



Newsletter 21 – 19th February 2024

Knowledge begins with respect for God (Proverbs 1:7)

This half-term's value is 'Forgiveness' (Ephesians 4:32)

Forgiveness

In today's assembly we spent time thinking about forgiveness, our value for this half term. We were reminded that as God forgives us, so we should forgive others. Lack of forgiveness can lead to the breaking up of relationships. It can turn into bitterness and can even affect your health.



School Photographer

Advance notice that the school photographer will be in school on Thursday 7th March to take photographs of individual children and family groups. As usual, there will be the opportunity for parents to bring younger brothers and sisters in at the beginning of the day to be included in the family group photos.

Home Reading

Reading is a vital skill for children to master. If a child cannot read confidently, it can negatively impact their learning in every subject.

Your child will bring home a reading book every night. Please support your child by listening to them read regularly.

Your child does not need to read a whole book every night. Instead, spend around 10 minutes reading a few pages and asking your child questions about what they have read to check that they have understood it. Reading is not just about recognising the words on the page – it is being able to describe what has happened and why. There are often questions in the front or back of a reading scheme book to help you with this.



Please support your child by listening to them read as often as possible, sign your child's reading record book to confirm that your child has read and add a comment too. This is the best way you can help your child to succeed in their learning.

Water for Africa

Thank you for supporting Ella and Jumaanah's efforts to raise money to provide people with clean drinking water in Africa. We will let you know the total raised next week.

Best wishes

Julian Rogers
Headteacher



Blackburn with Darwen Parents in Partnership are hosting the

DISABILITY INFORMATION DAY

Tuesday
27th February 2024
12.00pm – 5.00pm

King Georges Hall, Northgate, Blackburn BB2 1AA

Come and visit us at our annual Disability Information Day for children and adults, a marketplace event with stands from Local Providers, the NHS and voluntary services. Entrance is **FREE** - no need to book, just drop in, refreshments included.

In Partnership with
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council



If you would like more information please contact:

pipdisabilitydaybwd@gmail.com or call: **07923252483** Find us on:  

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MONKEY

Also known as Monkey Cool, this platform aims to fill the gap left by Omegle (which has now shut down) by placing users in random video chats with strangers. Participants use their mobile number and Snapchat username to connect to the service, where they can make matches, message other people and join group chats. The mobile version has been removed from the App Store due to safety concerns, but iPhone owners can still access the site via their web browser. The app remains available on Google Play, where its listing claims that Monkey has more than 30 million users worldwide.

AGE RESTRICTION
17+

(although the lack of age verification means that someone younger could easily log in with a false date of birth)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The app claims to use AI to detect sexual content or activity that violates its policies, along with having a 24/7 moderation team. However, reports in the media continue to indicate that explicit content remains commonplace on Monkey (including sexually graphic or violent material) and is therefore accessible to anybody who uses the app – including those aged under 18.

UNDER 18

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

The obvious risk in accepting random video chat partners is that users cannot know what or who they will see on their next connection. Talking to strangers is, of course, potentially dangerous – especially for children who might be persuaded to meet up with these people offline. The app lets users find each other by location, increasing the chances of a child being matched with a stranger from their local area.

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IN-APP SPENDING

While Monkey is free to download, it nevertheless offers in-app purchases promising to unlock access to premium features. For example, users who wish to make use of 'Knock Knock chat' (Monkey's text-based messaging option), rather than the app's Chatroulette-style random video calling feature, will need to pay to be able to do so.

INTRUSIONS ON PRIVACY

According to Monkey's privacy policy, personal information (such as name, profile picture and date of birth), user-contributed content (any photos, texts, videos and screenshots shared) and each user's browser and IP address are collected. That is a considerable amount of data for Monkey to gather on its users – and all of this information is shared with third parties.



Advice for Parents & Carers

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

Even if you're comfortable with your child using Monkey, it's still important to talk about the potential dangers. It's crucial, for instance, that young people recognise the risks that stem from video chatting with strangers; that they understand not to share identifying information (like their street or school name); and that they know what to do if they are exposed to inappropriate content.



RESTRICT IN-APP PURCHASING

If your child is accessing Monkey via an Android device, you can prevent them from making in-app purchases through the device's settings. If you do allow your child to use the site, we'd recommend that you enable this feature: young people have been known to spend significant amounts of money in their desire to unlock more features in apps such as this.



REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Monkey states in the safety section of its site that "people are given the power" and that, to a large extent, Monkey is "self-governing." If a user is exposed to sexually explicit or inappropriate content on the platform, they can select the 'police' emoji in the top right corner of their screen to submit a report for Monkey's moderation team to review.



SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Monkey – or that they may have been exposed to inappropriate or distressing content – it's important to watch for potential indications that they've been affected emotionally. They could be unusually irritable or unable to concentrate, for example, or failing to complete their homework or even to eat regular meals.



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.



The National College



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday



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This week's Amazing Achievers!

Recent Reading Badges

Kingfishers
Mikail Hussain – Bronze
Swallows
Sehrish Khan – Gold

Authors of the Week

Key Stage 2 children who have excelled in their writing recently:

Aisha Hussain – Doves
Hamza Abdrabou – Owls
Haniya Shaikh – Kestrels
Maryam Hassan – Hawks
Hashim Hussain – Falcons
Isa Dalal – Eagles

You've Been Spotted!

Children who have been demonstrating one of our school values:

Haniya Syed – Woodpeckers
Faiza Akhtar – Kingfishers
Ameerah Khan – Swallows
Amanah Harnekar – Doves
Anayah Patel – Owls
Ali-Abdullah Syed – Kestrels
Markuss Petersons – Hawks
Layad Hussein – Falcons
M. Sufiyan Rizwan – Eagles

Headteacher's Award

Children chosen for a special achievement last week:

Umair Fulat – Robins Blue
Haaniya Farooq – Robins Green
Arsalan Sherzai – Woodpeckers
Zara Malik – Kingfishers
Amna Hussain – Swallows
Malik Hasan – Doves
Sulaiman Kheratkar – Owls
Yusuf Mahmood – Kestrels
Sarrinah Khan – Hawks
Rayyan Jalal – Falcons
Mohammad Sadiq – Eagles

Mrs Martin's Class of the Week:

Robins

Mrs Fenton's Star:

Fatima Aziz – Swallows

Mr Richardson's Lunchtime Awards:

Mohammed Essa Hussain (Swallows) & Hawa Atif (Doves)

Last Week's Attendance

	Best attendance	Best punctuality
Infants	Robins Blue	Woodpeckers
Juniors	Kestrels	Owls & Falcons