

Headlines

What a fantastic week at Collingwood. When we planned to run an 'environment' themed week some time ago, I had not envisaged that it would be such fun as well as engaging for the children. The photos below are just a sample of some of the great things going on. A few can be seen on Instagram and Facebook too this week. We have learned about how we can work together to protect the planet in any small ways. A fun aspect has been building and playing musical instruments made from recycled materials – shakers, xylophones, drums and more. This culminated in a showcase assembly this morning with each class giving a demonstration – it really was an inspirational assembly; well done to all the performers.

Yesterday, we were delighted to welcome the 'runner who writes', Philip Laslett to the school as part of our week. Phil has a series of books called 'The Cheetah Cub Running Club'. He talked about his passions and what inspired him to become a writer for children and also about his marathon running – we were active and energetic outside with him as part of our own running club! I know that many children got signed copies of his books too.

We have also had a few parents joining us this week too to share their experiences and knowledge from their professions or pastimes. Thank you to those who gave up their time – it is really appreciated by the children and teachers.

In nursery, we have welcomed two new staff members in Miss Lizzie Lawrence and Miss Del Busto (Early Years teacher). They have settled in so well already and loved getting to know the children in their care and have made a fantastic contribution to their learning and play already.

It is a bank holiday on Monday, so we look forward to seeing you all back and raring to go for more of Collingwood life next Tuesday. Do enjoy the weekend...

Mr Leigh Hardie, Head

Stars of the Week



Squirrels – Belmia

Woodpeckers – Reuel

Owls – Kayla

Ash – Liam

Maple – Freddie

Birch – Vinnie

Oak – Daisy

Drama – Daisy

Sport – Saanvi

French – Belmia, Minh



House winners

Drake



Art Club's world butterflies



Rehearsals for Mary Poppins step up the pace



Yr 1 building guitars



Cardboard castanets in Yr 3



No cars for school



Electric bike demo in Squirrels



Explore the woodlands in PE



Skipping rope plaited from plastic bags



Building the instruments in Yr 4



Fun and Eco Learning with Nursery

Eco Assembly performances – Recycled Sounds!



Thought of the Week
*Should you say thank you to
a robot waiter?*

Each week, in our class 'Brain Time', we discuss a tricky theme or question to develop our higher order thinking skills.
Do share at home too...

Star badges this week...

20 stars to:

Kayden, Scarlett

30 stars to:

Ollie, Taevan, Jayden, Reece, Luca, Georgia, Ben H, Ted, Rowan,
Dan, Jeyaram

Dates for diaries (new dates or changes in red)

5 th May	New Reception Taster Morning
5 th May	Year 5 trip to Ecology Centre
9th May	School photos – individual portraits
13 th May	Year 4 class assembly (8.50am)
23 rd May	Year 6 residential trip – Southwold
27 th May	Year 2 class assembly (8.50am)
7 th June	Bags to School
10 th June	Year 4 class assembly (8.50am)
10th June	Jubilee Garden Party
11 th June	KS2 Sleepover
17 th June	Year 5 class assembly (8.50am)
17th June	Year 3 and 4 trip to RHS Wisley
23 rd and 24 th June	KS2 Drama production 'Mary Poppins'
24 th June	Year 4 class assembly (8.50am)
28th June	Step up Afternoon – children with next teacher
29 th June	Sports Day
1 st July	Year 1 class assembly (8.50am)
5 th July	Summer Concert
8 th July	Year 6 leavers assembly (8.50am)
9 th July	Summer Fair

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.

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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.

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.



NOS National Online Safety® #WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.nationalonlinesafety.com/keeping-online-safe/social-media/group-chats>