



Alsager Highfields Primary School

Mighty oaks from small acorns grow

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Headteacher: Mrs Rachel Woollam



Friday 4th April 2025



Dear Parents & Carers,

Just like that the Spring term is complete and we are two-thirds of the way through the year! What a scary thought!

Over the past two weeks, we have held both our school and trust Public Speaking Competition for Year 6 pupils. Mrs Harrison and all the staff who had the privilege to listen to the speeches, were blown away by how confidently and clearly the children articulated their 'Big Ambition', especially as it was in front of an unfamiliar panel. Congratulations to our finalists, Mollie, Tom and Shadrach who went to Brine Leas to represent Highfields. A special mention to Grace W too, who narrowly missed out. This year the overall team prize went to Audlem St. James who were worthy winners.

Many thanks to parents and carers who have supported our recent PFA events: our adult quiz and Mothers' Day stall last week, and the Easter bingo yesterday. The quiz was fiercely competitive, as usual, and the bingo well attended. In total the three events raised over £1,200 which is incredible. The PFA are currently funding storage for Opal Play, so we can bring even more equipment outside at break and lunch, as well as looking into a better sound and lighting system for our hall. Being able to buy these things from funds raised, without having to wait really does have a positive impact on the whole school community, so thank you for continued support.

It has been lovely to get out in the sunshine these past couple of weeks and I hope the run of good weather continues for your Easter holidays.

Enjoy the break,

Rachel Woollam

Easter Homework



Please ensure that your child continues to read and quiz over the Easter break. Children can quiz on Accelerated Reader between 8.30am-8.30pm every day of the week. A reminder that Doodle maths can also be utilised over the holidays so that fluency skills can be practised!

Breakfast Club



A polite reminder that our breakfast club, for those in receipt of pupil premium funding, starts at 8.20am. We have had several pupils arriving late recently and this does create problems for the staff who then need to go and set up classrooms. Thank you for your anticipated support.

Parent/Carer Survey



Many thanks to all those who recently completed the parent survey. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with **95%** of parents and carers agreeing with the statements that Highfields was a good school, that was well-led.

It is always heartening to read positives about the school, but equally the surveys are vital to identify areas in which we can improve further and to gauge whether areas highlighted in the past have been successfully addressed. Communication between school and home has once again come out more favourably this year, though comments about further streamlining communication methods will be looked into. Comments about last minute changes to PE days are also acknowledged and as a staff we will look into how we can minimise both changes to PE days as well as last minute notices.

A common negative theme in all of the past surveys has been adults smoking and vaping near the school entrance on a regular basis. This does not show our school in the best light, so please can I ask parents who this does apply to, not to smoke or vape in the vicinity of the school.



Crewe Lifestyle Family Hub
OFFICIAL LAUNCH EVENT
Thursday 3rd April
10am-12pm
Crewe Lifestyle Centre
Moss Square, Crewe
CW1 2BB

Cakes
Face Painting
Arts and Crafts
Magician
Balloon Modelling
Information Stalls
and much more...

St Luke's Mow Cop Community Group
Starting Wednesday 16th April, 10.30-12.30 At Mount Pleasant Village Hall (ST7 3LG)
we are holding sessions for people living with Alzheimers & Dementia and their carers.
Sessions will run on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month.
A large range of activities are on offer including:
singing, armchair yoga, hand/arm massage, crafts, gardening, games and much more.
£5 per session refreshments included
stlukesmowcop@yahoo.com



The launch of the new 'Family Hub' in Crewe promises to be a lively event if you are at a loose end on Thursday 3rd April, between 10am and 12pm.

Also starting over Easter are sessions in Mow Cop aimed at carers and those living with Alzheimers or Dementia.

Bronze Awards

Congratulations to:

YR— Daisy B, Zulkhari M, Oliver D, T-J W, Aubrey I-J, Aubrey L, Ava C, Joseph W, Spencer J, Jacob B-F,

Y3—Briana C

Silver Awards

Huge well done to our silver award winners.

Y2—Mabel W, Oliver H, Brodie W and Jasper P

Y5—Harrison H, Naomi L, Rosie C, Dexter D, Charlie P, Oliver G, Albert R, Grace B, Ellie P, and Sophie W

Y6—Sophia E-B, Heidi F, Bella K, Evie J

Our first 'Gold Award' goes to:

Henry M in Y5, well done Henry.

Word Millionaire

Millionaires are coming in thick and fast now and we are already up to 15 pupils and 4 staff. Congratulations to our latest millionaires:

Amber W Y5, Max G Y3, Benjamin B Y3, Abdullah A Y4, Mrs Harry and me!

Mrs Harry pipped me to the post by 20 minutes at the weekend, not that we are at all competitive!

School Values Awards

As you know the values of:

Determination, Aspiration, Respect and Kindness are promoted daily at Highfields. Huge congratulations to the following pupils who have shown these qualities in abundance this term. The awards were as follows:

Determination:

YR—Jake H, Y1—Paislie G, Y2—Leo R, Y3—Benjamin B, Y4—Bonnie G, Y5—Ivy-Jo C and Y6—Lachlan F

Aspiration:

YR—Hazel M, Y1—Claudia O, Y2—Jessica S, Y3—Mia B, Y4—Charles H, Y5—Shaylee P-J and Y6—Owen M

Respect:

YR—Milo W, Y1—Florence D, Y2—Finn M, Y3—Lily D, Y4—Jenson C, Y5—Sophia S and Y6—Shadrach A

Kindness:

YR—Daisy B, Y1—Leo R, Y2—Emelia C, Y3—Vincent C-H, Y4—Bronte P, Y5—Charlie P and Y6—Amelia T.



Jewellery Club

Our jewellery club raised an incredible £211 by selling items made in the club at break time last week. As intended, they used the money raised from both this sale and the autumn term sale to buy food for our local food bank.

Some of the members of the club, accompanied by Mrs Ryde and Governor Nessie Howard, went to Asda this week where they purchased many food items that are often in short supply or that are seen as 'luxury items.' We



are delighted that we have been able to support our local food bank as we are well aware of the need in our local community.



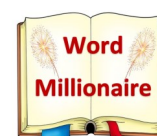
What Parents & Educators Need to Know

The National College have recently produced informational posters on various topics for parents and educators. As most children in key stage 2 now own a smartphone, it is often hard to keep up with the latest trends and dangers presented to young people. I will be including posters in fortnightly newsletters so please do take time to look at page 3!

You can find more information by searching 'wake up Wednesdays' on social media platforms.

I have also had a digital magazine sent to me, aimed at giving parents information on various topics, such as internet safety, healthy eating, phonics and much more. It is worth a look. Please follow the link below:

www.allabout-family.co.uk/nw-magazine/



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

On messaging apps, social media and online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they can be great for connecting with others, there are several risks posed by these tools.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BULLYING

Teens are often trying to find their place in their social group. Unfortunately, group chats can sometimes lend themselves to unkind comments being shared freely, putting people down to make their peers laugh – often creating a vicious circle that encourages others to join in. Being bullied so publicly – in front of friends and acquaintances – can also amplify the hurt, embarrassment and anxiety that the victim feels.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: for instance, starting a new group, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one person 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 events that exclude them – for example, sharing photos from a day out that they didn't attend.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by a child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some apps have features that cause messages to disappear after they're viewed, so children may be unable to report something they've seen, as it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

Group chats can feel more private and protected, allowing children to share inside jokes and video calls with a smaller group of friends. It's important to remember that while the chat's content is private between those in the group, individual users can easily share material with others outside of the group, or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something a child intended as private becoming public is higher if there are strangers in the chat.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely for children to communicate with people they don't know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly towards everyone present. It's wise for young people to avoid sharing personal details and remember that they have no control over what others do with the material they send into the chat.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications they tend to generate. Every time someone sends a message, each member's device will be "pinged" with an alert. This could result in hundreds of notifications a day. This is often highly distracting, and young people's fear of missing out (FOMO) can cause increased screen time as they try to keep up with the conversation.

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CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats can become an arena for young people to compete for social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse which could upset others. Help children consider how people might feel if they behave in this way. If the child does upset someone, encourage them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

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. Ensure children understand 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 can't be certain where it might end up and how it might be used.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Group chats are an excellent way for children to connect and feel like they belong. However, remind them that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded. Instead of responding to the person who's upset them, validate their feelings and empower them by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. You can also encourage children to speak up if they witness others being picked on.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

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

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If a child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block whoever sent the material, report that person to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could put a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise that it's OK for children to simply leave any group chat that makes them feel uncomfortable.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a device bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be an irritating distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to children that they can still be part of the group chat while disabling notifications – and that it would be healthier for them to do so, avoiding a situation where they could feel pressured to respond.

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.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

<https://www.thenationalcollege.com/online-safety/parental-guides/what-parents-educators-need-know-about-group-chats>