

# Milton St. John's CE Primary School

## Newsletter

Wednesday 26 April 2023

Remember to subscribe to the newsletter on our website to receive an electronic copy.

### INDUSTRIAL ACTION TOMORROW AND TUESDAY

As explained in previous correspondence, the National Education Union (NEU), in accordance with the provisions of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1992, are calling upon their members to strike. Due to strike action taking place please note which classes are open and which are closed on each of the days detailed below.

**On Thursday 27 April, Nursery, Reception, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 classes will be closed. Year 6, Year 5 and Year 1 will remain open on this day.**

**On Tuesday 2 May, Nursery, Reception, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 will be closed. Year 6 and Year 1 will remain open.**

We understand that the strike action may pose difficulties with childcare for some parents and the situation is not ideal, we really do understand this. However, unfortunately we have been informed that we are unable to authorise absences for children on either of the two strike days if their classes are open. On Friday 28 April and Wednesday 3 May (days around strike days) we are also only able to authorise absences with medical evidence.

### CORONATION CELEBRATIONS 3 MAY



To mark and celebrate the historic Coronation of King Charles on 6 May, we are delighted to be holding our own celebrations in school on **Wednesday 3 May**. On this day, the children are able to dress up in party outfits or red/white and blue and will take part in a Coronation Ball and various other fun activities.

### ONLINE SAFETY

We are very aware that navigating internet safety for your child/children can be very difficult and it is hard to keep up with the speed in which technology moves on. National Online safety.com is a website that believes in empowering parents/carers with information to be able to make decisions and have informed conversations with their child about online safety. Through their website we have been able to source some quick and easy to follow posters that we hope will be of some use and we will share with you over the coming weeks. The first poster below is about Snapchat. This is an app that some of the older children are aware of and may use.

We **S**how respect. We are **H**onest. We **I**nclude others. We **N**ever give up. We seek **E**xcellence in all we do.



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

Snapchat is a photo- and video-sharing app which also allows users to chat with friends via text or audio. Users can share images and videos with specific friends, or through a 'story' (documenting the previous 24 hours) visible to their entire friend list. Snapchat usage rose during the pandemic, with many young people utilising it to connect with their peers. The app continues to develop features to engage an even larger audience and emulate current trends, rivaling platforms such as TikTok and Instagram.

## CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects on the app with people they know, they may still receive friend requests from strangers. Snapchat's links with apps such as Wink and Hoop have increased this possibility. Accepting a request means that children are then disclosing personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features. This could allow predators to gain their trust for sinister purposes.

## EXCESSIVE USE

There are many features that are attractive to users and keep them excited about the app. Snap streaks encourage users to send snaps daily. Spotlight Challenges give users to the chance to obtain money and online fame, and the Spotlight feature's scroll of videos makes it easy for children to spend hours watching content.

## INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat are not suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's Discover function lets users swipe through snippets of news stories and trending articles that often include adult content. There is currently no way to turn off this feature.

## SEXTING

Sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature makes it easy for young people (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse. While these pictures do disappear – and the sender is notified if it has been screenshot – first users have found alternative methods to save images, such as taking pictures with a separate device.

## DAMAGE TO CONFIDENCE

Snapchat's filters and lenses are a popular way for users to enhance their 'selfie game'. Although many are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beauty' filters on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations and create feelings of inadequacy. Comparing themselves unfavourably against other Snapchat users could threaten a child's confidence or sense of self-worth.

## VISIBLE LOCATION

My Places lets users check in and search for popular spots nearby – such as restaurants, parks or shopping centres – and recommend them to their friends. The potential issue with a young person consistently checking in to locations on Snapchat is that it allows other users in their friends list (even people they have only ever met online) to see where they currently are and where they regularly go.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add function helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this feature could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).

### CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

Snapchat has recently announced that it is rolling out a new safety feature: users will receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check Up' encourages users to delete connections with users they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.

### TALK ABOUT SEXTING

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it is important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sending, receiving or sharing explicit images, as well as the possible emotional impact. Emphasise that your child should never feel pressured into sexting – and that if they receive unwanted explicit images, they should tell a trusted adult straight away.

### CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

Talk to your child about what is and isn't wise to share on Snapchat (e.g. don't post explicit images or videos, or display identifiable details like their school uniform). Remind them that once something is online, the creator loses control over where it might end up – and who with. Additionally, Snapchat's 'Spotlight' feature has a #challenge like TikTok's: it's vital that your child understands the potentially harmful consequences of taking part in these challenges.

### KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Your child can send Snaps directly to friends, but Stories are visible to everyone they have added, unless they change the settings. If they use SnapMaps, their location is visible unless 'Ghost Mode' is enabled (again via settings). It's prudent to emphasise the importance of not adding people they don't know in real life. This is particularly important with the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchatters to see the places your child regularly visits and checks in. Additionally, it's important to be cautious about Shared Stories as this allows people who are not on your contact list access to the post.

### BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending explicit images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and choose report or block. There are options to state why they are reporting that user (annoying or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).

### 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.



**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: Statista Social media and young people's mental health | Life in Use - Children's Commissioners Report | <https://support.snapchat.com/en-US/US/privacy/snapchat-privacy-review> | IT for All | Independent.co.uk | <https://natsite.com/articles/snapchat-status-snap-maps/your-privacy-safety-commissioners-2017> | Young People and Sexting - ABS, Clear and Behavioural Research Findings from the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia.



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Amended: 04.07.2022



## NURSERY PLACES

We still have some Nursery places available for September. If your child was born between 1.9.19 and 31.8.20, your child is eligible to start in September. I know a number of parents that work sometimes worry about childcare before and after school when their child starts Nursery, however, we are very fortunate to have Castletop and Skools Out on our doorstep who are more than happy to drop off or collect your child if the start and finishing times don't quite work for you.

If you would like to contact Skools Out or Castletop about what they can offer, please see their details below.

Skools Out: 07960458246

Castle Top: 01457833322

## CLASS ASSEMBLIES – PARENTS WELCOME

Parents are welcome to attend their child's class assembly which are detailed below. Please come to the main entrance (off Mill Lane) once dropping your child off. Doors will open approximately 9.05am to allow us to put the chairs out after Skools Out finish in the hall.

Class	Assembly date
Class 1	17.5.23
Class 4	21.6.23
Reception	28.6.23
Class 2	5.7.23
6b Leavers' service	20.7.23
6a Leavers' service	21.7.23

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP THEME

Our collective worship theme for this half term is FRIENDSHIP. Please find some ideas about how the whole family can have fun and explore this Christian Value at the end of this newsletter.

## DIARY DATES

Mon 8 May 2023

Additional Bank Holiday

Tues 9 May to Fri 12 May 2023

Year 6 SATs week

Fri 16 June to Mon 19 June 2023

Year 6 Kingswood residential trip



## Friendships is...

**F**inding things to do together

**R**elying on each other

**I**mpossible on your own

**E**njoying being together

**N**ever selfish

**D**epending on someone else

**S**haring hopes and dreams

**H**appiness and laughter

**I**ncluding others

**P**recious

# FRIENDSHIP

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

This term we will be focussing in school on the value FRIENDSHIP. We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together.

## TALK TOGETHER about Friendship

Learning to be a good **friend**, someone who can be trusted and is loyal, takes a lifetime.

Talk together about how **friends** come in all shapes and sizes. Some are young, some are old. Some are always there, some we see only occasionally.

- How do we choose our **friends**?
- What makes a good **friend**?
- Are we a good **friend** to others?

## THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom

"A good **friend** is worth their weight in gold."

Anon

That's a lot of gold!  
Why do you think that this is such a popular proverb?



## FAMILY FOCUS Friends of the Family

This term's family challenge is to make a card or present for someone who is a **friend** to your whole family. You could add a gift tag saying...



## READ TOGETHER... Through the roof

Jesus reached a town called Capernaum and made his way to a house near the town gate. The crowd had gathered quickly and now even more people were pushing and squeezing into the small house, wanting to see him, hear him and touch him.

The excitement was infectious and four **friends** who lived in a street nearby soon heard the news. They met together and decided that they absolutely *had* to take their **friend** Joshua to Jesus. Joshua was paralysed and couldn't walk. They'd heard that Jesus performed miracles and could heal the sick. This was a chance they couldn't miss.

Wasting no time they carried their **friend** on his bed mat to the house, but jostling crowds blocked the doorway. They couldn't give up now. Their **friend** *must* meet Jesus. There was only one way. They carried him on to the flat roof of the house and carefully removed part of the roof to make a large hole.

Knotting ropes to the corners of the bed mat they gently lowered Joshua down right in front of Jesus. Imagine the surprise of all the people looking on. But Jesus smiled kindly at Joshua. "Take up your bed, and walk" he said. Slowly, falteringly and hardly daring to believe it was happening, Joshua stood and took a step forward. He could walk. He could actually walk! Thanks to Jesus and his **friends**, Joshua's life was changed forever!

Bible story based on Mark 2:1-12



## QUIZ Picture puzzle

Take the first letter of each object to discover who helped the paralysed man.



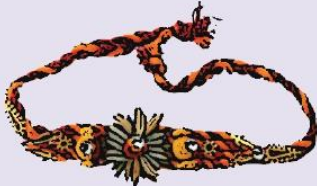




## FASCINATING FACTS

### Friendship Bands

**Friendship bracelets** are usually handmade and given to a special **friend**. According to American tradition you must wear the bracelet until the cords break and it falls off naturally. In this way you honour the love and hard work your **friend** put in to making it.



### Raksha Bandhan

One special type of **friendship** bracelet is a Rakhi. Each year, normally in August, many Hindus mark Raksha Bandhan. The festival is a celebration of family life and in particular the relationship between brothers and sisters. They remember and talk about special times together, and think about loyalty, closeness, trust and their everlasting **friendship**.

- Traditionally sisters tie a sacred thread, a Rakhi, on to their brothers' wrists.
- In response the brothers give their sisters a gift promising to help them whenever the need arises and to always protect them.
- Celebrations continue throughout the day with gifts of sweets and special food as families enjoy the time they share together.



## HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Use your imagination to make the best **friendship** bracelet ever – using knotting, threading beads, twisting ribbon, whatever you can think of. The more original the better!

or, if you prefer...

make your own large version of the picture puzzle (over the page), joining 5 or 6 words about **friendship**. Either draw pictures or cut them out of magazines.



## HALL OF FAME



### A dog is a man's best Friend

Near the village of Beddgelert in North Wales is a beautiful sculpture of a very special **friend**.

According to legend, the monument marks the resting place of the faithful dog, Gelert, who once belonged to the medieval Welsh Prince, Llewelyn the Great. A tombstone tells the story of a fateful day when Llewelyn went out hunting leaving the faithful hound, Gelert, to guard his young son. On his return Gelert sprang to greet his master, but Llewelyn noticed some blood on his fur. He rushed inside his house. To his horror the first thing he saw was his son's cot. It was empty!

The frantic father turned on the dog, thinking he must have harmed the boy. He killed Gelert there and then with his sword. At that moment a child's cry rang out through the house. Llewelyn searched and discovered his boy unharmed, but nearby lay the body of a mighty wolf which Gelert had killed before it attacked the small child.

Prince Llewelyn is said never to have smiled again and with tears of sadness he buried Gelert in this place, which became known as "the grave of Gelert", or in Welsh, Beddgelert.



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Celebrate King Charles III Coronation

# BIG FAMILY DAY OUT

FREE ENTERTAINMENT FOR ALL AGES !

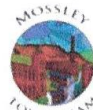
BRING A PICNIC MUSIC BOUNCY CASTLES

TUG 'O WAR CRAFTS FOR EVERYONE

FOOD AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE ALL DAY

AND LOTS MORE!

Community groups coming together for the community.



# Manchester Football Development



At Great Academy Ashton (Grass Pitch)  
Broadoak Road, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 8RF  
Starting on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023



## In association with First Kick Football

School years - Reception and Year 1

6:00pm - 6:45pm

School years - Year 2 and Year 3

6:45pm - 7:30pm

School years - Year 4, Year 5 & Year 6

7:30pm - 8:30pm

Dear parents,

Places are now available to join a new 12-week football course every Friday at Great Academy Ashton, starting 12<sup>th</sup> May, which is open to both boys and girls.

Our courses teach children correct football techniques by FA qualified coaches who have full DBS (CRB) clearance to work with children. The structure for the course is 'FUN through Football,' building confidence for total beginners and moving onto more complex sessions for experienced players.

We provide a **ball per player** for the majority of our drills ensuring children get more touches of the ball and improve quicker than conventional coaching where children are waiting around to have a turn. The sessions are held on the grass pitch so please wear suitable footwear. Players are also advised to bring a still drink for the session.

The club has links to local junior teams of which players will be able to play for at the weekend. Players who show advanced ability on the course will be recommended for trials at professional academies. Players who have previously attended courses are currently playing for Blackburn Rovers, Preston North End, Manchester United, Liverpool, Blackpool, Everton, Burnley, Bolton, Oldham, Rochdale and Wigan.

The cost of the course is just over £5 per week, which is payable in two instalments. The first payment of £25 is due when booking your child on and the second payment of £45 due at the first session. Parents are encouraged to watch the sessions but are welcome to leave children, as every session is fully supervised.

### **\*\*NEW TOURNAMENT FORMAT\*\***

Every four weeks we have a tournament in order for the children to put their new-found skills into practice with medals and trophies awarded at the end of the course for various categories.

**ALL PLAYERS WILL RECEIVE A TROPHY & A MEDAL** at the presentation, which is held on the final week of the course. Additional trophies will also be awarded in each group from categories including; Best Attitude, Star Player, Most Improved Player, Most Promising Player and Hardest Working Player.

To book a place for your child please telephone the number below as soon as possible as a high response is expected.



**Matt**

**TO BOOK PLEASE TELEPHONE**

**0161 302 2510 or 07514 316 534**



We cannot guarantee that the course will run in consecutive weeks  
Please note we have a strict no refund policy once the course has been booked





MOSSLEY AMATEUR OPERATIC AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Adapted from the cult film starring Clint Eastwood and Meryl Streep

# THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY

**BOOK  
NOW**  
maods.org

**24<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**George Lawton Hall, Mossley**

**North of  
England  
Premiere**

Based on the novel by Robert James Waller. Book by Marsha Brown.  
Music by Jason Robert Brown (Parade and The Last Five Years)

Presented by special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorised performance materials supplied by MTI.

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GRANDPARENTS, CARERS AND TEENS

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...your baby

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...your teenager's brain

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