



# *Ashton Hayes Primary School weekly newsletter*

Good afternoon! I hope you have all had as good a week as we have at school. Listening to all of the achievements in celebration assembly today was wonderful, as the work celebrated today is a reflection on some incredible hard work going on across every single class at the moment – we are really proud of our children and everything that they do.

## **Lunch pre-orders:**

Please note that from 1<sup>st</sup> of June, you will not be able to pre-order school lunches. This is because every morning each teacher asks the children what lunch they are having and then entering it on the system. This is causing issues with lunch numbers, meaning that sometimes lunches are over ordered. Of course, menus will continue to be available to view and you can discuss with your child what they should have to eat. If you have any queries about this, please do not hesitate to contact school.

## **Booking for Ashton Owls:**

Bookings are now open for the final half term of the year on Ipal.

## **Owls:**

This week in Owl Class has been full of fantastic learning across all subjects. In English, we have finished reading our story *The Journey* and spent time exploring the feelings of the mum, who had to flee her country with her children in search of a better life. Everyone showed great empathy and understanding. We have also begun looking at diary entries, which will be the style of our final piece of writing.

In Maths, we are doing really well with counting money. The class has been focusing on adding and subtracting amounts to work out the change we might receive. We have been very impressed with the children's journaling and the way they are explaining their thinking.

In History, we have been learning about hieroglyphics and how the Ancient Egyptians communicated. We explored how these symbols can be translated today using the Rosetta Stone. We all really enjoyed creating our own names and writing secret messages using hieroglyphics.

In PE, we have been preparing for our Sports Day at the end of this half term. Everyone has been trying their best and showing great determination.

In Art, we have been planning our Egyptian masks, exploring how to make them 3D and experimenting with different techniques. The creativity on display has been wonderful.



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In Science, we have been exploring the different micro-habitats around our school grounds. We focused on finding microbeasts and observing what their habitats looked like.

This week was Miss Virmani's final time with Owl Class, and we would like to say a big thank you. She has been a valued part of our classroom, bringing enthusiasm and kindness to her teaching. The children have really enjoyed working with her and have benefited from her support. We wish her all the very best for the future.

## **Peregrines:**

Peregrines Class have enjoyed another fantastic week of learning, filled with exciting experiences across the curriculum.

A highlight of the week was their trip to Cadbury World, where the children discovered the fascinating history of chocolate and made excellent connections to our History topic on the Mayans. They were particularly interested in how cacao was used in ancient times and how it has evolved into the chocolate we know today.

In Science, the class took part in a fun and memorable practical activity to demonstrate how the digestive system works. Using a range of household objects, the children were able to model each stage of the process, helping them to develop a clear and hands-on understanding of how our bodies digest food.

In Computing, Peregrines explored programming by learning how to control a moving screen turtle. They showed great enthusiasm and problem-solving skills as they created sequences of instructions to make the turtle move in different directions.

Well done to everyone for another week of brilliant effort and curiosity!

## **Buzzards:**

Buzzards are just brilliant! The children have all worked so hard this year and our final SATs preparations are showing that they're so ready; we almost wish SATs were next week so that we could get them out of the way!

SATs aside, we've also been working towards a new piece of writing this week. We've been researching lots of facts about Wolves for a non-chronological report.

In the afternoons, we've continued learning about Ancient Greece with a focus on the beginnings of democracy. We learnt about three different types of government this week (Monarchy, Oligarchy and Democracy) and role-played each one in teams to assess the pros and cons. We've also continued our work on drawing 'figures in action' in art. This week, we used reference photos to explore shape and proportion in our sketchbooks. Finally, we've



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started our new science topic which is all about electricity. The children enjoyed constructing circuits and using fair testing to test whether various components were working or not.

A final note: as a class we had a little look at all the exciting things coming up after SATs (the children were particularly excited about residential and Year 6 treat day!).

## **Kestrels:**

What an amazing first couple of weeks back it has been in Kestrels, especially with all of this beautiful sunshine. The children have returned seeming so grown up after what sounds like such lovely Easter breaks.

Last week, we spent time talking about the incredible Artemis 2 mission to the moon, which sparked so much curiosity and wonder. This led beautifully into our explorations of light and shadow, where we watched them move and dance with torches, mirrors, and all of the sparkly things we could find. The children's questioning during this time was just amazing...they were even trying to draw dancing light

This week also brought us a mystery! We discovered a hula hoop high up in one of our huge trees... and we genuinely have no idea how it got there. If you have a look on our playground and see the branches running through it, you will understand our confusion! The children had so much fun coming up with their own explanations - from unicorn winds to super-strong muscly pigeons, to visiting aliens and tree monsters. In the end, we decided it might be a spy camera, watching for people making good (and not so good!) choices for our world

So, we have started to consider all the ways we can care for our amazing planet. We have been thinking about the ways people sometimes hurt the world, and what we can do to help. We have already started by planting and caring for our plants, and this week we went one step further...using old books that were destined to be thrown away to create brand new, beautiful paper, scented with lavender. The children loved every part of the process and took such pride in making something new from something old.

Another joyful, thoughtful, and creative time in Kestrels.

Have a lovely bank holiday weekend with your little delights! 



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## **Sparrowhawks:**

This week Sparrowhawks have been continuing their research into man's first trip to the moon. They have shared some great ideas and thought back to the information learnt about the Space Race at Jodrell Bank.

In maths, Year One children have been developing their understanding of 2 digit numbers, really getting to grips with what each digit represents.

Jay has been working with the class on athletics and preparation for sport's day. The children are all really excited and have been continuing their practice at break and lunch times. It has been so lovely to see them enjoying the wider school grounds in this lovely weather.

In Science we have been continuing our knowledge on plants, looking at the differences and adaptations between evergreen and deciduous trees.

In art we have continued our study into the work of Andy Warhol, looking more closely at printing and repeating patterns.

Well Done Sparrowhawks - enjoy the lovely long weekend and we look forward to next week's adventures.

## **Attendance:**

Our school attendance is going brilliantly! Well done especially to Buzzards this week, who had 100% attendance. This has helped us get incredibly close to our end of year target of 96.7%....we are now only 0.02% away!



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This week we have also been awarded an attendance award from Fisher Family Trust – who monitor attendance across schools nationally. Our attendance award is for being in the top 25% of schools nationally.

Finally, I haven't shared our attendance 'league' position for a while. Currently we sit in 23<sup>rd</sup> place out of 126 other primary schools across Cheshire. This week, I have also included a table below our normal table to show how our attendance has improved since last year – a huge thank you to all parents for supporting your children to be in school as much as possible!

| Class        | This week's attendance | Cumulative attendance for the year |
|--------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Kestrel      | 98.48%                 | 96.8%                              |
| Sparrowhawk  | 96.42%                 | 95.04%                             |
| Owl          | 97.62%                 | 97.36%                             |
| Peregrine    | 97.22%                 | 97.62%                             |
| Buzzard      | 100%                   | 96.79%                             |
| Whole school | 97.81%                 | 96.68%                             |

| Pupil group | Attendance 2024 to 2025 | Attendance 2025 to 2026 |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| All pupils  | 95.9%                   | 96.3%                   |

### Celebration Assembly:

Kestrel – Matilda & Daisy  
 Sparrowhawk – Cassie & Gracie-May  
 Owl – Arthur & Mason  
 Peregrine – Leyla  
 Buzzard – Isabella & Fox

### Safeguarding for parents:

Online Grooming is when someone befriends and builds an emotional relationship with a child and communicates with them through the internet with the intent to commit a sexual offence. This type of victimisation can take place across any platform; from social media and messaging apps to online gaming and live streaming. Often it involves young people being tricked, forced or pressured into doing something they wouldn't normally do (coercion) and often the groomer's goal



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is to meet the victim in a controlled setting to sexually or physically abuse them. In some cases children may be abducted or have long-lasting psychological damage.

In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as strangers online, closed messaging and emotional attachments.

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At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many 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.



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## What parents need to know about

# ONLINE GROOMING



### CHILDREN ARE MOST VULNERABLE

Unsurprisingly children are often most at risk as they are easy to target and unlikely to question the person who is engaging in conversation with them. Groomers will use psychological tricks and methods to try and isolate them from their families and friends and will often choose to target more vulnerable children who may be easier to manipulate. Predators will stalk apps and websites that are popular with young people and will use a 'scattergun' approach to find victims, contacting hundreds online to increase their chances of success.



### LIVE STREAMING CONCERNS

Predators may use live video to target children in real-time using tricks, dares or built-in gifts to manipulate them. Grooming often takes the form of a game where children receive 'likes' or even money for performing sexual acts. Social media channels, such as YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat, all have live streaming capabilities, but there are many apps which children can use to live stream, including Omegle, Live.me, BIGO Live, YouNow and many more.



### ANYONE CAN BE A PREDATOR

The Internet has made the ability to interact with strangers online easy. Many sites and apps are reliant on individual users entering their own information when signing up. However individuals can remain anonymous if they choose to enter inaccurate information and many online predator cases are due to groomers using impersonation techniques. However, often the greater threat comes from adults who 'hide in plain sight', choosing to befriend young children without hiding their real identity.



### CAN BE DIFFICULT TO DETECT

Unfortunately, most children find the 'grooming' process (before any meeting) an enjoyable one as the predator will compliment, encourage, and flatter them to gain their trust, friendship and curiosity – a wolf in sheep's clothing scenario. This often means children fail to disclose or report what is happening. If the groomer is also previously known to the child, their family and their friends, then this can make detection even harder.



### FROM OPEN TO CLOSED MESSAGING

Online predators may contact their victims using any number of ways including social media, forums, chat rooms, gaming communities or live streaming apps. Sometimes there is little need to develop a 'friendship /rapport stage', as the victim has already shared personal information online and is communicating openly with others. Children may also be prepared to add other online users they don't know so well to gain 'online credibility' through increasing their friends list. Predators will often seize this opportunity to slowly build a relationship and then move their conversation with the child to a more secure and private area, such as through direct messaging.

### EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENTS

Online predators will use emotive language and aim to form close, trusted bonds with their victims through showering them with compliments and making them feel good about themselves. Often victims will refer to them as their 'boyfriends' or 'girlfriends' and it can be difficult to convince some young people that they have been groomed, often leading to lasting psychological effects.



## Safety Tips for Parents & Carers



### IT'S GOOD TO TALK

It's unlikely that you can stop your child using the internet, nor can you constantly monitor their online activities, but you can talk to your child on a regular basis about what they do online. By talking openly with them about online relationships, they can quickly ascertain the kind of behaviour which is appropriate or inappropriate. Ask them whether they have any online friends or if they play online games with people they haven't met. This could then open up conversations about the subject of grooming.



### CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

In order to give your child a safer online experience, it is important to check privacy settings or parental controls on the networks, devices, apps, and websites they use. Disable location sharing if you can. If you use location-sharing apps to check where your child is, remember that these could always be used by strangers to follow your child without their knowledge. Ensure that you check options so that location information is never shared with anyone except those they have permission to share with.



### MONITOR SOCIAL MEDIA & LIVE-STREAMING USE

It's important to be aware of what your child is sharing on social media and with whom. Create your own profile and become 'friends' with them or follow them so that you can monitor their activity. Similarly, always check on them if they are live streaming and implement privacy controls. Choose a generic screen name and profile picture that hides their identity. You may also feel more comfortable being present each time they live stream.



### STICK TO 'TRUE FRIENDS'

Make it clear to your child that they should not accept friend requests from people they don't know and to verify friend requests with people who they do know. Encourage them to only interact and engage with 'true friends' i.e. those friends who don't ask personal questions such as close family and friends. Remind them to never agree to chat privately with a stranger or someone they don't really know and to never divulge personal information, such as mobile phone numbers, addresses, passwords or the name of their school.



### DISCUSS HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Talk to your child about what a healthy relationship looks like and how to detect someone who might not be who they claim to be. Explain that groomers will pay your child compliments and engage in conversations about personal information, such as hobbies and relationships. They may admire how well they play an online game or how they look in a photo. Groomers will also try and isolate a child from people close to them, such as parents and friends. In order to make their relationship feel special and unique.

### BE SUPPORTIVE

Show your child that you will support them and make sure they understand they can come to you with any concerns they may have. They need to know they can talk to you if someone does something they are uncomfortable with, whether that is inappropriate comments, images, requests or sexual comments.



## Meet our expert

Jonathan Taylor is an online safety expert and former Covert Internet Investigator for the Metropolitan Police. He is a specialist in online grooming and exploitation and has worked extensively with both UK and international schools in delivering training and guidance around the latest online dangers, social media apps and platforms.



### LOOK OUT FOR WARNING SIGNS

- Secretive online behaviour.
- Late night internet or smartphone usage.
- Meeting new friends in unusual places.
- Becoming clingy, develop sleeping or eating problems or even bedwetting.
- Lack of interest in extra-curricular activities.
- Having new items, such as clothes or phones, unexplainably.
- Seem withdrawn, anxious, depressed or aggressive.
- Having older boyfriends or girlfriends.





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**Have a great bank holiday weekend!**

**Mr Bell**