



12th June 2026



Headteacher Update

Sometimes the British weather can be so frustrating! Summer is clearly on hold in Histon and we have had to postpone Sports Day and cancel a Cricket competition for children in Year 5 and 6 this week.

Year 3 children however carried on regardless and just about managed to avoid the deluge whilst on their Geography/History field trip which involved punting down the River Cam.

A reminder that it is our last show case assembly of the year on Monday with Year 2 parents welcome to join us from 2:45pm and then parents from BOTH year 1 and year 2 invited to come and look at some of the children's wonderful work in their classrooms.

As you will have read earlier this week Mr Richard Bakker has been appointed as Executive Head of the Brook and Park Schools from September and Miss Moule has been appointed Head of school.

I am delighted about this.

Having worked with Lisa for almost a decade I know she will do an amazing job and am really pleased about the consistency that this will provide for the parents, children and staff of the school. I am confident that the school will continue to go from strength to strength under their collective leadership.

Jonathan Newman

Staffing for next year

Sadly at the end of this term we are saying goodbye to both Mrs Sharon Smith and Mrs Kerry Martin. Collectively Sharon and Kerry have worked at the school, in its different guises, for nearly 40 years and we know the school will feel very different without them.





Both of them can always be relied on to go the extra mile for all the children at our school and we are so grateful for all the amazing work they have done on behalf of the school. They will be very much missed.

We will be welcoming Miss Lloyd as a new teacher into our school from September and she will be coming to our move up morning later this term to meet the children that she will be teaching next year.



Housepoint Total

Well done to Water House for winning this week and to Fire House for taking the early lead this half term.

	 EARTH	 WATER	 FIRE	 AIR
Totals for this week	38	44	43	32
Total for the term	98	106	115	101

HOUSE COLOURS RAFFLE

We're excited to be planning a Summer Fair Raffle this year with a bit of a twist!

Instead of a traditional raffle, we'll be creating colour-themed hampers based on the school house teams:

Half the fun is the surprise, so anything goes!



We'd love your help by donating items in your child's house colour to help us build these hampers.

JUST A COUPLE OF GUIDELINES:

- ✓ Items should be non-perishable
- ✓ Please make sure they are well within their use-by / best-before date
- ✓ Ideas could include things like toiletries, sweets, small gifts, stationery, themed items etc.

We'll send details shortly on how and when to drop off donations.



Key Dates (new dates in black)

Monday 15th June	pm	Reception to Visit Woods
Monday 15th June	2.45pm	Year 2 Showcase Assembly and Open Classroom
Monday 15th June	After school	Year 1 Open Classroom



Monday 22nd June/ Tuesday 23rd June	All Day	Year 6 IVC Transition Days
Monday 22nd June	7.50am- 4.30pm	Year One Trip to Norwich Castle
Wednesday 24th June	7.50am- 4.30pm	Year Two Trip to Norwich Castle
Thursday 25th June		HI Friends Choir Concert
Friday 26th June	After School	Summer Fair
Monday 29th June	pm	Reception to Visit Woods
Thursday 2nd July	All Day and Evening	Year 5/6 Choir at Meridian Arts Showcase
Thursday 9th July	9.30- 11.00am 5.30- 7.00pm	Year 6 Production
Monday 13th July	pm	Reception to Visit Woods
Wednesday 15th July	5.30- 7pm	Year 6 Leavers' Party

Year 6 Transition Dates

Impington: 22nd and 23rd June

Sawston: 30th June and 1st July

St Bede's:

Northstowe: 10th July

Cottenham: 14th July

Swavesey: 15th, 16th and 17th July



Summer Fair

A reminder that the Summer Fair this year will be cash free. Tokens can be preordered using the link below:

<https://hi-park-primary-ptfa-summer-fair-2026.raiselysite.com/>



Meridian Trust News

Visit our Trust Website to read about what has been happening at Meridian!

[Read more here](#)



Work with us

Please see the link below for details of a vacancy for a Teaching Assistant at HIPPS:

<https://mynewterm.com/jobs/139086/EDV-2026-HAIPPS-96488>

[Find out more](#)

Connect with us at Histon & Impington Park Primary School



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE GROOMING

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Online grooming is when someone builds a relationship with a child or young person online to gain their trust for the purpose of sexual abuse, exploitation, radicalisation, or criminal activity – such as country lines or financial scams. According to the NSPCC, police in the UK recorded over 7,000 offences involving sexual communication with a child in a single year – an increase of 89% since 2017/18.

STRANGERS USING FAKE IDENTITIES

Groomers often pose as children or teenagers online to build trust. They may create convincing fake profiles, share photos stolen from real people, or mimic the interests of the child. By pretending to be someone their age, they make conversations feel safe and reliable. Over time, they may ask for personal details, photos, or suggest meeting in person, exposing children to significant emotional and physical harm.

EXPLOITATION THROUGH GIFTS AND FLATTERY

To gain trust quickly, groomers often send gifts, gaming credits, or money. Alongside material offerings, they use excessive compliments, affection, and attention to create emotional dependency. These tactics make children feel valued and special, lowering their defences. Once trust is secured, groomers may escalate their requests, often asking for photos or private conversations, making the child feel pressured or indebted to continue.

GROUP CHATS AS HIDDEN PATHWAYS

Unmonitored group chats on platforms like WhatsApp or Discord provide a cover for groomers. They can watch how children interact, identify those who seem vulnerable, and then move conversations into private messaging. This transition makes detection difficult for trusted adults. The seemingly harmless group setting often masks the presence of predators, giving children a false sense of security.

THE RISE OF SEXTORTION

Sextortion involves pressuring children into sharing explicit content, then blackmailing them for more. Offenders may claim to have hacked a child's device, threaten to share images with friends or family, or demand money. Many victims remain silent out of fear and shame. This growing crime is particularly dangerous because children often feel trapped, believing there's no safe way to escape the situation.

GAMING PLATFORMS AS GROOMING GATEWAYS

Games like Roblox, Fortnite, or Call of Duty, which include live chat features, are frequent targets for groomers. Conversations often begin casually during gameplay and can become manipulative over time. Groomers may offer in-game gifts, credits, or exclusive add-ons to build rapport. Children using headsets or private chat features are especially at risk, as conversations are harder for adults to monitor.

CRIMINAL & RADICALISATION RISKS

Grooming is not always sexual. Some offenders manipulate children into criminal activities such as drug running or online fraud. Others attempt to radicalise young people with extreme ideologies. Groomers often use fear, money, shame, or promises of belonging to control their victims. These forms of exploitation can be just as harmful as sexual grooming, and often leave lasting psychological and social consequences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS REGULAR

Rather than having one "big talk" about online safety, weave conversations into everyday life. Ask questions about children's online friendships and interests. Share real-life examples to make discussions relatable and encourage honesty instead of secrecy. When children feel comfortable discussing their digital lives, they are far more likely to share concerns or admit when something feels wrong, reducing the chance of risky interactions going unnoticed.

CREATE A "TELL ME" CULTURE

Children often keep silent because they fear being punished or losing access to their devices. Reassure them that coming forward with concerns won't get them into trouble. Emphasise that you are there to help, not judge. Creating a safe, open environment encourages children to speak up if something feels wrong, and helps to ensure they don't suffer in silence when facing potential grooming risks.

UNDERSTAND THE PLATFORMS CHILDREN USE

Take time to learn about the apps, games, and social platforms children are on. Familiarise yourself with privacy settings, parental controls, and group chat features. Use resources like The National College guides or conduct quick searches to stay updated. By understanding how these platforms operate, you'll be better equipped to set boundaries, guide safe use, and notice any unusual or concerning online behaviour early.

STAY ALERT TO WARNING SIGNS

Be attentive to both behavioural and digital red flags. Sudden secrecy, mood swings, or new online contacts may signal a problem. Watch for unexplained gifts, new social media profiles, or changes in sleep patterns. Increased anxiety or reluctance to attend school can also be indicators. Regularly checking in and showing interest in those whom they communicate with online help prevent small issues from escalating into serious risks.

Meet Our Expert

Staffordshire Police is dedicated to keeping people safe and tackling crime across both the physical and digital worlds. The force continues to strengthen its digital investigation and safeguarding capabilities to protect children and vulnerable people online, working in partnership with local, regional and national organisations, schools, and the wider community.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about STREAMING SERVICES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Streaming services are platforms that allow users to watch cartoons, documentaries and movies online immediately (often referred to as SVoD: streaming videos on demand). Ofcom reported that children and young adults prefer streaming services to traditional TV. With two-thirds of UK households subscribing to at least one streaming service, parents must understand how to manage screen time, set age restrictions and ensure safe viewing.

COSTLY

Subscription services can be costly. As the main source of entertainment, most households have at least one streaming platform, and each platform has its own monthly subscription fee. Services are charging more for ad-free viewing, and better quality and resolution; however, there is a cheaper option with adverts. Due to price increases, Netflix and Disney+ reported a sharp increase in users subscribing to their ad-supported tier in 2023.

ILLEGAL STREAMING

Sharing passwords or using modified Fire Sticks to access streaming content without permission is illegal. Most streaming services have now put measures in place to detect account sharing. When account sharing is identified, platforms will offer an opportunity to pay for an added member or will ask the user to verify who they are.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most streaming platforms allow users to set up a profile for each family member, with the option of putting specific restrictions in place. These include adding a profile lock or PIN, controlling autoplay of previews and next episodes, and limiting content based on age ratings. Nonetheless, these restrictions aren't foolproof. Content which is rated as suitable for an age group may still include themes, language, or images which children and families find inappropriate.

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Excessive screen time contributes to sedentary behaviour and can negatively impact physical and mental health. Ofcom found that 4- to 15-year-olds averaged 2.5 hours per day across all video-sharing platforms, not including gaming. The vast range of content available, combined with features such as autoplay, makes it easy for children to watch for extended periods of time.

BINGE WATCHING

Features such as autoplay make it easy for viewers – especially young people – to continue watching episodes without a break. This can foster unhealthy and addictive patterns, such as consuming a vast amount of content in one sitting. With binge watching come a lack of social interaction, lack of physical exercise, and often late nights and sleep disruptions which impact their mental and physical wellbeing.

HARMFUL STEREOTYPES

Many platforms track viewing habits, time consumed, and preferences, and generate recommendations to encourage your child to keep watching. This results in your child being in a 'loop' whereby they think the 'recommended' shows would be something they would enjoy rather than thinking critically for themselves. This can shape their beliefs, values, and understanding of the world from a young age without even realising it.

Advice for Parents & Educators

SET UP INDIVIDUAL PROFILES AND ADD PINS

Almost all streaming services allow users to set up individual profiles where each family member can have age restrictions put in place for the content they can view. Adult profiles can be protected through the use of PIN. Keep this private. Use the options of putting specific restrictions in place such as controlling autoplay of previews and next episodes, and limiting content based on age ratings.

MONITOR AND TALK OFTEN

Discuss with your child what they are watching, find out which programmes are trending, and watch them yourself. Have a little look at their watch history to check the content of what they're watching. Some platforms have been known to recommend or autoplay older or graphic content after a child's movie has been played. While some TV shows or movies may have a suitable age rating, your child may still find the content scary, or it may explore themes you don't want to explore with your child yet.

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.



TALK ABOUT ALGORITHMS

Talk to your child about how streaming services track what they watch, and base adverts and recommended shows/movies on previous viewing. Encourage them to critically think about whether the recommendations are suitable and how they want to spend their time. Discuss stereotypes with your child and challenge them to think about what they watch and how this may influence their beliefs.

SET TIME RESTRICTIONS

Many streaming services offer the opportunity to buy movies, or add additional features to your subscription such as sports channels, as well as play games. This can increase the amount of time young people spend sitting idly in front of the screen. Some platforms (e.g. Apple TV+) allow you to set screen time restrictions. If the streaming service doesn't allow you to set screen time limits, set a family rule and stick to it.

See full reference list on our website

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