



## Newsletter

### 6th May, 2022

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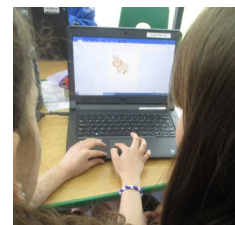
Having a 3-day weekend is always such a treat, but it also messes with my mind in that I spend all week not really knowing what day it is and get to Friday having not completed all the things I had planned to do! We have all continued to enjoy a busy but happy week and your children continue to amaze us all with their enthusiasm and energy for all things School. I hope all of you who celebrated Eid earlier this week had a blessed and happy time.

Our Kingfishers enjoyed their multi-sport competitions at Wixams Academy yesterday, coping brilliantly with the late arrival of the coach which meant they had a very strange lunchtime indeed! Elsewhere in school, children have been dissecting flowers as part of their science work, measuring and balancing different weights, using technology to create simple pictures, learning about the way the Earth moves and how shadows are formed/change, and our Sabrewings have been making their last preparations ahead of 'SATs week' which starts on Monday. Staff have also been busy learning; as we return from the restrictions of COVID, we have been able to access more professional development training—this week various staff have been away from class undertaken training to support and enhance their work in the classroom. It's been a short but busy week!

Next week sees the start of SATs for children in Years 2 and 6—these are statutory assessments which are undertaken by all children across the country. Year 6 children face a series of tests—they are more than ready for what's ahead and we know they will embrace the challenges with confidence and (dare I say it?) enjoyment—a chance for them to show off everything they have learnt in their time at St James'.

Wishing you all a happy and peaceful weekend,

Maria & all the team at St James'





## Welcoming Ukrainians to our neighbourhood

An organisation and fund to support Ukrainian refugees settling locally has been set up through St James' Church, Biddenham and Great Denham. The plan is to urgently build an initial emergency fund, to enable a quick response to assist the Ukrainians who are arriving here.

We will be seeing Ukrainian children in our schools, local clubs and neighbourhoods and this will be an opportunity for you to make them feel welcome and to offer equipment, clothes or toys in good condition. The journeys through Ukraine to reach here are terrifying with the risk of violent assault and murder. The loss of their homes and jobs and potentially their fathers and husbands is traumatising. Ukrainians settling here are starting life with virtually nothing, so any financial donations are also greatly appreciated.

Funds raised will be held in a restricted account and will be used only to help meet the many needs of those refugees arriving in Biddenham, Great Denham, St Mary's and wider Bedford for however long our support is required.

Please consider giving to this fund. There are a number of ways you can make a donation:

1. By bank transfer – sending your donation to the following account:

Name: Biddenham PCC

Sort Code: 60-02-13 (NatWest Bank)

Account No: 5131 7710

In the reference field please enter "Ukraine" followed by your postcode and house number. Gift Aid will be claimed where possible – adding 25% to the value of your donation.

2. By cheque – payable to “Biddenham PCC”.

Please include a note of your name and address so as to allow Gift Aid to be claimed and add "for Ukraine".

3. Place your donation in a yellow Gift Aid envelope (available in St James' church). Please mark the envelope "Ukraine".

Donations can be sent to the St James' Church PCC treasurer at 32a Church End, Biddenham, MK40 4AR. Alternatively, donations can be handed to a churchwarden or simply placed in the weekly collection in St James' church. Also you can call 01234 353662 or 07973 264647.

Thank you for your invaluable support in welcoming refugee Ukrainians to our neighbourhood.

We're looking for any donations of good quality, nearly new toys (especially for teenagers), smartphones which older children can use to stay in contact with friends and families in other places, or good quality bikes for children of all ages, especially teenagers. Please contact if you can help.

### St James' CEVA Primary School Term Dates 2022-2023

**Legend:**

- INSET Day
- School Holiday
- Bank Holiday
- School Open

**September 2022**

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

**October 2022**

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

**November 2022**

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
		1	2	3
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

**December 2022**

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

**January 2023**

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
				1
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

**February 2023**

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28			

**March 2023**

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

**April 2023**

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

**May 2023**

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

**June 2023**

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
		1	2	
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

**July 2023**

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				



Please do not let your child make use of social media such as Snapchat, Facebook, Whats App etc. Most social media apps require users to be 13. If your primary aged child signs up for social media, they are lying about their age. This means that the App thinks they are at least 2 years older than they really are. This means it will think they are 18 when they are actually only 16 or younger. At 18, many Apps start to allow adult content to be shared within the App—do you want you 15 year old to be fully exposed to adult content?

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# 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.

### 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.

**National Online Safety®**  
#WakeUpWednesday

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) @natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

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We have been advised by the new owners of the Three Tuns that the car park will be closed for the next 6 weeks because of refurbishment.

Work is due to start from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May. Please do not park/attempt to park in the car park over this period. Please also think through your usual driving routines so that you are still able to get to school on time.

Thank you.

The Etches Collection – Museum of Jurassic Marine Life, located on the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site in Dorset have just launched the Inaugural Children's Fossil Competition, together with our proud sponsors [PetroStrat](https://www.petrostrat.co.uk/). For the next 4 months children between the ages of 5-16, who live in the UK will have the opportunity to enter one of their fossils into the competition and get the chance to have it on display at our museum. Every child that enters the competition will receive a personal annual pass to the museum that is valid for the year and will also get an e-certificate. The 6 winners will have their fossil on display alongside our collection for an entire year.

If you know any budding palaeontologists, geologists, earth scientists or fossil hunters out there in the UK between the ages of 5-16 years old, please let them know about this fun and unique competition for the chance to show off their knowledge and fossil collection to the world!

- This competition is for children to earn the chance to display their fossil finds alongside the collection on display at The Etches Collection – Museum of Jurassic Marine Life.
- The competition will be open to all UK residents between 5 and 16 years old. (Must have parent/guardian permission to enter)
- Every child who enters the competition will receive a personal annual pass to the museum. (Valid from September 1st 2022 - September 1st 2023.)
- The competition has two age ranges 5-10 and 11-16. There will be 6 winners in total, 3 from each age range.
- The competition window is open from Monday, March 28th, 2022 until Friday, August 5th, 2022, where the children will have time to submit their entry form along with a written paper, presentation or video explaining where the fossil was discovered, what it is and why they believe it should be on display at the museum. No fossils are to be submitted at this stage in the process.
- We wholeheartedly encourage families to lend their support to a child's entry into the competition, especially in relation to the technical/digital support, such as email and creating viewable files.

<https://www.theetchescollection.org/fossilcomp>