



Create, Adapt and Learn Together  
Manchester Road Primary Academy

## NEWSLETTER 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

### ATTENDANCE 11/03/24 – 15/03/24

CLASS	SCHOOL ATTENDANCE	LATES
Bumblebee	96.7%	4
Clover bee	99%	5
Honeybee	87.7%	6
1A	94.5%	8
1B	97%	8
2A	96.4%	5
2B	87.8%	2
3A	93.9%	10
3B	97.9%	2
4A	92.4%	5
4B	98.5%	2
5A	99.2%	5
5B	93.3%	10
6A	97.1%	3
6B	91.8%	9

97% and above Excellent
95% to 96% Attendance is slipping and will be closely monitored
95% or below Poor (high numbers of children are persistently absent)

### THE SCHOOL DAY

8.35 – 8.50am – Arrive on the school playground  
8.40am – Pupils enter school  
8.55am – Gates shut & registration begins  
11.45am – KS1 Lunch  
11.50am – KS2 Lunch  
12.35pm – Afternoon session begins KS1  
1.05pm – Afternoon session begins KS2  
3.15/3.20pm – End

### LATENESS THIS WEEK

Day	Lates
Monday	16
Tuesday	22
Wednesday	9
Thursday	17
Friday	27
Total Lates This Week	91

Lateness has a massive impact on children's learning. Not only on the children that are late, but also on the children in the classes being disrupted. Please ensure your child arrives at school on time each day.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Early Years Blackpool Zoo
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3 Droylsden Walk
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents Evening
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 1 Manchester Runway Visitors Park
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Year 5 Viking Workshop
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 Llandudno

### CLASS ASSEMBLIES

Parents are welcome to come and watch their child's assembly on the following dates.

Class	Date	Time
3A Miss McDougall	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	9am
3B Miss Hepburn	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	9am
1B Mrs Simpson	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	2.40pm
6B Mrs Pearson	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	9am

**Please note: these dates could potentially change. If they do, we will inform you.**

# STAR OF THE WEEK

CLASS	STAR
HONEY BEE	Kianna for having a fantastic attitude to her learning and making fantastic progress!
1A	Kaori for amazing counting in 2s, 5s and 10s in Maths!
1B	Hussain for great work in maths counting in 2s,5s and 10s
2A	Leo for amazing MRPA role model always displaying our learning powers.
2B	Ava for showing empathy and kindness and always offering to help others.
3A	Poppy for an outstanding attitude to learning, developing her confidence, resilience and recall, particularly on our trip to Quarry Bank Mill!
3B	Hollie Wilson for demonstrating all of our school values consistently throughout this week, being a lovely friend and contributing so well in all lessons.
4A	Delia for resilience in maths and pride in her work.
4B	Jasmine for showing resilience in all her lessons this week.
5A	Madeleine for being an exceptional student who is always resourceful and willing to support her peers!
5B	Usman for great problem solving in maths.
6B	Pippa for always trying hard and being a lovely member of the class.
THE HIVE	Lois for Marvellous Maths on our Tesco trip

## EASTER HOLIDAY CLUB

Mr Smith will be holding an Easter Holiday Club which will run between Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April.

The club will run from 9-3am and children will need the following:

- Clothing for sporting activities
- A coat
- Drink
- Snacks
- Packed lunch.

The cost of the club is £15 per day. If you would like to book a place for your child, please book this via MCAS.

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# HiPAL

AGE RESTRICTION

12+

(with reduced functionality for under-12s)

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.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### 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 (hitting 'refresh' replaces these with another nine), and clicking on someone's profile starts a conversation.

#### SEXTING 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 SEXTING

It can be an awkward conversation (which young people are often reluctant to have), but it's vital to talk openly and non-judgmentally 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 made 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 Cara Sullivan is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented national (long and other) safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the National Government Commission on Online Use and Sexting involving young people in the UK, USA and Ireland.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



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