



The Mosley Academy

Newsletter

Friday 11/04/2025



Happy Easter To You All!

Thank you for all your efforts for the Easter Bonnet & Egg Scene Parade this morning, the children all had a fantastic time, showing off their wonderful creations!

Thank you for such a positive and happy Spring term! We would like to wish you all a great Easter holiday and look forward to seeing you all on April 28th - ready for the Summer term!

Please remember to bring sun cream, named hats and water bottles on your return, as the weather gets nicer!



May Day Celebrations

On Friday 2nd May, the school will be holding their annual May Day celebrations on the playground. Please come in school uniform.

We would love it if children can bring either a maypole or a little Spring like posy or display to parade around the playground to begin our celebrations. We will also be selling tea and coffee and cakes/ biscuits during the morning. If you would like to bring something to sit on, then please do as the procession and May day dances last for approximately one hour. It is always a lovely event for our school!



School Clubs

We have sent details out earlier this week for all the clubs over the next term. The majority are bookable via the independent providers.

Chocolate Bingo

A huge thank you to the PTFA for organising the brilliant family chocolate bingo! It was a huge success and we are so grateful for all the work they have done this term in supporting the school and fundraising to support all the extra special things we do in school for the children.

The total raised was **£592** thank you again! It was lovely to see families having fun together! An update from the PTFA will follow next term.

Easter Holiday Camp

There are still a few places on the Easter camp at Mosley during the first week of the holidays- booking details below.

Year 4 Football at JTHS

Well done to all the children who went to John Taylor High school last night - you did us proud with your attitudes and behaviour- determined ,polite, respectful and resilient! Very proud of you all - and you came third overall.

Thank you to Mrs Eggleston and Mr Carlin for taking the children and supporting them so well!



Fire Drill

Special shout out to our children and staff this week, as we held a fire drill during assembly to ensure that we help children to understand the importance of following our fire safety practices safely, sensibly and silently. It took just 3 minutes and 8 seconds for the whole school to assemble outside, register run through and every child accounted for. Smashed it children and staff! It was the first time that we have done a practise during an assembly. Very proud of you all!

Forest School

On Thursday 3rd May, Year 1 will be having Forest School every Thursday until half term, please come in forest school clothes and bring uniform in a bag.

After half term , on Thursday 5th June Year 3 will be having Forest School every Thursday until the end of term, again please come to school in forest school clothes and school uniform in a bag.

Year 4 PE

Year 4 PE days are changing to a Wednesday and a Thursday after the Easter Break, please come to school on these days in PE kit.

Year 3 Swimming Lessons

Year 3 children will be going Swimming every Thursday after Easter. Details have been sent out to children already.

Wrap around Care in the new academic year—Exciting News!

We will shortly be sending out a Microsoft form to gauge interest, and to help us to confirm our plans, for our new wrap around care offer. We will be running an after school wrap around until 6pm each day of the school week. We will still be running our enrichment clubs alongside this until 4.30 as usual.

After Easter, we will also be advertising for staff to run the after school provision so watch this space for the adverts!

Playground Works

On the first day back, our climbing frame and surfacing will be removed. There will be secure fencing around the area all week so please keep children away from this area.

Breakfast Club

In the new term, we will have a new booking procedure for our very popular and expanding breakfast club. We will now be asking for you to book in and pay in advance.

There will be a maximum of 35 spaces each day. Please book on before we return for the new term, this will need booking for the half term ahead so as we can manage staffing ratios and food orders. Thank you!

If you cannot book on this means that places are full. In exceptional circumstances, we will of course help you out. Pleas just let us know and we will do what we can to help!



STARS

OF

THE

WEEK!

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Rec	Dre
Y1	Arthur
Y2	Finn Mc
Y3	Evie
Y4	Georgia
Y5	Noel
Y6	Joel

ATTENDANCE Target 97.5%

Year Group	This Week Attendance %	Days Missed This Week
Rec	93.7	9.5
Year 1	98.7	2
Year 2	94.1	5.5
Year 3	94.2	9
Year 4	100	0
Year 5	95.8	5
Year 6	98.7	2
Whole School	96.5	33



Staffordshire County Council

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Visit staffordshire.gov.uk/littleheroes

Whole School Year to Date Attendance

96.8%

914 days missed so far this year

Diary Dates 2024 - 2025

Any changes made from the previous week will be marked in red

DATE	YEAR	EVENT
Mon 14th Apr - Fri 25th Apr	ALL	Easter Holidays
Mon 28th Apr	ALL	Return to School
Mon 28th Apr	REC	Rent A Beast - Reception £3 donation payable on MCAS under Clubs Tab
Thurs 1st May	Y2	Year 2 trip to Tamworth Castle Payable on MCAS under Trips tab.
Fri 2nd May	ALL	May Day Celebrations 9 am on the playground weather permitting
Mon 5th May	ALL	May Day Holiday - School Closed
Tues 6th May	Y1	Phonics Workshop—9am (This is a date change from 8th May)
Mon 12th May	Y6	SAT's Week for Year 6
Weds 14th May	REC	Reception trip to Ash End Farm . Payable on MCAS under Trips tab.
Thurs 15th May	Y3 & Y4	Year 3 &4 trip to Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery. Payable on MCAS under Trips tab.
Fri 23rd May	ALL	Family Picnic—12.30-1.30 Welcome to join our OPAL playtime followed by family reading picnic at 1.30 onwards on the school field– bring your own picnic snacks
Fri 23rd May	ALL	Break Up For Half Term
Mon 26th May - Fri 30th May	ALL	Half Term
Mon 2nd Jun	ALL	Return to School

DATE	YEAR	EVENT
Friday 13th June	Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6	Fathers Day Lunch for KS2 - Will be available to book on MCAS on Monday 2nd May.
Mon 16th Jun	Y3/Y4	WCET Violin and Ukulele Concert Birmingham Symphony Hall Birmingham
Monday 16th June	Rec, Y1 & Y2	Fathers Day Lunch for KS1 - Will be available to book on MCAS on Monday 2nd May.
Fri 20th Jun	ALL	Sports Day and Summer Fair 1.15 onwards
Tues 1st July	Y3,Y4, Y5 & Y6	Seaside Day KS2 - (THIS IS A DATE CHANGE FROM 3RD JULY)
Wed 2nd Jul	Rec, Y1, Y2	Seaside Day EYFS and KS1
Fri 4th Jul	ALL	INSET Day - School Closed to Children
Wed 9th Jul	KS2	Summer Music Showcase
Fri 11th July	Y6	Year 6 Parent Lunch - Will be available to book on MCAS on Monday 30th June.
Tues 15th Jul	ALL	Move Up Morning and Meet the Teacher (3.30pm-4pm)
Fri 18th July	Y6	Year 6 Leavers Assembly 9.05am
Fri 18th Jul	ALL	Break Up for Summer Holidays 2.30pm
Mon 21st Jul	ALL	INSET Day - School Closed to Children
Tues 22nd Jul - Fri 29th Aug	ALL	Summer Holidays!

95%	=	40 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 8 days in total or 1 week and 3 days	ATTENDANCE MATTERS WHAT DO YOUR ATTENDANCE FIGURES ACTUALLY MEAN? BE SMART BE THERE! <small>Percentages based on 190 academic days</small>
90%	=	80 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 16 days in total or 3 weeks and 1 day	
85%	=	120 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 24 days in total or 4 weeks and 4 days	
80%	=	160 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 32 days in total or 6 weeks and 2 days	

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about BLUESKY SOCIAL APP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

With an App Store rating of 17+ & Google Play rating Mature

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

While Bluesky has been around since 2019, it's suddenly taken off in a big way thanks to a significant exodus from X (formerly Twitter). Indeed, it looks and behaves a lot like Twitter before Elon Musk bought the platform. Bluesky has been touted in recent months as a safer, more open-minded alternative to X – but like any social media site, it still has its share of risks.

NO PRIVATE ACCOUNTS

While most social networks allow accounts to be private, at the time of writing, all Bluesky accounts must be public. The development team has indicated this might change in the future, but the app is built on a public-first protocol. If private accounts are ever introduced, it may only be in a limited way – such as through the implementation of group chats.

INTERACTIONS WITH STRANGERS

Every account being public means that anyone can be contacted by anyone else. While users don't have to respond and can easily block people and move on, it does mean that youngsters are at particular risk of being conned by scammers, messaged by predatory adults or exposed to others with ill intentions. These hazards can be compounded by the fact that Bluesky doesn't require its users to provide their real name.

TROLLING AND BULLYING

While Bluesky currently feels a lot friendlier than X seems to have become, its lack of private accounts means that there's nothing to stop users from trolling and cyberbullying younger people. While accounts can be blocked and reported, a persistent bully could simply create a new profile, potentially making their victims feel unsafe in continuing to use the app.

DANGEROUS MISINFORMATION

Established news organisations have fact-checking and editing processes, but social networks have no such controls and can often serve as breeding grounds for misinformation and disinformation. Bluesky will possibly be no different once it reaches a certain size, and children may not have the critical thinking skills to tell fact from fiction – or to discern an informative, honest user from a malicious one.

ADULT TARGET AUDIENCE

Bluesky isn't designed with children in mind, and there aren't many parental controls on the platform. In an interview with the BBC, Bluesky's CEO originally said that the app would only allow users aged 18 and above to sign up, but a spokesperson later clarified its age restriction as 13+. This could imply the app was originally meant for an adult audience and suggests that making the platform more child-friendly might not currently be a priority.

RAPID GROWTH

At the time of writing, Bluesky seems calm in comparison with other social networks where moderation is lax and the atmosphere toxic – but that's due at least in part to its smaller community. The app has recently been adding as many as a million users per day, and if that continues, there'll be more unpleasant users to handle, and moderators could struggle to maintain the pleasant environment Bluesky is currently known for.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE THE ADULT CONTENT FILTER

Bluesky doesn't have much in the way of parental controls, but there are content filters which can hide sexual and graphic imagery. These are enabled by default for underage accounts but can be manually turned on in the 'Moderation' section of the app's settings. The 'advanced' Bluesky Moderation Service lets you restrict content even further, hiding – for example – self-harm content, extremist rhetoric, and even rude posts.

ENCOURAGE BLOCKING AND REPORTING

Another tool that Bluesky uses to ensure a decent experience is muting and blocking accounts. The former prevents you from seeing a specific user's content, while the latter stops them from seeing yours. If a child is encountering trolls or bullies on the platform, encourage them to use this function, while also reporting the offenders to help make the platform a nicer place for everyone.

LOOK OUT FOR FAKES

Impersonation is a problem on all social networks. While the consequences are usually benign, imposters sometimes attempt to scam or groom children by pretending to be a popular influencer or online personality. Bluesky is unique in that it can be connected to official domains, with users' handles linking to other sites; while this isn't widely used right now, it could be a reliable way to verify celebrities and public figures in future.

KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

As with all social media platforms, moderation and content filters can only do so much; it's highly likely that a child will eventually face something unsavoury. For that reason, it's important to make sure that young people are aware of the risks and know how to handle the technology if anything they see on the app makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/bluesky-app>



InclusiveKidsClubs
Explore, learn, grow

We are so excited to be bringing the following clubs to the children of Mosley!

All prices and dates are on our booking system

Amazing Architects
Superstar Scientists
Stop Motion Masters
Gifted Gardeners



InclusiveKidsClubs



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www.inclusivekidsclubs.co.uk

Amazing Architects

Amazing Architects is a fun, hands-on club where kids unleash their creativity through design, building, and testing unique structures. Using a variety of materials, they explore different building styles, from modern skyscrapers to ancient castles, and learn how to make their designs stable and functional. The process of trial and error teaches resilience, problem-solving, and collaboration, while inspiring confidence as they see their ideas come to life. It's all about fostering creativity, exploring new perspectives, and building a growth mindset—all while having a blast creating their own architectural masterpieces!

Superstar Scientists

Welcome to Superstar Scientists, where curiosity meets excitement and magic happens through science! In this fun-filled club, kids dive into the wonders of the world around them, discovering how everyday things work in exciting and surprising ways. Through hands-on experiments, they'll get to mix, create, and uncover amazing scientific concepts that feel like pure magic. Whether they're making slime, building balloon-powered cars, or creating lava lamps, every activity sparks a sense of wonder and helps kids understand the world better. It's a place for inquisitive minds to come together, ask big questions, and have a blast discovering answers. Get ready for a journey full of excitement, learning, and fun as we unlock the secrets of the world, one experiment at a time!

Gifted Gardeners

Welcome to Gifted Gardeners, where kids get their hands dirty and discover the joys of gardening! In this eco-friendly club, children dive into the wonderful world of nature by planting colorful flowers, creating wildflower balls, making bird feeders, and painting plant pots to give their gardens a personal touch. They'll learn all about different flowers, how they grow, and the important role that wildlife plays in keeping our ecosystems healthy. As they plant, observe, and care for their gardens, they also help transform the school grounds into a beautiful, vibrant space for everyone to enjoy. It's a fun, hands-on way to connect with nature, be creative, and help the environment—all while having a blast!

Stop Motion Masters

Welcome to Stop Motion Masters, where creativity meets animation magic! In this exciting club, kids learn the art of stop motion animation, where they get to bring their ideas to life, frame by frame. They'll explore how frames work, edit photos into smooth videos, and add fun sound effects to make their creations pop. Using all sorts of materials—from Play-Doh figures to everyday objects—children will discover how to tell stories through movement and visuals. Along the way, they'll work together to improve their team-building skills, collaborating on projects and sharing ideas to create something truly special. It's a fun, hands-on way to dive into the world of animation and develop new skills, all while enjoying the creative process with friends!

To book: Scan the QR code or visit us at our website

www.inclusivekidsclubs.co.uk

Booking is deemed acceptance of our Terms & Conditions. Available on our website and booking system.



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EASTER BIG BOUNCE 2025

EASTER DATES

ALL EVENTS ONLINE AVAILABLE TO BOOK

SUN 23rd MARCH - CHEADLE

South Moorlands Leisure Centre - ST10 1HJ

MON 7th APRIL - KETTERING

Kettering Buccleuch Academy - NN16 9NS

WED 9th APRIL - CORBY

Lodge Park Sports Centre - NN17 2SG

SUN 13th APRIL - SWADLINCOTE

The Pingle Academy - DE11 0QA

TUES 15th APRIL - DAVENTRY

Daventry Leisure Centre - NN11 4FP

WEDNESDAY 16th - STOURBRIDGE

Crystal Leisure Centre - DY8 1AE

THURS 17th APRIL - CANNOCK

Chase Leisure Centre - WS11 4AL

GOOD FRIDAY 18th - WALSALL WOOD

Oak Park Active Living Centre - WS9 9BH

EASTER MON 21st - SOLIHULL

North Solihull Sports Centre - B37 5LA

TUES 22nd - COALVILLE

Castle Rock High School - LE67 4BR

WED 23rd - STAFFORD

Stafford Leisure Centre - ST16 3TA

THURS 24th - BURTON

Shobnall Leisure Complex - DE14 2BB

FRIDAY 25th - BLOXWICH

Bloxwich Active Living Centre - WS3 2DA

SUNDAY 27th - BIDDULPH

Biddulph Valley Leisure Centre - ST8 7HL



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With more than two billion active users, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. The UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging, but for the time being, this controversial feature remains.

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency' – plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user they want to message. Therefore, if a child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that the child might be added to a group chat or community (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people they don't know.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allow news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "Forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original... and might not be entirely factual, either.

CHAT LOCK AND SECRET CODES

In 2023, WhatsApp introduced a feature that lets users keep their chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind their phone's passcode, fingerprint or face ID. There is an additional feature – 'Secret Code' – where users set a unique password for locked chats. Unfortunately, this creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of.

VIEW ONCE CONTENT

The ability to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate material or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't reopen them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this disappearing content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing protection of privacy.

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's Live Location feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child is safe while out, for example. However, anyone in a user's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. You can give permission to My Contacts or My Contacts Except... Additionally, if a child needs to use Live Location, emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Check in with the child about how they're using WhatsApp, making sure they know you only have their safety at heart. If you spot a Locked Chats folder, you might want to talk about the sort of content they've stored in there, who they're talking to, and why they want to keep these chats hidden. Also, if children send any View Once content, it could be helpful to ask them why.

DISCUSS GROUP CHATS

Make children aware that there could be members of a group that they don't know well and that words can be misinterpreted. Encourage them to leave a good impression, to avoid joining in if conversations turn towards bullying, and to respond to such situations in an appropriate way. Make sure they know that it's OK to leave a group chat if it makes them uncomfortable – or for any reason, in fact.

THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content that a user posts to be shared more widely, even publicly on social media. Encourage children to consider how an impulsive message or forwarding might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

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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The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/whatsapp-2025>

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 19.02.2024

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MARVEL RIVALS



ESRB advise nobody under the age of 13 should play

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Marvel Rivals launched in December 2024 and amassed a player count of nearly 150,000 in mere weeks. This player versus player (PvP) shooter packs in a host of recognisable comic-book characters, pitting two teams of six against each other. Despite the game's cartoonish nature, there are several potential risks for parents and educators to be aware of.

IN-GAME CHAT

Voice chat allows players to speak to teammates and opponents within the game, but in a competitive environment, some conversations can become unpleasant. Text chat is equally prominent among those playing on PC and will be shown on the side of the screen. Moderation on chats is relatively lax, so it's important to recognise that potentially inappropriate messages could arrive at any time.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

While Marvel Rivals is free, there is an in-game store, selling character skins from recognisable movies and comic-book titles. Each season also includes a £10 Battle Pass (much like those seen in Fortnite and Call of Duty), offering a series of exclusive cosmetic items. These passes don't expire – but they can't be purchased once the next season rolls around, creating a fear of missing out.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With such a huge player base, it's impossible to predict whom your child will be teaming up with or playing against. They're virtually certain to run into strangers through voice and text chat, for starters. Most of these people will just be ordinary gamers enjoying the action, but there is the risk of some users behaving inappropriately with younger players – either intentionally, or because they don't realise that they're speaking to a child.

VIOLENT CONTENT

There's no gore in Marvel Rivals, and the violence depicted is comparatively cartoonish – but the playable characters available vary between more traditional superheroes and supervillains, and figures like Black Widow and The Punisher, who use more realistic firearms. Given the game's nature as a shooter, this may make some parents and carers uncomfortable as some players will be firing these weapons at each other.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The game includes some innuendos and mature themes in the dialogue, which could expose youngsters to content unsuitable for their age, detracting from a safe and family-friendly gaming experience. As we mentioned previously, the content of the in-game chat could also be age-inappropriate, ranging from swearing to mature themes to potentially harmful content.

FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

The inclusion of iconic characters might make Marvel Rivals appear more approachable than other games in the genre, with recognisable heroes and villains like Spider-Man and Venom. This could lead to more interest from younger players, increasing the likelihood of children playing the game without properly understanding the risks.

Advice for Parents & Educators

FOLLOW ESRB RATINGS

The ESRB rating for Marvel Rivals says the game shouldn't be played by anyone under 13. Most children of that age will be able to appreciate the moral compass of the roster of characters (people can play as Hela, the Goddess of Death, for example), while also ensuring that the violence, however cartoonish, won't overwhelm them.



FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

The game's inclusion of fan-favourite characters like Iron Man and the Hulk, plus its increasing popularity, means that younger Marvel fans will likely be eager to see what the fuss is about. Since it's free, consider playing Marvel Rivals yourself to gauge how you feel about a child playing it. Alternatively, you could let them play against the game's AI in Practice Mode, until they're old enough to compete online.

MONITOR OR TURN OFF CHAT

Voice and text chat can both be adjusted within the in-game settings. If you're particularly concerned about exposing children and young people to them, however, you can disable both forms of chat in the game's settings. If a child wants to play alongside friends, remind them that they can use their console's party chat feature or host a call on a third-party service like Discord.



DISCONNECT PAYMENT OPTIONS

Parents should ensure that no payment options – such as debit cards – are linked to the game, to prevent unauthorised purchases and charges. Children can be tempted by enticing in-game offers without fully understanding the costs. Removing payment methods avoids impulsive in-game spending and instils a sense of financial awareness, teaching young people to be careful with their money.



Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor at the Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, he has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and plenty more.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

INSTAGRAM

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Instagram remains one of the world's most popular social media platforms, especially among teens – with around 70% of 13 to 17-year-olds using it. Owned by Meta, Instagram allows users to share photos and videos, create interactive 'stories', broadcast live, send private messages and follow others. With regular updates and new features, it's essential for parents and educators to stay informed about how children are using the app – and what the risks are.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Instagram's design encourages prolonged use through endless scrolling of trending content and generating a fear of missing out (FOMO). Children can quickly lose track of time browsing posts from friends, influencers, and strangers, which may disrupt their day-to-day activities.

AI CHATBOT CONCERNS

Meta's AI, which is available on Instagram, allows users to chat with an in-app chatbot. While often helpful, it can blur boundaries for young users, who may ask for or read content that is inappropriate or see it as a real friend or confidant. Privacy issues also arise, as conversations may not be as secure or private as children assume.

RISKS OF GOING LIVE

The livestream feature allows real-time broadcasting to followers – or anyone, if the account is public. This increases the chance of unwanted contact from strangers and pressure to act in ways that gain attention, including engaging in inappropriate behaviour. Viewers may also post offensive or harmful comments during live sessions.

THREADS INTEGRATION

Threads is Instagram's sister app for public, text-based conversations. Posts from Threads appear in users' Instagram feeds and can lead children to view, share, and comment on public conversations with strangers. The content may not always be age-appropriate and can be misleading or false.

SCHEDULED MESSAGING

Instagram's newer ability to schedule direct messages means that children could receive messages late at night or early in the morning. This can disrupt their sleep or keep them preoccupied before the school day even begins.

EXCLUSION AND LOW SELF-WORTH

Feeling left out online can have a real emotional impact. Being left out of photos, receiving fewer likes, being unfollowed, or being ignored in chats and comments can leave children feeling excluded, which often hurts as much as in real life. There is a risk this can lead to reduced self-esteem and a sense of not belonging.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE INSTAGRAM'S SUPERVISION TOOLS

Instagram's built-in Family Centre lets parents monitor how much time their child spends on the app. Specialised 'teen accounts' are private by default and offer controls on who can message them. Make sure that children use their real age when registering their account to ensure they have these protections.

OPEN UP THE CONVERSATION

Talk regularly to the children in your care about what they enjoy on Instagram – and what makes them uncomfortable. Encourage honest chats about filters, body image, and online approval. Reassure them that they don't need to edit their appearance or chase 'likes' to feel valued.

SET BOUNDARIES FOR THREADS AND AI

Parental controls on Instagram also apply to Threads. These allow parents to monitor time spent in the app, check follower lists and adjust exposure to sensitive content. Discuss AI features, too, therefore helping children understand that chatbots aren't real people and should be used with care.

BE MEDIA-SAVVY WITH INFLUENCERS

Parents should follow a few of the influencers their child watches, so they can better understand the content they're seeing. Use this as a springboard to talk about the difference between genuine recommendations and paid promotions – and how online personalities can shape opinions and behaviour.

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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Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Easter 2025

Overview

HAF is back for the Easter holidays!

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme enables local authorities in England to deliver inclusive, enriching activities including a hot meal over the school holidays. Eligible children can book up to four free places throughout the Easter holidays.

The Staffordshire HAF programme will run at various locations in local areas starting from **Monday 14 April until Friday 25 April 2025**. It's funded for children and young people aged 5 – 16 years who receive benefit related free school meals. For a full overview, please [watch this video](#).

How do parents/carers book?

All parents will be sent an email from Staffordshire County Council with their child's individual **HAF code**. The schools will also be requested to share information and booking details with all eligible children.

Activities can be viewed on our website prior to bookings going live on **Monday 10 March** and will be updated accordingly throughout June.

There will be a 'Book Now' button on our HAF page on the [county council website](#) when bookings open.

Parents/carers can register an account via our booking platform on our website

Parents will need their **HAF code** to hand to book the activities of their choice

Bookings will be open on Monday 10 March 2025

To avoid disappointment, parents/carers should book as soon as possible at: www.staffordshire.gov.uk/holidayactivities or scan the QR code on their letter from school.

A family and child I work with would benefit but are not eligible for FSMs

Some children can be referred via professionals to access a HAF place by requesting a professional referral form by our team. Please email: holidayactivitiesandfoodprogramme@staffordshire.gov.uk

HAF codes issued on a referral basis are valid for Easter, Summer & Winter 2025.

Can a family pay to attend HAF Some of the holiday clubs will also have places that can be paid for.

How can you support families to access HAF?

You will see lots of activity on the county council's social media pages and communication channels. Please share as many posts as you can with your teams/partners to spread the word as far as possible to help as many children have a fantastic time this Easter.

Here are our channels where we will be creating some posts for you to quickly share to get started:

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[X \(formerly Twitter\)](#)

Search #HAF2025 on our channels to find future posts.

Social post suggestions

Facebook and Instagram	Image
<p>#HAF2025 HAF fun this Easter! 🐰</p> <p>If your child is aged 5-16 years and eligible for a funded place on the HAF programme, their school will issue a letter with a HAF code.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✅ Booking opens on Monday 10 March at 4pm.✅ Activities run from Monday 14 April until Friday 25 April 2025.✅ Quote your HAF code to get a free place <p>The perfect opportunity to meet new friends, enjoy healthy meals and have lots of fun this Easter 🐰</p> <p>If your child is not eligible for a free place but would like to attend, get in touch. Many of our providers offer paid places too!</p>	 <p>HAF fun this Easter</p> <p>Holiday Activities and Food funded for children and young people aged 5-16 who get free school meals*. Paid places also available.</p> <p>visit staffordshire.gov.uk/holidayactivities</p>

Digital advertising screens (attached with email)

Digital advertising screens can be displayed on TV screens.

The screens are attached to the email and it would be great if you could start advertising this week until the end of the Easter holidays.

Posters to print (attached with email)

I have also attached some print-ready posters if you are able to display these where appropriate.

If you have any questions, please email danielle.taylor2@staffordshire.gov.uk

Thank you!

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ACTIVE



LEARNING SPORTS

HOLIDAY SPORTS CAMP

Have fun in the school holidays with your friends!



William Shrewsbury

Mosley Academy

Thomas Russell Infants

William Shrewsbury

(DE13 OHE)

April 14th - 25th

Thomas Russell (DE138DS)

April 14th - 25th

Mosley Academy

(DE139QD)

April 14th - 17th

Camp info

Times: 8.30am - 3.15pm

Ages: 4-13

What to bring:

Packed lunch
snack plenty to drink,

Late collection option
4.15pm

Featuring

Dodgeball

Football

Basketball

Cricket

Movies at lunchtime

Easter Activities

Street dance

Nerf wars

Zorb football

Capture the flag

Gymnastics

Axe throwing

Apply: @activelearningsports.com

If you receive this flyer you will be within 15 minutes drive of one of our venues