



# HLA News

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021



Dear Families,

Here we are at the end of a somewhat challenging week with regards to the Covid pandemic. There have been a cluster of Covid cases in one of our downstairs classes and we have been supported by Public Health in order to ensure some supportive measures in order to limit the spread of infection. They have suggested us limiting the contact of the affected group which we have already put in place in collaboration with our existing measures. Another suggestion was to recommend those who have had contact with a named positive case to go and have a PCR test. Our office staff will be in touch if this is the case and notify individuals or groups accordingly.

I also need to make you aware we are having a constant battle with regards to maintaining safe staffing levels. This is due to the normal seasonal illnesses and the impact of Covid isolation periods. We are doing our upmost to continue 'business as usual' but please be aware that there may be rare occasions where we have to enforce class closures. This would be the last resort and only based upon health and safety grounds. Any decisions for closure will be communicated as early as possible via Class Dojo and the website.

I am pleased to report that we raised a fantastic £86.95 for Children in Need. Thank you to everyone for your support of this great charity. The students really rose to the occasion and the school was a sea of spots and Pudsey ears.

This week we have been excited at some deliveries of some new sensory equipment to aid learning and interaction in the Blue and Green pathway. We now have a great hurricane tube with lots of different lights and a sensory board that can be adapted to match the topic or theme of study. Keep an eye on Class Dojo and Evidence for Learning for some pictures of our students using this equipment.

Students in S5 went this week to Impington Village College for a taster session to see what can be offered after Highfield. The students were made to feel very welcome and had a good taster of what life at Impington is like. It was also commented that our students conducted themselves very responsibly and had a very mature attitude. Well done everyone!

As part of the relaunch of our Happiness project at Highfield Littleport our students in S3 are developing their enterprise, social interaction, food technology and money skills in a way to spread some happiness. Don't forget every Friday we have a healthy tuck shop so students in S2, S3 and S4 are invited to bring in between 50p and £1 to buy some yummy treats. As the project grows we will hopefully be extending this to more classes. Watch this space!

Also a reminder to share all of the great artwork that you do at home with the students. We have shared some great artwork so far but would love to see some more. Please email any photos through to [HLA-Art@highfieldlittleport.org](mailto:HLA-Art@highfieldlittleport.org)

I hope you have a great weekend and stay safe everyone.

With all best wishes,

Yvonne Skillern

Head of School



## Golden Book Stars of the Week

**Eagles Student**

for being very kind and thoughtful to other children if they are finding things difficult. They are also making amazing progress with their reading at the moment.

**Puffin Student**

for working really well independently this week!

**Robins Student**

for amazing yoga this week and some fantastic verbalisation in the classroom and during talking boxes.

**Swallows Student**

for independent learning in English to create a glossary.

**S1 Student**

for making good choices.

**Two S3 Students**

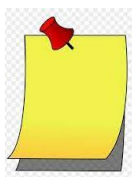
for great teamwork when planning their podcast in ICT and listening to each other's thoughts and ideas.

**S4 Student**

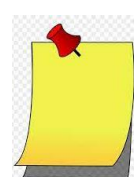
for supporting Mary Hall while she was teaching ceramic to S2 and drama club.

**Wrens Student**

for engaging well during music sessions and using the instruments independently.



## Important Information



- Following the new arrangements for vehicles during drop off and pick up times, can parents please be reminded to use the dedicated spaces for parents to park. In addition please can all drivers be considerate of each other and cooperate patiently when entering and leaving the site and not overtake vehicles already queuing, thank you.
- As we are in a designated government Enhanced Response Area, please remember the need for regular hand washing and social distancing at school. Also secondary aged students who are able to are required to wear masks in corridors and communal areas at school.
- Can I remind everyone that we are not free school. If students bring products in containing nuts it will be necessary to confiscate them for the health and safety of all our learners. We also have some learners with other allergies so would request your understanding if we communicate some items are not bought in. This is to ensure the safety of all concerned.
- If students are identified as close contacts we will inform you and you will be required to take your child to have a PCR test. It is important for us to identify potential cases at an early stage.
- Secondary aged students please don't forget to test twice weekly and report results to [Covid.HLA@highfieldlittleport.org](mailto:Covid.HLA@highfieldlittleport.org) as well as the government website. This is increasingly important now that we are in an Enhanced Response Area within Cambridgeshire.



## Online Safety Tip of the Week:



Take a look at the poster below giving more information for parents about Crypto Currency.

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 issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about CRYPTOCURRENCY

## What is cryptocurrency?

Cryptocurrency is software enabling the exchange and storage of digital 'coins' representing financial value. To monitor who owns which coins, platforms save an online record of every transaction, called a 'ledger' or 'blockchain'. This is secured by cryptography: a set of methods for protecting sensitive information. Bitcoin, released in 2009, was the first cryptocurrency; other platforms have since launched such as Ethereum, Tezos and Filecoin. As cryptocurrency becomes a more established part of digital life, young people are bound to encounter it – so it's vital that trusted adults understand its risks, and how it can be explored and used safely.

### COMPLEX TECHNOLOGY

Like any new software, cryptocurrency comes with bugs, flaws and limitations. Broadly, it hasn't yet evolved to be as user friendly as web browsing or social media. Using it safely means spending time learning about the complicated technology it uses. We would strongly suggest anyone considering getting involved in cryptocurrency should consult specialised tutorials to learn about it properly in advance.

### WIDESPREAD EXAMPLES

Cryptocurrency software for smartphones is often free to download from app stores. Emails with links to cryptocurrency services can land in any inbox. Cryptocurrency is also advertised on search engines, on social media and in online games (for example to buy add-ons which help players level up). It can't be purchased easily without a credit card or bank account, but young people will still be exposed to cryptocurrency in various settings.

### CHANCE OF SCAMS

Cryptocurrency provides another opportunity for scammers to extract personal data and money from unwary web users. Unlike credit card transactions or wire transfers, a bank can't reverse cryptocurrency transactions after a suspected fraud – making it an appealing channel for online extortion. These transactions do leave evidence in the blockchain, however, which means that cryptocurrency scammers can and do get caught.

### BEING LOCKED OUT

If you forget your online banking password, you can reset it by proving your identity in another way. In the world of 'crypto', however, the private key to access your funds can't be reset. Cryptocurrency operates without intermediaries like banks – so no-one stores a copy of users' private keys. This has security benefits, but also presents the huge risk of permanently losing access to your account. Learn how to store private keys securely before purchasing any significant amounts of cryptocurrency.

### RISKY INVESTMENT

Prices can be very volatile, so cryptocurrencies are considered high-risk investments. If you might need your savings soon, don't hold them in cryptocurrency as their value could drop suddenly and sharply. Sometimes, cryptocurrency may be a profitable investment – but note that any gains are taxable. You may even have to pay tax when exchanging one cryptocurrency for another if the currency you're exchanging is priced higher than it was when you bought it.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### AVOID IF UNSURE

In the UK, cryptocurrency is considered risky, because users aren't well protected if something goes wrong. Most cryptocurrencies use software developed by decentralised communities, so there's no customer service and no support if your funds get stolen or you lose access to your mobile cryptocurrency wallet. Unless you understand cryptocurrency, it's probably best not to use it. After all, if you couldn't comprehend the highway code, it wouldn't be safe for you to drive.

### EXPECT EXPOSURE

If your child plays online games that involve some form of virtual currency, and has access to some kind of payment method, they may find themselves in a position to buy and use cryptocurrency. There's probably no immediate danger, but discussing the potential risks with them could be useful. If your child is old enough to understand the concepts of spending and saving or to grasp the basics of programming, then they're old enough to learn about cryptocurrency.

### CHECK CREDENTIALS

Buying cryptocurrency for the first time involves wiring funds from your bank to a cryptocurrency exchange – a business that converts your money into cryptocurrency. They can also store cryptocurrency for you, though this could present a security risk. Cryptocurrency businesses in the UK must now comply with money laundering regulations: the Financial Conduct Authority's website has a list of all businesses that are approved, and it's best to avoid dealing with any that aren't.

### STAY CAUTIOUS, STAY INFORMED

Approach cryptocurrency with caution as well as curiosity. Don't click on links in unexpected emails referring to cryptocurrency and beware of promotions promising free cryptocurrency in exchange for personal information. Avoid mentioning on social media that you own cryptocurrency, as this can attract scammers. Stay informed of potential new risks and regulations by regularly checking specialised sources (such as CoinDesk).

### Meet Our Expert

JP Vergne is an educator and associate professor at University College London School of Management. His award-winning research on technology and organisation has been published in leading academic journals as well as in two books. JP is also a speaker and advises on startups. He tweets at @PirateOrg.

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