

Online Safety

With so much focus in the news recently regarding online safety for children and adults, we thought it would be useful to provide families with a link to The National College Wake Up Wednesday resources.

These are designed to provide information on accessing social media, apps, etc. and give advice on setting controls to keep children safe in a digital world. There are a whole host of resources for all ages.

<https://nationalcollege.com/pages/wake-up-Wednesday>

An example of one of their messages is on page 6.
This provides Top Tips for Safety on Social Media

There are also online courses for parents who would like to further develop their understanding in supporting online safety and mental well-being.

We hope you find this useful!

Before and after school clubs : booking forms available on school website

http://www.goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk/serve_file/48433

School uniform official supplier - other options are available, please see the school website for more information.
www.myschoolstyle.com/school/goostrey

SENCo mr.warhurst@goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk

Income Related Free School Meals: freeschoolmeals@cheshireeast.gov.uk or visit website for further information
https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/school-meals/free_school_meals.aspx

Term dates for 25-26 and 26-27 are on our website

The school's official communication with families comes through the newsletter, website, class pages, messages through the app, email and occasionally paper letters.

The PTA have Facebook for information Goostrey Community Primary School PTA
<https://www.facebook.com/GCPSPTA>

Huge congratulations to:

Floss Howells

Noah Scott

Esme Connell

All three children have received a Kindness Award this month.



Well done to Matthew and Joseph on earning their Blue Peter badges. Matthew received his for his novel *Dr Teeth*, which focuses on the importance of cleaning your teeth, and Joseph was recognised with a sports badge for his efforts in rugby. Awesome work!



DISCO

Friday 23rd Jan

Tickets

£3

at Goostrey Village Hall

Infants 5.00 - 5.45 pm

Juniors 6.00 - 7.00 pm

Please bring water bottles

Tickets available from Junior reception
from 19.01.26

Infants



Juniors



Scan me to request a song. 2 songs max
most popular songs will be played

GOOSTREY COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA



Comedy
Night

With Big Lou Comedy

FRIDAY 6TH MARCH

More details coming soon

GOT A GIFT THAT NEEDS A NEW HOME?

Do you have any unwanted gifts, raffle-friendly items, or even empty hamper baskets that you'd be happy to donate?

We're currently collecting donations for our PTA Hamper Raffle, which will be drawn at our Comedy Night

All items will be combined with other generous donations to create some fantastic raffle hampers

HOW TO DONATE:

If you can help, please send any donations in via your child's class teacher or Mrs Carroll by Friday 13th February.



All proceeds from the raffle go towards resources for the children

Thank you for your continued support

The PTA



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Currently, children are growing up in an immediate and throwaway culture when it comes to content that's consumed online. So much material is now deliberately created to be shorter in nature – and may often contain hidden elements such as advertising, or extreme political and cultural views. With complex algorithms built to keep people on their phones and engaging with social media content, it's becoming increasingly difficult to reduce time spent on these platforms.

1 REDUCE DOOMSCROLLING

It's concerningly common for young people to spend hours 'doomscrolling': trawling through social media and aimlessly viewing every post they see, many of which might make them feel sad or anxious. Social media can be useful for keeping in touch with friends and family, as well as staying up to date on current events. However, it's important to use it with a clear purpose, instead of endlessly scrolling through content, which could lead to young people accidentally discovering harmful material.

2 TALK ABOUT THE CONTENT

It's important to keep apprised of the kind of content that a young person is being exposed to. Discussing what they're watching online can help you understand why they're using social media in the first place. Furthermore, ensure that children are aware of hidden content, such as advertising of a product – and that they know how to spot that the creator is being paid to talk about it.

3 FIND POSITIVE ASPECTS

Despite all the concerns, there's plenty of wholesome content on social media. It's worth spending time with children to help them find something suitable and enjoyable. Perhaps you'll even discover a joint interest, and you can enjoy the content alongside the child. As part of this, you should also point out why certain things shouldn't be given attention, explaining why it isn't suitable and why it's been created in the first place.

4 REDUCE SCREENTIME

Young people can sometimes be unaware of the exact amount of time they spend looking at social media. Smart phones don't just have the capacity to monitor screentime; they also record how much time is spent on each app. Consider setting targets to reduce this and support children to meet these goals, gradually reducing the amount of time spent on different apps.

5 FILL THE VOID

Monitoring and reducing screentime can create a lot of free time to fill, and young people can even face withdrawal symptoms when made to step away from their phones. To mitigate this, consider what offline activities you could introduce the child to, and what they would enjoy. This can ensure that young users will permanently cut down on their screentime, rather than temporarily doing so while they know it's being monitored.

6 REDUCE NOTIFICATIONS

One way in which social media platforms keep people coming back is through notifications. The algorithms behind these apps track people's daily habits, including the times of the day where they're most likely to engage with the platform. This data is then used to deliver specifically timed notifications to draw them back in. To avoid young users being exposed to this tactic, simply turn off notifications for the app in their phone's settings.

7 LIVE IN THE REAL WORLD

Overexposure to social media can distort someone's perception of the real world – from body norms to social conventions. This filtered environment can make it hard for young people to distinguish reality from online content, which is now becoming even more difficult with the rise of AI. To mitigate this concern, take time to teach young people how to discern truth from fiction, both on and off social media.

8 DIGITAL DETOX

Encouraging young people to take a 'digital detox', from even just a couple of the apps that they use, can result in an overall reduction of screentime and less exposure to potentially harmful content. Alternatively, rather than avoiding the app entirely, encourage children to take a 'digital detox' from content creators and influencers, and instead, keep in touch with friends and family – which is generally a far healthier use of these platforms.

9 MODEL GOOD BEHAVIOUR

Consider the habits that you're demonstrating to your children. How much time do you spend on your phone? How much do you 'doomscroll'? Comparing your own usage with the child's could put things into perspective for them – or if it turns out that you're also overusing social media, it can turn screentime reduction into a joint mission, which you and the child can work on together.

10 BE CLEAR ON THE "WHY"

Research shows that young people can become addicted to social media. There are many schools that are moving towards being 'phone free' due to the negative impacts of using social media and phones continuously. It's important to explain to young people why managing screentime is important. Set out the benefits and ensure they have all the relevant information, so it's not just seen as a punishment.

Meet Our Expert

John Inley is a senior leader in a Birmingham secondary school and has vast experience in leading schools over the past 15 years – including the development of computing curriculums across primary and secondary schools, writing e-safety policies and supporting schools with computing and e-safety advice.



#WakeUp
Wednesday®

The
National
College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/top-tips-for-safety-on-social-media>

X @wake_up_weds

f /www.thenationalcollege

o @wake.up.wednesday

d @wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 18.12.2024

Key dates for the spring term

Friday 23rd January	PTA Disco
Thursday 29th January	Book Fair arrives
Friday 6th February	Y3 Cake Sale
Thursday 12th February	Young Voices—Y3 to 6 singing group
Friday 13th February	School finishes for half term
Monday 23rd February	School returns
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day
Friday 6th March	Y2 Cake Sale
Friday 6th March	Comedy Night
Thursday 12th March	Y4 residential—1 night
Thursday 19th March	Book look for families to see their child's work—after school to 5pm
WB Monday 23rd March	Parents' evenings
Friday 27th March	School finishes for Easter break
Monday 13th April	School returns

Frequently asked questions about holiday requests in term time.

Am I entitled to take my child out of school for a family holiday?

- No.** Parents have a legal duty to ensure that their children attend school or the alternative provision on a regular basis
- The Education Act 1996 makes it a criminal offence for a parent to "*fail to secure their child's regular attendance at the school*"
- The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 make clear that **Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence (holiday) during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances**
- The Head Teacher and Governing Board will determine what the exceptional circumstances are

If we decide to take a holiday during term time what should we do?

- The parent/carer with whom the child resides must apply in writing to the school
- The letter/application must explain the exceptional circumstance surrounding the request for the leave of absence

What will the school do then?

- The Head Teacher will determine whether the exceptional circumstance ruling applies, if not the application will be declined
 - Only the Headteacher (or the Deputy) has the power to approve leave of absence applications. When making the decision the protocols and criteria laid down in the school's attendance policy must be followed.
 - Each academic year, schools inform parents/carers via a letter, newsletter or some other communication; that they may receive a Fixed Penalty Notice if their child has unauthorised absences in term time
- You will receive a written response from the Headteacher (or the Deputy) letting you know if your application has been approved
- If the holiday goes ahead after the application has been declined the absence will be recorded as unauthorised

Penalty Notices will be issued for Term time leave:

Penalty Notice fines will be issued for term time leave of 5 or more consecutive days.

10 Sessions of Unauthorised absence in a rolling 10 week period: A Penalty Notices may be considered when there have been 10 sessions of unauthorised absences in a 10 week period.

However, we retain the discretion to issue a Penalty Notice before the threshold is met. For example, where parents are deliberately avoiding the national threshold by taking several term time holidays below the above thresholds.

Per Parent/Per Child

Penalty Notice fines will continue to be issued per parent per child. For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave or irregular school attendance the fine will be charged at: £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days of the issue, reducing to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

(Unpaid penalty notices may result in a parental prosecution)

Second Offence

Where it is deemed appropriate to issue a second penalty notice to the same parent for the same pupil within 3 years of the first penalty notice, for either term time leave or irregular attendance the second penalty notice will be charged at: £160 if paid within 28 days. (Unpaid penalty notices may result in a parental prosecution)

Third Offence

On the third time that an offence is committed within 3 years of the first penalty notice for either a term time leave or irregular attendance a penalty notice will not be issued. The case may proceed to Parental Prosecution under the Single Justice Procedure. If found guilty of the offence of 'Failure to send a child to school' the Magistrates can impose a fine up to £1000 or legal proceedings under Section444 (1a) can include a fine of up to £2500

IF A FAMILY GOES ON HOLIDAY IN TERM TIME SCHOOL WILL NOT PROVIDE ANY WORK FOR THE PUPILS. TIME OUT OF SCHOOL, FOR A HOLIDAY WILL RESULT IN THE CHILD/REN MISSING TEACHING AND LEARNING AND THEY MAY FIND IT CHALLENGING TO CATCH UP WITH THEIR PEERS ON THEIR RETURN.

Do you have a concern about a child?

Anyone can make a call if they have concerns about a child. This call can be made confidentially.

Cheshire East Consultation Service

The Cheshire East Consultation Service (ChECS) is the 'front door' for access to services, support and advice for children and their families.

General public

Phone ChECS on **0300 123 5012 (option 3)** Callers will be directed to a Unit Coordinator who will ask if the concerns are early help or safeguarding. You will then be directed to either Practitioner Support Officer for Early Help requests for support or a Social Worker (ChECS) for safeguarding concerns. The worker will gather your information and advise you of the next steps.

If you need to contact someone out of hours and you believe it to be an emergency that can't wait, please call our Emergency Duty Team on **0300 123 5022**.

If you have something that you would like putting in our newsletter please email it either to head@goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk or admin@goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk

It needs to be with us by 12.00 on Thursday and attached to your email on a WORD document so once approved we can easily cut and paste. Thank you

We always welcome pieces about Goostrey pupils and their achievements outside of school. I love to hear what our pupils are celebrating and achieving outside school so we can celebrate in the newsletter and assembly.

The responsibility to get permission for other people's children to be on photographs lies with the sender not with the school.

We will usually allow local events to be advertised in the newsletter, especially if we think they will be of interest to our pupils and their families.

However we do not endorse or take responsibility for anything not directly organised by the school.



Keep up to date with PTA news and events on our social media pages:



goostrey_primary_school_pta



Goostrey Community Primary School PTA

<https://www.facebook.com/GCPSPTA>

GUIDE TO OUR APP FOR PARENTS & CARERS

School Spider allows you to receive and return information directly to and from the school. Receive instant messages, complete surveys, book your parents' evenings and make payments.

LOGGING IN

Once you have selected the school, you will see posts from the school website. Click parent dashboard to login or create an account. Create an account by pressing "create account" and enter your email address. You must have your email linked with the school

TAKE A LOOK AROUND

See all action items on your dashboard

Click to respond or book for each child

Click the envelope to see your recent messages

Click these 3 lines to:

- Switch between areas
- Edit your profile
- Logout

DOWNLOAD NOW

[Available on Google play](#) [Download on the App Store](#)

Goostrey All Stars
After School Club

Please click on the link below for full details of our after school provision and electronic copies of our registration and booking forms.

We are open Monday to Friday - 3pm to 6pm.

If you would like to see what the children have been up to this week, please follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

<https://www.goostreyallstars.co.uk/>

The school's official communication with families comes through the newsletter, website, class pages, messages through the app, email and occasionally paper letters.

Useful contacts and numbers.....

If there's any other information that you feel should be added to this page, as a weekly standing item, please let me know.

www.goostreypreschool.org.uk

Telephone: 07471 756720 -
available during pre-school hours
only.

The local clinical network has devised a website where they have put all of the organisations nationally and locally that support children and families that are neurodiverse

[Neurodiversity support pathway - NHS Cheshire and Merseyside](#)

The Chair of Governors and the Head teacher meet at least once a week. If you have anything you would like them to discuss / consider please let us know. We will always respond to you.

The web address for ordering school uniform is:
www.myschoolstyle.com/school/goostrey



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If you would like to see what the children have been up to this week, please follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

<https://www.goostreylallstars.co.uk/>



Before School Club

If you would like to enrol your child for Goostrey Before School Club, please either download a booking form from our website www.goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk or collect from the reception desk. The cost is £4.00 per session and the club operates on each school day, from 8.00 AM to 8.50 AM. Please note no food is served at this club.

Class pages, on the school website have lots of up to date information for your child's class. Please keep looking at these as they are updated every week for you.
Thank you

Compliments and Comments and Suggestions.

If you wish to give school general feedback about any aspect of school life, please email either Miss Atkins on head@goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk or class teachers, whose email addresses are on each class page on the website; <http://www.goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk/classes>