



The Apple



The news from Isaac Newton School, Grantham

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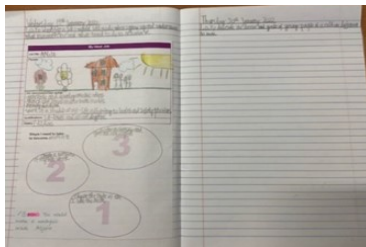
Date: Friday 21st January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week we've all been greeted with the news that 'Plan B' restrictions will be eased from 26th January. This will also mean an easing of measures here in school from this date. We hope to again return to whole school assemblies and I know that both the staff and children are very much looking forward to this!



Speaking of assemblies, this week the children had a very special (virtual) assembly from Mrs Beeby. This assembly was related to our PSHE scheme Jigsaw which we follow here in school. In PSHE lessons children learn about a whole range of things, including how to keep themselves mentally and physically healthy. This term's 'jigsaw piece' (focus) is about 'Dreams and Goals'. Every half term, Mrs Beeby will now do an assembly to mark the beginning of a new theme. As I've been going around school this week, I've seen a lot of children talking about their dreams and goals. Our school mission statement is 'be the best that we can be in everything that we do' and we encourage our children to 'dream big' and set themselves aspirational goals. Perhaps you could spend a bit of time this weekend talking to your child about their dreams and goals and what they would like to achieve in the future.



Chris Heathcote

Headteacher

1-Minute Maths App

Free to download for parents and pupils:
<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/1-minute-maths/id1584136366>



Designed for use at home, this new 1-Minute Maths app helps children build greater number confidence and fluency. It's all about targeted practice in engaging, one-minute chunks!

Covid-19 Measures

Public Health Lincolnshire updated their Covid guidance for schools on Monday. The threshold for reporting an outbreak/ cluster and implementing further measures within a school is now **ten** linked cases. As a school we always work in-line with Public Health guidance. In the event of 10 linked cases we will send a letter home to parents/ carers within that class informing them of this and the further measures that will need to be implemented. We will continue to send a letter home when there is 1 case and a further letter when there are 5 cases but no additional measures will be implemented at these points. The letters will purely advise parents/ carers to remain extra vigilant.

Covid-19 Isolation

If your child is self-isolating due to Covid-19, they can now return to school on day 6 of their isolation period. Their return is dependent on a negative lateral flow test of both day 5 and day 6 and these tests should be taken 24 hours apart. Your child should also **not** have a high temperature. If your child is still positive on day 5 then they can continue to take lateral flow tests 24 hours apart. Once two of these (in a row) are negative then they can return to school. If you require any further advice or support then please contact the school office.

Places in Reception (September 2022)

If your child was born between 01/09/2017 and 31/08/2018 then you need to apply NOW for a place in reception (EYFS) for September 2022. Use the online application system which can be found via:

www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions.

If you require support with your online application or want to make a telephone application please call the Lincolnshire Education Team on 01522 782030.

Swimmarathon

We have had to withdraw from this year's Swimmarathon due to Covid-19. The Rotary Club have understandably put in place restrictions that has made it too logistically difficult for us to take part. Thank you to all those families who had agreed to take part. We look forward to hopefully taking part in this again next year but for this year we are currently planning a potential fundraising event that we will hold here in school!

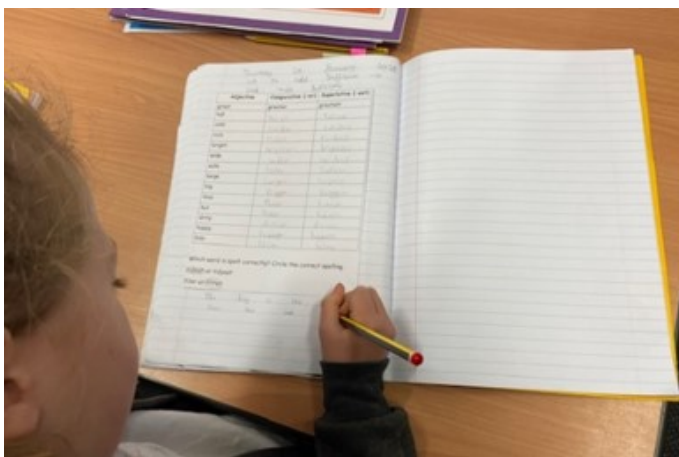
Yorkshire Wildlife Park

Our Year 1 children really enjoyed their trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park this week. They got to see a whole variety of animals as well as learning about how these animals adapt to living in their natural habitats. This is linked to their topic where they are learning about hot and cold places. As always, the children behaved fantastically well and were a real credit to the school. Well done Year 1, you were amazing despite the FREEZING weather!



Omegle

This week, we have been made aware of an incident outside of school in an online chat room where strangers are paired together. The chat room is called Omegle and has an age restriction of 13. We would strongly advise that children should not use this site due to the potential for online grooming. Attached to this week's newsletter is a parent/carer guide relating to this platform. Please can we remind parents/ carers to monitor, **at all times**, what their child is doing and accessing online.

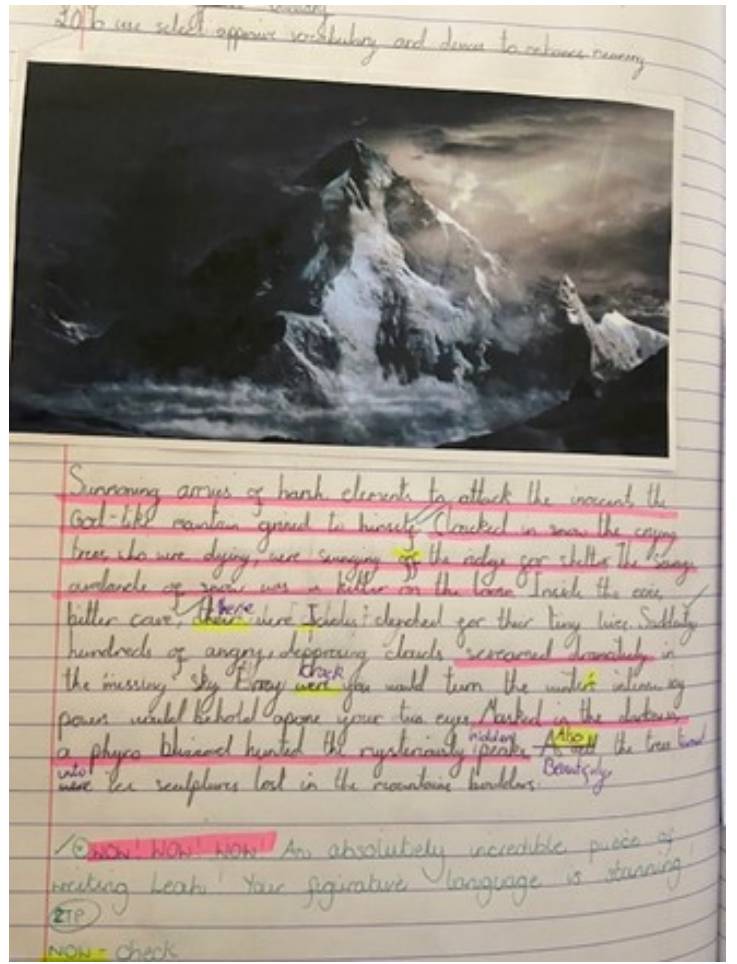


Summer Term Holidays

The Summer Term now finishes on Thursday 21st July. Children are **not** in school on Friday 22nd July. The extra day is due to the additional bank holiday for the Queen's Jubilee. All schools have been directed by the Department for Education to add this extra day into their term dates.

Important Dates

Term 3:	Wednesday 5 th January 2022 - Friday 11 th February 2022
25th Jan	Y5 Partake Theatre Workshop (In school)
Term 4:	Monday 21 st February 2022 - Friday 1 st April 2022
25th Feb	Y4 Leicester Museum
9th March	Y6 Trip- The Deep
14th March	Y2 Partake Theatre Workshop (In School)
16th March	Y3 Peterborough Museum
25th March	Y5 ½ day PGL
30th March	Class Photo Day
Term 5:	Tuesday 19 th April 2022 - Friday 27 th May 2022
Term 6:	Monday 6 th June 2022 - Thursday 21 st July 2022
15th June	Y6 Trip- Yorkshire Sculpture Park



OMEGLE: A Parent's Guide



What is Omegle?

Omegle is a free online chat service which pairs random strangers into an online video call or text conversation, without the need to register or create an account. According to Omegle, the service is a great way to meet new friends while staying safe and anonymous, but openly admits that predators have been known to use Omegle.

What does it look like?



© National Online Safety Ltd

This is not a definitive guide. Please always check with any app's support information to see if your security and privacy concerns are addressed.



Main Concerns for Parents

Omegle is not aimed at children
 According to the terms and conditions of Omegle, children below the age of 13 years should not use the service but children between 13 and 18 years old can use the site if they ask for permission from their parent or guardian. This level of caution would suggest that Omegle isn't really a service that is suitable for children or young teenagers.

AGE RESTRICTION
 13+

Sexually explicit content

Some people use Omegle so that they can enjoy sexually explicit conversations and share photographs or images with others in a live video call. There is the danger that some of the random people Omegle pairs your child with may have this intention. As well as the risk of seeing others take part in sexually explicit activities, these individuals may also ask your child to do similar things. It is illegal to make, possess, download, store and share sexual images, photos and videos of a person under the age of 18.

Predators target children on Omegle

For a website to openly state on its homepage to be careful because predators have been known to use its service is concerning. According to media reports, in 2017 a couple found their daughter talking to a random man via Omegle who asked the girl questions, such as whether her parents were strict, all while keeping his webcam covered. Predators will typically hide their identity in this way, pretending to be a different age or different person entirely. Due to Omegle's anonymity, events can be very hard to track.

Chats on Omegle can be recorded

Although calls can't be directly saved on Omegle, people can and do use third-party devices and software to record their conversations. As such, even if your child thinks they can do things on Omegle without it being tracked or with no consequences, this is far from the case.

Omegle stores conversations

Although Omegle guarantees anonymity, it can store conversations after they have ended. An internet researcher found that each chat log is saved in Omegle's server after they exit a conversation with someone. Words to this effect may be stated in the company's privacy for those who read it, which means Omegle's promise of anonymity may not be as private as everyone thinks.

Adult Chat

By clicking on the adult chat option, you are taken to an external adult pornography website. While it asks people to confirm that they are 18 when they click on this button, there is no way for Omegle to check for sure whether the individual really is 18 or over. As such, your child could be accessing porn at the click of a button through Omegle.

OMEGLE: Tips for Parents



Monitor your child closely

Despite the fact that many teenagers use Omegle, it will feature content that simply isn't designed or appropriate for this age group. If you allow your child to use Omegle, it probably isn't wise to allow them to use it alone. Perhaps sit down and use the service together – that way you can protect them from any potential dangers and react quicker to uncomfortable situations.

Make sure your child only uses the 'moderated' chat

When your child uses the 'moderated' chat option, messages will advise that the 'video is monitored, keep it clean' while on other sections, 'unmonitored' and 'adult', warnings state that potential sexual content may appear instead. The moderated section exists to try and lower the possibility of viewing sexual or inappropriate content but while it's probably safer than the other chat modes things may slip through.



Be mindful

Encourage your children to think critically about the things they see online. Chat about any messages where there is any uncertainty that someone is telling the truth.

Talk to your child about the risks

The following topics are good conversation starters to sit down and have with your child:

- Video calls and messages aren't as private as you think and can easily be recorded or stored
- The dangers and illegality of sexting underage
- What to do when they see inappropriate content on Omegle
- Why it's important not to go on the 'adult chat' or 'unmoderated chat'

Don't give out personal information

It is important that children don't give away personal details, such as their full name, age, address, or phone number to strangers.



Be mindful

Encourage your children to think critically about the things they see online. Chat about any messages where there is any uncertainty that someone is telling the truth.

Learn how to identify bots or 'trolls'

Bots leave automated messages and are often instant replies that don't relate to the conversation topic. People who use rude or inappropriate language straightaway or type weird messages before you have introduced yourself are quite often internet trolls who want to cause mischief.

Enter relevant interests

Providing genuine interests when starting a chat can increase the chances of your child being paired with someone they have something in common with rather than a bot.

Be ready to disconnect

If your child feels uncomfortable during a conversation, reassure them that they can exit a chat. To do this, they can simply disconnect from the session and exit the service or start a conversation with another user.

Be safe

Your child should never agree to meet up with someone they only know online. No matter how friendly they might seem or how well they think they know them, they are still a stranger.

Find an alternative service

Talking to random strangers is always going to be potentially dangerous. There are other online chat services available where it is clear who you are talking to and they are who they say they are.

Sources: <https://www.covadbyheliphgh.co.uk/news/covadby-news/omegle-parents-worried-over-dangers-1268722>
<http://www.dailyheliphgh.co.uk/news/daily-news/omegle-warnings-daily-couple-184-776335>
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<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/glob-classes/omegle-parents-guide.pdf>