



Mail on Friday

Redhill Primary Academy

Weekly Newsletter

Email us at: parentcontact@redhillprimary.co.uk

Bikes and Scooters

A reminder to all parents and carers: for safety reasons, bikes and scooters must not be ridden on school grounds. They should be dismantled at the school gate and pushed from there. If a scooter is brought onto school grounds, please be aware that the small playground can get quite busy. We kindly ask that you supervise children closely while they are pushing their bike or scooter.

Free School Meals

Your child, or children, may be eligible to claim Free School Meals if you are on a low income and receive a qualifying benefit.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive universal infant free school meals, and this is not linked to your income.

The criteria for Free School Meals is

You or your partner (if you have one) have a child for whom you receive Child Benefit and who is attending a school or college in Telford and Wrekin, and you get any of the following:

Universal Credit and your household income is less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get),

Income Support,

Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance,

Income-related Employment and Support Allowance,

Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190),

Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit),

Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

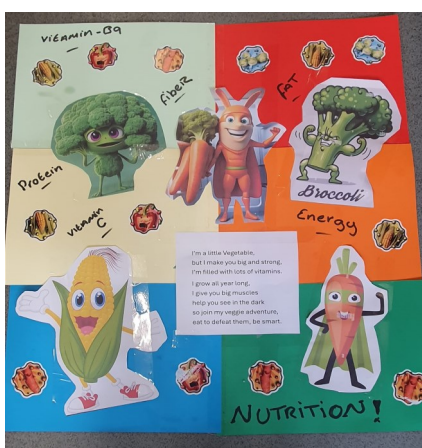
Each school receives a weekly list showing the names of all children who are entitled to Free School Meals.

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals, they'll remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they're in on 31 March 2025.

Eat them to Defeat them

This week, the kitchen staff have taken part in the award-winning campaign to encourage children to eat more vegetables.

What fun they had!



Advice for parents/carers on visits to settings involving contact with animals such as lambing events, petting zoos etc.

Visitor attractions involving contact with animals are understandably popular with parents and children but do carry a risk from infectious diseases.

All animals naturally carry a range of micro-organisms, some of which can be transmitted to humans, where they may cause ill health.

Some of these, such as E. coli O157 or Cryptosporidium (Crypto), present a serious health hazard and have the potential to cause serious illness which may be particularly severe in young children.

We see many cases of Crypto each year in the Health Protection Hub, particularly among children, and it's a miserable experience for them and their parents.

Following these practical steps will help your child stay safe and healthy:

- Children should wash their hands in the following four situations: after contacting animals, before eating, before and after using play equipment, and when leaving site. It will help to explain why they must wash their hands thoroughly in these situations and to show them what proper handwashing looks like. Bear in mind that alcohol gel is not a suitable substitute for proper hand washing with soap and running water - it doesn't work against Crypto.
- Do not suck fingers or put hands, pens, pencils or crayons etc. in mouths.
- Check that cuts, grazes etc. on children's hands are covered with a waterproof dressing.
- Do not kiss animals.
- Eat only food that you have brought with you or food for human consumption that you have bought on the premises, and eat only in designated areas.
- Never eat food that has fallen to the ground.
- Never taste animal foods.
- Children should not eat, drink or chew anything (including sweets) outside the areas designated for eating at the visitor attraction.
- Where possible, clean or clean and change footwear before leaving. The site should have facilities to clean footwear and pushchair/pram wheels as you leave the site. Wash hands after cleaning/ changing footwear.
- Do not use or pick up tools (e.g. spades and forks) or touch other work equipment unless permitted to do so by site staff.
- Do not climb on to walls, fences, gates or animal pens etc. Some animals put their feet on the fences of their pens and contaminate them with faecal matter.
- Listen carefully and follow the instructions and information given by the site staff.
- Do not wander off into unsupervised or prohibited areas e.g. manure heaps.
- Allow plenty of time for hand washing before eating or leaving the site so that the children do not have to rush.
- If a member of your group shows signs of illness (e.g. sickness or diarrhoea) after a visit, visit the doctor and explain that they have had recent contact with animals. Please also contact the attraction you visited and inform them of the illness

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

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Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert: potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

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Advice for Parents & Carers

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CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

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.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday



Friends newsletter



PTA RECRUITMENT

We are still looking for a Vice Secretary to shadow the current one and take over when she leaves at the end of this school year and also a Community Champion who can liaise with local businesses, enhance fundraising efforts and qualify for grants and awards to support the school and PTA. If you think this could be you please get in touch, we would love to hear from you and answer any questions



SECONDHAND UNIFORM



Preloved school uniforms cost a significant amount less. By normalising the wearing of quality second hand clothes we can help make it affordable for everyone. A study found that 30% of parents buy uniforms larger so their children can grow into them. Wearing preloved means that clothes can be exchanged more often.

RAFFLE & OTHER TICKETS

Tickets for our Spring raffle and Break The Rules day are on PTA events below:

