

# BOORLEY PARK NEWSLETTER 24

## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

This half-term, we've been talking a lot in assembly about perseverance, which we have learnt is a big word for not giving up when things get tricky. We've learned that learning new things isn't always easy and sometimes we might feel like we're in a "learning pit" or "learning dip." That's when things feel hard and we might want to give up. But, just like climbing out of a pit, if we keep trying and ask for help, we can learn amazing things and feel really proud of ourselves. We've been practicing different ways to keep going, like using positive self-talk and remembering that everyone makes mistakes while learning.

We've seen so many examples of amazing perseverance in our classrooms! From mastering tricky maths problems to fantastic writing, the children have shown that they can overcome challenges and grow stronger. It's wonderful to see the children being brave in their learning and climbing out of those learning pits!



## INSPIRING MINDS

This half term, Year 4 have been working extremely hard on our Pirates vs. Mermaids production! We have inspired minds by exploring our creativity and supported one another to go outside of our comfort zones. We are so excited to welcome Year 3/4 families next week to enjoy the show!



# NURTURING FUTURES

We've been working hard on being kind and taking care of our friendships. We've talked about how friendships are a bit like seeds. To grow big and strong, seeds need water, sunlight and good soil. Just like that, friendships need kindness, sharing and listening to each other. When we're kind to each other, we're like the water that helps our friendships grow. If we forget to be kind, or if we say unkind things, it's like forgetting to water a plant - it might start to wilt. We've been practicing ways to be good friends, like saying sorry when we make a mistake, helping each other out and remembering to say positive things to each other.



## STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

Lots of our children have been out into the community representing Boorley this week. Our fantastic choir, shone brightly at the Music Festival at the Berry Theatre on Tuesday. They've worked really hard to perform their songs with big smiles and even bigger voices and Miss Ozanne and Mrs Gray are absolutely were very proud of their wonderful performance.

Our Year 1 children also had a brilliant time on their first school trip at Marwell Zoo on Wednesday. They explored amazing animal habitats and learned so much, all while being kind and respectful - well done Year 1!



A gentle reminder that children should be wearing school shoes in school rather than trainers - thank you for your support with this!



# The Zones of Regulation Parent/Carer Coffee Morning



**FRIDAY  
25TH APRIL  
9.00-10.15AM**

**Please sign in as you  
enter the hall through  
the side entrance.**

***Pre-school siblings  
welcome!***

Come along for a cup of tea/  
coffee and biscuits and meet  
members of our inclusion team  
including: Helena Darnley,  
SENDCo and Ali Carpenter,  
Family Support Worker/ ELSA.

**This session will include a  
presentation from the  
SENDCo about The Zones of  
Regulation - a framework  
designed to help individuals,  
especially children, develop  
self-regulation skills and  
emotional control.**



**If you're interested in coming along drop the office an  
email at [boorleypark@boorleypark.org](mailto:boorleypark@boorleypark.org)**

(you are still welcome to come on the day if you haven't emailed)

# SAFEGUARDING NOTICES

At our school, the health and safety of every child is a priority, and we are committed to supporting children with food allergies and dietary needs. To ensure a safe environment for everyone, we are strictly a **nut-free school**. This means that no nuts or nut-based products are allowed on the premises, as even trace amounts can pose serious risks to those with allergies. We kindly ask all parents and carers to check food labels before packing lunches or snacks for their children. Together, we can create a safe and inclusive environment for all our pupils. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!



## KEY DATES



### March 2025

Monday 31st March - 3:45pm Choir Performance in the hall

### April 2025

Tuesday 1st April Year 3 & 4 show - 9:30am - email sent with ticket information via Edulink

Tuesday 1st April 2:45-3:15pm Year 5 Parent Workshop - Food Tasting - In the hall

Wednesday 2nd April Year 3 & 4 show - 2:00pm - email sent with ticket information via Edulink

Thursday 3rd April PTA Easter Disco - KS1 - 4:30 to 5:15pm  
KS2 - 5:15 to 6pm

Friday 4th April – Last Day of Term

**Monday 7th April – Monday 21st April Easter Holidays**  
**Tuesday 22nd April – INSET day - School closed to all pupils**

Wednesday 23rd April – First Day of Term

Friday 25th April – Year 2 Trip to Sea City Museum

### May 2025

Friday 16th May 2:30pm Year 3 Parent Workshop Summer Picnic– On the field/Hall

Monday 19th May 3-3:15pm Year 5 Parent Workshop - Art Gallery - In the Hall

Tuesday 20th May 9:00-9:30am Year 1 Recorder concert - In the Hall

Tuesday 20th May 3:00pm Year R Book Look – Year R classrooms

Thursday 22nd May 3-3:15pm Year 4 Parent Workshop - Clay dragon eye art exhibit - In the hall

Friday 23rd May 2:30-3pm Year 2 Parent Workshop - Art Gallery - classrooms

Friday 23rd May – Last Day of Term

**Half Term Holidays - Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May 2025**

Monday 2nd June - First Day of Term





## PTA CORNER

Easter Disco - Thursday 3rd April 2025

KS1 - 4:30 to 5:15pm

KS2 - 5:15 to 6pm

Your child can enjoy a boogie with their friends and a snack for just £3.  
ParentPay is now open for you to pay for your child to attend the Easter disco.

Fancy something different this half term?

Why not purchase an Easter Trail and hunt for paper eggs in our local area!

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

All completed Easter Trails will be entered into our prize draw. 3 lucky winners will be chosen to win the following prizes.

2 tickets to Paultons Park!

1 adult and 1 child ticket to Marwell Zoo!

1 adult and 1 child ticket to Longdown Dairy Farm!

Easter trails will be on sale at the below dates on the gated playground at school, 3pm to 3.30pm, for just £2 each!

Tuesday 1st April

Wednesday 2nd April

Thursday 3rd April

Friday 4th April

# Easter Trail



Boorley Park School

Running throughout the Easter Holidays

5<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> April

The Easter bunny has been busy hiding eggs around Boorley Park. Can you find them all & crack the code?

£2 per entry

THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT!



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

On messaging apps, social media and online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they can be great for connecting with others, there are several risks posed by these tools.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### BULLYING

Teens are often trying to find their place in their social group. Unfortunately, group chats can sometimes lend themselves to unkind comments being shared freely, putting people down to make their peers laugh – often creating a vicious circle that encourages others to join in. Being bullied so publicly – in front of friends and acquaintances – can also amplify the hurt, embarrassment and anxiety that the victim feels.

### EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: for instance, starting a new group, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one person 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 events that exclude them – for example, sharing photos from a day out that they didn't attend.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by a child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some apps have features that cause messages to disappear after they're viewed, so children may be unable to report something they've seen, as it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

### SHARING GROUP CONTENT

Group chats can feel more private and protected, allowing children to share inside jokes and video calls with a smaller group of friends. It's important to remember that while the chat's content is private between those in the group, individual users can easily share material with others outside of the group, or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something a child intended as private becoming public is higher if there are strangers in the chat.

### UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely for children to communicate with people they don't know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly towards everyone present. It's wise for young people to avoid sharing personal details and remember that they have no control over what others do with the material they send into the chat.

### NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications they tend to generate. Every time someone sends a message, each member's device will be 'pinged' with an alert. This could result in hundreds of notifications a day. This is often highly distracting, and young people's fear of missing out (FOMO) can cause increased screen time as they try to keep up with the conversation.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats can become an arena for young people to compete for social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse which could upset others. Help children consider how people might feel if they behave in this way. If the child does upset someone, encourage them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

### GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Group chats are an excellent way for children to connect and feel like they belong. However, remind them that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their feelings and empower them by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. You can also encourage children to speak up if they witness others being picked on.

### BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If a child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block whoever sent the material, report that person to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could put a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise that it's OK for children to simply leave any group chat that makes them feel uncomfortable.

### 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. Ensure children understand 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 can't be certain where it might end up and how it might be used.

### AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their identity to gain a child's trust and serve their own ends – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure the child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and why they should never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

### SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a device bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be an irritating distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to children that they can still be part of the group chat while disabling notifications – and that it would be healthier for them to do so, avoiding a situation where they could feel pressured to respond.

## 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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Sources: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11-18/lets-talk-about/socialising-online/group-chats/> | <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/chat-app/>