



2nd October 2026

HIPPS Newsletter



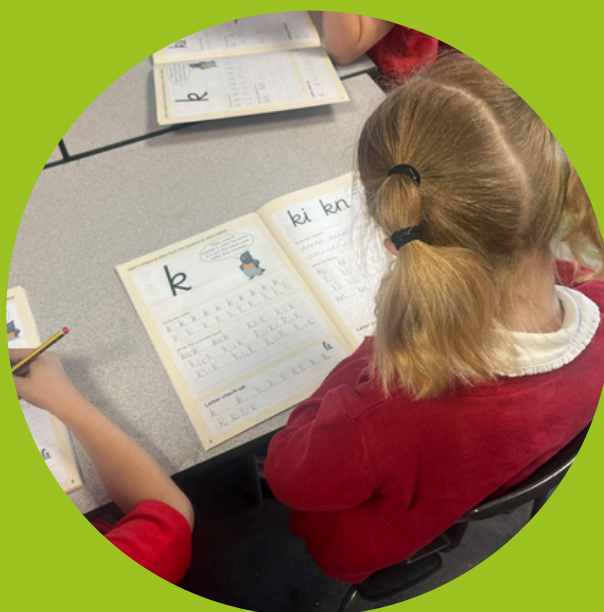
As we moved into October this week, our thoughts turned to Harvest and the importance of generosity, kindness and supporting those in our community. On Tuesday, visitors from St Andrew's Church joined us to share a story with the children about generosity and helping others. On Friday, we were overwhelmed by the incredible donations received for Jimmy's Cambridge. Thanks to your kindness and support, we managed to fill their van with contributions that will make a real difference to many people experiencing homelessness and hardship. A huge thank you to everyone who donated so generously.

On Wednesday and Thursday, we were delighted to welcome eight student teachers from the Faculty of Education. They visited classrooms across the school and were extremely impressed by the children's enthusiasm, focus and engagement in their learning. On Thursday afternoon, they worked alongside Class 7 for a science activity and thoroughly enjoyed hearing the children's thoughtful responses and ideas. It is always a pleasure to showcase our school to visitors, and we are incredibly proud when they leave feeling inspired by our wonderful pupils and staff.

Handwriting

The start of the school year is always a great time for fresh starts. Across the school, we're putting a real focus on improving our handwriting, and the children have loved getting started with their new handwriting books.

It's been lovely to see the effort and pride they're taking in their work already. When I popped into Class 6 earlier this week, Miss Brunning was having to work hard to make sure her handwriting was as neat as the children's! It's wonderful to see everyone embracing the challenge and striving to do their very best



Housepoint Totals!

	 EARTH	 WATER	 FIRE	 AIR
Totals for this week	51	47	48	40
Total for the term	190	207	205	219

Showcase Assemblies and Performances

At HIPPS, each year group will have an opportunity to showcase their learning or perform in front of an audience of parents/carers.

Year 1 will do this in the form of their Nativity and Year 6 their end of year production. All other year groups will have a Showcase assembly to share what they have been learning. These showcases will be followed by Open Classrooms where you can go and look at the children's books in classes. Dates for these events have been added to the key dates below.



Key Dates (new dates added in black)

Monday 12th October–Thursday 15th October	All Day	Year 5/6 Bikeability for those children who booked last year
Friday 16th October	All Day	Year 4 Bikeability for those children who booked last year
Monday 19th/ Wednesday 21st October	After School	Parents' Consultations
Wednesday 21st October	All Day	Roman Soldier Visit to Year 3
Thursday 22nd October	All Day	Roman Soldier Visit to Year 2
Friday 23rd October		Staff Training Day
Monday 26th–Friday 30th October		Half Term Holiday
Monday 2nd November		Staff Training Day
Tuesday 3rd November	All Day	Flu Vaccinations In School
Friday 13th November		Children In Need
Thursday 26th November	All Day	Year 5/6 Trip to Bletchley Park
Friday 27th November		Staff Training Day



Key Dates

Monday 7th December	2.45pm	Year 5 Showcase Assembly and Open Classroom
Monday 7th December	3.25pm	Year 6 Open Classroom
Friday 11th December		Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Dinner Day, Santa Dash and Christmas Fair
Tuesday 15th December	9.30am	Year One Nativity Play
Friday 18th December		Last Day of Autumn Term
Monday 4th January 2027		Start of Spring Term
Monday 25th January	2.45pm	Year Four Showcase Assembly and Open Classrooms
Monday 8th February	2.45pm	Year Two Showcase Assembly and Open Classrooms
Monday 8th February	3.25pm	Year One Open Classrooms
Thursday 23rd March	9.15am	Reception Showcase Assembly
Tuesday 4th May	All Day	Class Photos
Monday 10th May–Thursday 13th May		SATS Week for Year 6
Tuesday 25th May	am	EYFS/KS1 Sports Day



Key Dates

Tuesday 25th May	pm	Key Stage Two Sports Day
Monday 7th June–Friday 18th June		Multiplication Check for Year 4 Pupils
Friday 11th June	3.40	PTFA Summer Fair
Monday 14th June–Friday 18th June		Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
Monday 21st June	2.45pm	Year 3 Showcase Assembly and Open Classrooms
Tuesday 22nd June		Reserve Sports Day date
Friday 25th June		Staff Training Day
Thursday 8th July	9.30–11.30am and 5.30–7.30pm	Year 6 Production
Wednesday 14th July–Friday 16th July		Year 6 Residential
Tuesday 20th July	5–7pm	Year 6 Leavers’ Party
Wednesday 21st July		Last Day of School Year



FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS/CARERS OF CHILDREN
STARTING RECEPTION IN SEPTEMBER 2027.

MONDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2026 9.30-10.30AM-FULL
TUESDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2026 9.30-10.30AM-FULL
WEDNESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2026 9.30-10.30AM-FULL
THURSDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2026 6.00-7.00PM-FULL
TUESDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2026 9.30-10.30AM-FULL
TUESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2026 9.30-10.30AM
MONDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 2026 9.30-10.30AM

TO BOOK A PLACE, PLEASE EMAIL:
OFFICE@PARKPRIMARY.CO.UK
OR PHONE: 01223 568826 TO BOOK A PLACE!



Meridian
Trust



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

DISCORD

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Launched in 2015, and with over 90 million daily active users, Discord has become one of the main ways gamers communicate – with text, voice, and video chat helping people connect around shared interests. For many young people, Discord can be a useful way to talk with friends, join communities, and explore hobbies. However, like any online platform built around communication, it also carries risks around strangers, inappropriate content, spending money, and time spent online. This guide looks at what parents and educators need to know.

AGE RESTRICTION
13+
(with a 17+ app-rating on app stores)

A CHANNEL FOR EVERYTHING

While Discord is strongly associated with video games, it also hosts communities for almost anything you can imagine, such as books, music, influencers, cooking and sport. Some large servers focus on popular games like Minecraft or Fortnite, but many are private, invite-only spaces where friends or communities with shared interests can chat across phones, computers, and gaming consoles.

REAL-LIFE DISTRACTION

Like many social platforms, Discord can become a real time-sink. Although it does not rely on endless scrolling in the same way as some apps, constant messages, group chats, and voice channels can keep young people engaged for long periods, especially in larger servers. As Discord is closely linked to gaming, it may also increase the time they spend playing games.

STRANGER DANGER

Users can choose to stay within private servers with only people they know, but joining public servers will most likely bring them into contact with strangers. Many users are just friendly enthusiasts, yet others could have harmful intentions, including grooming, extortion, or radicalisation. In these types of environments, anyone can claim to be another teenager, which can make it harder for young people to judge who is safe to talk to.

A HARASSMENT RISK

There is also a risk from people a young person already knows in the real world. Bullying in the real world can continue online, and Discord servers can make this feel more intimidating, especially if someone uses anonymous or multiple accounts to carry out threatening behaviours. Because Discord works across computers, phones, and gaming consoles, unwanted contact can follow young people into online spaces that should feel safe and private.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

This huge amount of choice can help young people "find their tribe", especially when they have niche interests. However, because users can create servers around almost any topic, younger users may still encounter unsuitable or distressing content. Even in spaces linked to child-friendly games, Discord cannot directly control every conversation, image, or video shared by other users.

A MONEY DRAIN

Discord is free to use, but users can still spend real-world money on it. This may include Discord Nitro, a monthly subscription that unlocks customisation features and larger media uploads, or purchases through the 'Shop' for profile cosmetics and game-related items. Small purchases can add up quickly, especially if spending controls are not in place.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE FAMILY CENTRE

Parents and carers should make use of Discord's 'Family Centre', which gives an overview of a younger user's activity while respecting their privacy. Messages are not shared, but adults can view an activity feed and receive weekly email summaries. Discord says this is designed to support conversations about online behaviour, rather than be about constant monitoring.

CHECK, TALK, REPORT

Review Discord's privacy settings together, including who can send them friend requests or private messages. Use this as a chance to talk to them about strangers, privacy, and personal information, making sure young people know to question suspicious behaviour, such as requests to keep conversations secret. Show them how to block and report these kinds of users and reassure them that asking for help will not get them into trouble.

MANAGE TIME ONLINE

Agree clear expectations around when and how Discord can be used, especially during homework, bedtime, and family time. Encourage young people to turn off unnecessary notifications and leave servers that feel overwhelming. If Discord is mainly used alongside gaming, discuss healthy limits for both activities so that schoolwork, sleep, and offline friendships are not affected.

REVIEW SPENDING CONTROLS

Talk openly about paid features such as Discord Nitro, profile cosmetics, and in-game purchases. Make sure the young people in your care understand that digital items still cost real money. Check payment settings on the device they use, avoid storing card details where possible, and consider adding approval requirements for purchases, particularly for younger or more impulsive users.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full references list on our website

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 23.06.2020

AGM



We do need as many people as possible to attend our online AGM meeting on 14th October at 7.45pm – pop the date in your diary!

Don't forget to follow the PTFA Facebook Page!



Meridian Trust News

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

[**Read more here**](#)



Work with us

Are you or your family looking for a new role?

Meridian Trust aims to be the employer of choice for the communities we serve, and since 2010 we have nurtured and developed the careers of many people.

See a list of our current opportunities on our website and at the link below:

[**Find out more**](#)

Connect with us at Histon & Impington Park Primary School

