

Dear Upper Horfield,

We usually talk about how busy we are at school, but it is worth reflecting on just how busy our families are, especially this month! We have such a rich diversity of cultures and religions amongst our families that it is worth noting how busy March can be. Our Hindu families will be celebrating Mahashivratri as well as Holi, Our Jewish families will be celebrating Purim, Christian families will celebrate Easter, Our Sikh Families will celebrate Hola Mohalla and our Muslim families will be observing Ramadan. Quite a busy month! It is lovely to see how supportive our children are with their friends who may have a different faith and the interest they take in each other's beliefs and customs. Thank you to everybody who has donated chocolate to our raffle, we've got quite a collection so far!

Thank you to all our families for their support during Red Nose Day. We are still counting up how much money has been raised and we'll share this with you in our next newsletter. It must be said that we have a very stylish group of pupils at school, as seen at every non-uniform day!

Over the next few weeks, we will be updating our school travel plan. This is our long-term strategy to promote healthier and safer pupils, and cleaner air. It sets out the key objectives and actions that our school will undertake to improve road safety and promote sustainable travel to help reduce the reliance on cars for journeys to and from school. To do this we have a working party of staff and pupils and the process will involve conducting surveys and using questionnaires to identify our actions and then monitoring the impact. So, watch this space for details.

Dates to Remember

Wednesday 20th March

Reception, Year1, Year 2 Trip to Wild Place

Tuesday 26th March and Wednesday 27th March

Parents Evening (Parents/Carers, please remember to book a slot)

Wednesday 27th March

Last Day of Term

Wednesday 27th March

Easter Raffle Winners will be announced

Thursday 28th March

Inset day (School & Early Years will Be Closed)

Monday 15th April

First day of Term 5 (School Opens)

Time Off School

At Upper Horfield, we are passionate about ensuring all our children make as much progress as possible. To be able to do this, it is important that their attendance is high. There is a lot of truth in the phrase "Every Day Counts" when it comes to our children benefitting the most from school. All children should attend school every day unless there is an unavoidable cause like illness.

The local authority Education Welfare Officer, as well as the school, monitors your child's attendance. Parents/carers commit an offence if a child doesn't attend school regularly and the absence is not agreed by the school. Continued unauthorised absence from school will lead to family involvement with the Education Welfare Department. To avoid this and any possible associated penalty notices, support the school and your child by making sure they are in school.

Section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996 provides that a parent commits an offence if his or her child, being of compulsory school age, fails to attend regularly the school at which he or she is a registered pupil. Section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996 allows for a Penalty Notice to be issued to parents who commit such an offence. The penalty is £60 if paid within 21 days or £120 if paid within 28 days. Failure to pay will result in prosecution where on conviction you would be liable to a fine of up to £1000.

If you feel you need to take your child out of school for an extended period of time, you must request this in advance (request forms are available at the office). Leave of absence will only be authorised if there are extraordinary circumstances. If you take your child out of school, e.g., for a family holiday where there are no extraordinary circumstances, their absence will be unauthorised and a Penalty Notice will be issued. Fines are issued per parent, per child.

This means that for a child with two parents the combined fines would be £120 which would increase to £240 if not paid within 28 days.

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance and would like a chat, please arrange a meeting with their class teacher or myself.

Tim Seddon, Headteacher

Red Nose Day Donations

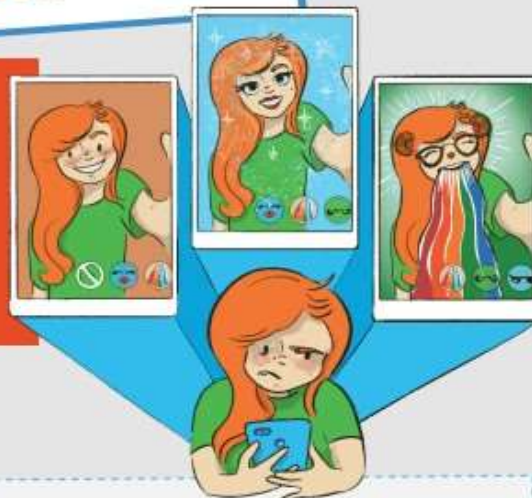
Parents/Carers, thank you very much for your generous donations for red nose day. So far, we have collected £135.



Online Safety and Social Media



Social media is an online platform that allows users to connect with others online. Depending on what platform you use, social media can allow you to communicate and share information with others with the intention to update or engage a specific audience. This can often include sharing videos, images, status updates or posts with a group of followers that can sometimes cover a global scale.



A lot of the time, social media is a positive place where users support each other. Despite this, it can also house toxic and harmful behaviours, which can be directed towards specific individuals or groups with the intention to harass, or cause upset.

Benefits of Social Media



- 1 Available and accommodating to most audiences
- 2 Can promote positivity and healthy expression
- 3 An accessible platform to connect with others
- 4 An instant platform for news and global awareness

Considerations for Social Media

- 1 Harmful and offensive content may be seen across platforms
- 2 Can be used to promote misleading information
- 3 Can promote unhealthy expectations and pressure for young people
- 4 Can impact digital wellbeing if not managed correctly



Harm on Social Media

Many social media platforms have adapted to include reporting features in order to tackle certain types of online harm. Some of these harms to watch out for include:

- 1 Fake online profiles
- 2 Misinformation or fake ads
- 3 Scamming or fraud attempts
- 4 Radical online content



Socialising Online

Social media provides a lot of freedom in how to connect with other users as well as how information and content is made available. This has provided certain platforms with worldwide appeal, giving anyone an opportunity to connect and engage with others. To promote keeping safe on social media, ensure that young people know how to:

- 1 Report harmful content online
- 2 Block and report users who are being offensive or harmful
- 3 Manage privacy settings to limit exposure to known friends and family members
- 4 Speak to a trusted adult if they are concerned about something online



To find out more about Social Media visit the SWGfL hub:
swgfl.org.uk/topics/social-media/

or scan the QR code



Further Support

Professionals Online Safety Helpline: saferinternet.org.uk/professionals-online-safety-helpline

Harmful Sexual Behaviour Support Service: swgfl.org.uk/harmful-sexual-behaviour-support-service/

Report Harmful Content:
reportharmfulcontent.com



NOMINET

11-19 YEARS OLD?

We help young people
with all kinds of things like ...



Message us for confidential advice
and support and to chat with a School Nurse.

The service is open on Monday to Friday from 9am-5pm.

Send a message to:

07312 263093

