

08th March 2018

Thursfield News

Reminder

Please be mindful of our neighbours and local community when completing the school run.

Mr Plant has reinstalled the chains which zone off the school carpark. For the safety of all Thursfield pupils please walk on the pavement at the side of the carpark when completing the school run and not across the carpark.

Thank you

Please remember to bring a Water Bottle to School everyday.

School Website

Our new school website is live. Please use the curriculum pages to explore the content linked to our current block on geography.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 13th March Y1/2 trip to Chester Zoo

Tuesday 19th March—Y3/4 trip to Lichfield Cathedral

Wednesday 20th March—Reception to Y5 Parent Consultation

Thursday 21st March—Y3/4 Easter Assembly—9am

Easter Holiday—School closes Friday 22nd March

Music Lessons

If your child is currently learning to play the Piano/Guitar please check your emails regarding payment and sign up details for the summer term.

What a busy week for sports at Team Thursfield! The week started off with a fantastic performance from our Year 5/6 netball team at Keele University. The girls showed great determination and resilience in their games. They worked extremely hard to win one of their matches. On Wednesday, our year 3's and 4's were victorious in their dodgeball tournament at The King's High School. The team showed some great tactics and sportsmanship, which helped them win the tournament overall! Thursday saw the first of the Kidsgrove Schools Cross Country events. The children had a great start, with all children placing in the top 20 overall. Well done to all of those children involved, we are very proud of you!


**WORLD
BOOK DAY**

Thank you to everyone for supporting this event. The children looked fabulous in their outfits. We hope you enjoy spending your book voucher. Reading unlocks the curriculum and we thank you for supporting your child in their reading journey



Mother's Day

Thank you to the PTFA for organising the secret room event. Everyone at Thursfield wishes all our key family members a Happy Mother's Day and we thank them for their love and support. Have a lovely weekend.

Thank you to all the relatives who joined us for our Mother's Day Workshop. We hope you had a lovely time.

Baby & Toddler Event

Wednesday 13th March 2024

9.30—11am

Class of the Week

KS1

For their excellent behaviour in the Mother's Day events

Golden Book Winners for Writing

RB— Evan B

RKT—James T

1/2M—Lily C

1/2R—Mia A

2O—Ada J

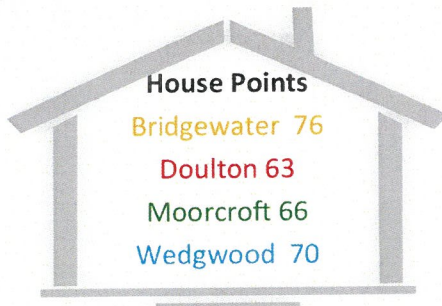
3RT— Billy B

3/4P - Millie H

4T— Grace GE

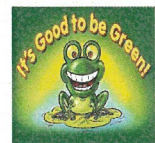
5/6B—Dan S

5/6R— Louis W



Good to Be Green

Congratulations to Mercedes F
for winning the cake this week.



Enjoy!

Whole School Attendance — 93.9%

RB— 94%	RKT—100%	1/2M— 90.7%	1/2R— 96.7%	2O— 97.3%	3RT—95%
3/4P—95.6%	4T—93.1%	5M—94.6%	5/6B—96.2%	5/6R— 91.6%	

Last week's winners: 3KT— 100%

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

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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.

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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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/it_lets_talk_about_talking_online/group_chats/ | <https://www.nos.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/chat-apps/>