



Monksdown Mail

Where Children Come First

Friday 9th December



Our school's
Designated
Safeguarding
Leads :

Mrs Price, Mrs Stewart

It's beginning to look at lot like Christmas

What a wonderful week we have had with so many exciting events happening As the children entered the building on Monday morning it was a delight to see their faces light up when they saw the decorations and displays around school. My thanks to the staff for staying behind on Friday evening to prepare everything. As you can see from the photographs the school looks very Christmassy.



Our Stars!

- ★ NAM: Mia Zhen
- ★ NPM: Mehmet
- ★ R.1: All of R1 (TRIP)
- ★ R.2: Lucas Devine
- ★ R.3: Nevaeh Calvert
- ★ 1.1: Bella-Blue Taylor
- ★ 1.2: Sofia Kirby
- ★ 1.3: Jake Mawdsley
- ★ 2.1: Dougie Cousineau
- ★ 2.2: Clarc Kelly
- ★ 2.3: Rosy-Lea Kemp
- ★ 3.1: All of 3.1
- ★ 3.2: Ruby Wheeler
- ★ 3.3: Kieran Flynn
- ★ 4.1: Lusy Leshaj
- ★ 4.2: Layla Hampson
- ★ 4.3: Merna Benesa
- ★ 5.1: Max Madine
- ★ Nelly Wu
- ★ Rachel Pang
- ★ 5.2: Adrian Sliwa
- ★ 5.3: Laura Namavira
- ★ 6.1: Jack Giles
- ★ 6.2: Michalina Polczynska
- ★ 6.3: Ethan Walsh

Dates to Remember

School Closes for
Christmas Holidays
Wednesday 21st
December 2pm

Bethlehem Bake Off

It was lovely to welcome parents and carers of Year 1 and 2 children into school to watch a rather unusual twist on the traditional Christmas Story. With a cracking script and some unbeatable songs, the children's performance had all the ingredients of a truly egg-cellent Nativity. Well done to all involved.





Christmas Dinner with all the Trimmings

Our fabulous kitchen staff served a very special traditional Christmas lunch this week . We all know how much preparation goes into serving dinner to our families yet alone to over 500 children ! There was plenty of delicious food for everyone with all the extra touches: pigs in blankets, Yorkshires, stuffing ,the works! The ladies put so much effort into the meal and it was all very much enjoyed by all especially judging by the empty plates. One child said to me, " Miss, I don't like gravy. " As I turned to look, her face was covered in the remnants of the gravy from her dinner as she was just licking it off the pudding!



Happy Baby Break

It was a very emotional day in class 3.1 today when the children said Goodbye to Ms Barnicle. We all send our very best wishes to Ms Barnicle as she starts her maternity leave.



Carols and Cocoa

The school council members joined myself and Mrs Stewart for an afternoon of singing, dancing and hot chocolate as a “Thank you” for all they have done this term.

Have a lovely weekend. Kindest Regards Mrs Price



Dates for your diary

Christmas Activities and Events

Tuesday 13th December 1:00pm	R1 Christmas Singing and Cookery with Mrs Wright Parents / Carers Invited
Tuesday 13 th December 3.00-5.00pm	Year 1 Christmas Movie Night
Wednesday 14th December 1:00pm	R2 Christmas Singing and Cookery with Mrs Wright Parent / Carers Invited
Wednesday 14 th December 2.00pm	Year 6 Carols around the Christmas Tree (Parents and Carers invited two tickets per child)
Wednesday 14 th December 3.00pm-5.00pm	Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Movie Night
Thursday 15th December 1:00pm	R3 Christmas Singing and Cookery with Mrs Wright Parent/Carers Invited
Thursday 15 th December 2.00pm	Year 5 Carols around the Christmas Tree (Parents and Carers invited two tickets per child)
Thursday 15 th December 10.30 am and 2.00pm	Nursery Performances (Parents and Carers invited two tickets per child)
Friday 16 th December	Christmas Party Day Reception, Year 1 and 2 – Party Clothes / Non Uniform Day
Friday 16 th December 2.00pm	Year 4 Carols around the Christmas Tree (Parents and Carers invited two tickets per child)
Friday 16 th December	Christmas Party Day Nursery - Party Clothes / Non Uniform Day
Monday 19 th December 2.00pm	Year 3 Carols around the Christmas Tree (Parents and Carers invited two tickets per child)
Tuesday 20 th December	Christmas Party Day Years 3-6 Party Clothes / Non Uniform Day
Wednesday 21 st December 2.00pm	School closes for Christmas holiday

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

HiPAL

AGE RESTRICTION
12+
(with reduced functionality for under-12s)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

HiPal's under-12 accounts don't allow direct connections with strangers (although children seeking more friends can share their 'friend code' on other platforms), but for older users, chatting with strangers seems to be the app's main appeal. The 'Public Square' shows nine online users (hiding 'request' replaces these with another nine), and clicking on someone's profile starts a conversation.

SEXTING AND SUGGESTIVE PICS

Almost immediately after our experts downloaded the app, strangers began to message privately – asking for provocative images or sharing explicit photos of themselves. Likewise, in the 'Explore' feed, many of the pictures and videos are innocent – but some are far more explicit. There is always the risk of other users secretly saving a revealing photo and re-sharing it elsewhere.

NEED FOR VALIDATION

Some users – particularly girls – post photos on apps of the type hoping for positive reactions and comments to boost their self-esteem. Suggestive images tend to attract more flattering feedback, encouraging the user to post more frequently and with more explicit content. Conversely, receiving unkind comments about their picture can impact a young user's confidence and sense of self-worth.

HiPal is a trending social media app which turns phones into walkie-talkies, allowing people to have voice conversations with friends or strangers. There are two account options: one for users aged under 12 and one for those aged 12 or above. The former has fewer features and limits interaction with strangers, enabling use of the walkie-talkie feature or photo sharing with friends and family only. The 12+ accounts offer more options, including adding strangers as friends, sharing photos and videos publicly, sending private messages and holding voice chats with strangers as well as friends.

NO AGE GATES OR MODERATION

Although users are given an initial choice of the under- or over-12 profile, there is no verification method to confirm someone's age. It is quite clear that the 'older' option offers a more complete experience on the app, but there seems to be no content moderation in place. Likewise, there is a reporting button for users to make a complaint but these reports do not appear to be followed up.

INTRUSIVE FEATURES

HiPal's walkie-talkie gimmick is no different from a normal phone call and seems rarely used; although it allows conversations to still be heard while a phone is locked, which could have awkward results. HiPal also offers 'boom' messages: unmissable large-text notifications which are highly distracting and briefly take over the phone – users can't access other apps until the message fades.

LARGE GROUP CHATS

The app offers group chats with up to 100 people – both friends and unknown users. This not only means excessive 'boom' messages taking over your child's device, but near-constant notification alerts are – most worryingly – the potential for walkie-talkie chatting and sharing photos with strangers outside parental supervision and apparently with no moderation from the platform itself.

Advice for Parents & Carers

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Remind your child of the dangers of connecting with strangers online. Some may be using the app to meet others they may have more sinister intentions. Encourage your child to consider what information they disclose in private messages and emphasise that they should inform a trusted adult if someone on the internet ever attempts to persuade them to meet in person.

TALK ABOUT SEXTING

It can be an awkward conversation (which young people are often reluctant to have), but it's vital to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sharing explicit images, as well as the emotional impact. Make it clear your child should never feel pressured into sexting – and that they should tell a trusted adult if they receive any unwanted explicit images.

BUILD RESILIENCE

With HiPal's lack of moderation, it's imperative that children are prepared for comments they might receive after uploading an image. You can build their resilience and equip them to manage these situations by having them show you any comments they've received. Together, discuss how the nice ones made them feel – and what they could do if someone posted a comment that upset them.

AVOID OVER-SHARING

Young people should think carefully about what they share in their profile, bio and posts. Talk to your child about not disclosing personal details such as phone numbers, other social media accounts or images which could reveal where they live or go to school. It's essential for children to recognise that strangers can assemble a detailed profile of someone based on things they can find online.

CONSIDER MENTAL WELLBEING

Many users on HiPal publicly share photos that are intended to be amusing in the hope of gaining more likes, friends and positive feedback – boosting their self-esteem and making them feel more self-assured. When young people regularly engage with social media platforms, it's important that parents and carers keep in mind the potential impact such platforms can have on mental wellbeing.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Buchanan is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented child-building and cyber safety policies for schools like how online safety standards papers and expert advice for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday



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@nationalonlinesafety



Come for tea or coffee in school

To learn how you can use your first language to help your child develop their English

Tuesday 13th December

Meet at the Office at 9am



School Improvement
Liverpool



来喝茶或 在学校喝咖啡

了解如何使用您的第一语言来帮助您的孩子

发展英语

12月13日星期二

早上9点在办公室集合

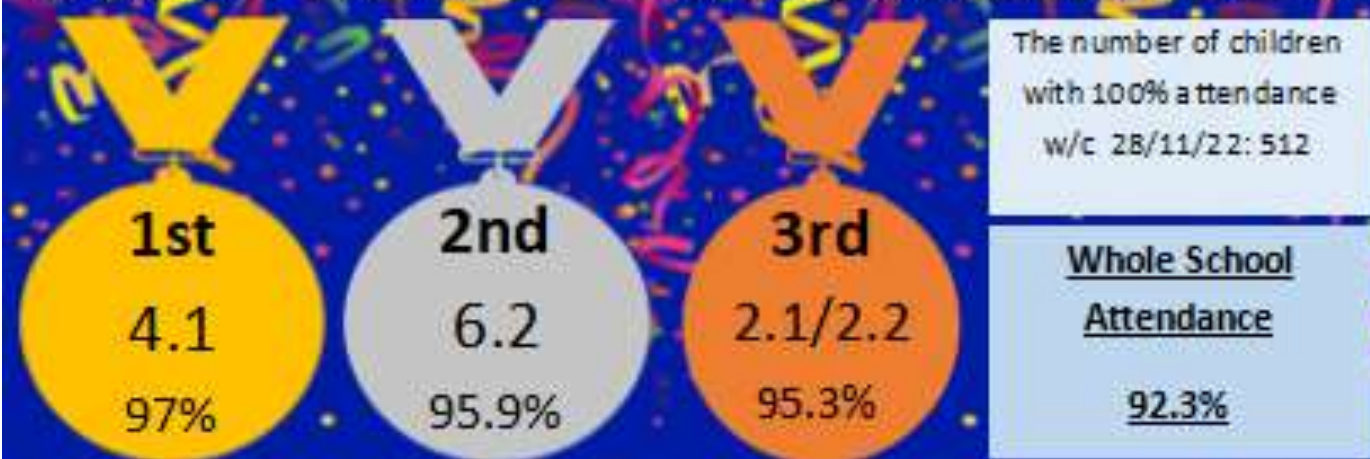


School Improvement
Liverpool

Be in to Win !

We are now half way through another of our Ten Day Challenges. Any child who is in school and on time every day during last week and next will be entered into a draw to win A Family Ticket to see Aladdin at the M and S Arena during the Christmas Holidays.

Awesome Attendance!



Monty Mouse has been awarded to 4.1, 6.2, 2.1 and 2.2. Well done!

Monty the Mouse



Incentives

Meet Monty— He is awarded to the highest attending three classes every week. Children with the highest attendance will look after Monty for a week. Monty will bring with him some chocolate friends.

Children with 97% attendance will receive a certificate each term.

Children with 100% attendance will have the chance of winning some family experience vouchers for the cinema, theatre or Chester Zoo.

Classes with 100% attendance for the whole week will be rewarded with golden time, fun and games with the mentor or a special breakfast.

Children with improved attendance will enjoy a special breakfast.
PLUS, LOTS OF OTHER AWARDS AND REWARDS.

Contact Details

We do understand and appreciate that children pick up illnesses and it is not always easy to decide whether to send them into school or not. If your child is too ill to attend school then please contact us before the start of the day by sending a message using [Study Bugs App](#), sending an email or telephoning the school office on **0151 226 1606**.

Attendance Team

Our Attendance Team are here to help. We are a group of professionals who want to do our best to support you to get your child into school as often as possible. We are here to help and answer any attendance related queries that you may have. If you need help getting your child to school, please contact a member of the Team who will be more than happy to help.



As you know, attendance at school is vital for all children.

There is a distinct link between those children who attend, and those who make the most progress.

Attendance YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE

We want to work together to ensure your child is able to attend school as often as possible. We rely on you to get your child to school every day to enjoy learning and be with their friends. We want to work in partnership with you to make a difference.

Did you know?

SCHOOL DAYS IN EACH YEAR	97% MORE SCHOOL DAYS		97% days to spend on family time, sports, hobbies, shopping, recreational jobs and other appointments				
	100% attendance	95% attendance	90% attendance	85% attendance	80% attendance	75% attendance	
100 days in each year	100 days in each year	95 days in each year	90 days in each year	85 days in each year	80 days in each year	75 days in each year	
100% attendance	100% attendance	95% attendance	90% attendance	85% attendance	80% attendance	75% attendance	
100% attendance	100% attendance	95% attendance	90% attendance	85% attendance	80% attendance	75% attendance	
100% attendance	100% attendance	95% attendance	90% attendance	85% attendance	80% attendance	75% attendance	
100% attendance	100% attendance	95% attendance	90% attendance	85% attendance	80% attendance	75% attendance	
100% attendance	100% attendance	95% attendance	90% attendance	85% attendance	80% attendance	75% attendance	
100% attendance	100% attendance	95% attendance	90% attendance	85% attendance	80% attendance	75% attendance	
100% attendance	100% attendance	95% attendance	90% attendance	85% attendance	80% attendance	75% attendance	

Good Attendance

- 100% = 0 weeks learning missed
- 95% = 1 week 4 days learning missed

Poor Attendance

- 90% = 3 weeks 4 days of learning missed
- At this level of absence your child will be classed as a persistent absentee.

At this level of absence the Education Welfare Officer (EWO) would be involved.

- 85% = 5 weeks 3 days of learning missed

If your child is absent from school for 1 week they would miss about 5 hours of Maths and 5 hours of English!

What should I do if my child is absent?

By law, schools must record absences and the reason given. You must contact us as soon as possible, on the first day of absence, with a reason for absence. The easiest way to do this is via the [Study Bugs App](#). If no reason is recorded your child will receive an unauthorised mark.

Attendance Procedures

- We do not authorise absences without a good reason.
- If we have not heard from you then expect a telephone call or text message from us.
- We monitor attendance carefully and we will write to you if your child's attendance becomes a concern.
- If attendance problems continue we will ask you to meet with us to discuss the way forward and see how school can support you and your child.
- If all measures fail to lead to an improvement in attendance, we will refer your child to the EWO and this may ultimately lead to legal action being instigated.

Punctuality

Please make sure your child arrives at school on time each day. Doors open at 8.50am ready for lessons to begin at 8.55 am.



Do you know how much learning children miss out on?

Minutes late per day	Equal days worth of
5 Minutes	3.4 Days
10 Minutes	6.9 Days
15 Minutes	10.3 Days
20 Minutes	13.8 Days
30 Minutes	20.7 Days

How can you help?

- Ensure your child arrives on time.
- Prepare packed lunches, school bag and breakfast items the night before.
- Make sure you set an alarm at a reasonable time to ensure you have enough time for getting everyone up and ready.