sending private messages and holding voice chats with strangers as well as friends.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

HiPal's under-12 accounts don't allow direct connections with strangers (although children seeking more friends can share their 'Friend Code' on other platforms), but for older users, chatting with strangers seems to be the app's main appeal. The 'Public Square' shows nine online users (nitting 'refresly' replaces these with another nine), and clicking on someone's profile starts a conversation.

SEXING AND SUGGESTIVE PICS

Almost immediately after our expert downloaded the app, strangers began to message privately – asking for provocative images or sharing explicit photos of themselves. Likewise, in the 'Explore' feed, many of the pictures and videos are innocent – but some are far more salacious. There is always the risk of other users secretly saving a revealing photo and re-sharing it elsewhere.

NEED FOR VALIDATION

Some users – particularly girls – post photos on apps of this type hoping for positive reactions and comments to boost their self-esteem. Suggestive images tend to attract more flattering feedback, encouraging the user to post more frequently and with more explicit content. Conversely, receiving unkind comments about their picture can impact a young user's confidence and sense of self-worth.

NO AGE GATES OR MODERATION

Although users are given an initial choice of the under- or over-12 profile, there is no verification method to confirm someone's age; it is quite clear that the 'older' option offers a more complete experience on the app, but there seems to be no content moderation in place. Likewise, there is a reporting button for users to make a complaint but these reports do not appear to be followed up.

INTRUSIVE FEATURES

HiPal's walkie-talkie gimmick is no different from a normal phone call and seems rarely used; although it allows conversations to still be heard while a phone is locked, which could have awkward results. HiPal also offers 'boom' messages: unmissable large-text notifications which are highly distracting and briefly take over the phone – users can't access other apps until the message fades.

LARGE GROUP CHATS

The app offers group chats with up to 100 people – both friends and unknown users. This not only means excessive 'boom' messages taking over your child's device, but near-constant notification alerts and – most worryingly – the potential for walkie-talkie chatting and sharing photos with strangers outside parental supervision and apparently with no moderation from the platform itself.

Advice for Parents & Carers

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Remind your child of the dangers of connecting with strangers online. Some may be using the app innocently; others may have more sinister intentions. Encourage your child to consider what information they disclose in private messages and emphasise that they should inform a trusted adult if someone on the internet ever attempts to persuade them to meet in person.

TALK ABOUT SEXING

It can be an awkward conversation (which young people are often reluctant to have), but it's vital to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sharing explicit images, as well as the emotional impact. Make it clear your child should never feel pressured into sexting – and that they should tell a trusted adult if they receive any unwanted explicit images.

BUILD RESILIENCE

With HiPal's lack of moderation, it's imperative that children are prepared for comments they might receive after uploading an image. You can build their resilience and equip them to manage these situations by having them show you any comments they've received. Together, discuss how the nice ones make them feel – and what they could do if someone posted a comment that upset them.

AVOID OVER-SHARING

Young people should think carefully about what they share in their profile, bio and posts. Talk to your child about not disclosing personal details such as phone numbers, other social media accounts or images which could reveal where they live or go to school. It's essential for children to recognise that strangers can assemble a detailed profile of someone based on things they can find online.

CONSIDER MENTAL WELLBEING

Many users on HiPal publicly share photos that are intended to be alluring in the hope of gaining more likes, friends and positive feedback – boosting their self-esteem and making them feel more self-assured. When young people regularly engage with social media platforms, it's important that parents and carers keep in mind the potential impact such platforms can have on mental wellbeing.

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.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

<https://hipal.app/about/privacy.html>



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Community News

Come and join us at one of our

Christingle Services

Saturday 24th December
3.30pm or 5.00pm

A warm welcome awaits you



St Mark's Woodthorpe

Journeying together in Faith

De Vere Gardens, Woodthorpe NG5 4PH

Supporting

**The
Children's
Society**



Christmas at St Mark's Woodthorpe

Candlelit Carols with Burton Joyce Brass

11 December, 6:00 pm

Nativity Service

18 December, 10.30 am

Community Christingle Services

24 December, 3:30pm & 5:00 pm

Christmas Celebration

25 December, 10:00 am



St Mark's Woodthorpe

Journeying together in Faith



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Monday, 12 th December 22	Years 3 and 4 Christmas party
Tuesday, 13 th December 22	Year 6 Christmas party
Wednesday, 14 th December 22	Year 5 Christmas party
Thursday, 15 th December 22	Christmas Dinner day
Wednesday, 21 st December 22	Last day of the Autumn Term
Wednesday 4 th January 23	First day of the Spring Term
Tuesday, 17 th January 23	Phonics and reading evening
Friday, 20 th January 23	Chinese New Year Themed Lunch
Monday, 23 rd January 23	Dukes Barn week for Year 4 – 4 Orange M-W & 4 Yellow W-F
Thursday, 7 th February 23	Safer Internet Day
15 th February 2021	Half Term Week
Tuesday, 7 th February 23	Parents' Consultation Meeting – 3.40-6.30pm
Wednesday, 8 th February 23	Parents' Consultation Meeting – 3.40-6.30pm
Thursday, 9 th February 23	Parents' Consultation Meeting – 3.40-6.30pm
13 th to 17 th February 23	Half Term
Monday, 20 th February 23	Inset Day – school closed to pupils
Thursday, 2 nd March 23	World Book Day
Friday, 31 st March 23	Last Day of the Spring Term
Monday, 17 th April 23	First Day of the Summer Term
Monday, 1 st May 23	Bank Holiday
Monday 8 th May 23	Year 6 SATs week
29 th May – 2 nd June 23	Half Term week
Monday, 5 th June 23	Inset Day – school closed to pupils
Thursday, 29 th June 23	Transition Day (Arnold Hill Transition Day 1)
Thursday, 29 th June 23	New Parents Meeting – 6pm
Friday, 30 th June 23	Year 6 Arnold Hill Transition Day 2
Friday, 14 th July 23	Year 5 Inspire Day at Arnold Hill
Tuesday, 25 th July 23	Last Day of the Summer Term

