



24TH NOVEMBER 2023

GENTLE REMINDER

Please be considerate when parking near school many of our neighbours need 24 hours access to their drive ways . Thank you

Thursday 30th November 3.15—4.15 Christmas Fair
Tuesday 5th December 3.15-4.30 EYFS/KS1 Supper with Santa
Wednesday 6th December Christmas Market lunch Parents Welcome
Thursday 7th December EYFS Nativity 3.15 pm tea/coffee mince pies
Tuesday 12th December Y3 Ukulele Concert 2.15 pm
Wednesday 13th December 3.15 Y5 + Y6 Christmas Carol Concert
Thursday 14th December KS1 Nativity 3.15 pm tea/coffee mince pies
Tuesday 19th December EYFS/KS1 Christmas Party am KS2 pm
Tuesday 19th December Christmas Dinner day Pupils Only
Please inform the office if your child, who normally has a packed lunch, would like a school dinner ton Christmas dinner day and on the Christmas Market Day
THANK YOU



MASS TIMES

Sacred Heart Church Mass Times

There are two Churches in our Parish. Holy Family in Kirkholt and Sacred Heart on Kingsway. The Parish Priest is Father Simon and he resides in Sacred Heart Presbytery.

Saturday at Sacred Heart

5.15 Confessions

6.00 Vigil Mass

Sunday

9 am at Holy Family

11 am at Sacred Heart

PENALTY NOTICES



TRIPS

Thursday 14th December EYFS Imagine That Liverpool
Monday 8th January Y2 Runway Manchester Airport

Christmas Fair



Thursday 30th November 3.15-4.15
School closes Wednesday 20th December
and re-opens Thursday 4th January

Poor attendance

Children who miss more than 20 sessions/10 school days unauthorised absence in a 12 week period will receive a Penalty Notice which is £60 per parent.

Holiday absences

Children who miss 10 sessions/5 school days unauthorised absences will receive a Penalty Notice which is £60 per parent, per child. Holiday requests will be reviewed separately and in some circumstances may be approved.

CAPTAINS TABLE

Captains Table children (and friends) all chosen this week for being kind and polite to staff especially Mrs Dungworth. Excellent table manners. Always eating beautifully and for beautiful manners.



HEADTEACHERS AWARD

Headteachers award children chosen this week for (R) always making super choices, being kind and always using beautiful manners, for working really hard on staying safe and sensible in school (Y1) excellent work in computing and helping others to complete their own activity, always showing great enthusiasm for school life (Y2) taking his time and slowing down in his reading and writing, being a fantastic role model and contributing great ideas (Y3) excellent presentation in maths and being helpful, for always showing safe, ready, respect and being a great role model (Y4) showed tremendous improvement in concentration and application to his work, showing a great example to his peers in the line to demonstrate that he is ready to learn (Y5) for fantastic ideas in History all about the Anglo-Saxons, for trying her best in all subjects (Y6) for producing an excellent piece of poetry with a wide range of poetic devices and for an excellent information leaflet explaining the Sacrament of Ordination

Well done everyone.



SCHOOL COUNCIL



Our School Council led an assembly on Thursday for 'International Day for Tolerance' to raise awareness of the importance of celebrating difference

Congratulations to Felicity and Eliza who have today received the Golden Heart Award



Severe Weather Plan 2023-2024- A Guide for Families



Severe weather is classified as weather conditions which have an impact on service delivery. This weather may include heavy snow, black ice, fog, floods, extreme heat or strong winds.

In the event of severe weather

In the event of ice or snow, as much as practically possible, rock salt will be spread on the paths around the school grounds.

If necessary parents will be notified via text message and Facebook advising them of a safe route to access the school and classrooms. For their own safety, Parents and children must stick to the cleared, gritted pathways.

If staff are delayed getting into school, as a consequence of severe weather, upon their arrival at 8:45am the children will be taken into the hall to read, watch a film or do an activity, where they will be supervised by staff members. Once the appropriate number of teaching staff have arrived, the children will be sent to their classrooms for learning as usual.

Playtimes - whether play is indoor or outdoor will be made by the most senior member of staff on site. Please ensure that your child attends school wearing clothing appropriate for the weather:

- Cold, ice, snow: a warm coat, hat, scarf, gloves, wellington boots and a change of shoes to wear in school.

Hot and sunny weather: light clothing and a sun hat. Please ensure that your child attends school with a water bottle and that sun cream is applied before school.

School finish times will remain the same (3:15pm). If a decision is made to close the school early because of adverse weather, parents will be notified by text message and by phone. Staff members will remain at school with the children until they have all been safely collected by an adult. Please note that the school's dismissal and collection practices will remain in place for safeguarding purposes.

In the event of a school closure due to extreme or severe weather

The decision to close the school is with the Headteacher and the Chair of Governors; who will make the decision in accordance with guidance from the Local Authority.

Please note that the Headteacher and Chair of Governors will only make a decision to close the school when the state of the weather makes it absolutely necessary in the best interests of the children.

Parents will be advised of a school closure as early as practically possible using the following methods of communication: Facebook, text message, school phone and website.

Parents will be advised as soon as practically possible regarding the plans for the following day. A message will be communicated using Facebook and text message advising parents/carers if the school is to open the following day or remain closed.

If there are any safeguarding concerns whilst the school is closed, please contact the Rochdale Safeguarding Board on 0300 303 400

ATTENDANCE

Well done to Y3 on achieving the highest percentage attendance this week of 97% and to Y1 and Y6 for most improved. Who will get to 100% first?



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AI VIRTUAL FRIENDS

Artificial intelligence – particularly in terms of how it generates natural language – has seen significant development over the last six months, with companies releasing new AI-based software or adding an AI element to existing apps (such as Snapchat, for example). One form of AI to become especially popular has been the ‘AI friend’ or chatbot, as children eagerly experiment with these new-found computer-generated companions. There are now numerous apps available with this ‘virtual friend’ functionality, with the likelihood of it being added to other successful platforms soon.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

AI chatbots may not always be able to recognise when content is age inappropriate or harmful and should be filtered out. So there’s a possibility that children could be exposed to offensive language or explicit material while conversing with their virtual friend. The companies producing such AI solutions are also unlikely to take responsibility for any content that their algorithms generate.



REDUCED SOCIAL CONTACT

An excessive reliance on chatbots for social interaction could potentially cause a child to begin reducing the amount of face-to-face communication they have, leading to social isolation. If young people become dependent on chatbots to provide companionship, it could very likely hinder the development of their real-life social skills.



LACK OF SENSITIVITY

Chatbot software isn’t always sophisticated enough to pick up on subtle emotional cues or recognise signs of distress in children, as most humans would. It might therefore fail to respond appropriately. AI misinterpreting what it’s being told or replying insensitively to a young user who’s already struggling could potentially impact a child’s emotional wellbeing or exacerbate any existing emotional issues.



UNINTENTIONAL BIAS

AI companions are only as reliable as the information they’ve been programmed with. The algorithms they use, therefore, may unintentionally promote bias, stereotypes or discriminatory behaviour (as many originate from the USA or the UK, for instance, they can display a distinctly western-centric worldview). This could lead to children developing skewed attitudes and behaviours.



COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS

Although many are now undeniably advanced, AI-powered chatbots still have limitations in terms of understanding complex concepts, context and nuance. Depending heavily on chatbots to help with learning or solving problems may stunt the development of a child’s own powers of critical thinking, creativity and ability to engage in open-ended discussions with other people.



PRIVACY CONCERNS

Chatbots typically collect data about users, including personal information and conversations. This is ostensibly to improve their performance as they gradually learn about our behaviour – but many experts are warning that there may be significant risks associated with how this information is stored and used (the possibility of potential breaches or misuse by third parties, for instance).



Advice for Parents & Carers

CHAT ABOUT CHATBOTS

If your child is already expressing an interest in AI apps, a relaxed, natural chat should help you to discover which ones they’re aware of and how they’re using them (or are planning to). Discuss these options with your child and perhaps do your own research to ensure you think they’re suitable. Once you’re totally happy, you could sit with your young one and begin exploring AI chatbots together.



CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If your child is keen to engage with AI chatbots, encourage them to do so in a safe environment: ideally in a shared space at home, so you can easily keep an eye and ear on their progress. Set up appropriate content filtering measures in advance – and gently remind them that you’ll be close by and ready to help with any questions or concerns that may arise.



FIND A BALANCE

Work alongside your child to establish the right balance in terms of how they might use AI-powered chatbots – and when it’s appropriate. It’s important to make sure that children are still getting plenty of opportunities to learn to solve problems for themselves, as well as building their interpersonal skills through face-to-face conversations with friends, family members and teachers.



TAKE CONTROL

As with any form of app or game, when it comes to AI chatbots we’d strongly recommend that you consider employing parental controls (either on the device being used or within the software itself) to manage which apps your child can download and use. This is particularly important for younger children, who may be more at risk of being upset or frightened by inappropriate content.



RECOGNISE THE RISKS

It’s unlikely that most children will have even considered the potential risks attached to having a virtual companion. So it’s probably wise to explain some of the possible hazards and challenges of AI chatbots to your child. In particular, emphasise that AI isn’t a real person (however much it might sound like one) and may occasionally tell them something that isn’t entirely impartial or accurate.



Meet Our Expert

A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.

