



### Headteacher Message

Good afternoon,

It has been a busy week in school with visitors, visits out and the Y5 residential. Everything is going really well. It is particularly nice to be able to start using the school field and getting the children out and about. There are lots of opportunities for local walks and using the outdoors as part of the learning.



This week Y2 had a wonderful trip to Leighton Moss. They explored the different animal habitats and loved their day of outdoor learning.

Year 5 have been amazing!

It has been lovely to be able to call up and see the children thriving and flourishing in a different environment. They have shown courage, determination and taken on lots of new challenges. We are so very proud of the children! Mrs Owens will be organising all the photographs and arrange a way in which you can view them. We have already started to make plans for the Y4 children who will have this wonderful experience next year!



Have a wonderful weekend,

Mrs Dodd and the team at St Peter's

### Our School Worship and Christian Characteristics



Our Christian Worship this week has focussed on self-control. This week we explored respect and how we value and include everyone. On Tuesday it was St George's Day, Rev. Mark led our school worship on the patron Saint of England, Saint George.

### Sporting Events

#### Champions League WINNERS 2024!

Well done to our Y5&6 St. Peter's football team, who brought the Champions League trophy back to our school cabinet!

On Monday night, the team secured their victory amongst some fantastic competition from the other schools in our area and were fantastic sports. We are very proud of the children who have been part of the league and how they conducted themselves.

As always, thank you to everybody for making this happen. A special shout out to Mr Kitchen and Miss Walker for stepping in to take the team.



## Stars of the Week



Stars of the Week receiving a Headteacher Award are...



Class	For...
Skylarks - <b>Gabriel</b>	Being wonderful. You always try your best in class and are kind, considerate and a superstar.
Sanderlings - <b>Vicky</b>	Vicky has worked hard showing respect, kindness, determination and is a superstar in the class.
Oystercatchers - <b>William</b>	Being amazing! We are so proud of you. You always are ready for learning, showing courage, determination, kindness and curiosity.
Eider Ducks - <b>Joseph</b>	Is always listening, working hard and fantastic in all areas of school life.
Turnstones - <b>Esamae</b>	Being wonderful. She is kind, considerate always helping others and positive in all aspects of school.
Dunlins -	All of Y4 have been recognised for being amazing this week! They have been polite, resilient coped with changes and just wonderful. (Rewarded with an extra playtime!)
Lapwings -	Y5 have had a wonderful week at Lakeside and have shown courage, determination and resiliency.
Curlews- <b>Lana</b>	Lana is amazing! We are so proud of your positivity, can do attitude and resiliency.

**Well done to all of our super stars who have made us all extremely proud this week.**

### Dogs Trust



This week we welcomed Sam from The Dog's Trust to St Peter's. She led a wonderful assembly on Wednesday and then went to every class to lead interactive sessions. Sam talked to the children about dog safety and how to keep safe around dogs. Sam will return next week to meet with Y5 who were busy at Lakeside, ensuring all classes receive this great opportunity to learn from Dogs Trust.

### Group Chats and Online Safety

We have continued to highlight group chats and use of group chats. This week I have added an advice guide to the bottom of the newsletter. This provides guidance on ways in which we can support monitoring and ensure our children are kept safe whilst they use their technology.

**Information from The National College** <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/group-chats>

Messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. Whilst they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

### Book Club

As this week has been so busy with educational visits, each class have had their own book club and shared some wonderful titles. We will continue to share book club information from next week, when all classes are back into their routine.

## General Reminders

### Arrival Times

This week, we have noticed an improvement in children arriving to school on time. Thank you to everyone who is making a conscious effort to arrive at school for 8.35am when the gates open. We would love to see this positive change continue and urge anyone who is struggling to get their child to school on time by 8.45am at the very latest (gate closure), to contact us for help.

### New Lunch Menu

You may remember that before the Easter break, we sent home paper copies of the Spring / Summer menu. Whilst there are some similarities, there are some changes and we would appreciate if your child usually has school lunches, to read through this menu with them at home. This is to ensure that they are aware of the choices and can identify something they will be happy eat from the menu on each day. We appreciate new foods can be a challenge for some children, and whilst our lunchtime staff work very carefully with children to encourage exploration of new foods, we appreciate support from home to ensure children do not go home hungry.

### PE Kits

Whilst it can still be quite cold outdoors due to the confusing weather at the moment (!), Mrs Biggs would like to remind all that children can bring a warm pair of leggings / joggers and warm jumper for outside PE lessons if you wish to send them. These can be brought in to be kept in PE bags which remain in school and are sent home at the end of each half term to be washed and returned.

### Parking and Road Etiquette

Parking continues to be an issue around school with some cars parking on the yellow lines. As we move into the warmer months, please consider walking to school, parking a little further so that lives are not endangered and congestion reduces around school.

### Lost Property

Please come to check Lost Property!

We continue to have a large amount of lost property in school. If the weather permits, we will put this out on a table on the top playground next week. We kindly ask that you ensure your children's items are labelled with names.

### Attendance Changes

The Department for Education (DFE) have announced that there will be changes to attendance procedures and these will be introduced in August 2024. We will be providing further information on the changes, however we strongly advise that no holidays are booked during term time. Fines are increasing for both parents and additional penalties and legal interventions are going to be put in place. School will be advised by the DFE and Local Authority guidance and we will be acting upon the guidance fully.

### Friends Raffle Tickets

There is still time to sell your raffle tickets for the Friends Spring Grand Raffle! We have plenty of additional raffle tickets in the school office if you need more to sell. Thank you

## Food Bank – Donations

Thank you for your continued support with your donations to Morecambe Bay Community Foodbank. We are very grateful for all your donations. Whilst we indicate a class a week, anyone can donate. We have our donation area just in the main entrance to the school.

Class	Friday
Skylarks	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April
Lapwings	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May
Sanderlings	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> May
Dunlins	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> May
Oystercatchers	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May

Rev. Mark has been collecting them weekly from school and delivering them to the Food Bank. There is no expectation to donate, so please only do so if you can.

## Afterschool Club Pickup Location

Thank you to parents / carers for your patience whilst we source a new intercom system for collecting children. We hope the new intercom will be available from Monday next week although we will keep you posted...going forward, Afterschool Club pickups will be via the main school office foyer and not the blue gate.

Please note all half termly afterschool clubs such as those run by external suppliers / teaching staff will remain as normal, with pickup at the blue gates.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

### Dates for the Diary – Week Commencing 29<sup>th</sup> April

Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y6 Mock SATS Week Starts</li> </ul>
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y3 Swimming (AM) – kits in school please</li> <li>• Y5 Geography Mapping Club: 3.15 – 4.15pm</li> <li>• School Council Meeting: 3.15 – 4pm. Applicable only to school council members (please see email sent home today)</li> </ul>
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KS2 JAM Club: 3.15 – 4.15pm</li> </ul>
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St George's Day themed lunch. Please remember to send your child with a packed lunch if you have not pre-ordered a lunch for this day.</li> <li>• Y3 Ukulele – please ensure you remember to bring your child's Ukulele before the lesson starts at 1.15pm</li> <li>• R/1 Lil Beatz Dance Club: 3.15 – 4.15pm</li> </ul>
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y4 trip to Heysham Nature Reserve – please see letter sent home for details and ensure ParentPay is complete with consent, lunch choices etc.</li> </ul>

### Key Dates for Summer Term 1

- **Y4 Nature Reserve Trip** – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May *and* Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June
- **Early May Bank Holiday (School Closed)** – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May
- **Class Photographs** – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May
- **Y6 SATS Week** – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May
- **Go Velo Bikeability (Y6)** – Week Commencing 20<sup>th</sup> May
- **Y4 LHSSN Primary Sports Olympics Festival** – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May
- **Oystercatchers Class Worship** – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May @ 9am in the school hall
- **End of May Bank Holiday and Half Term** – Week Commencing 27<sup>th</sup> May



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

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## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

### BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

### EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

### SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

### UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

### NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert: potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

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### CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

### GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

### BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

### PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

### AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

### SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

### 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: <https://www.nationalonlinesafety.com/parents-carers/parents-carers-what-you-need-to-know-about-group-chats>