



The Drive Community Primary School

Mrs R Farren, Head Teacher
The Drive, Felling, Gateshead, NE10 0PY
Tel: (0191) 421 0390
www.thedriveprimary.org

Friday 7th March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Website Updates – what has been uploaded this week?

All Friday letters and updates (not linked to specific areas: Safeguarding, Online Safety etc.), will be published in either: **Parents – Friday Letters – Spring 2 OR Parents – Letters and Flyers**

Friday Letter 7th March 2025

<https://www.thedriveprimary.co.uk/friday-letters/>

Quick-sticks Hockey

A group of Year 4 children went to Lord Lawson to play Quicksticks hockey this Wednesday. It was very windy, but the team had lots of positivity and were great team players. The children loved learning new skills for this tournament! Well done!

World Book Day

Everyone had a fantastic time this World Book Day, from making hats to searching for Golden Tickets, with lots of other fun activities in the mix too. The children looked amazing in their colourful, bright, and imaginative outfits and thank you to the staff for also making such an effort to dress up – we all certainly celebrated the love of books!

Attendance – The League and attendance update

0 points if attendance is below 96%

1 point awarded for weekly attendance figures between 96% - 97.5%

2 points awarded for weekly attendance figures between 97.6% - 98.9%

3 points awarded for weekly attendance figures between 99% - 100%

Points have been awarded to Year 2 and Year 4 this week – well done. It has been a very challenging few weeks for illnesses and I know that there has been a lot going around. I am sure the percentages will start to get better as the weather improves: spring has sprung everyone!

As always, if you need any support with your child/children’s attendance or punctuality, please speak to a member of staff.

Teams	Total Points	Overall Weekly Attendance
Nursery	0	91.32% -
Reception	2	93.81% -
Year 1	0	94% +
Year 2	1	96% +
Year 3	1	94.67% -
Year 4	7	96.33% -
Year 5	0	91.94% +
Year 6	1	85.67% -

Have a lovely weekend everyone and we will see you all next week.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs R Farren
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Dates for the Diary (as they stand) – dates will be added to and possibly changes made. Keep an eye on our website calendar also.

Just a reminder, a 'C' will feature next to an event that requires parent/carer consent. PLEASE NOTE, CONSENT IS NOW GIVEN ON PARENT PAY www.parentpay.com. All letters can be found in Letters and Flyer on our school website.

<https://www.thedriveprimary.co.uk/letter-and-flyers/>

Items highlighted in yellow are parent/carer events.

Spring Term 2 2025 – 6 week half term	
Wednesday 12 th March	Year 6 Parents/Carers SATS Meeting 8.40am in the Hall Letter issued 20.2.25
	Year 2 outing - Heworth Burn Dene Flyer sent 05.03.25
	Year 5 Trip – Discovery Museum Letter issued 05.03.25
Commences Friday 14th March - Friday 4th April	Spring Savings Family Learning – Year 2 and 3 Parents and Carers Flyer issued 14.02.25 Limited places – Sign up on ParentPay
Tuesday 18 th March	Year 6 Trip – Hancock Museum C More details to follow
Thursday 20 th March	EYFS Multi-Sports Festival C More details to follow
Friday 21 st March	Comic Relief More details to follow
	Year 5 – MOBO Workshop More details to follow
Monday 24 th March	Year 3 and Year 4 Trip - Mosque Visit
Wednesday 26 th March	Dance Festival C Parents/Carers of children taking part in this event will receive up to date information when required.
Friday 28th March	Mothers and Others' Breakfast 9am in the Hall
Week beginning 31 st March	Interfaith Week
Monday 31 st March and Tuesday 1 st April	Parent Consultation Evenings – In person. More details to follow Please note, Year 2 will have split sessions across the week. One evening will be held Monday 31st (Mrs McCartney) and the other Thursday 3rd (Mrs Gallagher).
Tuesday 1 st April	Boccia Competition C More details to follow
	Attendance Celebration C The class who has been awarded the most points will be informed of the Attendance Team's planned event – more details to follow.
Wednesday 2 nd April	Year 1 Trip – Rising Sun Country Park C More details to follow
Thursday 3 rd April	Year 3 Trip – Arbeia Roman Fort More details to follow
Tuesday 8 th April	Intra-Sport Competition C More details to follow





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	Year 5 Trip – Victoria Tunnels C Letter issued 05.03.25
Wednesday 9 th April	Easter Spud Decorating 1 – 3pm How this event will be organised will be published nearer the time.
Thursday 10 th April	Year 3 Trip – Live Theatre More details to follow
Friday 11 th April	Break up for Easter
Summer Term 1 2025 – 4 week half term	
Monday 28 th April	Children to return to school from the Easter Break
Monday 5 th May	May Bank Holiday Monday
Wednesday 7 th May	Reception – Vision Screening
Week beginning 12 th May – Thursday 15 th May	Year 6 SATS Week
Tuesday 20 th May	Intra-Sport Competition
Friday 23 rd May	Break up for Half Term
Monday 2 nd June	Children to return to school from Half Term



Artsmark
Gold Award
 Awarded by Arts
 Council England



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

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WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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.

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 goes 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.

