



A Message from Mrs Hewitt

Thank you for all of your contributions today for our Harvest Festival. The donations will be going to the Bromsgrove Basement Project to help support families locally who are suffering financial hardship.

Next Friday (20th) is 'Empty Classroom Day'- the children will be involved in activities outdoors throughout the day, so they will need to wear suitable outdoor clothing. Hopefully it will be a fun day for them all (weather permitting).

We received some sad news this week. Brian Miller, who has been running our Multi skills sports clubs for many years, sadly died last Thursday. He was a well-respected man who was very passionate about giving children, of all backgrounds and abilities, the opportunity to take part in sport and have fun. His passion and involvement in Bromsgrove community sport, in particular basketball, was incredible. He was actively delivering sessions up until last week and I know many pupils will be very sad to hear this news. We at Meadows send our love to his family, especially his wife Liz who was a teacher at Meadows for many years.

Virtual Family Hub has been developed to give parents/carers a range of different types of resources to help to support families (eg health advice, housing support, SEND, group activities for children, family learning and Early Help.

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/childrens-services/virtual-family-hub>

Reminder to book your Autumn Parents' Meetings for years R, 1,2,3 and 4.

Tuesday 24 th October	Thursday 26 th October
3.30- 5.40pm	3.30-7.00

These take place in person in school. Each appointment will be for ten minutes. To book an appointment on the appropriate day we have a simple online booking system. Please go to

<https://meadowsfirst.parentseveningsystem.co.uk>

You will then need to enter just a few simple personal details. These details should be of the person whom we hold as the main contact in school. Please ensure that the information you input is exactly the same as the information that we hold in school (e.g. Ms/Miss/Mr etc).

The booking system is available from 4pm today until 20th October at 1pm. Due to time restrictions it is only possible to allow 1 appointment for each child. The system links to the first contact's email address for each child. Hence, if you are not the first contact, and cannot attend at the same time, please contact the School Office to arrange a telephone appointment. If you wish to have an appointment with the SEN team, please email them and they will arrange a meeting- senteam@meadows.worcs.sch.uk. Also, if you cannot attend in person, please contact your child's teacher and they will offer you a telephone appointment.



We are a member of the National Online Safety platform and they are focusing on looking after children's well-being online. Some children now have mobile phones, and we have been talking in school about being kind to people. This applies online as well as face-to-face. We have tried to encourage children to 'think before they type!' Do not write anything on social media/ whatapp etc that you wouldn't say to someone's face, or that would hurt someone's feeling. Here is the NOS platform's advice to parents on supporting their children when using 'group chats.'

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.nationonline.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.

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 friendly towards 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.



Meadows Mouse Awards

Cygnets	Montana L – being so determined with her reading. Darcey H – showing great confidence with her phonics sounds.
Goslings	Shrida – great focus in lessons. Well done. Luna – super writing in phonics. Well done.
Caterpillars	Evie-Mae – always being enthusiastic. Georgie J – working hard in Maths.
Dragonflies	Oscar – excellent focus in English and Maths. Harleen – thank you for having such a positive and enthusiastic attitude to learning.
Owls	Maverick – super enthusiasm & reasoning in Maths. Wilfie – being really focused and enthusiastic in all of his learning.
Hedgehogs	Robin – her enthusiasm in Science. Finnleigh – working hard in his English lessons.
Sharks	Benjy D – enthusiasm and excellent behaviour in lessons. Maia M – being an example with her great focus in lessons.
Dolphins	Isher D – sharing her fantastic ideas in class. Ciaran R – working so hard in every lesson.
Jaguars	Harry – fantastic effort and focus in Maths. Bella – excellent progress in swimming.
Tigers	Josh C – being an enthusiastic member of Tigers and working hard to learn the Young Voices songs already. Joseph W – writing a wonderful non fiction report on the Anglos Saxons and presenting it well.

Jewellery and Make up reminder:

Jewellery and make up (including nail varnish) should not be worn by pupils in school. Earrings are not permitted unless the pupils have pierced ears; these children can wear studs. On PE days, studs should not be worn. If worn, they must be removed by the child (or taped up by the child if the ears have recently been pierced), and remain their responsibility. Long hair should be tied back for PE, especially swimming. Children may wear watches, but they must be removed for P.E.