



### STARS OF THE WEEK

**Rylie Melvin**  
**Thomas Laidler**  
**Anton Barclay**  
**Paisley Russell**  
**Parker Hall**  
**Lucas Melvin**  
**Willow Nyberg**

### ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Our School Target is 97%

**LAST WEEK : 92.3%**

Nursery (Seahorses) -78.2%  
 Reception (Turtles) - 92.0%  
 Year 1 (Jellyfish) - 82.3%  
 Year 2 (Puffins) - 92.6%  
 Year 3 (Sharks) - 98.0%  
 Year 4 (Penguins) - 96.7%

**Well Done Sharks!**

### 2023/24 SCHOOL DIARY

Tuesday 5th December	Y1-Y4 Children—Christmas Carol Pantomime (in school)
Monday 11th December	9.15am OR 2.00pm Early Years/Y1 Christmas Performance
Friday 15th December	***NEW*** Parents invited to classrooms after assembly
Sunday 17th December	11am- Choir Carol Singing at Harbour Village
Monday 18th December	2.00pm - Y2,Y3 and Y4 Christmas Performance
Tuesday 19th December	9.15am OR 2.00pm - Y2,Y3 and Y4 Xmas Performance
Wednesday 20th December	1.30pm-Nativity Service at St Cuthbert's Church
Thursday 21st December	Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner Day
Friday 22nd December	Christmas Party Day
Friday 22nd December	2PM - School Closes for Christmas Break
Tuesday 9th January 2024	SCHOOL REOPENS FOR SPRING TERM

### CHRISTMAS FAIR

Yesterday's Christmas Fair was very well supported indeed. Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time, donated prizes or just came along and spent their money with us. We were pleased to welcome Santa and his little helper back too.

Special thanks must go to Mrs Dellbridge for doing all of the organising in the background and pulling everything together.

We're pleased to announce that we raised just over

**£1500**

We will continue to sell tickets for our Christmas Raffle which will be drawn on Friday 15th December. There are over 30 great prizes available.

### ADVENT CALENDAR RAFFLE

Thanks to everyone who bought tickets for our advent calendar raffle (and to Laura Dawson) for the donation of the prizes. The draw took place in assembly today and the winners were:

**Roblox: Charlie N**

**Barbie: Laylah G**

**Boots 17: Mrs Angus**

£125 was raised thank you.

### CHRISTINGLE ASSEMBLY

We had a great turnout of parents for our Christingle assembly that was led by the recently retired Rev John.

Classrooms were very busy afterwards with parents helping the children to make their own Christingles to take home. St Cuthbert's Church will be holding their own Christingle Service at 6pm on Christmas Eve.



### ELF UPDATE

There has been much anticipation amongst the children, who think that the Amble Links elves will return again this Christmas despite half of them still being buried deep under the school field and the other half still away in the military. Due to the chaos that the elves cause Mr Heeley is really hoping that they don't return this year and is already putting some additional security measures in place at school. If the elves do return they may send messages to parents through Mrs Dellbridge. If these messages are top secret please only discuss with the children if necessary as they won't want Mr Heeley to find out! We've already had children telling us about an email from Moon Elf???

### TIDDLYWINKS VISIT

On Wednesday, we welcomed Shirley from Tiddlywinks to school. She worked with our Seahorses and Turtles children to create a 'Winter Wonderland'. The children loved dressing up as Christmas/winter characters and joining in with movement and other activities to music. They especially loved being pulled around the hall on 'sledges' by staff. Our afternoon Seahorses especially enjoyed pelting Mr Heeley with snowballs which caused much hilarity for them! There are some lovely photos of the fun on our Facebook page. A special thanks to our lovely PTA who funded this activity.

### INFORMATION SHEET ABOUT GROUP CHATS

We're increasingly hearing that our many of our pupils have their own phones and that many of them are involved in group chats. On the back of this



newsletter we have included a 'Guide to Group Chats' that helps explain more about what they are and some of the risk in allowing the children to be involved in them. You can also click [HERE](#) to find out more from the NSPCC about WhatsApp.

Despite the recommended age limits for many group chats apps being at least over 13, we are more regularly dealing with fallout from group chat issues in school.

### NSPCC

### WORKSHOP



**NSPCC**  
 Speak out. Stay safe.  
 programme

On Tuesday our Y2 Puffins children enjoyed a workshop

with NSPCC to learn more about their message Speak Out, Stay Safe. They took part in activities with the team to think about safe adults to talk to, worries they might have and contacting the NSPCC. Each child received a Buddy Kit to take home.

# YOUR GUIDE TO Group Chats

Group chats are a type of communication involving multiple users that happen on most messaging platforms. While they have been around since the invention of online messaging (think chatrooms!), popular use has grown in the last decade.



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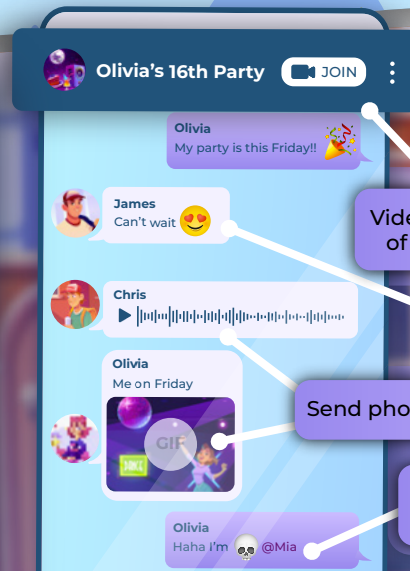
## HOW DO THEY WORK?

Once a user creates a group chat on a messaging platform, they can:

Choose the name of the group & select a group photo

Set up the sharing and privacy settings

Add other users as members of the group



After the group is set up, users can:

Video or voice call all members of the group at the same time

Message into the chat

Send photos/videos/GIFS/voice notes

Tag other group members in specific messages

## Who can be in a group chat?

Anyone can be in a group chat as long as they are a user on that platform. Most platforms have age restrictions (usually 13+) but there are not always robust age verification processes in place.

## Why do young people use them?

- Stay connected to friends, family, or teammates.
- Send important information to multiple people.
- Discuss specific interests or events with others.
- Organise meetings for school, work, extracurriculars, etc.

## More than 8 out of 10 parents

are concerned their child will be cyberbullied on a group chat.

## The Risks of Group Chats



**Bullying.** Many young people have reported being left out of group chats, experienced bullying within them or have been made fun of in a chat they weren't included in.



**Image sharing.** Young people may feel pressured to share sexual imagery of themselves. Even if they choose to share an image with just one person, they may lose control if it is shared in a group chat.



**Disappearing messages.** A function of many group chats which allows users to delete messages or automatically make them vanish after a set time (e.g., on Snapchat) which can present opportunities for bullying or coercion when sharing inappropriate images.



**Information leak.** Being in a group chat could unintentionally lead to private information being shared, such as mobile numbers or live locations.



**Stranger interaction.** A young person may not know everyone they are in a group chat with, potentially exposing them to harmful interactions.



**Inappropriate content.** If someone sends in something that is inappropriate, it may expose a young person to content they were not prepared to see.



**Excessive screentime.** Some group chats might be receiving messages 24/7, which could draw a young person's attention at inappropriate times!

**When using WhatsApp, images can automatically save to the user's camera roll, unless adjusted in the settings. This may lead to young people unintentionally possessing harmful or illegal images by default of someone else sending them into a group chat.**

The most important thing you can do for a young person is to ensure they know who their trusted adults are and that they can always talk to them without fear of consequences.

**Here are some other preventative steps that you can take:**



Ensure they understand what information should be kept private.



Talk about appropriate behaviour towards others online.



Discuss the risks of sharing nude or semi-nude images.



Enable and review privacy settings together - use our Safety Centre to help!



Teach how to block, mute and report other users or chats.



Adjust auto-saving settings on WhatsApp.

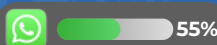


Set family rules and screentime limits on devices.

Group messaging functions exist across various social media and gaming platforms. The most common way 3-17-year-olds interact online is through communicating via messaging/video platforms.

**The most used apps for this are:**

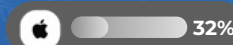
WhatsApp



Snapchat



FaceTime



## If a young person does seek your help...

- Listen and reassure them that they have done the right thing.
- Include them in any decisions that follow.
- Screenshot evidence of bullying as soon as possible.
- Only ban the use of the platform where necessary for their safety.
- Involve parents or relevant staff if children are at risk.
- Contact organisations who can help.
- Do not respond directly to harmful or hurtful messages.
- If you believe a child is in immediate danger, contact the police without delay.

**SOS**

**NEVER SCREENSHOT AN INDECENT IMAGE OF A CHILD!**

