



Important Dates:

- 2nd May**
Bank Holiday
(school closed)
- 3rd May**
5/6 boys football match
- 9th May**
Year 6 SATs week
(Breakfast from 8am in upper school hall.)
- 12th May**
Swimming Gala Final
- 16th May**
Y6 Field Trip
- 16th & 23rd May**
Year 2 SATs weeks
- 24th May**
5/6 boys football match &
FS Assembly 9.15am
- 24th-26th May**
Travelling book Fair
- 27th May**
Jubilee Picnic Lunch
(non-uniform day, wear something red, white & blue) &
PTA Afternoon Tea after school
- 30th May-3rd June**
Half Term
- 6th June**
INSET Day
(school closed)
- Sports Days:
28th June
Years 4, 5, 6
29th June
Years 2, 3
30th June
FS & Year 1
- 1st & 8th July**
Transition Days
(Children spend the day in their new class.)

Attendance Letters

Your child's attendance figures will be sent home today. As you are hopefully aware, children's attendance should be greater than 95% to enable them to maximise their learning of new skills, build lasting relationships, take part in fun activities and develop confidence and resilience. School will be contacting families where attendance is below 90% to discuss how we can help to improve your child's attendance. For other families, please contact us if you would like support as there are many ways and many people in school that can help.

100% certificates for pupils who have attended school every day since Christmas were handed out in Rainbow Assembly today.

Parent Support Group on Wednesday 4th May @9.10am

Our next parent support group will be held next Wednesday 4th May. This is a great way to meet other parents for emotional and practical support and will be attended this month by our school counsellor Sue Bruyel. It is open to all parents so please feel free to come join us for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat. It is hosted by Mrs Champion our Learning Mentor who will be there to provide helpful ideas that work.

It will be held at upper school so please enter via the front entrance.

Please email Mrs Champion if you would like to join at learning.mentor@wickford-pri.essex.sch.uk



Cross Country

Huge congratulations to Sophie, Stanley and Vinnie who qualified for and competed in the Essex Finals at Garon Park in Southend. There were more than 100 competitors in each race and all three finished within the top 40. A truly amazing achievement!



Football

Congratulations to our Y5/6 girls team who played against Glebe Primary school this week. The final result was 2-3. Despite losing, the girls played well as a team, demonstrating our school value of Determination, and had a strong second half. Well done!



After School on Upper School Field

Please supervise children playing on our school grounds at the end of the day. The adventure play equipment at upper school is designed for children older than 7 years of age.

For week ending 22.4.22



FS: Megan Osborn, Ray Swain

Year 1: Eloise Nicholls, Ayla Power

Year 2:

Year 3: Lewis Lovell, Arjun Rajshankar, Harper Hopkins, Charlie Hart

Year 4: Bay Adams, Sophie Matthews, Ella-Rose Buckfield

Year 5: Ava Greenaway, Carter Ridgway

Year 6: Emily Mifsud, Mia Key, Mason Shelley

Outside Achievements

Oilly Ford 4AH Represented England in Sheffield over the Easter Break and came 2nd in Kata & 3rd in Kata Weapons.

Henry Blackham 3EJ has now completed stage 4 in swimming and is now in light blue hats.

Olivia Vaisvilaite 4SR has completed stage 4 in swimming.

Head Teacher's Awards

Positivity & Determination - Leo Mancini-Allen

Determination, Positivity & Rule of Law - Sophie Hammond

Positivity & Respect - Francesca Venables, Amber Uddin, James Power,

Positivity & Determination - Charlie Prestige-Jones, Fynn Lanigan, Ava Mansell-Stevens, Ava Brassett, Evie Treter, Harley Leeson

Determination, Positivity & Individuality - Isla-Rose Barrett

Honesty, Respect & Determination - Max Shelley

All Values - Alfie Allison, Jayden Nicholas, Tito Abiodun, Jake Hussey

Determination & Honesty - Bella Moody

Individuality & Honesty - Andre Talplacido



Rainbow Table

The following children sat on the rainbow tables for lunch today. At lower School: Hollie Argent, Jenna Perry, Sophie, Finley, Albie Mifsud, Sid Ling, Sita Joughlah, Mason Chambers, Joseph Keauffling,

Zoe Jackson, Ebu Mosadomi, Millie Pearce.

At upper School: Emma Clare, Francesca Hobday, Annie Poulton, Haroon Khan, Poppy Ety, Jessica Graham, Ethan Bower, & Charlie Frost.



Well done everyone!



Platinum Jubilee Picnic Lunch

There will be a whole school picnic lunch on **Friday 27th May** to celebrate the Queen's 70th anniversary. Children can wear non-uniform, anything that is red, white and/or blue, and there will be a special menu. Please order [here](#) by Friday 13th May.



After school the same day, our PTA will be organising some more Jubilee fun. Please see their newsletter and [website page](#) for further details.

Year 1 & 2 Spring Assemblies

The assemblies were a huge success this week. Thank you to the parents & carers for their positivity and to the children for their determination and individuality.



Bikes & Sleeping Bag Donations

If you have a spare bike, in roadworthy condition, year 6 would appreciate it for their Bikeability sessions next half term.

They are also looking for sleeping bags for their up-coming Field Trip. If you have a clean sleeping bag in good condition or a bike, please contact the Yr6 team by [e-mail](#).

Travelling Book Fair

24th & 26th May 3.15-3.45pm

There will be a wide range of books available to buy. During the school day, children will have time to look at the books with their teacher. Then after school you will have the opportunity to buy them.

More details will follow nearer the time.



Whole School

Attendance

94%

Weekly Winning Class

3LG 100 %

(w/e 22/4/22)

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

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.

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.



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