



Grove Road Community Primary School

25th September 2026

Weekly Update

Welcome to the latest weekly update, we hope you find the information useful.

Key dates and upcoming events

Please make a note of the key dates and upcoming events in the school.

Important Notice about School Uniform

Please remember to clearly label or write your child's name on their uniform, particularly their school jumper or cardigan. If your child's uniform is un-named it is extremely difficult to ensure any lost items are returned to them.

We also have plenty of pre-loved uniform available to all our families – please just ask rather than buying new.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

School will be hosting a coffee morning on Tuesday 29th September at 9am. Join us for a warm drink, a slice of cake and a little catch-up — all in return for a small donation to Macmillan. We look forward to seeing you.

SchoolGrid

Just a gentle reminder that from the end of September, all school meals must be ordered in advance through SchoolGrid. Children will no longer be able to choose and order their meal in class.

Meals can be ordered well in advance and we encourage families, where possible, to order a week at a time. However, orders can still be placed or changed up until 8:55am on the day of the meal.

If you have not yet used SchoolGrid, please log in and familiarise yourself with the system as soon as possible. If you require any help, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

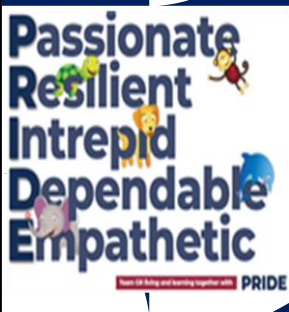
Upcoming Events

Tuesday 29th September-
Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thursday 8th October- flu
jabs. Reception-Y6

School closes Thursday
22nd October at 3:15pm

School reopens Monday
2nd November at 8:40am



If your child pays for school meals, please ensure that your ParentPay account is in credit, as you will not be able to place an order if the account has a zero balance or is in debit.

Please also make sure that any allergies or dietary requirements are correctly recorded on SchoolGrid and that the school office is informed of any changes.

This week's Safeguarding Update

Discord is a hugely popular communication platform where young people can chat, play games and join communities built around shared interests. This guide explores some of the risks that can come with using it, including contact with strangers, inappropriate content, harassment and the potential for gaming and socialising to become a distraction from everyday life.

Thank you for taking the time to read this so that you can continue to support your child to stay safe on line.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, users 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, facts and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about DISCORD

Launched in 2015, and with over 90 million daily active users, Discord has become one of the main ways gamers communicate – with text, voice, and video chat helping people connect around shared interests. For many young people, Discord can be a useful way to talk with friends, join communities, and explore hobbies. However, like any online platform built around communication, it also carries risks around strangers, inappropriate content, spending money, and time spent online. This guide looks at what parents and educators need to know.

AGE RESTRICTION
13+
(with a 16+ age rating on app stores)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

A CHANNEL FOR EVERYTHING

While Discord is strongly associated with video games, it also hosts communities for almost anything you can imagine, such as books, music, film-makers, coding and sport. Some large servers focus on popular games like Minecraft or Fortnite, but many are private, invite-only spaces where friends or communities with shared interests can chat across phones, computers, and gaming consoles.

REAL-LIFE DISTRACTION

Like many social platforms, Discord can become a real time-sink. Although it does not rely on endless scrolling in the same way as some apps, constant messages, group chats, and voice channels can keep young people engaged for long periods, especially in longer servers. As Discord is closely linked to gaming, it may also increase the time they spend playing games.

STRANGER DANGER

Users can choose to stay within private servers with only people they know, but joining public servers will most likely bring them into contact with strangers. Many users are just friendly enthusiasts, yet others could have harmful intentions, including grooming, extortion, or rape threats. In these types of environments, anyone can claim to be another teenager, which can make it harder for young people to judge who is safe to talk to.

A HARASSMENT RISK

There is also a risk from people a young person already knows in the real world. Bullying in the real world can continue online, and Discord servers can make this feel more intimidating, especially if someone uses anonymity or multiple accounts to carry out threatening behaviour. Because Discord works across computers, phones, and gaming consoles, unwanted contact can follow young people into online spaces that should feel safe and private.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

This huge amount of choice can help young people find their tribe – especially when they have niche interests. However, because users can create servers around almost any topic, younger users may still encounter unsuitable or distressing content, even in spaces used to chat. As many games, Discord cannot directly control every conversation, image, or video shared by other users.

A MONEY DRAIN

Discord is free to use, but users can still spend real-world money on it. This may include Discord Nitro, a monthly subscription that unlocks customisation features and larger media uploads, or purchases through the 'Shop' for profile cosmetics and game-related items. Small purchases can add up quickly, especially if spending controls are not in place.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE FAMILY CENTRE

Parents and carers should make use of Discord's 'Family Centre', which gives an overview of a young user's activity while respecting their privacy. Messages are not shared, but adults can view an activity feed and receive weekly email summaries. Discord says this is designed to support conversations about online behaviour, rather than be about constant monitoring.

MANAGE TIME ONLINE

Agree clear expectations around when and how Discord can be used, especially during homework, bedtime, and family time. Encourage young people to turn off unnecessary notifications and leave servers that feel overwhelming. If Discord is mainly used alongside gaming, discuss leaving it during bedtimes so that schoolwork, sleep, and offline friendships are not affected.

CHECK, TALK, REPORT

Review Discord's privacy settings together, including who can send them friend requests or private messages. Use this as a chance to talk to them about strangers, privacy, and personal information, making sure young people know to question suspicious behaviour, such as requests to keep conversations secret. Show them how to block and report these kinds of users and reassure them that asking for help will not get them into trouble.

REVIEW SPENDING CONTROLS

Talk openly about paid features such as Discord Nitro, profile cosmetics, and in-game purchases. Make sure the young people in your care understand that digital items still cost real money. Check parent settings on the device they use, avoid storing card details where possible, and consider adding approval requirements for purchases, particularly for younger or more impulsive users.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, Techradar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, and The New Statesman.

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The National College

see full references on page 10

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 23.05.2020

Attendance

Please see below the attendance totals for each class- Monday 14th September to Friday 18th September.

Aldborough	100%
Jeffers	95.3%
Gray	95.8%
Hendra	96.1%
Bright	99.2%
Pilkey	93.2%
Percival	93.3%
Taylor	97.1%
Reynolds	95.9%
Kibuishi	96.6%

Have a wonderful weekend.

Warm Regards,

Richard Walker

Headteacher