



19.12.25
Urmston
Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, that's another term ticked off. It has certainly been one that has been full of all sorts, including Diwali, Black Legacy Month, Anti-Bullying Week, Children In Need (and our 1000 miles (ish), World Mental Health Day, as well as all of the wonderful Christmas shows, including our KS2 Service at St Clements yesterday—thank you so much to everyone for coming...it was a lovely event. That's not to mention all of the curriculum-based learning that our children have been getting their teeth into.

We want to take this opportunity to thank you all for being part of our school community—it is a vibrant, busy, fulfilling, supportive, challenging place to be part of, and we hope you are all able to feel a sense of belonging to it.

We use the word 'challenging' here in such a broad sense and in acknowledgement of the society that we live in and the fact that we all have our own stories, backgrounds and experiences...it really is more important than ever to understand that and continue to have empathy and patience with one another—we'd like you all to know that we certainly will have, and so please do check in if there's anything you need after the festive holidays.

Next term, we very much look forward to working with you—do look out for the four workshop dates with the Curiosity Project, which are likely to be late January/early February; and Parents Evening will be on 19th and 24th March.

Have a lovely Christmas and
happy new year,

From us all at UPS



A message from Reverend Smith...

With my minister's hat (or collar!) on, thank you to everyone who came to the carol service at Greenfield on Sunday; it was a lovely time together and the most we've ever had at that service! And the children sang beautifully and were a wonderful part of the service. And also thank you to everyone who helped contribute to the afternoon tea on Monday which we were invited to; it was a lovely time which we all thoroughly enjoyed. And thank you to Mrs Strickland and her team for organising it!

With my Chair of Governors hat on, I'd like to thank parents and carers for all their support for the school this year and on behalf of the whole Governing Board wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year.

Goodbye Mrs Murphy!

Yesterday was Mrs Murphy's last day. We are saddened to lose such a skilled person but wish her the very best in her future role. Thank you Alice for everything you've done for us...we're sure you'll be a brilliant asset for your new school!



PTA Dates for your diary Follow our Facebook page for dates and news

Christmas Fundraising

Thank you so much to everyone that came to our Christmas Fair, we hope you all enjoyed it. It takes a lot of work and organisation but thanks to our army of volunteers for making it possible.

Our fair, raffle, tea towel and christmas jumper sales have raised almost **£4000** which is amazing! That's enough to fund 4 school trip coaches or the in-school pantos and replacement Bug Club books. So thanks to everyone for your support.

Christmas Raffle

Thanks also to everyone that bought raffle tickets, here's the list of winners:

Prize	Winners
Mini family photoshoot	Daisy J J5
£60 Tai Hing voucher	Daniel S J8
Family Bowling at Atlantic Bowl	Theo H J4
£40 Million Dollar Nails voucher	Dylan L Nursery
£25 Prairie Schooner voucher	Rory H J3
Pomona Beer	Daniel S J8
@Meicotte Christmas Biscuits	Jack T J4
@Buttercreambaby cupcakes	Sophia O J5
Namco Bowling voucher	Henry T I4
Anthem Music voucher	Jack T J4
£50 Travel voucher	Henry T I4
Oxygen family pass	Leon B I4
£10 Jacora voucher	Acer C Nursery
Mermaid Gin	Charlie B Nursery

Finally, we'd like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Enjoy your festive break. We really appreciate your support in all our fundraising efforts.

A couple of events/dates consider...

We will be having four brilliant parent workshops in the Spring term on Navigating Connection with our children, run by psycho-therapists with Curiosity Services —we will confirm dates but they will likely be late January/early February

We'll be in touch about parents evening bookings and specific times but they will be on Tuesday 19th and Thursday 24th March.

Christmas Reading!

Christmas is such a busy time but it can also be a great time to slow down and share a story with a loved one. School reading books may not be sent home over the holidays but there is always access to books online using Bug Club. Your child's login details can be found in their reading record book.

Christmas Holiday Activities and Childcare 2025

Go to [Trafford Directory | Christmas Holiday Activities and Childcare 2025](#) to find information about activities and support services that are available before and during the Christmas Holiday Period locally in Trafford.

Dates, times and ages can vary so please check with your local scheme before attending, also please be aware that providers may not have updated their online information therefore it may be best to email or phone for up to date information.

You can also find out where kids can eat free – or for just a quid – over the holiday period!

Trafford Educational Psychology Service

Parent and Carer information sessions

are returning! Online dates are available to book, and in person sessions through Spring and Summer 2026 will be added to this booking link once venues are confirmed: <https://forms.office.com/e/JFhdJQdEgS>. **Can't attend?** A recording of a previous session and further advice and signposting is available via our Padlet: [Barriers to Education & Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance \(EBSNA\)](#).



Help us Shape the future of Trafford Leisure's Swimming Offer

Trafford Leisure are reviewing it's current swimming offer to ensure it is fit for purpose and meets the diverse needs for all individuals and groups who use our pools.

We are keen to capture the thoughts and experiences of residents who have children with SEND.

We would appreciate you taking the time to share your views. Your voice genuinely makes a difference.

Thank you

[Survey link](#)



Sensory / behavioural on-line questionnaire

The link below is to a survey that you can complete , delving into your child's sensory needs. There are some great strategies suggested too...

<https://semh.co.uk/social-emotional-and-mental-health-semh/behavior-assessment-system-for-children/>

ONLINE SHOPPING FRAUD WARNING

A MESSAGE FROM GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

In the run up to Christmas we know that some of you maybe turning to online shopping to purchase presents.

WARNING – We are aware that fraudsters are targeting this area and want to ensure our community is protected. We are working hard to bring to justice those responsible. Please see our tips for staying safe online.

Have you been offered a highly discounted or considerably cheaper product compared to the original items worth?

STOP - THIS COULD BE FRAUD

The website you are purchasing from was only launched day / weeks ago?

STOP - THIS COULD BE FRAUD

You're asked to pay by bank transfer instead of using the online platform's secure payment options.

STOP - THIS COULD BE FRAUD

A sense of urgency is placed on ordering the product or service so that you don't miss the price / deal.

STOP - THIS COULD BE FRAUD

You receive a fake email receipt / invoice that appears to be from the website you've purchased from or the payment service used to make your purchase. The email address domain doesn't match that of the genuine senders.

STOP - THIS COULD BE FRAUD

ActionFraud

Report Fraud & Internet Crime

actionfraud.police.uk





THE TRAFFORD GM FAMILY HUB APP



A one-stop shop of health information from pregnancy to teenage years for you and your family

- 75 languages
- Tailored information for YOUR family
- Details of support services local to you

Download the app by scanning the QR codes below and start using it today!

Download
the app by
**SCANNING
THE QR CODE**



APPLE



ANDROID

Being a parent



TRAFFORD
FAMILIES



EMPOWERING
PARENTS
EMPOWERING
COMMUNITIES

Learn skills

- ♥ Get support for the challenges of being a parent
- ♥ Explore ways for you and your child to express feelings and emotions, in a way that helps your relationship

Self care

- ♥ Take the guilt out of self-care and share tips on managing stress
- ♥ Connect with other parents and carers to build your community support network
- ♥ Improve communication in your family, reduce stress and increase family wellbeing

Feel prepared

- ♥ Build on your strengths and learn more so that as your child grows and develops you are prepared to respond to new challenges - not react!



Find out more

Go to www.trafford.gov.uk/epec
email epec@trafford.gov.uk
or scan the code to register your interest:



Just a thought...

"1. Finnish families have a quiet ritual called the closing question. Before bed, every child answers one thing: "What was the last good moment today?" No screens, no advice, no correction — just the sentence, said out loud. 2. Psychologists tracking these families for a decade found something remarkable: by adolescence, their baseline anxiety was 60-80% lower than average. The secret wasn't optimism — it was closure. 3. When the brain names a positive event before sleep, it ends the day's stress loop. Cortisol levels drop, the hippocampus encodes the memory as safe, and the nervous system learns: the world can finish well. Without that ritual, thoughts keep running — unfinished, unprocessed, unresolved. 4. Modern kids fall asleep under blue light, endless comparisons, and dopamine noise. Their brains never get the signal that danger is over. So they wake already tired — bodies in recovery from days that never emotionally ended.

I'm a Parent...Get me out of here!



We run a fully funded 6 week course for parents and carers who have children aged 11+ in Trafford schools.



Next course:

11 September - 16 October 2025 (6 Thursdays*)
12pm - 2pm

At the [Counselling & Family Centre, Altrincham](#)

*** Dates 11/09/25, 18/09/25, 25/09/25, 02/10/25, 09/10/25, 16/10/25**
[Book here >](#)

Coming up:

6 November - 11 December 2025 (6 Thursdays*)
12pm - 2pm

At the [Counselling & Family Centre, Altrincham](#)

*** Dates 06/11/25, 13/11/25, 20/11/25, 27/11/25, 04/12/25, 11/12/25**
[Book here >](#)

8 January - 12 February 2026 (6 Thursdays*)
12pm - 2pm

At the [Counselling & Family Centre, Altrincham](#)

*** Dates 08/01/26, 15/01/26, 22/01/26, 29/01/26, 05/02/26, 12/02/26**
[Book here >](#)



Trafford Sleep Services



From September 2025 have made some changes to our Sleep Webinars

- Our **Primary / EYFS Webinar** is suitable for parents/carers of children aged 2-11 years old. These are no longer divided into Infant and Junior
- Our **Secondary+ Webinar** is still available for parents/carers of young people 11 years+, adapted to meet the sleep challenges faced from high school and beyond

Both of these webinars are suited for those with children and young people who have additional needs such as Autism and/or ADHD, mild to moderate learning needs, or physical health challenges.

New to 2025

- We now have a **Specialist Provision Webinar**. This is for parents/carers of children or young people aged 2 - 25 with complex needs and learning disabilities who are attending a specialist educational setting (or where it is being considered, in the case of those 3 and under)
- We are currently trialling some limited evening Webinars between now and Christmas. Availability of these will be shown when booking

Sleep and Therapy Services CIC (Registered Company: 13438824)

Top Tips for... MANAGING SCREEN TIME

According to the latest stats, people aged between 8 and 17 spend four hours on digital devices during an average day. Obviously, a new year is ideal for fresh starts and renewed efforts – so lots of families are trying to cut down their combined screen time right now, creating more moments to connect with each other and relying less on gadgets to have fun. Our top tips on reducing screen time are for everyone, so you can get your whole family involved in turning over a new leaf this year!

Buy Milk

GET OUT AND ABOUT

If the weather's decent, spend some time in the garden or go for a walk. Even a stroll to the local shop would do: the main thing is getting some fresh air and a break from your screen.

TRY A TIMED TRIAL

When you're taking a screen break to do a different activity or a chore, turn it into a game by setting yourself a timer. Can you complete your task before the alarm goes off?

GO DIGITAL DETOX

Challenge yourself and your family to take time off from screens, finding other things to do. You could start off with half a day, then build up to a full day or even an entire weekend.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your family see you successfully managing your own screen time. You'll be showing them the way, and it might stop some of those grumbles when you do want to go online.

AGREE TECH-FREE ZONES

Nominate some spots at home where devices aren't allowed. Anywhere your family gathers together, like at the table or in the living room, could become a 'no phone zone'.

HOLD A SCREEN TIME AMNESTY

As a family, agree specific windows when it's OK to use devices. This should help everyone to balance time on phones or gaming with enjoying quality moments together.

BE MINDFUL OF TIME

Stay aware of how long you've been on your device for. Controlling how much time you spend in potentially stressful areas of the internet – like social media platforms – can also boost your wellbeing.

'PARK' PHONES OVERNIGHT

Set up an overnight charging station for everyone's devices – preferably away from bedrooms. That means less temptation for late-night scrolling.

SWITCH ON DND

Research shows that micro-distractions like message alerts and push notifications can chip away at our concentration levels. Put devices on 'do not disturb' until you're less busy.

TAKE A FAMILY TECH BREAK

Set aside certain times when the whole family puts their gadgets away and enjoys an activity together: playing a board game, going for a walk or just having a chat.

SOCIALISE WITHOUT SCREENS

When you're with friends, try not to automatically involve phones, TVs or other tech. Having company can be loads more fun if your attention isn't being split.

WIND DOWN PROPERLY

Try staying off phones, consoles, tablets and so on just before you go to sleep. Reading or just getting comfy in bed for a while can give you a much more restful night.

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



DEVICE BOX

The National College



National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

NEURODIVERSITY FRIENDLY YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- For neurodivergent young people
- A relaxed, no pressure space
- Let your imagination flow
- Support for your hobbies
- Encouraging self-expression
- A place to be yourself
- Building a friendly community



Scan the QR Code or
-> [Click here](#) <-
to find out more



For ages 10-13, 14-17 & 18-25, online and in-person.

Registered Charity No. 1182361 | hello@starling.org.uk | [@starlingcio](https://www.starlingcio.org) | [starlingcio.org](https://www.starlingcio.org)

ND Navigator Signposting Appointments



TRAFFORD
COUNCIL



A signposting service for parent/carers whose young people are on the Trafford ND Pathways (TCAS and TASC) pre and post diagnosis. These appointments are 15 minutes long. Parent carers will be provided with bespoke signposting directing them to relevant services, support groups and activities from the Trafford local offer. Follow the link below or scan the QR code for appointments May-July.

All appointments on the local offer.





**Free, safe and anonymous
mental health support
whenever you need it.**



Chat with our team of
friendly practitioners



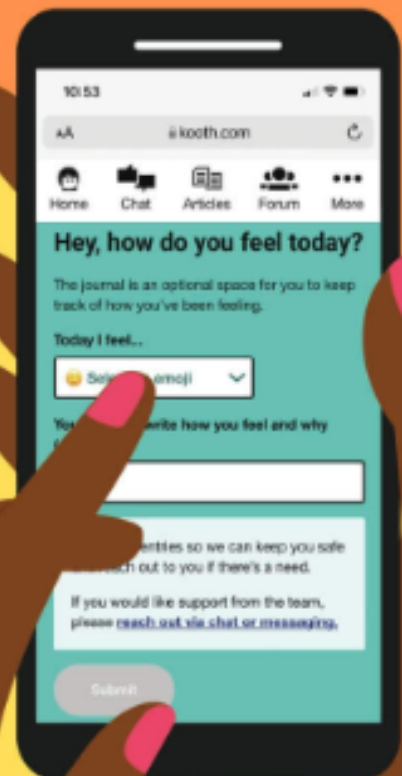
Helpful articles



Self-help tools
and activities



Support from the
Kooth community



Visit **kooth.com** to find out more





FRAGILE MINDS: RETHINKING SMARTPHONES AND THE DEVELOPING BRAIN

While watching my children play in the snow last week, I saw my son trying to force a carrot into the frozen head of his snowman, and it struck me, our brains are a lot like that. Have you tried learning a new skill as an adult? It's slow and frustrating, like forcing a vegetable into ice. But children learn with such ease because their brains are like soft, fresh snow. Malleable and ready to form new pathways.

The beauty of the snow gave us all a reason to be present-to sledge, build, and simply appreciate. It was a pull to get outside, to connect with the world around us. Sadly, though, the virtual world is increasingly becoming a stronger temptation than real, active play. When we allow children unrestricted access to the internet, social media, or inappropriate games, we risk shaping their neural pathways in ways that can become fixed. The instant gratification of scrolling through endless videos conditions their brains to prioritise quick rewards over deeper engagement. Modern childhood is losing the time and space for imagination and exploration, replaced by screens that steal their focus and limit their potential. By setting boundaries now, we allow their minds to grow in ways that foster creativity, resilience, and meaningful connections. Just as snowflakes are unique, so too are our children's developing minds. We aren't powerless in this journey. By making thoughtful choices and sticking together, we can help shape a future where our children thrive.



Meg x

Roots and Wings Play Therapy

**Smart phone free
childhood parent
pact**

<https://parentpact.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

**Join the growing
movement of parents
across Britain who
believe that childhood
is too short to be
spent on a
smartphone**

**It takes 30 seconds to
sign the Parent Pact.
And the more of us
who do, the quicker
we'll change the
social norm - and
protect childhood for
our children and
future generations.**



Online relationship support for parents



Parents in this area can now access **THREE ONLINE COURSES** from the relationship experts at OnePlusOne. Learn to cope with stress and communicate better, wherever you are in your parenting journey.



FOR
ALL
PARENTS

Arguing better

Disagreements are a normal part of life. How you approach them can make all the difference to you, your partner, and your children. You will learn:

- How to recognise stress and how it can affect you.
- How to support each other through difficult times.
- What causes arguments and how to stop them.



FOR
NEW
PARENTS

Me, You and Baby Too

Learn how to navigate the changes that happen in a relationship when a baby arrives, including:

- How you and your partner can support each other.
- How to talk to bring up difficult topics.
- How arguments start, and how to stop them.



FOR
SEPARATING
PARENTS

Getting it right for children

When parents are separating or separated, children can often get caught in the middle. Learn how to manage conflict to minimise the impact it has on your children, as well as:

- How to stop a discussion from turning into an argument.
- How to stay calm and listen as well as talk.
- Skills for finding solutions and making compromises.

To access the courses, you will need a smartphone, tablet, or computer, and a good internet connection. They are all **FREE** to use, so you'll just need to select your local authority area and create an account with a username and password.

You can get started by scanning the QR code or visiting:
www.oneplusone.org.uk/parents

