



St Ursula's Catholic Primary School

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

#18

Dear Parents and Carers,

Although we are approaching the last half term of the academic year, there is definitely no slowing down at St Ursula's. Staff are working hard, planning lessons and school events to further engage, support and challenge our pupils. Our school calendar has never been so packed!

At St Ursula's we acknowledge the great value of educational visits in broadening and enhancing both the learning and social experience of our pupils. The pandemic meant that our usual trips were postponed or remote alternatives were provided but now our trips are returning, our pupils are once again having these memorable experiences.

Reception – Visiting Harold Hill Library on 6th July.

Year 2 – Visiting Eastbury Manor House on 26th May and Colchester Zoo on 24th June.

Year 3 – Visiting Verulamium Museum on 6th June.

Year 4 – Visiting Weald Park on 25th May and Stubbers 23rd June.

Year 5 – Visiting Rainham Marshes 13th June.

Year 6 – Visiting Danbury on 7th-10th June, Citizenship Trip on 24th June and Romford Metro Bank on 5th July.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND BRITISH VALUES WEEK 2022

Tomorrow it is Cultural Diversity Day. We will be celebrating this next week, for the whole week. We will be celebrating different cultures and customs through Art, Literacy, Music and Food. On Wednesday 25th May, we are asking that children come in dressed in traditional clothes that are significant to their culture or to come in the colours of their country's flag. We ask that each child bring in a donation of 50p to donate to UNICEF.

In addition to this, we will be celebrating with food. We would be delighted if each child brought in a snack that is from their country to eat in class during our snack time in EYFS and Key Stage 1 and during lunch in Key Stage 2. Each child will eat their own snack but will have the opportunity to talk about it to the rest of the class. We are a nut free school and continue to ask that the snack not contain any nuts.

Mrs Whittet invited parents to share information about their culture with the rest of the school. This could be performing a song or a piece of music, a dance, reading in a different language, answering questions about your culture, cooking/eating or showing off special clothing. We have only received 1 response. If you would like to do this, could you please send in a Power-Point presentation, a recorded video, photos, or any other media to the school office no later than 12:00pm on Monday 23rd May.

To end the week we will be celebrating the Platinum Jubilee by hosting a whole school picnic and dress-up day on Friday 27th May. On this day the school kitchen will be serving a special Platinum Jubilee lunch. After lunch, children will be having a picnic on the school field where cake will be served with other treats. We are inviting children to attend school wearing colours of the British flag.

REMINDER: BOUNCE BONANZA

Friday 1st July is our Bouncy Castle Day. Throughout the school day, each year group will be given an allotted time to use the bouncy castles and this will mean that children will have more time bouncing and parents will not need to supervise as staff will do this during the day. Tickets cost £5 per pupil and can be bought through SchoolComms.

NURSERY GRADUATION CEREMONY

On Friday 15th July we will be hosting our very first 'Nursery Graduation Ceremony'. Many of our children will be moving on to Reception at St Ursula's Catholic Primary School while others will be attending other local schools from September. We hope this ceremony will teach our children about change as they move on to a new chapter in their life. The ceremony itself will include a small presentation and singing, followed by the children collecting their certificates. This ceremony is intended to be both fun and memorable.

Attendance TOP FIVE

1	St Matthew's	100%
2	St Teresa's	98.33%
3	St Martin's	97.08%
4	St Thomas'	96.25%
5	St Paul's	95.09%

SUMMER TERM DATES

-  23rd May-25th May: Parent Phone Consultations
-  25th May: Yr 4 Weald Park trip
-  26th May: Yr 2 Eastbury Manor House trip
-  27th May: Queen's Platinum Jubilee Picnic
-  30th May - 3rd June: Half Term
-  6th June: Yr 3 Verulamium Roman Museum trip
-  7th -10th June: Year 6 Residential
-  13th June: Year 5 trip to Rainham Marshes
-  20th—23rd June: Sports Week
-  24th June: Yr 6 Citizenship trip
-  1st July: Bouncy Castle Day
-  6th July: Yr 6 Leavers' Mass
-  7th July: Yr 6 Leavers' production & Year 6 Leavers' Disco
-  11th July: Class Transition Day
-  14th July: Curriculum Celebration Af-

Phone consultation booking system closes @ 4:00pm on Sunday 22nd May.

56

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

64

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.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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.

74

Advice for Parents & Carers

117

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.

