



# The Grove Newsletter

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to the second half of the Spring Term. It is going to be a busy half term with a whole range of different activities going on. Kingfisher, Toucan and Hummingbird Classes are visiting the Department of Zoology over the next few weeks as part of an art/science project they are undertaking with the department. Last year, we created a display linked to butterflies and I am looking forward to seeing what the children create this year.

I am sure that you will remember the Cows around Cambridge Trail. Our cow is sitting in pride of place in our entrance hall. This year, there is a new project which involves giraffes and, of course, we are going to be involved in this. No firm plans yet as to what the theme for our giraffe will be- watch this space for more information.

Mr Tinkler has also arranged a number of sporting events for the coming weeks. This half term is going to fly by.

Next Wednesday sees the second of the NEU Trade Union strikes. Like last time, we will only be open to children in Nursery and Reception again. If your child is in receipt of income related free school meals, we can provide a cold packed lunch for you to collect from school on Wednesday. If you would like to take up this option, please let the school office know by 10am on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February.

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March is World Book Day. We are going for simple this year and would like to invite the children to bring in their favourite book to share. Please write your child's name in the book. Whilst we are not expecting children to dress up, if your child is very keen to dress up, they may!

Parents/carers of children in Hummingbird and Ostrich class - you will have received a letter offering you the opportunity to book a TEAMS meeting with your child's new class teacher on either Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> or Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March.

Finally, if your child walks home from school alone, please can you remind them that they must leave school premises promptly at 15:15 and should not be staying on the playground past that time. We cannot be responsible for unsupervised children after the end of the school day.

Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Shaw



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## Practical tips for starting a conversation about life online

### **Be positive and open minded about the internet**

It's important to recognise the exciting opportunities that going online can offer children and young people.

Although your children may use the internet differently to you, their experiences are still significant.

If your child mentions something you haven't heard of, ask them to show you, or explain in more detail, or you may need to do your own research.

Try to keep conversations broad, and value their opinions when they're talking about what they enjoy doing, to show that you are interested in all aspects of their online world.

### **Talk early and often**

The most effective way to deal with any online issue is to make conversations about the internet a part of your everyday routine.

Talking openly about life online from an early age, can be a helpful bridge to sharing safety messages and addressing more difficult conversations later; it also shows your child that you are someone who knows about the internet and can help them.

### **Create a safe space for conversations**

Look for opportunities to talk together. Sometimes, talking face-to-face can feel difficult, so talking alongside each other when out for a walk, or travelling in the car for example, are options that might make it easier.

The environment needs to be right; free from distractions, so that your child has your undivided attention. Remind them often that they can talk to you about anything, no matter how difficult, and that they will not be judged or blamed.

Your child might not be ready to talk about something straight away, so show them that you are there to listen whenever they are ready.

### **Keep it relevant**

As they get older, your children will use technology differently from when they first went online. Their knowledge and understanding will grow too, as will the challenges they may face on the internet.

To get a sense of how much they know and what support they still need, ask open-ended questions to let your child lead the conversations you have.

There are appropriate ways to approach all online safety topics with different ages. For example, with a teenager, nude images can be spoken about in wider conversations around consent and healthy relationships.

For younger children, you could discuss what types of images are okay to share online, and what areas of our bodies are private.

### **Be proactive**

Working together to create an agreement, outlining how the internet and technology will be used within the family, is a useful way to set clear expectations and boundaries for your children.

You might include time spent online; who your children can communicate with; appropriate apps and games; and why safety tools are helpful to block and report inappropriate content.

Ask your child what they would do if something went wrong online and they needed help and reinforce the importance of telling an adult as soon as anything happens that makes them feel upset, worried, or uncomfortable in any way.



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## Practical tips for starting a conversation about life online – continued

### How to talk about difficult topics

- Plan what you want to say in advance and seek support and information if needed so that you feel prepared.
- Choose a moment when there are no other distractions, and you are not rushed for time but acknowledge that they might not feel ready to speak straight away.
- Consider the best approach to anticipate how your child might react. You might want to directly explain the concerns that led to the conversation or feel that asking some broader questions might be more suitable in the first instance.
- Give your child time to process what you are saying and share their thoughts, without interruption or blame. Listen carefully to any confusion or concerns.
- Share your own experiences if you can. Were you ever in a similar situation and how was it resolved?
- Reassure them you are always there to help and even if you don't know the answers, you can find these out together.
- Get support quickly if they need it. This might be from family, friends, your child's school or other agencies.

### My child has said something worrying – what do I do?

- Let them explain in their own words what has happened.
- Remain composed. If you are feeling shocked, angry, or worried, it's likely that your child is feeling worse, but reacting that way may close the conversation and lead your child to believe that they are to blame.
- Acknowledge the challenges they have overcome and let them know that they've done the right thing by telling you.
- Be honest. It's okay if you are unsure what to do next, the important thing is to let your child know you are there for them. There is a lot of further support out there to help you decide on your next steps.
- Save the evidence wherever possible. You may be able to report what has happened to the online service being used when the incident occurred. Evidence may include screen shots taken on a laptop or mobile device, emails, texts, or online conversation histories.
- Make a report as soon as possible. Knowing who to report to is a useful step to resolving many issues, so try to familiarise yourself with the reporting, blocking or moderating settings available on the services your child is using. Depending on what has happened, it might be necessary to let your child's school know too, or other agencies such as the police.



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## Attendance



Class Name	% attendance from Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> February
The Aviary	73%
Gosling	89%
Wren	96%
Ostrich	82%
Kookaburra	97%
Flamingo	86%
Kingfisher	93%
Toucan	85%
Hummingbird	93%
Whole School	89%



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Rosettes at achievement assembly have been presented to:

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February

Hummingbird: Jasper, Raaida

Toucan: Kianna, Arianne

Kingfisher: Poppy, Kaine

Ostrich: Albie, Haneefa

Kookaburra: Ibrahim, Romeo

Flamingo: Martha, George M

Wren: Abigail, Kenda

Gosling: Alicia, Jeremiah

Aviary: Finley, Faiza

Nursery: Archie