



Newsletter June 2024

St. Michael's Middle School

"Each person, uniquely made in God's image, merits the best we can give"



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school for the final half term of the year. This year seems to have gone so quickly and we have certainly packed a lot into that time. We hope you enjoy looking back at the last month or so of school activities.

I want to start by saying a big well done to Year 6 for their efforts in the recent SATS. They have all worked so incredibly hard and we look forward to receiving the results in July. We now switch the focus to their writing and trying to improve those last few areas.

We are also beginning in earnest the transition arrangements for pupils joining the school and for those who will be leaving us at the end of the year. A reminder that the transition day for all pupils will be on Friday 28th June and further details for this day be communicated in the next couple of weeks.

On Thursday, we will be spending some of the day looking back at the events of 80 years ago, that being D-Day. We will be having a special assembly that will take pupils through the events before, during and after the event. Some of our choir will be taking part in a performance in Wimborne as part of the events taking place to mark the anniversary (see the programme in this newsletter). Later this year, the Year 8 pupils going on our French trip will have a chance to visit some of the actual beaches where all of the events of the day took place and also visiting one of the many cemeteries for the fallen, a truly moving experience.

We have a busy half term ahead with lots of concerts and events, be sure to check out the important dates page for details of what is happening.

Kind regards,

Mr Ayling

St. Michael's Church of England Middle School

Colehill Lane, Wimborne, Dorset. BH21 7AB

Tel: 01202 883433

office@stmichaelsmiddle.org

Headteacher: Mr D. Ayling BSc/Ed (Hons) NPQH NPQEL

Deputy Headteacher: Mr P. Andrews BSc (Hons) PGCE

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Holne Park**

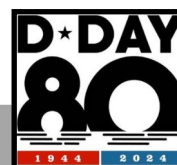
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SPORTS NEWS

Girls' Football Double Champions!



Following on from their success in representing Dorset as champions in the English School's FA Cup in Bristol last half term, our Year 5 girls' football team have won the Dorset County Football Cup, making them double champions! This is a great achievement for the school as it is the second year in a row we have won this competition showing that we are a growing force in girls' football. A huge congratulations to these girls who have done so well for the school. Keep this photo, who knows how many future Lionesses it shows!



Year 5

Penathalon Team

A group of our Year 5 pupils competed against a number of other schools in a Penathalon (5 different events) competition. They did exceptionally well and came 2nd overall by just one point. A great effort and well done to the team.



Year 6 - Thursday 4th July
(pm)

Year 5 - Thursday 11th July
(pm)

Years 7 & 8 - Wednesday
17th July (am and pm)

East Dorset Gymnastics Tumbling Champions!

Congratulations to our Year 5 and 6 gymnastics tumbling team who won the East Dorset competition with an outstanding performance, bettering their finish of 2nd place last year. It was a tight result with us just edging ahead of Allenbourn Middle to take the trophy back to St. Michael's. All of the team won Gold medals and we were very excited by the result.



SPORTS NEWS

Continued....



Well done to our Year 6 indoor athletics team who came 3rd in the recent Dorset County Athletics event.



Congratulations to the Under 12 girls' football team for being in the final of the Dorset County Cup, narrowly losing the final to a very good team from Glenmoor Secondary School.



We have a number of our school cricket teams progressing through the various competitions and doing well. We will update you on their progress in the next newsletter.



Our Year 8 Sport's Leaders have been developing their coaching skills by running mini-sports festivals at St. James First School and Colehill First.



Congratulations to our Under 13 boys' football team who made the final of the PEDSSA Football Cup, losing a close final to a tough Poole Grammar team. A great effort to get to the final.

In memory of Rob Stillman

CHARITY TENNIS DAY

THE BRAIN TUMOUR CHARITY 

30 | 1 PM - 6 PM
JUNE 2024 | Wimborne Tennis Club

Join us for a fun-filled family event and help raise money for two amazing charities!

1 PM : BBQ AND DRINKS

1.30 - 3.30 PM : STILLMAN-DAVIS JUNIOR CUP

4 - 6 PM : ADULT AND CHILD FUN DOUBLES TOURNAMENT

STRAWBERRIES & CREAM | CAKE | FIZZ | PICK 'N' MIX

Year 5 Greek Day



Year 5 were recently transported back to Ancient Greece for a day looking at the culture and history of this ancient civilisation. The day involved activities such as an Olympics event, playscript reading from 'Who Let the Gods Out', designing Greek pottery and playing games with an Ancient Greece theme.

The event helps launch the pupils' English work for this half term based around the book 'Who Let the Gods Out' by Maz Evans. They will use the book to examine different writing styles including non-chronological reports, narrative writing and playscripts. A big thank you for the wonderful effort on costumes, you all looked magnificent!





LoveReading

4 KIDS BUY BOOKS CHANGE LIVES

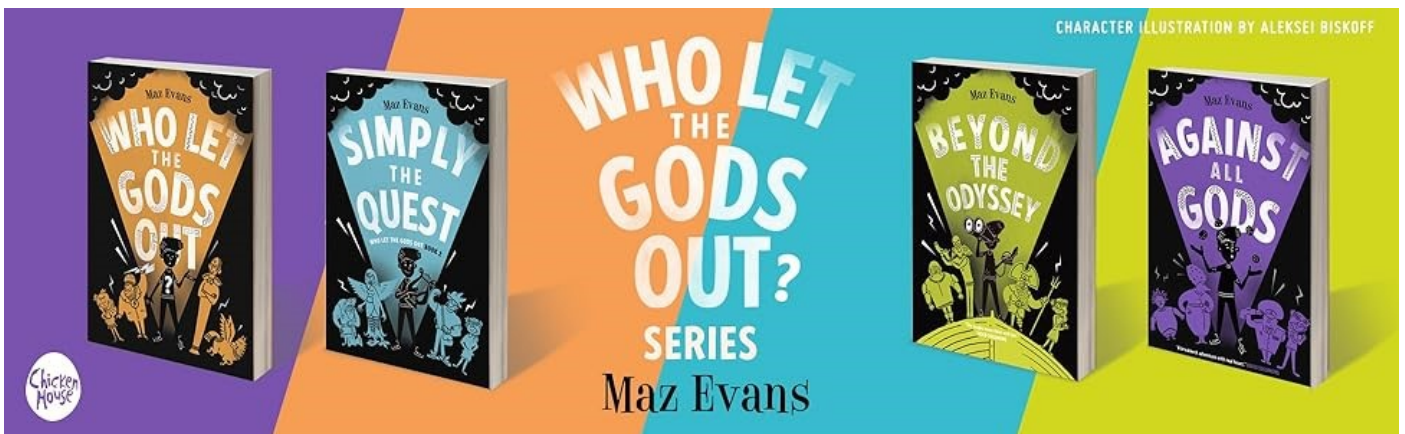
www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk

www.lovereadings.co.uk

We are delighted to introduce you to a new website for the purchase of books for you or your child that also helps support our school. LoveReading and LoveReading4Kids offer a comprehensive one-stop place to find all of the latest books, for all ages, with reviews and recommendations. All the books have 10% off the cover price. You can also purchase gift cards which not only make a lovely present but once cashed in also raises money for the school. Every book purchased helps towards our ongoing library redevelopment and gives our pupils the widest possible choice of quality reading materials. Please spread the word of this site to friends and families, especially if they are buying books as a present, and help us raise as much as possible.

Every book purchased through this website gives 25% of the cover price to St. Michael's!

Please select St. Michael's Middle School at checkout as your nominated school



Other titles from Maz Evans, author of 'Who Let the Gods Out' - available from www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk

 LoveReading

School Uniform Project

Save money & reduce waste

Donations of uniform gratefully received at The Reef

Colehill Lane, BH21 7AB
(Normal office hours 9.30 - 2.30 pm Tues - Fri)

Queen Elizabeth's School Hayeswood First School
St Michael's Middle School Colehill First School
Allenbourn Middle School Wimborne First School

Find out the dates of our next sales at www.thereef.uk

Registered charity no. 1120361

www.thereef.uk
admin@thereef.uk
01202 062121

Colehill Lane, Colehill, Dorset, BH21 7AB

As part of our commitment as an Eco-School, we are always looking for ways to reduce waste and reuse/recycle. The Reef Community Centre runs regular second hand school uniform sales of donated items. They are appealing for old uniform from any of the listed schools to be dropped off ahead of the upcoming summer sales. If you are purchasing new uniform for next year, please donate anything no longer needed to The Reef. There will be a sale Tuesday from 10am to 1pm every week throughout the summer holidays, starting 23rd July. All money raised goes to support The Reef charity which maintains and operates the centre.

Pupils for Praise

Every Friday, two pupils from each year group are selected to go and see Mr Ayling to receive praise and a reward for their hard work. All the pupils below have been selected since the last newsletter.

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Tash B	Thomas A	Bethany L	Alissa I
Leyton P	Heidi C	Gracie J	George H
Isla H	Lee D	Ava S	Helena A
Jack W	Charlotte F	Jasmine B	Izzy P
James K	Elliott W-G	Zoe B	Josh A
Corder H	Isla K	Isabelle A	Sophie B
Lily S	Claudia E	Leah J	Eathan H
Mahthilda T	Verity B	Grace C	Tommy G
Poppy L	Dexter J	Tilly E	Mason Y
Phoebe W	Ella G	Sophia H	
Cian N		Harry B	
Chloe F		Josh R	
Charlie M		Willow P	

Congratulations!



Year 5 Butterflies



As part of their science topic on lifecycles, Year 5 pupils have been observing caterpillars undergoing metamorphosis into butterflies. Each class had a net in their classroom and watched the caterpillars grow, cocoon themselves before emerging as fully formed butterflies. Once their wings had dried out, they were set free into our garden area.

House Point Totals

Here are the final house point totals for the year. Pupils earn 'ePraise' points and these are added together to make their house point totals.

Hanham

42,722

Bankes

40,413

Gulliver

41,168

Paget

41,943

You can check your child's ePraise points total by going to www.epraise.co.uk and logging into the parents' page.

These are the five students with the most house points in each house - well done!

Matilda C (448)

Freddie H (432)

Oliver S (427)

Heidi C (489)

Freya W (443)

Eva-Bella J (424)

Roseanna L (412)

Charlotte F (485)

Lily S (419)

Thomas A (419)

Oscar M (407)

Hetty R (438)

Annie B (413)

Mpho M (381)

Emilia S-J (404)

Jack S (437)

Rachel K (411)

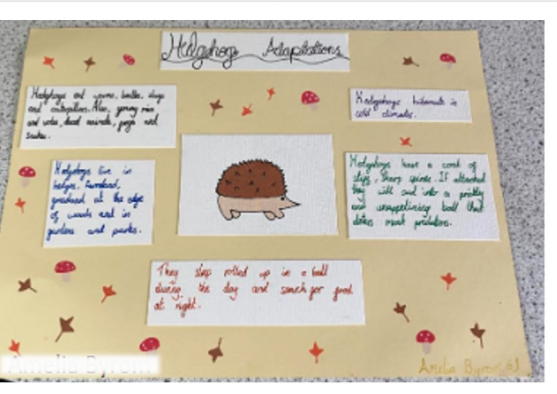
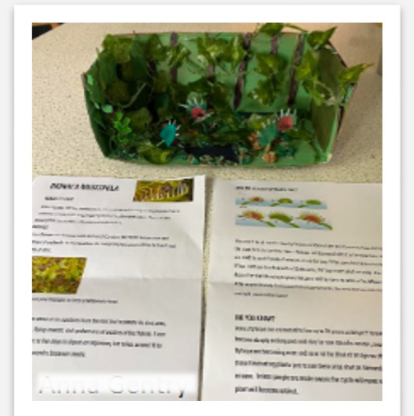
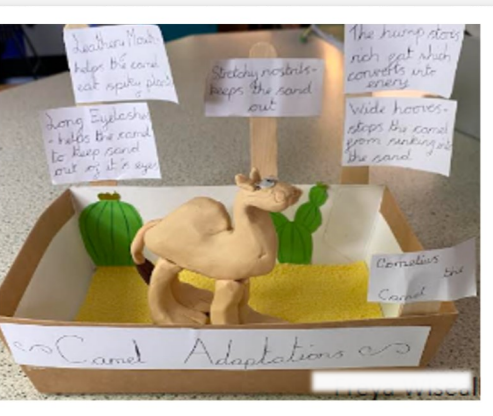
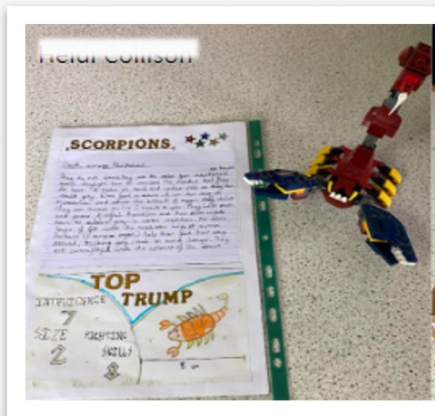
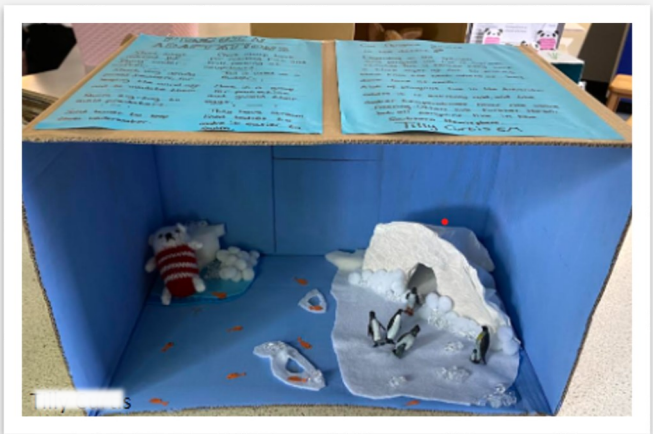
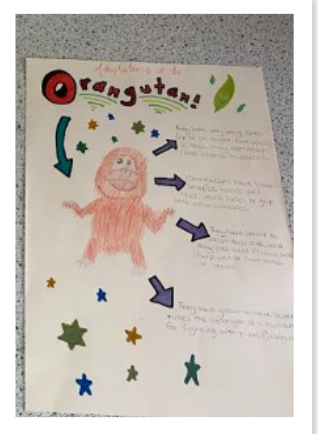
Alyssa C (380)

Edward F (401)

Constance H (426)

Year 6 Science

Year 6 pupils have been studying animal adaptations as part of their variation topic. They were set a homework to present their research to the rest of the class. Here are some of the results. Great work!



HOLNE PARK 2024

Just before half term we took 105 of our Year 7s to Holne Park in Devon for a fun-filled week of adventurous activities. For many of them, it was the first time that they had stayed away from home but there was little time to dwell on feeling homesick as it was a jam-packed week of activities which included: caving, rock climbing, high ropes, canoeing, raft building and many more. Lots of pupils overcame their fears and worked in activity groups which allowed them the opportunity to make new friends. In the evenings, pupils were competing in a mini Olympics and also building shelters around a campfire.

One pupil has said "Holne Park is a fun experience. It's not what I thought it would be - it was much more exciting, it's a massive place and you go in a minibus to do caving and rock climbing. My favourite activity was high ropes which I never thought I'd say as I don't like heights! I went round 4 times. Me and Molly went ahead of everyone. My biggest achievement was being away from home but I did it and I now want to go on the trips in Year 8."

Well done to all of the pupils who came on the trip for representing the school so well and thank you again to all of the staff who gave up their time to ensure the trip could go ahead.



Students can access the hundreds of photos from the week via their Google Drive. They are saved in Student Resources / Year 7 / Holne Park photos 2024.

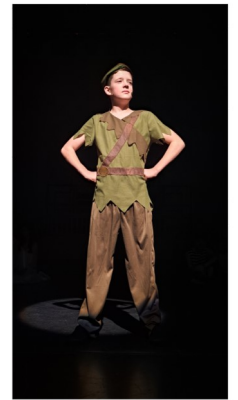
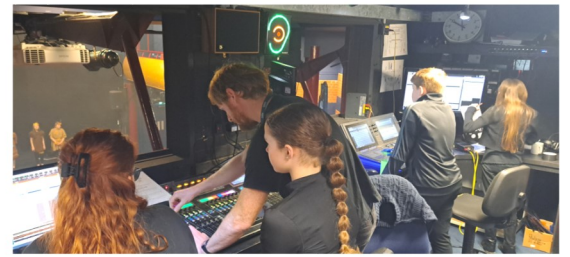
Peter Pan Jr.

St. Michael's Middle School was delighted to perform Peter Pan Jr. over three nights at the Layard Theatre. Over 1000 people saw the performances of what was widely regarded as one of the best shows in recent years. The pupils worked incredibly hard over many weeks to bring the show together, under the guidance of the many staff who helped out. A particular thank you to Mr Johnston and Mr Patrice for coordinating the show. It was particularly impressive where pupils controlled all aspects of the performance, including the lighting and sound in the theatre, with two pupils even going onto the lighting gantry to control the spotlight. We are sure that it will leave many wonderful memories for the cast and be a highlight of their time at St. Michael's. We hope you enjoy some of the photos from the show.



On the final night, we were delighted to welcome back performers from our last two shows who helped us say a big goodbye to Mrs Atkins who retired after over 25 years at the school.





UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday 6th June	Year 8 QE Transfer Assembly Year 8 Mayflower Theatre Visit to 'Wicked' SMMS Pupils singing at D-Day Event
Tuesday 11th June	Bronze and Silver Arts Award Moderation Day Year 4 Sports Welcome Event (after school)
Wednesday 12th June	Silver Arts Award trip to Southampton Rock Concert for Parents (Evening)
Monday 17th June- Friday 21st June	Year 8 Tall Ships Week
Wednesday 19th June	Year 4 Parents' Welcome Evening 6pm
Thursday 20th June	Year 7 Rivers Trip Day 1
Friday 21st June	INSET Day (School Closed)
Monday 24th June - Friday 28th June	Year 8 French Trip Week
Thursday 27th June	Year 7 Rivers Trip Day 2
Friday 28th June	Transfer Day
Monday 1st July	Extra Transfer Day at QE for French Trip Pupils
Monday 1st July - Wednesday 3rd July	Year 6 Activities Events
Thursday 4th July	Year 6 Sports Day (pm)
Wednesday 10th July	Summer Concert 6.30pm
Thursday 11th July	Year 5 Sports Day (pm)
Tuesday 16th July	Parents' Evening (In School)
Wednesday 17th July	Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8) Sports Day
Friday 19th July	Year 8 Rewards Day
Monday 22nd July	Year 8 Leavers' Assembly (am) Year 8 Prom Night (Evening)
Tuesday 23rd July	Last Day of Term



St. Michaels' C.E. Middle School



Term Dates 2024/2025

Autumn Term

Tuesday 3rd September 2024	INSET Day (School Closed)
Wednesday 4th September 2024	INSET Day (School Closed)
Thursday 5th September 2024	First Day of Autumn Term for Pupils
Monday 28th October 2024— Friday 1st November 2024	Half Term (School Closed)
Monday 4th November 2024	INSET Day (School Closed)
Tuesday 5th November 2024	Pupils Return to School
Thursday 19th December 2024	Last Day of Autumn Term for Pupils
Friday 20th December 2024	INSET Day (School Closed)

Spring Term

Monday 6th January 2025	INSET Day (School Closed)
Tuesday 7th January 2025	First Day of Spring Term for Pupils
Monday 17th February 2025— Friday 21st February 2025	Half Term (School Closed)
Monday 24th February 2025	INSET Day (School Closed)
Tuesday 25th February 2025	Pupils Return to School
Friday 4th April 2025	Last Day of Spring Term for Pupils

Summer Term

Tuesday 22nd April 2025	INSET Day (School Closed)
Wednesday 23rd April 2025	First Day of Summer Term for Pupils
Monday 5th May 2025	Bank Holiday (School Closed)
Monday 26th May 2025—Friday 30th May 2025	Half Term (School Closed)
Monday 2nd June 2025	Pupils Return to School
Friday 4th July 2025	INSET Day (School Closed)
Wednesday 23rd July 2025	Last Day of Summer Term for Pupils



D-Day 80th Anniversary activities in Wimborne Minster on 6th June 2024

National Poem event: Poems will be read by various schools nationwide.

11am – Poem for Schools (D Day Heroes)

East Dorset Heritage Trust (Allendale House)

2pm - D-Day Presentation by local historian John Smith (Cost £6)

(including scale model of replica landing craft and tanks)

Stands and activities on Willow Walk (Behind Waitrose)

280 NATO Signal Squadron – Royal Signals (2 stands)

Royal Airforce Association – Wimborne Branch

WVTA – Wimborne Valognes Twinning Association

Royal British Legion Wimborne

Wimborne Community Theatre – Popping up round Wimborne to perform a short piece of theatre telling a local story.

12.00pm – Jubilee Gardens(behind the Town Hall)

12.40pm – Royal British Legion Wimborne

1.20pm – Minster Green

2.00pm – Museum of East Dorset

2.40pm – Willow Walk

Events on Willow Walk: - Compere and DJ Radio Wimborne

3.50pm - Proclamation and opening (Town Crier) and Radio Wimborne

4.00pm - 4.25pm School Choir - (St James First School)

4.30pm - 4.55pm School Choir - (St Michaels Middle School)

5.00pm - 5.05pm Announce the Schools Poetry competition winners and reading

5.10pm - 5.55pm The Land Girls 40s /50s music

6.10pm - 6.55pm Andy Kennet (50s / 60s Rock and Roll)

7.10pm - 7.55pm Adult Choir (Just Sing)

8.05pm - Quarter jacks Marching Band.

8.25pm - Procession to the Cemetery from Willow Walk via Crown Mead and the Square led by the Quarterjacks marching band.

The Minster Church

5.30pm - Minster Service and Blessing

6.30pm - Bell Ringing – Ringing out for peace (Wimborne Minster)

Cemetery – Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Service in Attendance.

9.00pm - Illuminate war graves at the Cemetery

9.10pm - Cannon firing salute by the Militia.

9.15pm - Lighting of the Beacon (as part of the International Tribute and poem reading by the Town Crier)



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

POP-UP ADS

WARNI

Pop-up advertisements have been a staple of the internet since they were first introduced in the late 1990s. This form of advertising causes a small window or banner to appear in the foreground while someone is browsing a website. Although these adverts are merely irritating for most people, pop-ups can present more severe risks to younger users.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

DECEPTIVE TACTICS

Children sometimes don't understand that adverts (including pop-ups) are designed to sell a product – and can't distinguish between a legitimate feature of a site and an advertisement. Video games, for example, can be full of pop-up ads that tempt users into spending money, yet they might take the form of a mini-game or extra level.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While some adverts are targeted based on a user's interests and activity online, that isn't always the case. This means that children may unfortunately be exposed to ads for age-inappropriate goods or services such as tobacco products, alcohol and gambling sites.

MALWARE RISK

Most pop-ups from reputable advertisers are safe. However, in some cases, pop-ups can trick you into downloading malware – whereby cybercriminals install software on your device, allowing them to access your sensitive data. It can be difficult to know if malware has been installed on your device, so your best option is to avoid engaging with these pop-ups altogether. Be wary of sites that suddenly bombard you with ads or try to prevent you from leaving.

PRIVACY RISK

Many app and game developers will collect their users' personal data, such as their name, address, email address, geolocation information, unique numerical identifiers, photos and payment information. If a child clicks on an illegitimate pop-up laced with malware, all this information could be put at risk.

RACKING UP BILLS

If a child has access to a payment card on their device – be it a smartphone, laptop, or tablet – they could very quickly rack up a massive bill by interacting with pop-up adverts and buying products shown to them. Try to keep a close eye on their spending.

BEHAVIOURAL IMPACT

Research has found that pop-up ads can even have an impact on children's behaviour. Some of these adverts use manipulative tactics that take advantage of children's developmental vulnerabilities, intentionally or otherwise. This approach may cause a child's mood to shift: becoming more stubborn, for example, if they begin wanting their parents to buy a specific product for them.

Advice for Parents & Educators

START A CONVERSATION

It's important to have regular conversations with children about online advertising so that they understand the risks of interacting with pop-ups. For example, if a child asks for a product which has been advertised to them online, ask them why they want it and how they found it: this will present an opportunity to talk youngsters through the tactics used in online marketing.

SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child may be following pop-up ads to make online purchases or viewing content that could be harmful, it's important to be able to spot the signs. Due to the often-manipulative nature of these adverts, children who interact with them regularly may show signs of distraction, stubbornness and an increasingly materialistic worldview.

MONITOR CONTENT

It can often be difficult to spot when a pop-up advert is malicious – even more so for impressionable younger users. It's important to monitor the content they're consuming to prevent them from clicking on something dangerous. If a pop-up ad seems too good to be true – promising a free iPad, for example – it probably is.

PRIVACY SETTINGS

Most modern devices have privacy settings that let you limit the amount of advertising a child is subjected to while using apps or browsing the internet. You may also want to speak to teachers about avoiding sites and apps with advertising, as well as adjusting digital privacy settings on any education technology they use.

LIMIT SPENDING

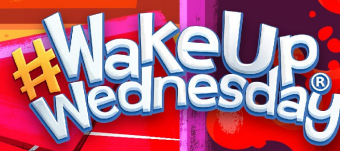
Try to stay aware of what children are spending and ensure that payment details aren't linked to or saved on the gaming platform that they use. Most video games and internet-enabled devices have settings that can help you manage what children can or cannot purchase online.

CUT DOWN ON SCREEN TIME

Given the prevalence of pop-up ads (which can appear on everything from smartphones and tablets to internet-connected toys and games), it might be beneficial to limit the time children spend on digital devices to curb their exposure to digital advertising.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology writer with more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, she is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant who writes for *Forbes*, *TechRadar* and *Wired*, among others.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/pop-ups>

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

GROUP CHATS

On messaging apps, social media and online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they can be great for connecting with others, there are several risks posed by these tools.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BULLYING

Teens are often trying to find their place in their social group. Unfortunately, group chats can sometimes lend themselves to unkind comments being shared freely, putting people down to make their peers laugh – often creating a vicious circle that encourages others to join in. Being bullied so publicly – in front of friends and acquaintances – can also amplify the hurt, embarrassment and anxiety that the victim feels.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: for instance, starting a new group, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one person 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 events that exclude them – for example, sharing photos from a day out that they didn't attend.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by a child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some apps have features that cause messages to disappear after they're viewed, so children may be unable to report something they've seen, as it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

Group chats can feel more private and protected, allowing children to share inside jokes and video calls with a smaller group of friends. It's important to remember that while the chat's content is private between those in the group, individual users can easily share material with others outside of the group, or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something a child intended as private becoming public is higher if there are strangers in the chat.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely for children to communicate with people they don't know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly towards everyone present. It's wise for young people to avoid sharing personal details and remember that they have no control over what others do with the material they send into the chat.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications they tend to generate. Every time someone sends a message, each member's device will be 'pinged' with an alert. This could result in hundreds of notifications a day. This is often highly distracting, and young people's fear of missing out (FOMO) can cause increased screen time as they try to keep up with the conversation.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats can become an arena for young people to compete for social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse which could upset others. Help children consider how people might feel if they behave in this way. If the child does upset someone, encourage them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

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. Ensure children understand 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 can't be certain where it might end up and how it might be used.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Group chats are an excellent way for children to connect and feel like they belong. However, remind them that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their feelings and empower them by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. You can also encourage children to speak up if they witness others being picked on.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their identity to gain a child's trust and serve their own ends – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure the child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and why they should never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If a child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block whoever sent the material, report that person to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could put a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise that it's OK for children to simply leave any group chat that makes them feel uncomfortable.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a device bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be an irritating distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to children that they can still be part of the group chat while disabling notifications – and that it would be healthier for them to do so, avoiding a situation where they could feel pressured to respond.

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.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-56811131/lets-talk-about-socialising-online/group-chats> / <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/chat-apps/>