



# Weekly Newsletter

FRIDAY 26th MAY 2023



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# Latest News

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week I'm pleased to be able to share our staff plan for next year. This is the arrangement for classes; teaching assistants working 1:1 or with small groups will be communicated on an individual basis.

Class	Teacher	Teaching Assistant
Nursery	Mrs Davies	Mrs Blower
Reception	Mrs Bridson	Mrs Hughes
Year 1	Miss Ratcliffe*	Mrs Wood
Year 2	Mrs England	Miss Rooke
Year 3	Mrs O'Hanlon/Mrs Cartwright	Miss Waterson
Year 4	Mrs Murphy	Miss Wilson
Year 5	Mr Hall	Mrs Rees
Year 6	Mr Houghton	Miss Haws
DRB 1	Miss Woods / Mrs Sweeney	tbc
DRB 2	Mrs Rigg / Miss Jenkins	tbc

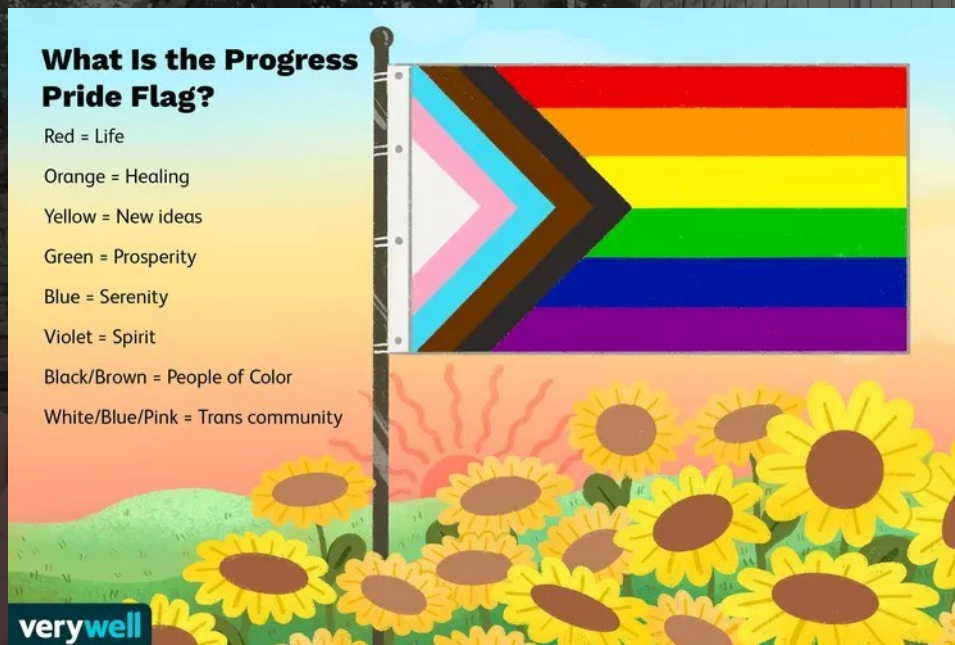
\*Miss Ratcliffe is getting married during the summer so she'll be Mrs Nugent in September!

Later this term, all the children will spend some time getting to know their new class-teacher. Teachers have already started meeting to pass on important information regarding each child—not just assessment data, but also more important information about how they learn best, what they like to do and what support they might need emotionally and socially.

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## Flying the Pride Flag

June is Pride Month. It's an opportunity for us to celebrate the values of equality, respect and inclusion. In the Primary Curriculum, children learn these values from their earliest years. Sexuality is one of the 9 protected characteristics under the Equality Act UK, which protects people from discrimination, harassment and victimisation. Children learn about Human Rights and Equality, at age appropriate levels throughout their time with us.



This week, each class has learnt about the Pride Flag and what each colour means. It is a symbol of acceptance and respect, particularly for the LGBTQ+ community but applicable to everyone in society. Of course, we're also flying the flag to send a message of welcome to all our LGBTQ+ Knotty Ash family members.

<https://www.verywellmind.com/what-the-colors-of-the-new-pride-flag-mean-5189173>

## Inset Day Staff Training

Last Monday, we held an training day for all the teachers and teaching assistants. One half of the day was about Speech and Language and adopting a programme called 'Colourful Semantics' to support children develop oracy skills. The other half of the day was about Zones of Regulation, a programme to help children identify their emotions and improve their readiness to learn. Thanks to all the staff for engaging so positively with these exciting developments for our school!



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I'm pleased to share news of a training event at The Brain Charity on Thursday 13th July 5-6:30pm. This informal evening session is for parents of young people with neurological conditions who might be concerned about the risks they face from YouTube and online gaming.



## BE ONLINE AWARE

### with The Brain Charity's SafetyNet course

Free media literacy and digital awareness training covering:

Fake news and how to spot it

The basics of Google Documents, printing and email

Online safety, fraud and scam awareness

Using the internet to save money

Conspiracy theories and misinformation

Improving online confidence

Finding reliable online news

Safe use of social media

Free for anyone who has a neurological condition or cares for someone who does. We provide devices to use – just bring yourself!



At  
The Brain Charity  
(Norton Street, Liverpool)  
and venues across  
Merseyside.

# SAFETYNET

Be Online Aware

To book

Email [safetynet@thebraincharity.org.uk](mailto:safetynet@thebraincharity.org.uk)  
or call 0151 298 2999 and ask for Suzanne or Ali.

Ofcom

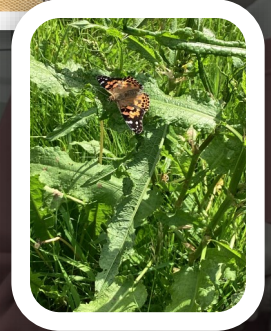
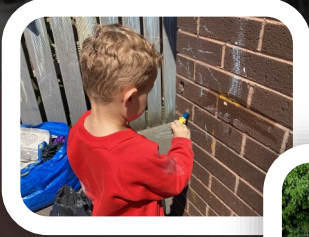


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# What have we been learning?

## Nursery



This week in nursery has been a shorter one than usual, previously on the last day before half term we were so excited to finally let our butterflies go, we were so happy that all 5 had emerged from their cocoons .

On Tuesday we started our new topic which is all about Seaside and holidays. We read a story called The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch set in a seaside town . We found out all about the naughty seagulls eating Mr Grindling's lovely packed lunch and how they managed to stop them. Lots of children sent Mrs Davies lovely photos of themselves on holiday or on lovely days out over the half term break in the lovely weather. We have been talking about the photos and our holidays to the other children.

We used the photos also to begin training the children to make interesting sentences using Colourful Semantics - this week we concentrated on asking who was in the photographs .

We have been finding out all about the properties of 3D shapes in maths . We have been investigating what happens when you try to roll shapes down a slope and what happens when you build models with 3D shapes- can you use shapes with curved sides ?

We have had lots of fun outside in the warm weather , doing PE on the all-weather pitch , running on the track and travelling in different ways on the adventure playground. We have enjoyed lots of water play activities as well.

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# What have we been learning?

## Reception



This week the children have loved sharing all they have got up to over their half term holidays. They chatted during circle time and then drew pictures and had a go at writing about it. It is always wonderful to hear what the children have been up to and what they enjoyed and that they like to share that with us.

We had a great time using the equipment for PE this week and time outside on the climbing equipment – some of the juniors even came to say hello. We have been learning all about measure in Maths and our sounds for the week are ‘ur’ and ‘ow’.

We also discussed the Pride flag and what it represents and when we went to see it in the infant yard, we thought it felt right to say our daily affirmations together there. Ask your children if they can remember our 5 affirmations (sometimes they call them “5 things”).

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# What have we been learning?

## Year 1



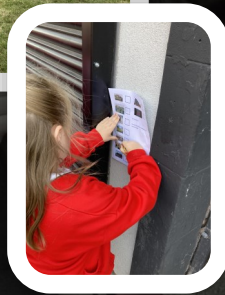
Year 1 have had an incredible week. It all started with our brilliant trip to New Brighton where we met Mr Murphy's big brother. He looked after us all at Bubbles with coffee and plenty of juice. The children loved the play frame especially the ball gun area where Mrs O'Hanlon took a direct hit 😊 she was startled but thankfully no first aid was required 😊. We had lunch there too before getting to play again. We then had a stroll down to the fort on the beach where we played in the sand. We made sandcastles, threw rocks in the water and even spotted a jellyfish or two! We then enjoyed an ice cream and pretended to ride the lifeguard's quad bike with his helmet on. There were definitely lots of tired children on the way back home. The waves lapped along the shore as we listened to them while licking our ice creams. We also took some rubbish up to the bins at Sainsbury's to recycle them. We capped off a lovely day with a biscuit and a play in Springfield Park. In PE this week, we practiced rolling the ball and running to stop it. We also made thank you cards to Greg who was the manager of Bubbles in New Brighton. We enjoyed a visit from Mr Mills on Thursday. He taught the children how to use book creator which we used to make books about our trip. We have also been preparing for our Phonics check next week by doing a lot of reading and writing practice. The children have been working hard all year to learn and use their sounds for reading and their writing.

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# What have we been learning?

## Year 2



We had a lovely beginning to trip to New Brighton! We all had a lovely time and we even had time for a play on the beach with an ice cream! We were out again on Tuesday on our walk around the local area! We put some rubbish in the correct recycling bins at Sainsbury's and enjoyed some time in Springfield Park.

This week in Maths, we have been learning all about tally charts. The children have been practicing how to fill in a tally chart so that next week they will be ready to create their own tally charts!

This week in PE, we started developing some football skills. The children practiced passing and dribbling the ball before having some shooting practice to finish! We looked at which parts of our feet we use to pass, receive, dribble and shoot the ball.

In History, we have been looking at different artists from the past including Henri Matisse, Vincent Van Gogh and Wassily Kandinsky! The children enjoyed looking at the different styles of the artists and expressed their opinions on some of the paintings displayed. We started to compare the works of art to some of the art we see today.

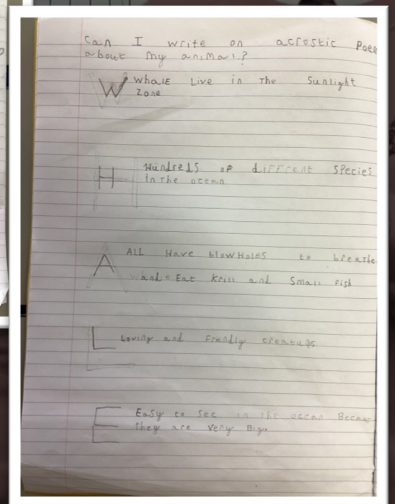
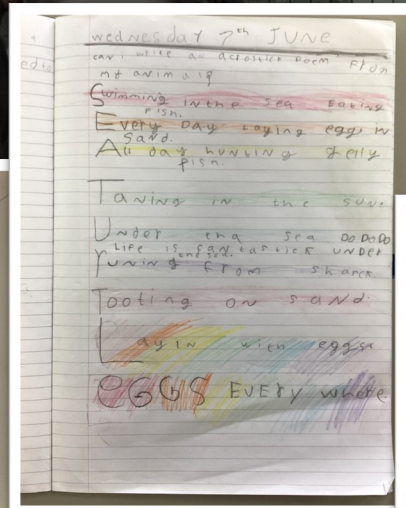
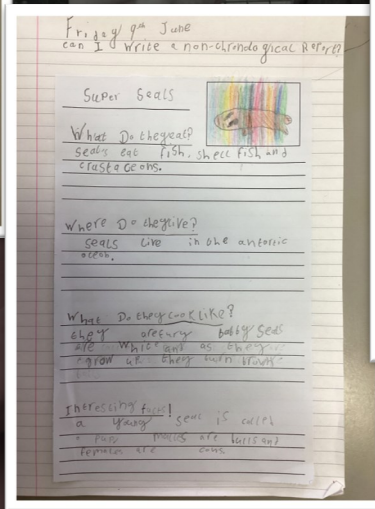
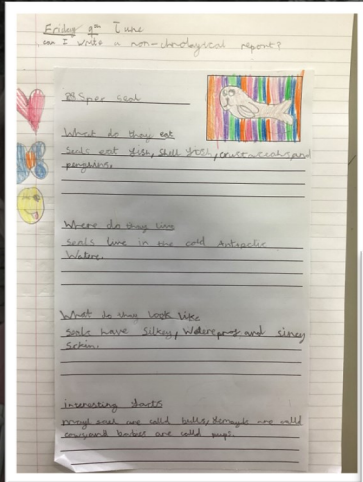
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# What have we been learning?

## Year 3



We've had a great week back after the restful half-term break; the children have been fabulous and have really impressed in both their maths and English work. In maths, we have been looking at angles and how to tell if an angle is acute, obtuse or a right-angle. This has moved on later in the week to looking at units of measure and how to measure things using a ruler (which can be quite a tricky skill to master). Our English topic has led to us writing an acrostic poem and a non-chronological report (no mean feat for 1 weeks worth of work!) The children have been writing about their favourite animals from the story 'Garbage Guts' and these finished pieces of work will all be used in their book-art projects that we are working on for the remainder of this term. Attached are some examples of some excellent pieces of writing produced in English this week.

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# What have we been learning?

## Year 4



It has been lovely to get all of the Year 4s back to school this week. It has been lovely to see everyone after a week off! I have told the class that even after only one week off, they look more mature and are clearly almost ready for Year 5 through the way in which they have worked this week! In English, we have been looking at developing our descriptive writing and have decided to write a story narrative using a sea animal. The children have looked at using description that is less common and using words which are more unique. We have really focused on super adjectives, adverbs and adverbial phrases. In Maths, we are continuing to enjoy fractions and practise the times tables. We have looked at how to make equivalent fractions by multiplying the numerator and denominator by the same number. We have also spent time beginning our topic of the Gambia as Ms Rigg took time out of her week to tell us about her many travels to the smallest country in Africa! Finally, we enjoyed learning about the pride flag which had been raised in our playground to celebrate the month of June as Pride Month! It's been busy to say the least, never mind the art (thank you for anyone who sent in newspapers and magazines) and PE lessons we have done this week.

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# What have we been learning?

## Year 5



Year 5 have had a busy first week back! We have spent time this week exploring artists that portray a message through their artwork. The children looked at their differing art styles and learnt a little bit about them and the message they wished to share. They then used what they had learnt to create their own piece of artwork inspired by some of the artists techniques. On Friday, we also spent some time with Jay Wheeler, who is a local artist, to create a piece of artwork using spray paint. The children were in awe of Jay and loved having the opportunity to use the spray cans to create their own piece of artwork.

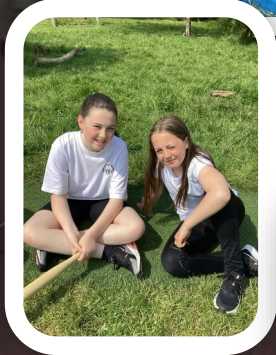
In Maths, we have been looking at adding fractions. We now know that when adding fractions, the denominator must be the same. Year 5 were very lucky to have had two sports coaches teaching them this week. One was a tennis coach who taught them some new tricks and skills; we will continue to work with the tennis coach for another 5 weeks. This Thursday, we celebrated World Ocean Day this week, looking at ways we can look after our ocean as we reflected on how important the ocean is for us. It has been an art filled week and I hope you're all having a restful weekend enjoying the sunshine.

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# What have we been learning?

## Year 6



It's been such a beautiful, sunny week for our class and we've benefitted hugely from the wonderful resources we have onsite here at Knotty Ash. We've been out in forest school, whittling and climbing in the dappled sunlight. We've had athletics trials on our new MUGA Astro pitch and generally every break time has been enjoyed in the glorious sunshine. In class, in honour of gay pride week, we've researched the origins of the pride flag and the new progress pride flag designed by the American artist Daniel Quasar. In science, we've created presentations about the experiments the children have designed and carried out themselves. It's been the perfect blend of hard work and fun and enjoyment. See you next week!

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# What have we been learning?

## DRB 1



We've had such a fun week in the Infant DRB.

We had a brilliant day in New Brighton – fun in the sun and observing jellyfish. We also visited an indoor play centre – one of our best days ever

We are going to a Cricket Tournament next week so we have been getting our bowling and batting skills up to scratch.

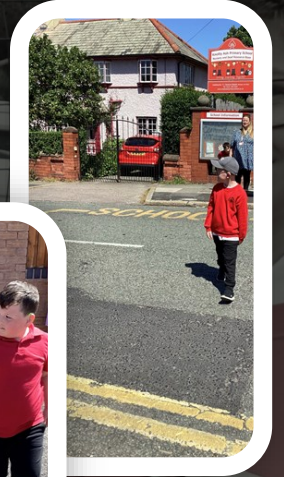
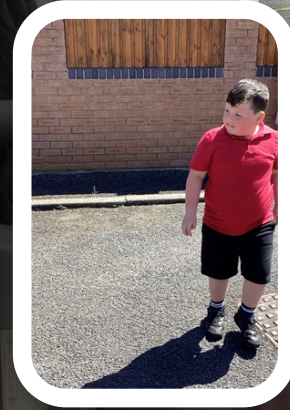
We have had fun making chocolate crispy cakes to ensure we are able to answer 'who?', 'what?' and 'doing what?' questions in practical situations.

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# What have we been learning?

## DRB 2



What an eventful first week back we've had! I can't quite believe we're almost at the end of another wonderful school year, where has the year gone?!

We have been busy bees as usual in Junior DRB. The children started off the week by writing a diary entry about they'd been doing during their week off school. Lots of children spent time enjoying the sun at either a local beach or in a swimming pool in their garden. We were very lucky with the weather!

In English, the children are continuing to learn about letter writing. This week, we focused on informal letters. This gave the perfect opportunity for them to design and write their own postcard. The children posted their postcards at the postbox outside school.

The children have also been learning the importance of road safety. We spent some time in the classroom, discussing Road safety rules, before heading out to the road. Mrs Rigg, initially modelled, crossing the road, keeping the road safety rules in mind. Following this, Mrs Rigg walked across the road with each child. In the junior DRB, we know how important it is to keep safe on the road.

The week ended by the inspirational artist Jay Wheeler, founder of Love artGlobal, visiting us once again. This time, we had the honour of graffiti tagging an external school wall - make sure you come and take a look (it's on the Year 3/4 yard).

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# Attendance



Class	Attendance
Reception	90.8%
Year 1	98.2%
Year 2	94.8%
Year 3	89.9%
Year 4	97.8%
Year 5	90.0%
Year 6	92.6%

**Whole school attendance this week 93.4%**

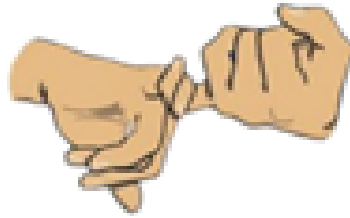
**Class attendance winners Year 2 98.2%**

Well done to all the children who were in school every day. Attendance has dipped due to a number of families taking children out of school for holidays. Please don't book term-time holidays as children miss valuable learning and may struggle to catch up.

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# Group Family Sign



**Come & learn sign language with us!**

**Every Monday for 4 weeks**

**At Knotty Ash Primary School,  
Thomas Lane, Knotty Ash, L14 5NX**

**Starting Monday  
12th June 2023, 1.30–3pm**

**For more information & to book your place please contact:**

**E: [ICAN@deafnessresourcecentre.org](mailto:ICAN@deafnessresourcecentre.org)**

**T: 01744 23887**

Deafness Resource Centre, 32-40 Dentons Green Lane, St Helens, WA10 2QB



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## A letter from Liverpool City Council...



Liverpool  
City Council

Dear Parent or Guardian

The May "Eat to Meet 2" Half Term programme starts on the 29<sup>th</sup> May and there are lots of great activities happening over the school holidays. Children and young people, from reception to age 16, who are eligible for benefits related free school meals, will be able to access hundreds of activities throughout the half term holidays including specific provision available for children with SEND or additional needs, at no cost. There's a great range of activities across the city including boxing, football, music, dance, cycling, cooking, discos, films, bowling, arts and crafts, drama, a make up course, trips out and much more! Every day there will be a range of fabulous meals available with many schemes holding family events as well.

To find out where your nearest scheme is click on this link <https://merseyplay.com/may-half-term-eat-to-meet/> or go to <https://www.merseyplay.com> and click on the May half term activities link.

When you have chosen the activity/scheme you will need to contact that organisation to book a place. Each organisation will have either a telephone number, email address or online booking system. If your child has any additional needs or dietary requirements then please discuss this with the organisation when you book. There is no central booking system so please read the details of the programmes on the website and contact the providers directly.

- If you want to know how to register or how to check if your child is eligible for free school meals then please click on the link <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>
- You will need your national insurance number or an asylum seekers support number.
- If you are struggling with the cost of living then please click: <https://www.liverpool.gov.uk/cost-of-living/>
- If you're more than 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under 4, you may be entitled to get help to buy healthy food and milk. Click on the link to find out how to register <https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/>

Liverpool City Council is working with Mersey Play Action Council, Sutton Croft and the local schools, voluntary and community organisations, and childcare providers to deliver the Half Term Activity programme.

The Family Information and SEND Directory also provides a wealth of useful information and support for families - [FISD](#).

Regards

*Sally Dobbing*

Sally Dobbing - HAF Project Manager



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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 [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) SOLUTIONS

AI solutions are becoming increasingly popular. Trained on vast datasets of text (such as books, articles and websites) in order to learn patterns and relationships, AI solutions can generate text, images, audio, video, code or synthetic data, and can be used for things such as crafting poems or books, creating digital imagery or delivering video content. Recently there's been significant discussion in relation to the benefits and risks of AI solutions, with many undecided on whether it will be a force for good or potentially reduce the need for some job roles.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### ROOM FOR INACCURACY

AI solutions, such as language models, generate their responses purely based on the data they've been trained on, which often comes from sources on the Internet. Whilst questions will often illicit relevant responses, if some of the information they've been 'fed' is incorrect, it follows that the answers too may contain factual errors or inaccuracies.

### REINFORCING BIAS

AI solutions, such as those generating content or images, can perpetuate existing biases present in the data they were trained, whether through the algorithms written by humans or the content taken from the web. This could easily lead to biased responses and potentially reinforce existing stereotypes, such as those around gender, race or disability.

### IRRELEVANT INFORMATION

AI solutions don't have the ability to understand the context or meaning behind a question or a user request. Although highly advanced, the AI relies entirely on the data it's been exposed to and is devoid of independent thought or reasoning, which could lead to irrelevant or even nonsensical responses to queries.

### LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY

Fundamentally, AI solutions are machines or technology programmes that don't have the ability to take responsibility for the responses they generate. This could lead to confusion or misunderstandings in certain cases if the answers are taken as given. For instance, image-generative AIs can lead to output clearly derived from other peoples' content but without any attribution to the original source artist's work.

### STIFLING CREATIVITY

One of the potential risks of children and young people continually using AI solutions for things (such as their homework) is that eventually, they might become reliant on it. In the long term, this could potentially impact their development and hamper their ability to think creatively or solve problems independently without the aid of an AI tool.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If possible, try to be around when your child uses any type of AI solution and employ content filters to try and reduce the chance of profanity or age-inappropriate subjects appearing in responses. As with any kind of technology, it's important to ensure that children are using AI solutions responsibly and to be there to enable opportunities to discuss their use as part of a safe environment.

### PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Explain to your child that AI solutions can be used as one of many tools to help them research and learn, but that they shouldn't simply accept the responses they receive as the truth. Encourage them to question, verify and think critically about the information they get back – all of which apply equally to any website or platform they use.

### DISCUSS BIAS

Talk to your child about the potential biases that may be present in the data that AI solutions are trained on, and how these viewpoints might find their way into the responses that AI generates. Again, with many things children might read online, it's healthy for them to consider whether the information is factual and presented fairly.

### ENCOURAGE HUMAN INTERACTION

Not only should children supplement any use of software like AI with additional resources such as books and reputable internet sites, but they also should remember what they can learn from interaction with other people. Discussing things with teachers, relatives and friends isn't just an important and often invaluable aspect of learning – it's an essential part of life, too.

### CHECK SCHOOL RULES

Make yourself aware of any rules or guidance your child's school might have about the use of AI solutions. Most software is still extremely new, so many schools may not yet have a policy, however, it's important to make sure your child is aware of how to use it appropriately and will be using it for the right reasons.

### Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that adults and children alike become more aware of the risks associated with technology, as well as the many benefits.



Source: <https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt/> | <https://generativeai.net/> | <https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/mckinsey-explainers/what-is-generative-ai>

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) @natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

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# Term Dates and Events

5th—16th June	Y4 Multiplication Tables check (keep practising!)
12th—16th June	Y1 Phonics Screening Check
Fri 16th June	Revd Tom and friends Assembly
22nd-23rd June	Y5 & 6 trip to Chester
3rd—7th July	Houses Theme Week
Wed 5th July	Y6 Secondary transition day
Wed 5th July	Nursery Intake evening
Fri 7th July	Knottyashtonbury Festival!
Wed 12th July	Reception Intake evening
Fri 14th July	Y6 Leavers' Evening : play and awards
Wed 19th July	End of Term

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# Family Activities & Support

The latest edition of the Liverpool Parenting Newsletter is here.

<https://sway.office.com/yaQ6W3itHm4L9gTU?ref=Link>

you will find new information about local support available for families and children in Liverpool, along with information regarding events and activities on offer running from March to May 2023.

We have also been sent information about Family Learning and Engagement Courses run by LCC Adult Learning Service. This can be found on our school website, link here:

<https://knotty-ash-primary-school.secure-primariesite.net/family-information-and-support/>

For families in receipt of benefits related free school meals, there are a variety of activities over the Easter break, all of which are free and include a meal:

<https://merseyplay.com/easter-haf-holiday-activities-food/>

Locally, St John's Church offer a range of community groups and activities for families:

<https://www.stjohnsknottyash.org/our-community>

There's also a range of groups and activities available at Yew Tree Children's Centre for parents whose children are 0-5 years.

<https://liverpool.gov.uk/children-and-families/early-years-and-childcare/childrens-centres/yew-tree-childrens-centre/>

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# Help and Advice

For a range of local services - [info@localsolutions.org.uk](mailto:info@localsolutions.org.uk)

## Parenting

Solihull Free Online Parenting Courses are now available on a mobile app. Go to the website: <https://inourplace.co.uk/> and enter the access code PURPLEBIN to register for any of the FREE parenting programmes Or download the Free app and do a course on your mobile device at your own pace.

Early Communications—a language enrichment group (Wednesday mornings) for 2-3 year-olds at Stoneycroft Children's Centre. [www.stoneycroftchildrenscentre.co.uk/](http://www.stoneycroftchildrenscentre.co.uk/)

The Drive is a local community centre offering a range of activities for family members, old and young. They also run weekly food clubs and provide breakfast/lunch to families during school holidays. <https://www.the-drive.org/home>

## Domestic Abuse

For support around domestic abuse - <https://worstkeptsecret.org.uk/>

If you are worried about anything affecting your own or your children's safety or wellbeing, please get in touch in confidence and we'll be able to signpost you to support.

For more advice and support, follow us on Twitter @Knotty\_Families

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