



Newsletter 24th January 2025

Attendance : 13/01/25 – 17/01/25

Class	School Attendance	Lates
Nursery	98.0 %	1
Reception	94 %	4
Year 1	96.2%	9
Year 2	95 %	5
Year 3	95.9 %	3
Year 4	92.9 %	4
Year 5	90.6 %	10
Year 6	85.9 %	8

Upcoming Events

Day	Event
Mon 27 Jan	2 Boards & A Passion 1.30pm Production for Nursery, Reception & Y1
Fri 31 Jan	Coffee Morning 9.00am School Hall Donations to MIND Charity
Thurs 13 Feb	Valentine's Disco 5.30pm – 6.30pm Y1-Y6 children
Fri 14 Feb	Last Day of Term
Mon 24 Feb	INSET DAY School Closed for children
Tues 25 Feb	Term Begins
Thurs 6 March	World Book Day
Fri 14 – Sun 16 March	Robinwood Residential Year 6 children
Wed 19 March	Year 3 Learning Together Afternoon 2.15pm-3.20pm
Fri 21 March	Comic Relief Day Non Uniform – donation
Wed 2 April	Parents Evening 3.30pm – 8.00pm
Fri 4 April	Last day of term
Tues 22 April	Term Begins

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)

Lateness w/c 13/01/25

Day	Lates
Monday	11
Tuesday	8
Wednesday	8
Thursday	9
Friday	8
Total Lates for This Week	44

Lateness has a huge 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.

The School Day

8.30am – 8.50am – Arrive on the school playground

8.40am – Pupils enter school

8.55am – Gates shut & registration begins

12 – 1pm – Lunch

3.20pm – End of School Day



Star of the Week



Bungalow Class	Daisy-Lou
Den Class	Oliver
Hive Class	Amelia-Rose
Nursery Class	Rayne
Reception Class	Ada
Year 1	Isaac
Year 2	Mila
Year 3	Ishaq
Year 4	Raid
Year 5	Henry
Year 6	Kallum

Valentine's Disco



The Valentine's disco is on Thursday 13th February in the Hall at 5.30pm for pupils in Years 1 to Year 6.

Tickets are now on sale at the School Office, £2.00 payable on your app or cash at the office.

Theatre Production



On Monday 27th January the production company '**2 Boards & A Passion**' are coming to school to perform **Mavis and Malcom: Party Time** for the children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1. This will take place at 1.30pm in the school hall. Parents are invited to come and watch.

Please let us know if you are going to attend.

Donations



Do you have any unwanted, used gifts?

Mrs Boyle is collecting donations for the Summer Fair, if you have any unwanted used gifts that you would like to donate, please take them to the school office.

Communication



If you wish to speak to a member of the SLT please contact via the school office or email admin@oakfieldhyde.co.uk

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 conversations 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-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sending 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 Claire is the Director of the Safety Consultancy, a website trust researcher who has developed and implemented e-safety and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government concerning internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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#WakeUpWednesday