



Monksdown Mail

Where Children Come First



Our school's
Designated
Safeguarding
Leads : Mrs Russell
Mrs Price,
Mrs Stewart

Friday 5th May 2023



Celebrations fit for a King

Today we celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III. A picnic lunch was devoured by all. Bunting, music and dancing all added to the occasion and it made a lovely ending to the week. I hope you all enjoy another Bank Holiday weekend spending time with friends and family.

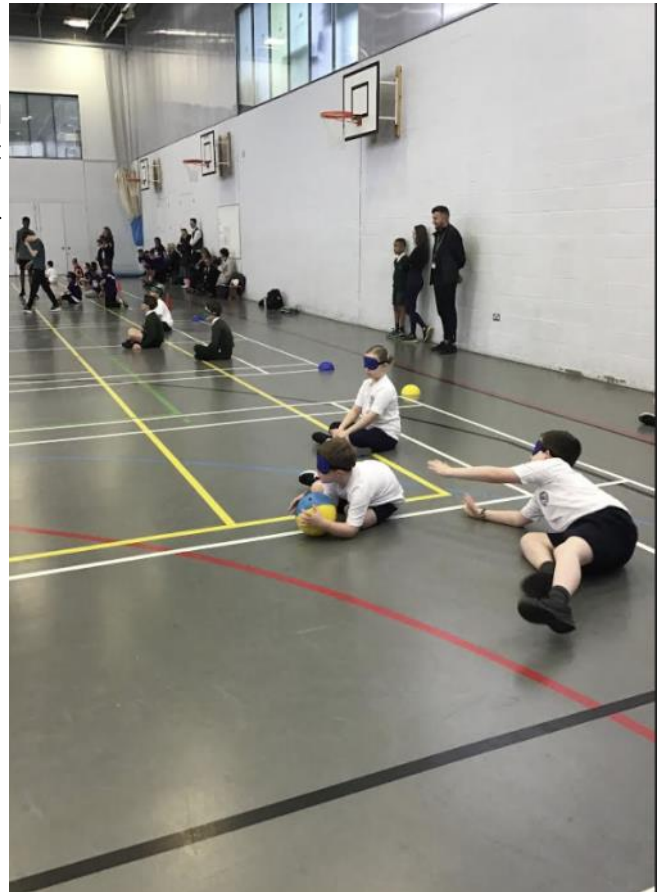






Sporting News

Today, five of our pupils attended a Liverpool school's Goal Ball competition. Seated and blindfolded, they had to not only prevent the opposition from scoring but score past the opposing team. They astounded us with their sportsmanship and sporting ability in a brand new game! Their behaviour was exemplary. Well done team!



Good Luck Year 6

Next week is SATS week for Year 6. They have all been working incredibly hard this year and especially over the past few weeks. I know how well they will do in their tests next week and we all wish them very good luck. All Year 6 children are invited to a special breakfast from 8.10 am every day next week in order to prepare them for the tests and settle any anxiousness. The children in Year 6 should go straight to Key Stage One Hall each morning.



We have registered Monksdown Primary School with easyfundraising, which means over 7,000 brands will now donate to us for FREE every time you use easyfundraising to shop with them. These donations will help SO MUCH, so please sign up to support us – it's completely FREE and doesn't take long.

[Please click here to get started.](#)

Nil Points

The Eurovision Song Contest is just around the corner. We are looking forward to our own version of this on Friday 12th May. No more making our minds up about this one.



LEARN TOGETHER



Ever wondered how to best help your child with their learning? Want to pick up a few tips to help with homework?

You are invited to take part in our family learning project:

- a parent/carer session on supporting your child in reading
- a learning session with your Y3/4 child

Everyone who takes part will receive a goody bag full of resources to help you and your children learn at home.



Sign up at
<https://forms.gle/Cja31QxajiWjm6qc6>



LEARN TOGETHER



Ever wondered how to best help your child with their learning? Want to pick up a few tips to help with homework?

You are invited to take part in our family learning project:

- a parent/carer session on supporting your child in reading
- a learning session with your Y3/4 child

Everyone who takes part will receive a goody bag full of resources to help you and your children learn at home.



Sign up at
<https://forms.gle/Cja31QxajiWjm6qc6>



LEARN TOGETHER



PARENT/CARER SESSION:
LIVERPOOL LIGHTHOUSE
FRI 9TH JUNE 1.30-2.30

Take part in a workshop on reading delivered by staff from School Improvement Liverpool and Adult Learning Service.



FAMILY LEARNING SESSION:
LIVERPOOL LIGHTHOUSE
FRI 16TH JUNE 1.30-2.30

A family learning session on reading for you and your Y3/4 child.



Sign up at
<https://forms.gle/Cja31QxajiWjm6qc6>



LEARN TOGETHER



PARENT/CARER SESSION:
LIVERPOOL LIGHTHOUSE
FRI 9TH JUNE 1.30-2.30

Take part in a workshop on reading delivered by staff from School Improvement Liverpool and Adult Learning Service.



FAMILY LEARNING SESSION:
LIVERPOOL LIGHTHOUSE
FRI 16TH JUNE 1.30-2.30

A family learning session on reading for you and your Y3/4 child.



Sign up at
<https://forms.gle/Cja31QxajiWjm6qc6>





Local Offer LIVE 2023

Wednesday 5th July

Are you a parent/carer of a child/young person with SEND (Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities)?
Are you a Professional working with families with SEND?

Come along and visit the Local Offer LIVE and see many services from Health, Local Authority, support groups, activity groups and 3rd Sector Organisations in one marketplace



Time: 12pm - 7pm



LOCATION:

Liverpool Guild of Students
The University of Liverpool
160 Mount Pleasant
Liverpool L3 5TR

FOR MORE INFORMATION
EMAIL INFO@LIVPAC.ORG.UK



Monday 8th May	Bank Holiday—School Closed
Tuesday 9th May—Friday 12th May	Year 6 SATs Week– breakfast available from 8.10 am
Thursday 11th May 2:15pm	Sex and Relationships Education Meeting for Parents/ Carers
Monday 15th May—Friday 19th May	Mental Health Awareness Week
Monday 15th May	5pm New to Nursery Parent/ Carer Meeting 6pm New to Reception Parent/ Carer Meeting
Tuesday 16th May—Friday 26th May	Year 6 Level 1&2 Bikeability Courses
Wednesday 17th May	Reception Trip to Knowsley Safari Park
Thursday 25th May 9:15am	Full Governors' Meeting
Friday 26th May 2pm	School Closed for Half Term
Monday 29th May—Friday 9th June	Half Term Holiday
Monday 12th June	School re-opens to pupils
Monday 19th June—Friday 23rd June	Year 6 Residential
Wednesday 21st June 9:30am	ASD Parents Coffee Morning
Monday 26th June	Reception Sports Day 1:30pm Parents/ Carers Invited
Tuesday 27th June	Year 1 Sports Day 10am Parents/Carers Invited Year 2 Sports Day 1:30pm Parents/Carers Invited
Wednesday 28th June	Year 6 Sports Day 10am Parents/Carers Invited Year 4 Sports Day 1:30pm Parents/Carers Invited Year 5 Learning Showcase 2:15pm Parents/Carers Invited
Thursday 29th June	Year 5 Sports Day 10am Parents/Carers Invited Year 3 Sports Day 1:30pm Parents/Carers Invited
Friday 30th June	Table Football Competition Sports Day Backup Day dependant on weather conditions
Tuesday 4th July 10.00 am	R1 Assembly 10 am —Parents/Carers Invited
Wednesday 5th July	Liverpool Secondary School's Transition Day Year 6 Pupils R2 Assembly 10 am —Parents/Carers Invited
Thursday 6th July 10:00am	R3 Assembly 10 am —Parents/Carers Invited
Tuesday 11th—Thursday 13th July 7pm	School Performance—Oliver
Friday 14th July	French Day in School
Tuesday 18th July 10am	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly Parents/Carers Invited
Wednesday 19th July 2pm	Schools out for Summer!



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WIZZ

AGE RESTRICTION
12+

On App Store
Teen Google Playstore

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

OVER-SHARING

Immediately after setting up an account, users start receiving friend requests (mainly from the opposite gender). For many young people, this will be exciting and a boost to their confidence. As young people tend to be more trusting online and may believe what others tell them, however, this can lull them into dropping their guard and revealing personal information to strangers.

CATTISHING AND PREDATORS

Wizz uses Yoti, a digital ID system, to verify users' age. The AI only detects approximate age, though – as an older person who looks younger could be grouped with teens (or vice versa). Also, profile pics on Wizz don't have to match the face of the person who did the initial age verification: it would be fairly easy to create a fake account using another person's photos with a made-up name and age.

EXPLICIT CONTENT

During our research, conversations on Wizz very quickly turned sexual. Users frequently suggested 'taking it to Snapchat' (Snapchat's disappearing image feature can make it conducive to sharing explicit selfies), connecting on other social media, swapping nude or semi-nude pictures, or holding sexual chats. These users created an impression of the platform being sleazy and unsafe for young people.

Wizz is a networking app which allows users to connect and chat with other people around the world. Its principle is similar to a dating platform: users have a profile with up to three photos, along with optional interests and hobbies tags. This allows other like-minded people to be recommended in searches. If a user likes what they see on someone's profile, they can initiate conversation through the instant message feature; otherwise they swipe on. The app does use age verification technology when an account is created and groups users by age.

INTIMATE IMAGES

It's not unheard of for young people to be coaxed into sending suggestive images of themselves over apps of this kind. Given that Wizz connects users with strangers, who may not be honest about their real intentions, a teenager might conceivably be persuaded to share sexually suggestive selfies by someone who they believed they had a trusting relationship with.

NO PARENTAL CONTROLS

The app claims to provide a secure and inclusive environment, but our researcher couldn't find any parental controls or safety features in evidence. If you report another user for inappropriate behaviour, you are offered the option to block them – but there's no indication as to whether the block has actually been successful, and there was no follow-up contact from the developers.

SECRETS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Wizz sent our researcher occasional 'mystery' friend requests from a blurred-out profile. To discover the sender's identity, users can either watch a video (usually an ad for a game or app) or take out a monthly subscription. Critics might suggest this could be a way to exploit young people's curiosity into making them pay for the app, and that the 'secret admirers' are bots rather than real people.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK IT OUT

If your child has downloaded Wizz, talk to them about why they like it and who've chatted with. Have they shared any personal details with this person or connected with them on other social media platforms? Refresh your child's memory of the various risks that can arise from engaging with strangers online and get them to consider using a similar app with more robust safety features.

BE SUPPORTIVE

When connecting with strangers on apps like Wizz, seemingly innocent chats can quickly progress to become sexually explicit and lead to nudes being sent. Make sure your child knows to come to you if they're uncomfortable about anything they've been sent or been asked to send. If they've already shared something that they now regret, reassure them that you'll support them no matter what.

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Young people are far more inclined to see the good in others; they often overlook the fact that scammers set up fake accounts on apps like this with the intention of getting money or personal data. Remind them that not everyone online is who they claim to be, how easy it is for someone to create a bogus profile, and why it's vital to think twice about sharing anything on networking apps.

KEEP THINGS TRANSPARENT

It might feel awkward, but regular chats about your child's online life can be beneficial. If they seem suddenly anxious or secretive around their phone or tablet, they may have something they need to get off their chest. You could also consider not allowing digital devices in their bedroom, especially overnight – that's when a lot of the riskier conversations on apps like Wizz tend to take place.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Battershall is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented a range of bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government on controlling internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Source: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=info.wizzapp&hl=en_884g=18 | <https://www.met.police.uk/advice/online-safety-information/sexual-offences/sexting/>

First Issued 5th July 2022

Reissued 5th September 2022

Reminder 21st April 2023



IMPORTANT LETTER ABOUT TAKING CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL DURING TERM TIME

Dear Families of Monksdown,

Monksdown Primary School is determined to do everything they can to ensure your child has the very best start in life. An essential part of this is that every child is punctual and attends school. As a parent or carer, you have an important part to play. Your child has the right to a good education and **you** have a legal responsibility to ensure that they go to school on time, all of the time.

Pupils should only be absent from school if:

- They are too ill to attend
- They have a medical appointment that can't be arranged out of school hours
- There are exceptional circumstances
- Advanced permission has been granted from school

Leave of Absence during term time:

Parents/Carers do not have a right by law to take their child on holiday during school term-time.

Only in **exceptional circumstances** may school grant leave of absence for a holiday. A written application to the Head Teacher or myself, Chair of Governors, must be made in order for the school to consider this. If a parent/carers takes a child on holiday without prior permission from the school, the Local Authority may issue a Penalty Notice of £120 per child, reduced to £60 if paid within 21 days. **Even if a leave of absence is permitted it still counts as an absence and is recorded as Unauthorised. Permission simply means a fixed penalty will not be issued.**

If you are experiencing issues with your child's attendance the school's attendance team are there to support. Please contact the school should you require their help.

I have attached the school calendar dates for 2022-2023 for your information.

Kind Regards

Martin Reynolds
Chair of Governors