

18th February 2022

MOORSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and friends,

What a half term it has been....it seems a very long time ago since the dark January days after Christmas – we seem to have crammed a lot into a short space of time! This week has been no exception with a Valentine's lunch to start the week on Monday and our High 5 Readers receiving their games and cake reward today. It has been lovely to spend time talking to the children about our curriculum this week, to review our 'catch-up' approaches and everything that we do to help them to learn. Our governors got involved too, to ask our children about their learning experiences and all the knowledge that they acquire both in the classroom and through different activities such as Forest School, Reading Plus, Reading Eggs and Nurture. Our knowledge mats with all the key facts and vocabulary that the children have been learning this term can be found at:

<https://www.moorsideschools.org.uk/curriculum-plans/> for Key Stages 1 and 2 and our EYFS long term plans with the stories that they have been learning through are at: <https://www.moorsideschools.org.uk/moorside-nursery/>. We always welcome your feedback and questions about any aspect of your child's learning.



Reading Together

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE



We have included a new page on our website to help with reading at home. Sometimes children do not want to read at the end of the day when they are tired, but no matter what age they are, they love being read to! We have a lovely story with Mrs Thompson on our website, as an example of great discussions that you can have when reading a story together to engage children in the text and illustrations. There is also a bit of clarity around the difference between the books that children bring home to practice their phonics and reading skills, and those that they borrow from our library to help them to grow a love of reading. Please enjoy 'Where the Wild Things Are' with Mrs Thompson via our website and don't forget, we still have lots of stories on our YouTube page, if you would like to revisit a bedtime story with one of our teachers from

during lockdown! It might just give you 5 minutes peace! Please follow the link within the page:

<https://www.moorsideschools.org.uk/reading-with-children-at-home/>

Attendance

Attendance has been really up and down this term so far as a result of Covid cases in the first 4 weeks of January, but thank goodness... we have most people back in school now, apart from some poorly staff this week! As well as Covid, there have been some horrible sickness bugs and colds/flu around so we hope that everyone has a good rest over the holiday, ready to be back raring to go on Monday 28th February! The whole school attendance has been 95.62%, with the winning class being Year 1 with 99.52% Well done to them!

Month of Reading Madness...



We have launched our March Month of Reading Madness today with our poster of events throughout the month linked to reading. Please see this attached. Our first challenge is our famous 'I Spy You Reading' competition to find even MORE imaginative places where you can get lost in your favourite book / magazine / newspaper etc. In the past, have had children reading at Brimham Rocks, in



a ballet lesson and even in the kitchen sink at home. Where will we Spy You Reading this year? If you would like to do this challenge over half term, and you are happy for us to share your photo of you reading in an unusual place on our Facebook page, please send it to admin@moorside-pri.n-yorks.sch.uk. If you would not like it to be shared, please let us know in your email. Many thanks.

FOMS Update...We need some help PLEASE!! The FOMS are kindly organising lots of events to fund additional experiences and resources to support our children. They work really hard but need some helpers...We have a **Spring Disco** planned on 29th March and on the 7th April, we are having a **sponsored (bunny) bounce**. The bounce will be during the school day but the disco help would be required in the afternoon and into the evening. If you can help at either of the events, we would really appreciate it! Please contact the school office and we will put you in touch with the parents who are organising them. The FOMS are paying £600 for our exciting CSI Maths and Story workshops for Reception to Year 6, as part of our Month of Reading Madness, which we know the children will LOVE!



Internet Safety

We are aware of an APP that children are accessing called 'WINK', which is linked to Snap Chat. This APP is dangerous for children, who are exposed to meeting adults who are pretending to be children online. The age restriction on this APP is 13, however, we continue to deal with incidents linked to Tik Tok and the age restriction on this is also 13...whether accounts are private or not. Please see the flyer below with the associated dangers of Wink and monitor your child's use of the internet.

Thank you for all your support this half term. Our children's learning experiences are all the more positive when we work together to ensure that they feel happy in school. As always, please do share anything that you feel is important for us to know – even the slightest changes for children can make a big difference to the day and we want to support them the best that we can. HAPPY HALF TERM!

With very best wishes,

Mrs Rowett

Headteacher

Diary Dates:

Please see our Spring Theme Day Plan at: <https://www.moorsideschools.org.uk/enrichment/>

Friday 18 th February 2022	Break-up for the half term holidays
Monday 28 th February 2022	Back to School after the half term holidays
Tuesday 1 st March 2022	A Month of Reading Madness launch
Thursday 3 rd March 2022	Year 3 and Year 4 Trip to Barley Hall
Friday 4 th March 2022	World Book Day Dress-up Day & World Book Day Lunch (please see the attached Menu)!
Monday 28 th March 2022	Year 1 & Year 2 Trip to Tropical World
Tuesday 29 th March 2022	Spring Disco (more details to follow)
Thursday 7 th April 2022	Sponsored (Bunny) Bounce (more details to follow)

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WINK

AGE RATING
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

POTENTIAL FOR GROOMING

Wink accounts can't be made private – so when a young person uploads images and shares their social media usernames, it's easier for potential groomers to stalk and locate them online. The fact that children prioritise having an abundance of friends is also a concern: they're more likely to accept someone just to build their friend count – possibly including users with sinister intentions.

ACCIDENTAL OVER-SHARING

Many young people don't consider privacy when they choose to share their social media usernames on their Wink profile. This allows other people to connect with them on multiple platforms, strengthening their online presence and reputation. Some children post photos which reveal aspects of their personal life to other users – showing their house, school, friends and family, for instance.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Many popular messaging apps contain profiles featuring profanity, nude or semi-nude photos and users openly looking for a "wifey" or "hook ups". Users can send messages anonymously, which engenders a sense of power and freedom. Children often engage in inappropriate behaviour more willingly when it's anonymous, even if it's not the sort of thing they would take part in normally.

Wink is a messaging app which allows children to connect and communicate with other users, in a similar style to Tinder. Wink uses the swipe method for browsing profiles and accepting or declining them. Once two users have accepted each other by swiping on one another's profile, they can then communicate and play games online together. The fact that Wink allows children to share photos, personal information and their location with other users has caused significant concern.

CYBERBULLYING

Being anonymous online provides some users with an incentive to bully others through toxic private conversations. Anonymous bullies can send hurtful messages or pressure young people into sending inappropriate content. Being a victim of cyberbullying can result in children becoming depressed and showing low self-esteem. If your child is exhibiting these signs, it's time to step in.

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Wink encourages repeated engagement through signing in daily, making connections, building up a message "streak" and publicly sharing stories. The reward is "gems", which allow users to connect with more people, play games and edit their profile background. This can lead to children spending an excessive amount of screen time on the app, which of course can be detrimental to their health.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DO YOUR RESEARCH

If you do decide to allow your child to have a Wink account – or you find that they already have one – it's vital to talk to them about how to use the app responsibly and keep themselves safe. You could also consider exploring Wink yourself and becoming familiar with the app before letting your child download it, as there are no security settings or parental controls that can be put into place.

OFFER YOUR SUPPORT

While it's not always easy to talk about inappropriate content with your child, it's crucial that they understand the impact of sending or receiving it. They also need to feel that they can speak to you about it without worrying about consequences. Emphasise that, if your child receives any messages that make them feel uncomfortable, they can block the sender and report them to the app.

BE WARY OF SHARING

It's important that your child stays aware of what they're sharing online. Remind them about the importance of not posting personal information like their full name or which school they go to. Many users share their other social media account details on Wink to build their friend count, but we would recommend advising your child not to give strangers multiple avenues to contact them.

DISCUSS LOSS OF OWNERSHIP

It's essential that young people understand that once content goes online, the sender no longer has any control over where it will end up. While your child may feel like they can trust their online 'friend', that person is still a stranger. Even sharing one inappropriate image, for example, could then be used as leverage – as their 'friend' threatens to release it publicly unless the child sends more.

BALANCE SCREEN TIME

Before having a chat with your child about screen time, ask yourself if you're being a positive role model. Get your child thinking about how much time they spend on the app: is it healthy? Is it affecting their offline relationships with people? Is it impacting their mood? If so, you could suggest some activities you can do together which aren't so reliant on digital technology.

BE CAUTIOUS OF NEW CONTACTS

Remind your child that not everyone online is who they say they are, and some users have harmful intentions. If someone on Wink is asking them lots of personal questions or suggests meeting up in real life, these are definite red flags. Encourage your child to ask for help if they're unsure about a particular profile. Remember, the app has a block button: your child shouldn't be afraid to use it!

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.



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