



Newsletter 15

Newsletter Date
Friday 6th April 2022



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Quality, excellence and passion

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This term, year 4 are learning all about the Tudors. During a brilliant visit to Michelham Priory the children experienced tutor life including the food and music of the time, the justice system and much more.

The staff at Michelham Priory said our children were engaged, inquisitive and very well behaved.

Well done year 4 for being great ambassadors for our school!



Celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

HARRISON[®]
food with thought

Come and Celebrate with us on
Friday 27th May

A choice of Sandwiches
Egg and Cress
Gammon Ham and Cucumber
or
Mature Cheddar Cheese

Carrot and Cucumber Crudities

Cheese and Tomato Pizza Finger

Sausage Roll or Cheese and Onion Roll

Red, White and Blue Iced Buns

We will be holding a 'street party' on
Friday 27th May
to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Children are invited to wear **RED, WHITE & BLUE** in honour of this exciting event.
The school lunch menu on that day will be a COLD lunch, shown here



The cost is £2.25.

Or children can bring a packed lunch.
No need to book, just place your order in class on the day.



Sun Cream

It is expected that your child, during the school day, will be exposed to the sun.

To protect the skin from the harmful effects of the sun, it is recommended that pupils wear: sun hats and have appropriate sunscreen applied before school, this will help to protect the skin.

We are sure you understand that it would not be appropriate for staff to apply sunscreen to pupils. **It is requested that your child does not bring sun protection products to school.**

Diary Dates:

Fri 27th May - Jubilee Celebrations - wear red, white and blue. No donation required.

Fri 27th May - Last day of term

Mon 6th June - First day of term

Fri 17th June - INSET DAY

Tues 21st June - KS1 Sports Day pm only

Wed 22nd June - KS2 Sports Day pm only

Fri 24th June - MUFTI DAY £1 donation towards playground upgrade.

Week beg Mon 27th June - Y5 PGL

Tues 5th July - Transition day for all year groups

Week beg Mon 11th - 13th July - Y6 PGL

Wed 20th July - Last day of term. 1:30pm finish

Calendar dates are subject to change, we will endeavour to give parents/carers as much notice as possible.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Advice for Parents & Carers

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.

