

9th February 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

This week has been Children's Mental Health week which was explored by the children through a special assembly on Tuesday and activities throughout the week.

As part of this it was also Safer Internet Day this week. Key Stage 2 had the chance to learn all about Artificial Intelligence and how this can affect their online safety. The Safer Internet Foundation has also published parent information about some of the most popular apps being used by children. You can find this by [clicking here](#). There is a host of safety and privacy information available to help keep the children safe.

We were pleased to welcome Mr. Balkwill and Mrs. Blain, Deputy CEOs of the Pele Trust to school this week. They enjoyed speaking to children and staff about behaviour and attendance and visiting lessons in each year group. It is always wonderful to see the pride the children have both in school and their learning and how they love to share this.

Our mixed Year 5 football team played in the Pele Trust Football Tournament. Check out how we did later in the Flyer!

I would like to remind you that next Friday, 16th February 2024 is the School Council 'Break the Rules' day. There are 7 rules which can be broken. It will be 50p per rule or £3 to break them all. Please see the poster later in the flyer for more information.

We have had an outbreak of headlice in school this week. I would ask that you are vigilant in checking your child's hair as lice can hide without causing itching. Current NHS advice is to use 'wet brushing' with a nit comb to remove them rather than using harsh insecticide lotions and shampoos which can cause irritation. Guidance on how to do this is included later in the flyer.

Don't forget to read with your child and sign their reading diary this weekend.

Well done to Year 4 with the best attendance this week of 99.2%

Well done to Year 4 for the best attendance for the year to date: 96.1%.

I hope that you enjoy reading this flyer and you have a relaxing weekend.

Mr. A. Wheatley,

Headteacher



## Attendance Matters



**ATTEND** today...  
**ACHIEVE** tomorrow...  
**ATTENDANCE** matters.

Northumberland  
County Council

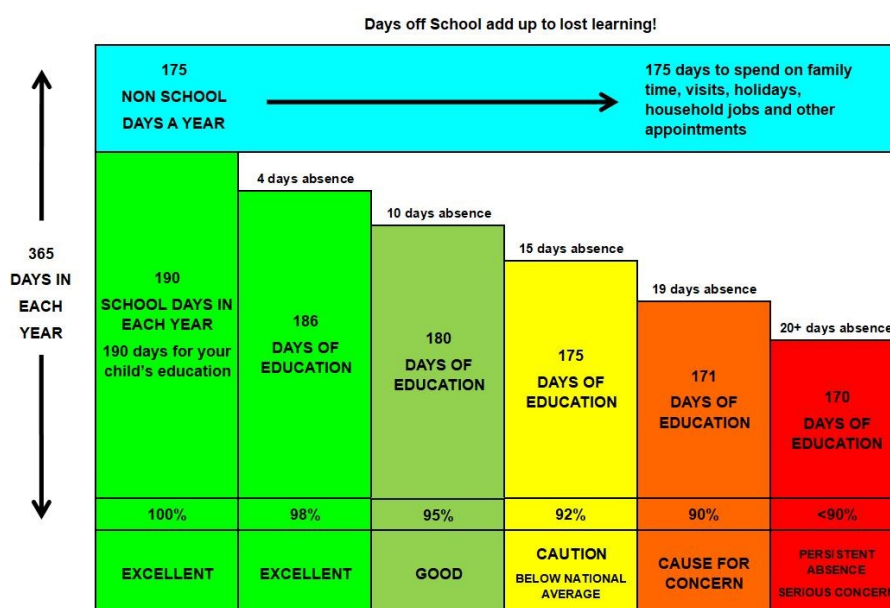


We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year	Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year
Reception (Owls)	95.3%	96%	Year 3 (Gibside)	97.2%	94%
Year 1 (Wallington)	95.8%	95.5%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	99.2%	96.1%
Year 2 (Craggside)	94.1%	96.1%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	94.5%	94.4%
			Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	97.4%	95.2%

Please see the graphic below which shows the significant impact of absence over time.



'Whatever you do work at it with all your heart'

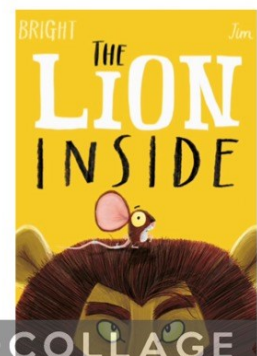
Colossians 3:23



This week, the Hedgehogs have loved their PE lessons. We have been learning how to use different parts of our bodies to balance. In a game of musical statues, we had to adopt a different pose each time the music stopped. What imaginative children we have! In Maths, we have been developing our ability to count accurately. What a super job you all did!



As part of 'Children's Mental Health' week, we read the story 'The Lion Inside' and thought about how we could be confident and believe in ourselves.



PIC•COLLAGE



This week we have been lucky enough to have visits from The Fire Brigade, The Police and Northern Power Grid.



Brian and his team from Ponteland Fire Service called in to show us their fire engine and rescue equipment. We learned about the equipment they use to keep them, and others', safe whilst fighting fires and rescuing people.



Andy the Police Dog Handler brought Nipper the cocker spaniel and Elsa the German shepherd to meet us. We learned how, with special training, these dogs help The Police to search for missing people, and sniff out hidden things; they can even find laptops, tablets, phones and SIM cards .... wow!



Christie and Alister from Northern Power Grid showed us how electricity gets to our homes for us to use. They also explained how dangerous electricity can be and how we can stay safe.

PIC•COLLAGE



## Investigating Materials in Year 1!

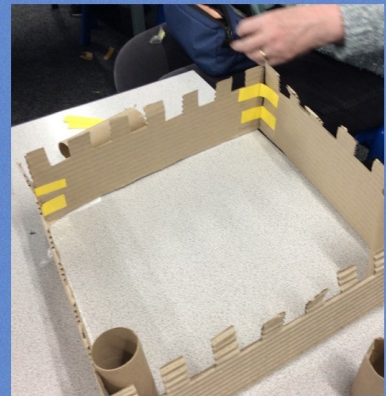
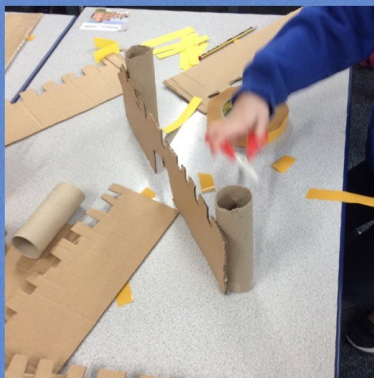
Year 1 have been investigating the properties of materials in Science, this week we tested different materials to see which would be the most suitable to use as an umbrella. We enjoyed pouring water on them and seeing if they were waterproof or absorbent!





## Building Castles with Year 2

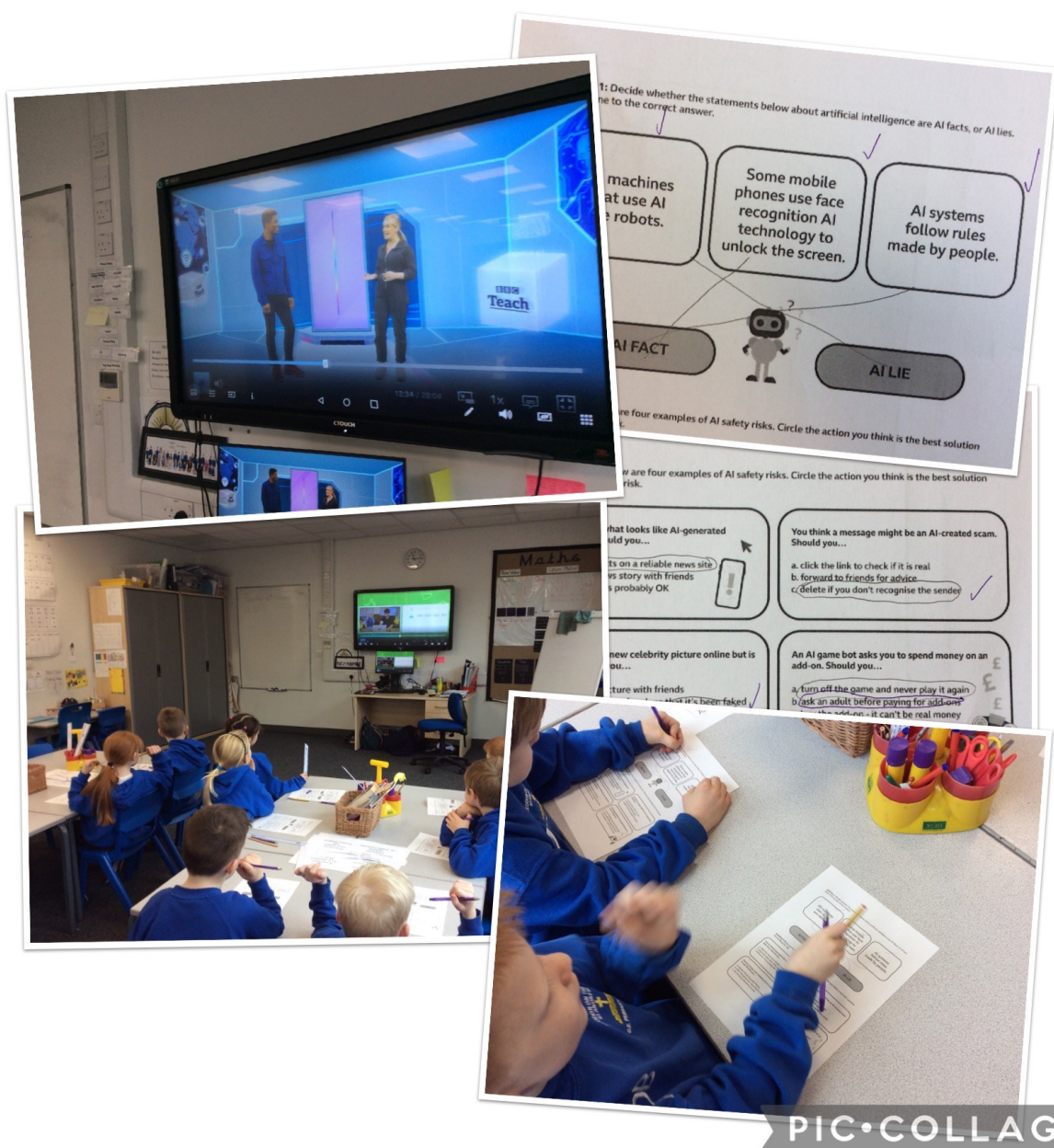
In Design Technology we have been designing and making castles. We have been practising using strengthening joins, using two pieces of cardboard, joining them at a 90 degree angle and strengthening with a third piece of card, to bolster the corner and join.

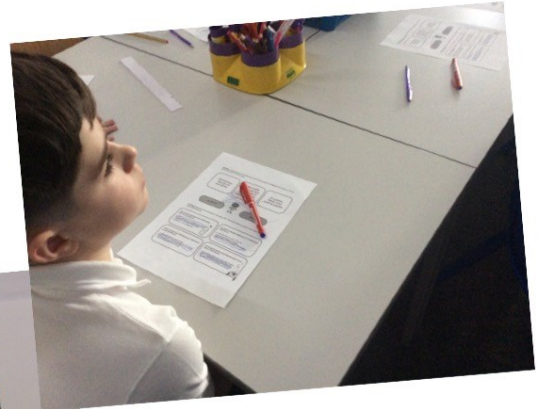




## Safer Internet Day with Year 3

As part of Children's Mental Health Week, Year 3 really enjoyed taking part in Safer Internet Day. We learnt about Artificial Intelligence and how to recognise when it is being used online; when AI can be useful and when AI can mislead us.





On safer  
internet day,  
year 4 watched  
the CBBC  
programme  
about AI. Then  
we designed a  
poster to share  
what we  
learned.

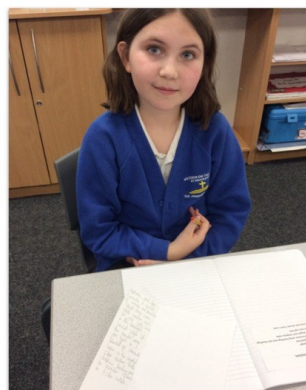
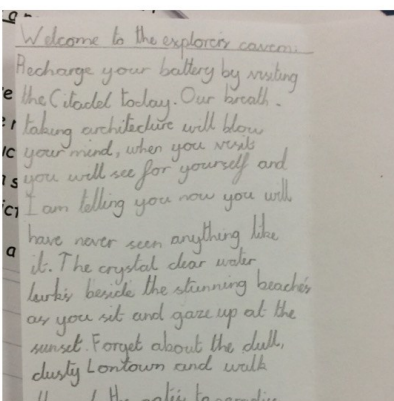
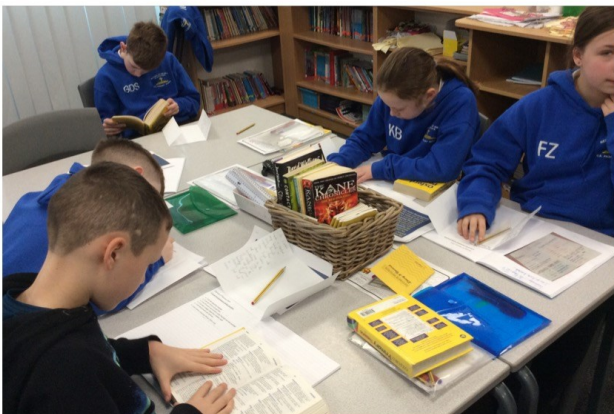
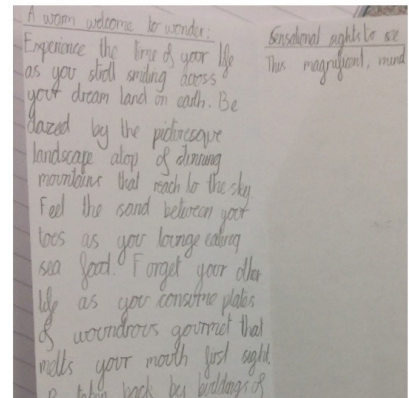
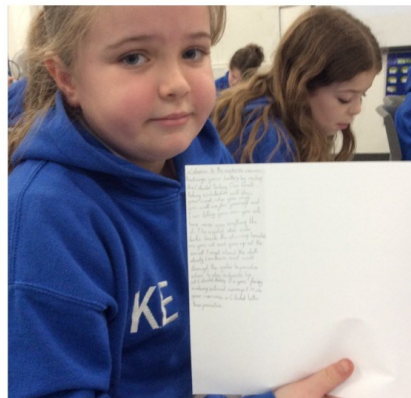
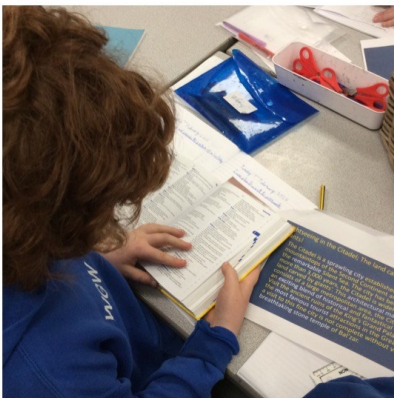


**PIC•COLLAGE**



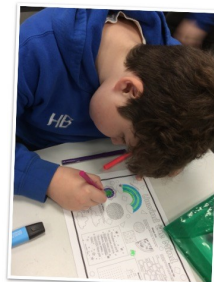
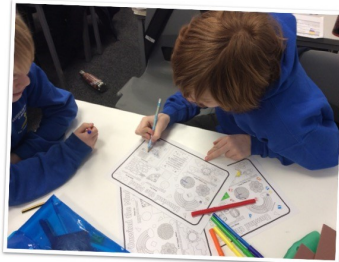
## Persuasive Writing in Year 5

This week Year 5 have been showing off all of their persuasive writing techniques by creating a holiday brochure. We have enjoyed using ambitious vocabulary to enhance our persuasive language that we used to describe the amazing Citadel from our class text 'Brightstorm'. We can not wait to add the finishing touches on Monday.



## A Busy Week in Year 6

This week included both Children's Mental Health Week and Safer Internet Day, making for a busy time in Year 6. Alongside our usual work, the children took some time out today to complete an "unwind the mind" placemat, filled with mindfulness activities and mini games that they could play with their partner. We also discussed the theme of this year's Children's Mental Health Week (My Voice Matters) in our class assembly with Year 5 on Tuesday. To acknowledge Safer Internet Day, we joined the BBC's Live Lesson on Wednesday, which discussed the implications that Artificial Intelligence can have when trying to stay safe online. In addition to this, we ended the week with a refresher session on how to use a mobile phone responsibly, using Beano comic resources created by the Young Minds charity.



PIC•COLLAGE



## Chinese New Year with Out of School Club

This week we have been very busy! LOTS of knitting has been going on, we made roses out of playdough, we started making our Chinese Dragon head and Chinese lanterns for Chinese New Year, got our hands messy with noodles and had lots of fun dressing up along the way. We added lots of names to our WOW jar this morning as we were all really helpful. Have a lovely weekend!





## Year 5 Mixed Football Tournament

Our Year 5 mixed football team enjoyed playing at the Pele Trust Year 5 Football Tournament. Not only did they have a great time but they came away as overall winners!

In the round of matches they beat Richard Coates Primary 5-2; Ponteland Primary (2) 5-1, Ponteland Primary (1) 2-0; Belsay Primary 1-0 and Darras Hall Primary (2) 5-0.

They drew 0-0 with Ponteland Primary (1) and lost 2-0 to Darras Hall Primary (1).

They clinched the win by winning a penalty shoot out 7-6 against Darras Hall Primary (1).

Well done! We are so proud of you, not only for winning but for showing teamwork, perseverance and sportsmanship. Special well done to Benji who scored 2 hat tricks!

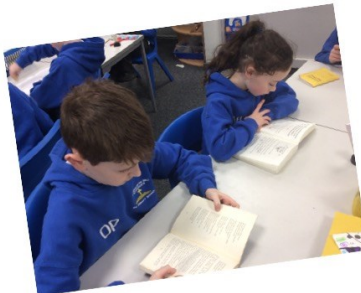


Many thanks to Heddon Juniors FC who sponsor our school football strips.



## Reading Matters!

**'Reading is the gateway for children that  
makes all other learning possible.'  
Barak Obama**



**Please remember to read with us this weekend!**

## 5 Ways to Wellbeing

This week is Children's Mental Health Week. Please see below for the 5 ways to wellbeing. There are some really good suggestions for each of the 5 elements which you might like to do with your children at home.



TALK & LISTEN,  
BE THERE,  
FEEL CONNECTED



REMEMBER  
THE SIMPLE  
THINGS THAT  
GIVE YOU JOY



Your time,  
your words,  
your presence



DO WHAT YOU CAN,  
ENJOY WHAT YOU DO,  
MOVE YOUR MOOD



EMBRACE NEW  
EXPERIENCES,  
SEE OPPORTUNITIES,  
SURPRISE YOURSELF



BREAK THE FRY 2.24

Friday 16 February

RULES

\$3 For all <sup>rules</sup> Broker

Day!

Bring A Teddy  
50P!



Wacky  
hair!

(Not green)



Not uniform!  
50P

50p



Sweet  
for  
snack!

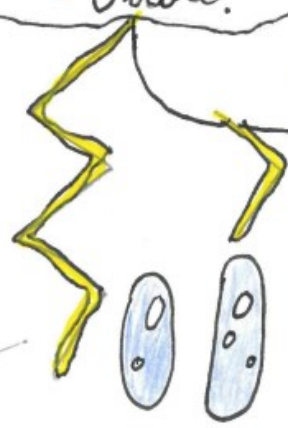
Eat your pudding  
50p Before lunch!



Juice in your  
Water 50P  
Bottle!

50P

Nails painted  
and temporary  
tattoo!



## Had a brush with nits? Switch to a comb

  
Blackpool  
Clinical Commissioning Group

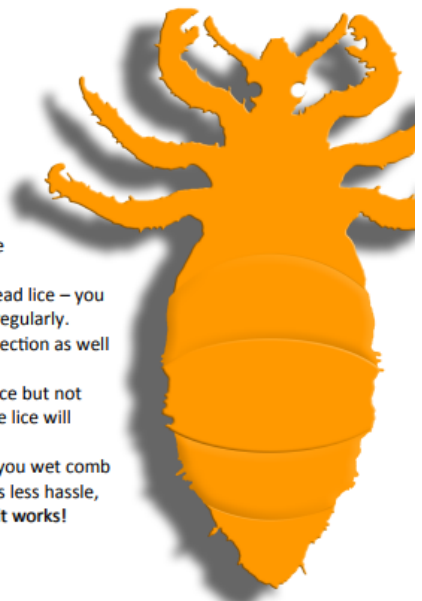


Wet combing is the most effective method of treatment for head lice.

Head lice combs come in different shapes and sizes but have finer teeth that are shaped to catch head lice and nits effectively.

### The Facts of lice...

- Head lice and 'nits' aren't the same thing – nits are the empty eggshells which remain in the hair after the lice have hatched.
- Itching isn't the first sign of having head lice – you should carry out detection combing regularly.
- A head lice comb can be used for detection as well as treatment.
- Insecticide shampoos deal with the lice but not the eggs. There's a good chance more lice will hatch after the treatment.
- There's no insecticide needed when you wet comb – that makes it safer for your kids, it's less hassle, easier to do and most importantly – **it works!**



To wet brush your child's hair:

1. Wash the hair thoroughly with ordinary shampoo and apply plenty of conditioner
2. Yes! The hair has to be wet. Dry lice can scurry away from the comb but will remain still when wet giving you a better chance of catching them in your comb;
3. Use an ordinary, wide toothed comb to straighten and untangle the hair;
4. Once the comb moves freely without dragging start to use your head lice comb;
5. Make sure the teeth of the comb slot into the hair at the roots with the edge of the teeth lightly touching the scalp;
6. Draw the comb down from the roots to the ends of the hair with every stroke, and check the comb for lice each time—remove lice by wiping the comb with tissue paper or rinsing it
7. Work through the hair, section by section, so that the whole head of hair is combed through;
8. Do this at least twice to ensure you haven't missed any areas, until no more lice are found
9. Repeat the process 5 days later just to be sure!



We have lots of lots items of clothing and the odd packed lunch / snack box in school which have not been claimed. We are keen to reunite these items with their proper owners. Please see the picture below for some of our found items. You are more than welcome to come and check the lost property box at the school office for any missing items.

We also have a range of pre-loved school uniform available outside the school office. This is available for anyone who needs it. Feel free to come and browse this at any point during the school day.





At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MONKEY

Also known as Monkey Cool, this platform aims to fill the gap left by Omegle (which has now shut down) by placing users in random video chats with strangers. Participants use their mobile number and Snapchat username to connect to the service, where they can make matches, message other people and join group chats. The mobile version has been removed from the App Store due to safety concerns, but iPhone owners can still access the site via their web browser. The app remains available on Google Play, where its listing claims that Monkey has more than 30 million users worldwide.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The app claims to use AI to detect sexual content or activity that violates its policies, along with having a 24/7 moderation team. However, reports in the media continue to indicate that explicit content remains commonplace on Monkey (including sexually graphic or violent material) and is therefore accessible to anybody who uses the app – including those aged under 18.

UNDER 18

### CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

The obvious risk in accepting random video chat partners is that users cannot know what or who they will see on their next connection. Talking to strangers is, of course, potentially dangerous – especially for children who might be persuaded to meet up with these people offline. The app lets users find each other by location, increasing the chances of a child being matched with a stranger from their local area.



### IN-APP SPENDING

While Monkey is free to download, it nevertheless offers in-app purchases promising to unlock access to premium features. For example, users who wish to make use of 'Knock Knock chat' (Monkey's text-based messaging option), rather than the app's Chatroulette-style random video calling feature, will need to pay to be able to do so.

AGE RESTRICTION  
17+

(although the lack of age verification means that someone younger could easily log in with a false date of birth)

### INTRUSIONS ON PRIVACY

According to Monkey's privacy policy, personal information (such as name, profile picture and date of birth), user-contributed content (any photos, texts, videos and screenshots shared) and each user's browser and IP address are collected. That is a considerable amount of data for Monkey to gather on its users – and all of this information is shared with third parties.



## Advice for Parents & Carers

### DISCUSS THE DANGERS

Even if you're comfortable with your child using Monkey, it's still important to talk about the potential dangers. It's crucial, for instance, that young people recognise the risks that stem from video chatting with strangers; that they understand not to share identifying information (like their street or school name); and that they know what to do if they are exposed to inappropriate content.



### RESTRICT IN-APP PURCHASING

If your child is accessing Monkey via an Android device, you can prevent them from making in-app purchases through the device's settings. If you do allow your child to use the site, we'd recommend that you enable this feature: young people have been known to spend significant amounts of money in their desire to unlock more features in apps such as this.



### REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Monkey states in the safety section of its site that "people are given the power" and that, to a large extent, Monkey is "self-governing." If a user is exposed to sexually explicit or inappropriate content on the platform, they can select the 'police' emoji in the top right corner of their screen to submit a report for Monkey's moderation team to review.



### SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Monkey – or that they may have been exposed to inappropriate or distressing content – it's important to watch for potential indications that they've been affected emotionally. They could be unusually irritable or unable to concentrate, for example, or failing to complete their homework or even to eat regular meals.



### 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.



The National College

NOS  
National Online Safety  
#WakeUpWednesday

@natonlinesafety

/NationalOnlineSafety

@nationalonlinesafety

@national\_online\_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 07.02.2024



## Dates for your Diary - Spring Term



Friday 16th February 2024	HALF TERM
Monday 26th February 2024	TRAINING DAY
Tuesday 27th February 2024	SPRING TERM 2 BEGINS
Wednesday 28th February 2024	Year 6 SATS Information Meeting for Parents at 4pm in School
Friday 8th March 2024	Early Years and Key Stage 1 Mothers Day Service at Church at 9.30am
Friday 8th March 2024	Key Stage 2 Mothers Day Service at Church at 10.15am
Friday 8th March 2024	Choir taking part at Ryton and District Music Festival from 1pm
Friday 15th March	Red Nose Day
Tuesday 26th March 2024	Year 6 France Trip Meeting for Parents 5pm-6pm at Darras Hall Primary School
Thursday 28th March 2024	Key Stage 2 Easter Service at Church at 9.30am
Thursday 28th March 2024	EASTER HOLIDAYS
Monday 15th April 2024	SUMMER TERM 1 BEGING
29th April 2024	School Photographer in for individual photographs