

## Retirement



Today, after 24 years of dedication and hard work, Mrs Porter and Mr Crabtree will be retiring from Alt Academy to spend more time with their families and to pursue their hobbies and interests. We had a very sad goodbye assembly this morning to commemorate their important years of service. Both members of staff had such an

impact on the staff and families at Alt over the years and we thank them for their commitment. It will be impossible to replace them, and they will always be especially important to the Alt community.



## EYFS - Amber and Ruby



This week in EYFS, we have been learning about people who help us. We learnt about the Fire Service and what kind of jobs they do to keep us safe. We even did a challenging obstacle course to put out a 'fire' in our Reception garden!



## KS1

### Opal

In science this week, we have been thinking about the four seasons and describing the weather in each of them.



### Jade

This week in maths, we have been exploring groups and ordering them from smallest to largest. We then moved on to ordering numbers. We have had lots of fun exploring in different ways using Numicon, pictures, objects and even in tens and ones!



### Pearl

This week we have been searching Florence Nightingale. We have used different sources to find out as many facts as we can.

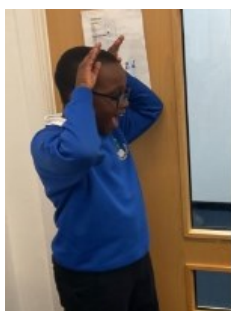
## Lower KS 2

### Topaz

Topaz class have learnt how to organise things into chronological order. It was quite tricky as we had to learn that the time before Jesus was born was called BC, and after that was AD. We discovered that the Stone Age was a very long time ago!



### Citrine



This week we have been building our knowledge of diary writing. We summarised the key events in the story *Stone Age Boy* by Satoshi Kitamura and worked in groups to act the story. The children will use this knowledge to write about the experience.



### Emerald

This week we have been learning about nutrients. We looked at different food labels to compare which foods were rich in fats, fibres, carbohydrates, minerals, vitamins and protein. We thought about which foods we could eat to give use a balanced diet.



## Upper KS2

### Amethyst

This week in English, we have been writing our own play-scripts based on Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. In history, we have looked at the differences between a Tudor map and a map from the present day. Finally, in maths, we have been working on short and long division. A super week jam-packed with super learning!



### Tanzanite

In Tanzanite class this week, we have been focused on writing our play-scripts for *Macbeth*.

We started working in groups before independently becoming playwrights.

### Sapphire

This week in DT we have been drawing and understanding the significance of the Tudor Rose.





## Star of the Week

Well done to this weeks stars of the week.

Amber	Zaviyan	For consistently joining in more.
Ruby	Brodie	For coming into school so well every day ready to do his best learning.
Opal	Lyndon	For trying really hard to make the right choices and be a kind friend.
Jade	Avah	For following our school rules and being a role model.
Pearl	Fabian	For being super helpful all the time.
Topaz	Bonny	Managing her feelings and frustrations in a very mature way.
Citrine	Jeriel	For making a fantastic effort to improve his focus during lessons.
Emerald	Kashfiya	For settling in so well to Emerald class.
Amethyst		<b>The whole of Amethyst Class</b> for outstanding behaviour whilst on our class trip to Ordsall Hall.
Tanzanite	Lily -Rose	For demonstrating an amazing attitude towards her learning and showing a new level of focus to try and push herself to be the best she can be .
Sapphire	Fatima	For settling into Sapphire so well. Showing resilience and determination.



### Word of the Week

Word of the Week ...



**values**

degree of importance

principles/standards of behaviour

one's judgement of what is important in life

*I predict that the word of the week is .... because ...*

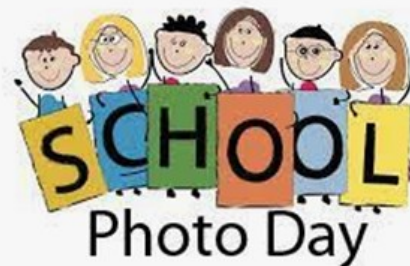
### Inset day

Please note that school will be closed on Friday 17th November. We will be open as usual on Monday 20th November.



### Individual School Photographs

The photographer will be in school on 15th November to take individual and in-school siblings. If you have children who do not attend our school, they won't be able to be included on the photographs.



## Programme of Coffee Morning Agenda 2023-24 Autumn 2

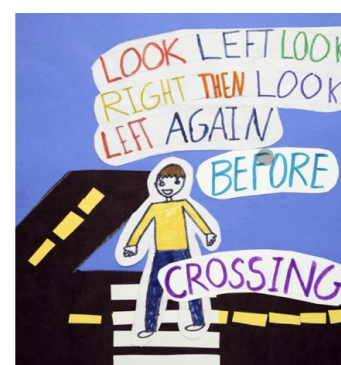
Coffee mornings will take place every Tuesday morning at 9:00am in the KS2 hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. Here is the agenda for this half term..... please come and join us!



Week Number	Date of Coffee Morning	Agenda
Week 3	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Coffee chatter and natter! Homework Rubrics
Week 4	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Action Together - voluntary work & support to improve health & wellbeing
Week 5	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Coffee, chatter and natter! Reading
Week 6	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Kooth & Qwell - online counselling and emotional well-being service
Week 7	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Coffee chatter and natter!
Week 8	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Review & festive party

## Crossing Patrol

We are currently experiencing intermittent levels of school crossing patrol outside Alt Academy. This means, that there will be some sessions where there is not a crossing patrol on site. Whilst staff on duty can support a child crossing the road if they appear to be in danger, this support is not consistently available and is not to be relied upon. Please support your children to be safe on the crossing. If your child walks to and from school alone, please discuss road safety with them.



## Home time

Please be reminded that the school day ends at **3:20pm**. Children should be collected promptly from their classroom doors. From Monday, for safeguarding and monitoring purposes, children will need to be **signed out from the front office if they are collected late.**



## Attendance



Overall attendance year to date – 93.1%

Weekly winners – Well done to: -

EYFS and KS1 – Opal 98.7%

KS2 – Amethyst 97.6%

Our target is 96%



Be In SCHOOL  
Be On TIME



## Ordsall Hall



This week as a way to enhance the learning we have completed in school so far this year , Amethyst , Sapphire and Tanzanite class have all visited Ordsall Hall. We became fully immersed in the lives of the Tudors whilst we looked closer at the lives of both the rich and the poor in Tudor times. It was a great opportunity for us to show all the knowledge that we have learned so far this year.



# MEASLES

## Don't let your child catch it

– get them vaccinated with the MMR vaccine

**Measles symptoms include:** high fever; sore, red, watery eyes; coughing; aching and feeling generally unwell; a blotchy red brown rash, which usually appears after the initial symptoms.

**The number of young people catching measles has risen. It's never too late to be vaccinated. You need two doses of MMR one month apart to be fully protected against measles, mumps and rubella.**

It's time to make measles a disease of the past.

If you have symptoms of measles, stay at home and phone your GP or NHS 111 for advice. **STAY AWAY** from GP surgeries and A&E departments – you could spread the illness to others.



## Oldham Christmas Parade

**Saturday 18 November 12 noon**

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without the annual Oldham Christmas Parade, and this year it's back and bigger than ever! Join Santa and all his friends in the Town Centre, including over 200 local performers and community group members.

The not-to-be-missed festive carnival is filled with music and yuletide fun. Don't miss the brilliant festive performances from Dobcross Silver Band, Jubacana, and Oldham Scottish Pipe Band.

The parade starts at 12 noon and will travel through the town centre.



the   
national  
**sleep**  
helpline

# Does your child suffer with sleep issues?

**Do you struggle  
with your child's  
bedtime?**

**Will your child  
not sleep in  
their own bed?**

**WE CAN HELP**

 **03303 530 541**

**Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 7pm - 9pm**  
**Monday & Wednesday 9am - 11am**



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# GROUP CHATS

Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

### EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

### SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

### UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

### NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert; potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

### PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

### GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

### AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

### BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

### SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

## 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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Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday



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