



Churchfield News

Summer 1 Week 2 – 28th April 2023

Upcoming Diary Dates

- Mon 1st May – Bank Holiday
- Tue 2nd May – Y6 FREE SATs Breakfast Club Starts
- Wed 3rd May – King's Coronation Themed Dinner
- Thu 4th May – Y4 MTC Try-it-Out Session (3:30pm)
- Mon 8th May – Bank Holiday
- Tues 9th May – Y6 SATs Start

After-School Clubs

After-school clubs are now available to book. Please check the MCAS app to book your child onto clubs!

New Staff

We'd like to give a big Churchfield welcome to Miss France who has joined our staffing team this week and is supporting in Year 4. Next week we also say goodbye to Miss Sixsmith who has been supporting in Class 11.

NEU Strike – Tue 2nd May

A letter was sent out yesterday about the NEU Strike on Tuesday 2nd May. At present, all school will be open as normal but this is subject to change.

Y6 SATs & Breakfast Club

Y6 SATs start on Tuesday 9th May, with the FREE breakfast club for Y6 starting the week before on Tuesday 2nd May.

Bank Holidays

Just a quick reminder that Monday 1st & Monday 8th May are Bank Holidays and school is closed.

Churchfield Showcase Tickets

Tickers are now available for the Churchfield Showcase and Pie & Pea night. Please see the office if you would like to purchase any! All proceeds go to the Royal British Legion.

Sports Days

Sports Day dates are as follows:

- Tuesday 20th June – Year 1 & Year 2 (9:30am – 12:30pm Approx, Dorothy Hyman)
- Wednesday 21st June – Year 5 & Year 6 (9:30am – 12:30pm Approx, Dorothy Hyman)
- Thursday 22nd June – Year 3 & Year 4 (9:30am – 12:30pm Approx, Dorothy Hyman)
- Thursday 22nd June – FS2 (1:30pm – 3:00pm, at School)

Inset Day

A quick reminder that our final INSET Day this year is **Friday 30th June**. This is a transition day for staff to provide information to next year's teacher.



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King Charles III's Coronation Party

Celebration Menu

Wednesday 3rd May 2023

"The King" Beef Burger & Fries

Beef Burger, cheese and Bacon on bread cake with fries, sweetcorn and mushrooms
Alternatives DF Cheese, Genius Bread GF/DF

A Royal Quiche

Seasonal vegetable, mushroom and cheese
Quiche served with Fries and sweetcorn

Jacket Potato with Hot and Cold Fillings

Royal Cupcakes

King Charles Iced Lemon Tray Bake
Crown Cookie





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At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Helping children and young people with MANAGING DEVICE STRESS AND ANXIETY

The internet and advances in the capability of digital devices have afforded us arguably the fastest period of technological and social evolution in living memory: creating opportunities for us to interact with people anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day. It's also, however, blurred safety boundaries and added new stresses for young people, who are often less aware of the hidden hazards. With almost half of 10-15-year-olds experiencing bullying online and algorithms pushing content in front of our children every day, it's important to know how to address some of these challenges.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

LIVING ONLINE

The internet is awash with sophisticated algorithms that learn from our online behaviour and try to predict our wants and needs. That's very helpful in some respects, but it can make the online world difficult for children and young people to negotiate. Content can be brought to them at any time – it may not always be appropriate, and children may not have the ability or the support to deal with it.

PUSHY NOTIFICATIONS

Content is also directed at us through notifications from our apps: letting us know we have a new message or social post to read, for example. While that's useful in some circumstances, it conditions us to keep going back online (and is designed to do so) and can be a near-constant demand on your child's attention. As such alerts become more common, are we experiencing an 'attack of the pings'?

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

There are now so many ways we can communicate online in real time (like instant messaging apps) or with a delay (such as on social media) that it's possible to be constantly in conversation. Young people often prefer quickfire exchanges of text – but using fewer words can cause distressing miscommunications through the lack of non-verbal cues like facial expressions or tone of voice.

DIGITAL DEPENDENCY

As devices allow access to immediate external help in challenging situations, it's a concern that children may not be developing the inner confidence to work things out for themselves. Likewise, group membership is hugely important to young people – both in digital and 'real' life – and being excluded from online conversations can cause damaging feelings of loneliness and isolation.

DISGUISED DISTRESS

Children often haven't yet developed the emotional resources to deal with many of the setbacks of everyday life, so identifying when it's specifically something online that's worried them can be tricky. A certain level of stress is a normal response to a problem: it spurs us into action to keep ourselves safe. If the stress is excessive, though, it can feel overwhelming and potentially lead to anxiety or depression.

ANTI-SOCIAL SOCIALS

Social media can bring people together in hugely positive ways. Sadly, it does also have a darker side, including 'flame war' arguments which can escalate quickly and have hurtful consequences. With so many people looking on, 'group shaming' situations are also common – while there are continual opportunities for young people to compare themselves negatively with other social media users.

Advice for Parents & Carers

LEARN THE BASICS

It's impossible to keep up with every online change or every new app. The best option is to make yourself aware of the fundamentals of how the internet operates, so you can help your child to grasp how – and why – content reaches them. Devices and the digital world can be confusing, so learning to understand them better will give you the confidence to talk to your child about them.

TALK IT OUT

If a child mentions a comment that's been directed at them in a text chat or on social media, it may sound minor but can actually have a much bigger effect than we realise. In our evolved brains, any perceived threat can get internalised while our body reacts as if we were in physical danger – raising stress levels. It's always worth encouraging your child to get any concerns out in the open.

PUSH DISTRACTIONS AWAY

Notifications to our phones and tablets can be helpful, but they sometimes make one wonder who's really in charge: the person or the device? Checking our phone as soon as it goes off is an easy habit to fall into – especially for young people. Try switching off non-essential alerts on your devices and encourage your child to do the same: you should both feel less triggered and more in control.

LOOK FOR THE SIGNS

This is tricky – and may depend on the child's age – but any sudden change in behaviour is worth looking out for. If your child seems to be checking their phone or tablet more, doesn't want to be parted from them, or appears unusually secretive, anxious or withdrawn, it could be a sign that something is amiss in relation to their device – and, possibly, that they're in need of extra support.

KEEP CHECKING IN

Healthy emotional regulation balances three systems: threat, drive and grounding. Down the various rabbit holes of the internet, however, that balance can easily slip away – so it's important to help your child manage their emotions when they're online. Check in with them regularly when they're on their device, and remember that 'distraction' and 'relaxation' aren't always the same thing.

BE KIND: UNWIND

Be kind to yourselves as parents and carers. Remember that we're all in the same boat, trying to safely guide our children through this complex, fast-moving digital environment. Getting into the habit of having natural, relaxed conversations with your child about their online life (and yours) can level the playing field and make it far easier for them to open up to you about any concerns.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Carole Francis-Smith is an experienced counselling psychologist who specialises in promoting safe and ethical online communications. She consults with and offers bespoke training to businesses and organisations, supporting positive and effective online communications – often by considering some of the more hidden aspects of the various mediums.



Source: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/report/the-big-ask-big-answers/>
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletin/the-childrens-online-behaviour-survey-and-answers/year-ending-march-2020>