

Moorfield News

Responsibility Perseverance Compassion Thankfulness

Dear Parents and Carers,

WELCOME BACK

A Happy New Year to you all and welcome back to school after the Christmas break. I hope you all had a wonderful holiday and are looking forward to the new year ahead.



It has been a challenging first week back with the cold weather but we did everything we could to guarantee the school was open throughout the week. Thank you to all the staff and in particular our Premises Manager Mr Wilks and School Business Manager Ms Laforce, who worked tirelessly to ensure the outside spaces were accessible.

Thank you to our school community for their patience at the start and end of the school day, particularly on Wednesday when we had 400 children to exit school through the main doors!

It is supposed to warm up by the end of the weekend and into next week so hopefully some normality to the school day.

TERM DATES 2025/26

We have had a few inquires about the term dates for the next academic year. The dates on the Stockport Council website for 2025/26 are the official dates we follow. You'll find those dates here. <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/school-term-dates/2025-to-2026-term-dates>

Our five INSET days will be announced when they are agreed with the Governing Body at the next meeting in February. I will share these as soon after this meeting as I can.

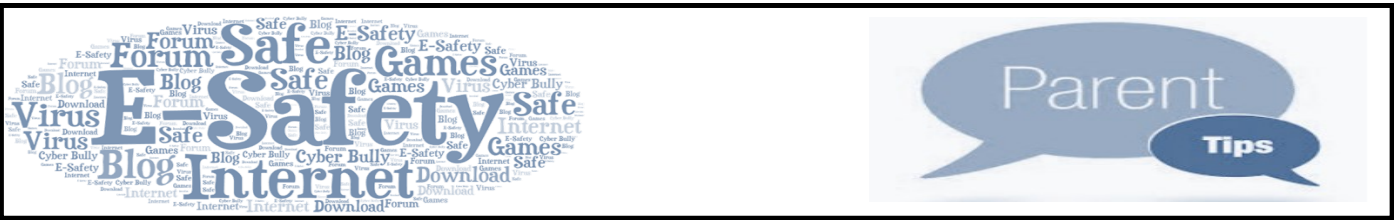
AND FINALLY ...

I thought I would share with you the impact of the rain that came down on New Years Eve. This is the entrance to the school field from KS2 and the subsequent lake that has appeared on the field we share with HGHS. Those who have been at Moorfield for a number of years, tell me that they have never seen the field flooded to this extent and certainly not up to and beyond our school gate. Not looking good for sports day is it!

Best wishes,

Paul Anderson
Headteacher





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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about JUSTALK KIDS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SUBSCRIPTION FOR PREMIUM ACCESS

While JusTalk Kids is free, there's the option to subscribe to a kids' premium account or a premium family account. At a cost, this feature allows children to have access to more fun features such as games they can play with others in a call; exclusive stickers; a badge denoting them as a premium subscriber; and exclusive ringtones and themes.

RESISTANCE TO CONTROLS

JusTalk Kids endeavours to allow children the sense of having a chat-based app while allowing parents to set controls (within the app or from their own adult JusTalk account). The basis behind this is positive; however, some children are challenging their parents by refusing to use JusTalk Kids, preferring to use the adult version without any restrictions in place.

KNOWING THE PARENT PASSCODE

After downloading JusTalk Kids, parents can set a passcode which users must enter to add contacts. The parental controls help to manage which content can be viewed and who children can add as a contact: this then allows children to chat with friends in a controlled environment. However, prospective contacts don't have to know a specific username. In theory, someone could type in a random name and then add them as a friend.

POTENTIAL DATA LEAKS

JusTalk and JusTalk Kids claim to be secure and encrypted, going so far as to state that even the developers themselves won't access your data. However, a security lapse in 2022 highlighted that messages were not in fact encrypted – leading to concerns around the security of the app and the transparency of the development team.

CYBERBULLYING

Online chats can provide a sense of anonymity, leading some users to post things which they wouldn't normally say in person. Combined with the option of group chats, there's a risk that young people might join in with this kind of behaviour, escalating it further and potentially turning what should be a fun experience into something deeply negative.

TOO MUCH SCREENTIME

A report by the UK Parliament Education Committee highlighted a 52% increase in children's screen time between 2020 and 2022 – as well as finding that 26% of children used their smartphones in a manner consistent with screen addiction. Introducing children to social networking apps when they're too young can lead to bad digital habits and a reliance on technology from an early age.

Advice for Parents & Educators

JUSTIFY THE CONTROLS

If parents allow their child to use JusTalk Kids, they should explain that they're putting parental controls in place to make the app safer. Make sure the child knows not to put their full name on the account and doesn't use a photo of themselves as their profile picture. This type of open discussion will help to ensure that a child is aware of the app's potential risks and knows how to reduce them.

TALK ABOUT ONLINE FRIENDSHIPS

Young children could be excited to use this app. However, highlight that they must do so in a positive, respectful and responsible manner. While it can be easy to get caught up in a group chat, it's important to talk to others politely and call out any unpleasant behaviour. Discuss the importance of limiting their contacts to people they know in real life and use parental controls to enforce this.

DOS AND DON'TS OF SHARING

Some children might not understand the potential dangers of oversharing online. Set clear guidelines around what *is* and *isn't* safe to share on the internet, and discuss the concept of a digital footprint. Children need to understand that the things they say and share online can never be completely erased. Even if they delete it themselves, it can be saved and distributed by others.

ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Apps like JusTalk can sometimes lend themselves to bullying behaviours. Parents should monitor what their child is sending and receiving, check in with them regularly and encourage them to share their feelings (both positive and negative) at home. Remind them that they can block a contact if someone is treating them disrespectfully.

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.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/justalk-kids>



Picture News

TAKEHOME



In the news this week

UK Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, has stated that building new homes is a 'top priority.' The government has announced changes to planning rules, aiming to make it easier to build homes in the countryside. Local areas have been set targets to deliver a total of 370,000 new homes each year in England.

Things to talk about at home ...

- What type of home do you live in? What are the advantages of where you live? Is there anything you find difficult about it?
- Talk about the area around your home. What facilities are there?
- Ask an adult whether they know of the nearest 'green belt' areas close to where you live.

Should you be allowed to build homes anywhere?



Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

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