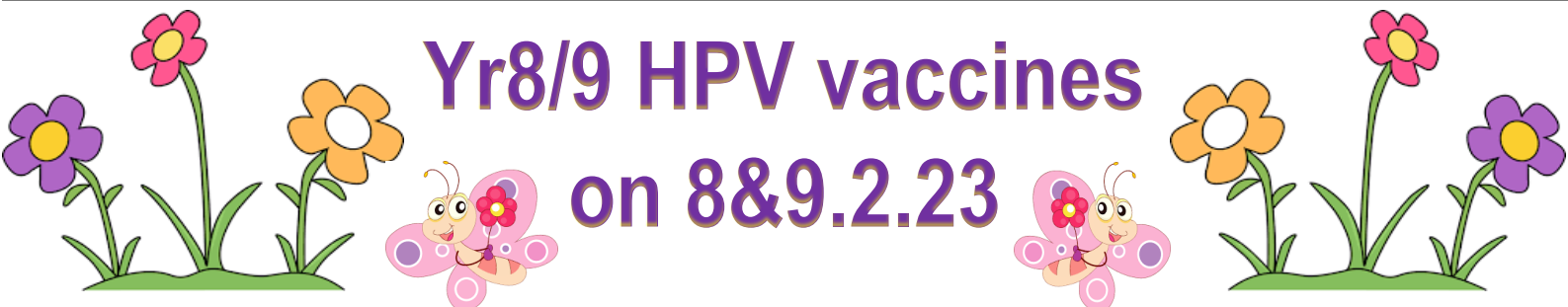


Weekly Parent/Guardian Newsletter

Next week is Week B

6 February 2023



Yr8/9 HPV vaccines on 8&9.2.23

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Please see relevant information listed below that may offer support for your family, some information is new, and some information has been held over from last week's newsletter.

Next Week's School Events	
Date	Event - WEEK B
Monday 6 th February 2023	Yr12 Work Experience Week, Yr13 MFL IB Oral Exam
Tuesday 7 th February 2023	-
Wednesday 8 th February 2023	Yr8&9 HPV vaccinations, Yr11 GCSE Preparation Evening
Thursday 9 th February 2023	KS3 Onatti Theatre & Chatter's Headwear Day
Friday 10 th February 2023	Staff Training Day

Student Safeguarding after 3.20pm

A reminder to parents regarding the safeguarding of their children if staying in school after 3.20pm.

- Students must not be unaccompanied in school, except in the Heart area
- Students must leave site by 4.20pm, unless in an extended lesson/club, attending a detention, or waiting for an event
- Staff accompany students to the exit when it is time to leave.

Many thanks for your support with this.

Bicycle Safety at School

Please be aware that the bicycle shed is NOT a safe place to leave a bike overnight. If students need to leave a bicycle overnight for whatever reason or even whilst at an after-school club, the bicycle needs to be put in the main bicycle shed when they first arrive at school to save wheeling it through the school. The bicycle cage at the front of the school is locked overnight, but please also ensure your child's bicycle has a lock and lights and that they use a bicycle helmet. We would also like to raise awareness for students cycling in the winter months in the dark having good reflective gear and lights on their bicycles to ensure they can be seen clearly by other road users.

SEN Message

If your child is a laptop user & borrows a chromebook/laptop from the SEN department. Please could you ask them to check their rooms, bags and lockers for any that they may have forgotten to return. We currently have at least 6 missing from the department and they are needed on a daily basis by other students.

Kind regards

Lucy Holmes- SENCO

National Apprenticeship Week 2023 - 6th to 12th February

- **UCAS** - The university application portal is promoting apprenticeships. Find out more [here](#) about student and parent focused support.
- gov.uk - Year 11 and 13s considering an apprenticeship should start a regular search on the governments search engine [here](#)
- **Dane Court's Google Classroom** - Students can join the school's Google Classroom using code [zc5wzc7](#), and follow the regular posts to apply for apprenticeships now, or aspire to in the future.
- **Amazing Apprenticeships** - For all questions apprenticeships, this is a one stop shop - excellent 'zoned' information for students and parents [here](#)
- **In school support** - Mrs Linton, our careers leader, is always happy to support with exciting, but at times, baffling area of higher education and employment

Important dates and Intervention Information for year11

8.2.2023 GCSE Preparation Evening

7.3.2023 Final Parents Evening

For more information on the set up and coming events please see the email from Mr Forward. Please find below more information about the year 11 intervention sessions that we are running in school. Last week I emailed about the students that have been specifically invited along, however these sessions are also open to everyone else in the year group, should they wish to attend. The students also have access to this on their form's google classroom.

Subject	When	Where
Art	Any lunchtime or afterschool	H3
Biology	Wednesdays 15:30-16:30	D5
Business	Monday 15.30 - 16.00	B8
Chemistry	Tuesdays after school with MG. Focussed on triple content but everybody is welcome. Wednesdays after school with SH. Focussed on trilogy content. <i>Invite only, but see MG if you would like to attend.</i>	D9
Computing	Wednesday 15:20 - 16:20	M2/M3
English	Monday Week B 15.30-16:30 Thursday Week A 15:30-16:30	N3
Food Preparation and Nutrition	There will be some extended practical sessions for all students in term 3 to complete NEA2 technical skills practical work Friday 20th Jan P1 and 2 The final practical exam will be on 28th February - you will be allocated either an a.m or p.m session. Mon - Thurs after school 3.20 - 4.20pm and any lunchtime for catch up written work on NEA Any lunchtime following a practical lesson - to finish off / sensory testing and clearing up.	C4 or kitchens for practical C1 for written work
French	Tuesday lunchtimes 13.45 - 14.15 Monday Week A 15.20 - 16.20 Thursday Week B 15.20 - 16.20	L5
Geography	Thursdays 15.20-16.20	T4
History	Thursdays 15.20-16.20	T7
Maths	Thursday lunchtimes 13:45-14:15 (This is not a taught intervention session, but students can come along and get help with anything they need) Wednesday 15:30-16:30	S4 S5 (grade 6/7 students) S8 (grade 4/5 students)

Music	Monday 3:20-4:20pm Wednesday 3:20-4:20pm All lunchtimes	H7/H8
PE GCSE	Thursday 15.30 - 16.30	B Plaza
Physics	Monday 15:30-16:00	D12
Spanish	Monday Week A 15.20 - 16.20 Thursday Week B 15.20 - 16.20	L11

Attendance - Absences

Regular school attendance is essential if students are to achieve their full potential. We believe that there is a direct link between attendance and performance and that regular school attendance is the key to enabling our students to maximise the educational opportunities available to them and become resilient, confident and competent adults. Children are required by law to attend school 190 days per year. The Government states that every pupil's attendance should be **at least** 95% and at here Dane Court, we strive for this to be even higher for our students. We understand that there are many reasons why students may miss school and we work hard with students and their families to find a variety of solutions to the problems of absenteeism.

If your child is ill, please contact the school each day that your child is absent, clearly stating the symptoms. Please note that being *late after registration* will also *lower* your child's attendance.

Whilst we appreciate medical appointments may arise, we suggest that whenever possible, these are arranged for out of school hours or at the very beginning/end of the school day, so that they have as little impact as possible on your child's school day. All appointments must be notified to the Attendance Officer in advance so that the information can be put on your child's register and relevant teachers/staff informed. Please provide evidence of appointments, by sending in a copy of the appointment letter/card for example.

If you are intending on keeping your child off school for any other reason (e.g. religious observance, external exams, funeral), please contact the Attendance Officer who will advise you on what evidence is needed to support your child's absence.

Attendance during one school year	Equals – days absent	Which is approximately weeks absent	Which means this number of lessons missed	Outcome
100%	0 days	0 weeks	0 lessons	Perfection best chances of success
98%	4 days	<1 week	20 lessons	Impressive best chances of success
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons	Nearly there
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons	Concerning poor attendance
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons	Concerning poor attendance
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons	Serious concern can affect life chances
75%	48 days	10 weeks	250 lessons	Serious concern can affect life chances
65% ↓	67+ days	13.5+ weeks	340+ lessons	Extreme concern most likely to affect life chances

There are 175 non-school days a year - all this time can be used for appointments (wherever possible), family days & holidays. If you have any concerns regarding your child's attendance, please contact Mrs Claire Sayer, Attendance Officer at csayer@danecourt.kent.sch.uk or on 01843 864941.

Community Lifesavers

Dear Year 7 parent and carers,

I am delighted to inform you that "Community Lifesavers" will be coming to Dane Court at the start of next term to deliver CPR & Defibrillator training to our current year 7 cohort in line with their PSHE curriculum. Students will be registered in their classes then brought down to the theatre for a 1 hour training session. This is a great opportunity for our students and I believe it will be an enriching experience for them.

The training will take place on Monday 20th & Tuesday 21st February.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Miss Holland, Head of PSHE.

Family Support Page

Youtube Restrictions

On many occasions we hear of concerns from parents about their ability to monitor or restrict what their children see on Youtube. I would like to draw your attention to the following link where the videos go through ways in which parents help ensure their children are safer on You Tube, this includes You Tube kids, and main You Tube.

I hope you find it helpful. <https://www.esafety-adviser.com/youtube-parental-restrictions/>

Please check if your child is eligible for free school meals.

With the cost of living crisis creating increased challenges for our community, we ask all parents to check if their child is eligible to receive free school meals. Applying for free school meals if you are eligible will mean enhanced pupil premium funding for the school. This will not only allow us to pay for school trips, study materials and revision guides for your child, but will also allow increased funding for the quality of education at Dane Court as a whole. We would be very grateful for your help: please apply if you are eligible.

Who is eligible for free school meals?

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following. For full information, visit <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>.

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

I think my child is eligible for free school meals. What do I do now?

You should apply for free school meals via the Kent County Council website. Kent County Council will then inform the school to allow us to access the funding, so you don't have to do anything else.

The link is here: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals>

What if I am worried that my child will be embarrassed at school?

Please do not worry. Our systems are extremely discreet, and our electronic payment system in the school canteen means that it is impossible to tell who is receiving a free school meal. Many students receive free school meals at our school.

Free School Meals - how they work

Please be aware that if your child receives free school meals, this is how the system works on a daily basis

- Your child will receive £1.10 for breakfast; which they **must** use before period 1 at 8.40am, if the £1.10 is not used by 8.40am then it is withdrawn from the account. For students to take advantage of the breakfast free school meal they must be in school in time to use it before period 1.
- They will then receive £2.30 for lunch, which they can use from breaktime at 10.45am onwards until the end of lunch at 2.20pm. The best value meal available is the lunch time main meal which comes with and main course and pudding bought simultaneously.

Any unspent funds are **not** carried over from day to day, and a new amount is added each day. You can add cash to your child's account using Wisepay if you wish, for extra snacks. But please note that the money given for free school meals should be spent where possible on food and not drinks to get the best value for money.

Financial concerns

At Dane Court Grammar School, we are committed to ensuring that finances are not a barrier to accessing educational trips and essential equipment for lessons; therefore financial support may be available. If you have difficulty contributing to the cost of a trip or essential equipment, please contact the school office at admin@danecourt.kent.sch.uk or the Sixth Form office (abowen@danecourt.kent.sch.uk) to discuss anything.

PP funding for ingredients

Did you know that if your child is eligible for PP funding, we are able to help to provide ingredients for them to cook with. Please get in touch with Mrs Edmondson or Mrs Leese to make arrangements for this to happen if you will find supplying ingredients difficult.

leese@danecourt.kent.sch.uk

nedmondson@danecourt.kent.sch.uk

Hardship Help guide

Please find below a link to a '[Hardship Help](#)' guide. This includes universal support available across England/Kent, as well as district-specific support.

Thanet Adult Education - Family Courses

The next round of family courses in Autism awareness, supporting ADHD in the home, exploring behaviour strategies etc

<https://www.kentadulthoodeducation.co.uk/course-areas/family-courses/?pageNumber=1&pageSize=10&sortOrder=StartingSoonest&alreadyStarted=No&category=Family%20Courses>

The Anna Freud Early Support Service

The Anna Freud Early Support Service are offering another round of their parent/carer webinars that may be of interest to some of you. Five topics have been chosen to reflect core developmental processes in adolescence and common difficulties parents can struggle with. The content is psychoeducational, strategy-based and solution focused. The webinars will cover the following topics:

Managing teen behaviour that challenges: tips and tricks

Adolescent self-harm: how to make sense of it and when to seek support



Anxiety in adolescence: how can parents help?

Building resilience, staying connected and nurturing your relationship with your teen

Weathering the storms of strong teen emotions: do's, don'ts and when to consider talking to someone

Please access the full details on our [Family Support](#) page on our website.

Lucy Holmes



Online Parent Workshops

Aimed at parents of children in primary school and year 7


Understanding Autism in Children	02/02/23 5.30-7.30pm
Supporting Your Child with Worries & Fears	07/02/23 10-12pm
Understanding Resilience in Children	27/02/23 5.30-7.30pm
Understanding Your Child's Behaviour	15/03/23 10-12pm
Understanding Sleep and Autism	22/03/23 12.30-2.30pm
Understanding ADHD in Children	30/03/23 5.30-7.30pm

Our online workshops offer information around key topics to help understand what is going on for your child and strategies to support them, based on the latest evidence and practice.

If you would like to join, please raise your interest with your child's school so that they can send you the link. If you have any questions please speak to your child's school.

Our workshops are held on Microsoft Teams. You do not need an account to join. You will need access to the internet.

We look forward to meeting you.



The Schoolwear Centre

We are running a free draw for the next 4 months. To win a £50 School Uniform Voucher each month. There will be a winner each month in February & March & April & May. To Enter Email, us at marketing@schoolshop.uk.net with your name and the school/s your family attend. Only one entry per email address. All entries will go into the draw each month. It's FREE to enter.

Ian Margetson

Company Chairman

[The Schoolwear Centre @ Margate Ltd](#)

56 Addington Street,

Margate

CT9 1QS

01843 293555

Chatter's Headwear Day

The school newspaper team CHATTER are happy to announce their fundraiser for this term will be on **Thursday 9th February**. All staff & students are invited to wear Headgear to school for the day such as **wigs, caps, hats** or to wear their hair in a crazy hairstyle for a donation of **just 50p!** Please see Posters for more details.

We must stress that headphones, earphones or air pods/similar are NOT allowed - you are still needing to hear the teachers in your lessons. The monies from all fundraising over the year shall be collected and divided equally between the following 4 charities after the last fundraising event in Term 6. Chatter's chosen charities are TAG pet rescue (Thanet Animal Group), Kent Green Action, Romanian International Children's Foundation & Oasis Thanet.

Thank you for all of your continued support. You can find the latest edition of Chatter here:

<https://danecourt.kent.sch.uk/parents8/news6/latest-news/1164-chatter-24-winter-2022>

Mrs Cronin & the Chatter team.

The Onatti Theatre

On Thursday 9 February The Onatti Theatre will be performing a French play, 'Parlez-vous Francais,' to year 7 students studying French. The performance will take place during lesson 5 on that day.

Snapchat Safety

The Snapchat app lets users send photos, short videos or messages to friends. The pictures and videos, known as 'Snaps' usually appear for a selected number of seconds before disappearing forever. In the UK Snapchat is one of the most popular choices of messaging between teenagers and young adults.

Is Snapchat Safe for children

Snapchat has an age rating of 13, so If your child is younger than then then they should not be using the app.

Snaps capture a 'moment' as an image, these are not saved to the device's camera roll and disappear forever after a few seconds. If however a user tries to screenshot a snap that has been sent to them, snapchat will notify the sender to help safeguard them. Users have however found workarounds to this which means it is possible to secretly save snaps.

Snapchat is designed to share messages with friends, but there is still the danger that children may connect with people they don't know as it's easy to add users by searching for usernames or through links. It is always wise for younger users to only share content with their real friends and share things only they would be happy to share with their parents or carers.

As with most messaging apps, there are features to block or report users, which can be done as easily as clicking their names and pressing the block/report text.

There is one other dangerous feature on Snapchat called 'Snap maps.' This feature shares your physical location data with friends in real time and it is possible to pinpoint friends exact location on the map. If your child leaves the house to go to a shop or to the cinema, then other users could follow them in real life, tracking every step they make.

There are three settings for the 'snap map':-

Ghost mode - This does not share the users location, however you can still see everyone else on the map.

Friends - Shares the users location with their friends only

Select friends - Shares the user's location to selected friends only

Please note that once 'snap map' is set up, there is no setting to completely disable it.

As with all social communication apps, it is always wise to have a discussion with children and young adults about the risks related to the service, the possibility of cyberbullying and how to use the app safely.

Macmillan Coffee Morning 2nd February 2023

We have just registered our Macmillan Coffee Morning for students and staff which will take place on Thursday February 2nd. The event is being organised by students and will involve a giant bake sale at breaktime and lunchtime; the heart being turned into a cafe at break time with staff serving coffee and cake to students and a green and white themed non-uniform day. More details will follow in the new year.

We are asking students and parents for donations to sell on the day, these can be shop bought or homemade. If you would like to donate to our Macmillan fundraising page, then the link can be found [here](#).

2nd hand uniform shop

The 2nd Hand Uniform Shop will be open from 3.15 to 4.15 the first Tuesday of each month. If you require any 2nd hand uniform but can't get into school please email any requirements to admin@danecourt.kent.school.uk and we will do our best to sort suitable items which can be picked up by the student from the main school office. If you have any spare coat hangers we would be very grateful of any donations. The School Wear Centre in Margate also sells 2nd hand uniform for a small charge to cover laundry costs.

The PE department would like to share this past week's results and clubs

Clubs:

Tuesday - Trampolining club for KS4/5 and GCSE

- Netball club for all years

Thursday - Girls U16s football training

Friday - Basketball club at lunchtime for all years

Fixtures and Results:

-On Monday we took two girls teams for the local handball tournament at King Ethelberts. Our year 7 and 8 team finished in 1st place as well our year 9 and 10 teams!

-On Tuesday it was the boys turn to compete in the Thanet tournament where the 7 and 8 team finished in 4th place with the year 9 and 10s coming 3rd in their competition.

We would also like to wish the U16s girls good luck in the Kent Cup final tonight (Friday 3rd February) hoping to be the first Dane Court girls team to win the cup since 1999. We hope to see as many people supporting the girls as possible as they hopefully achieve cup glory!

Dane Court PE department

Clubs at Dane Court

Day	Name of club	When	Where	Year group
Monday	Chatter	1.45-2.15pm	Library	All
	Physics drop in	3.30 4pm	D12	All
	Choir	After school	H7	All
	Debating Club	3.30-4:30	Library	All
	Tuesday			
	Yoga Club	3.30-4.30	Studio	yr12-13
	Netball	3.30-4:30	Field	all
	Ukele Club	lunchtime	H7	All
	Art club	3:20 - 4:30	ART	Yr7-9
	Trampolining	3.30-4.25	sports hall	KS4&5
	Junior Book Club - week B	1.45 - 2.15	Library	Yr7 & 8
	Orchestra	3.30-4.30	H7	all years
	Japanese Culture Club	1.45 - 2.15	L4	All Years
Wednesday				
	Languages Film Club	1:45-2:15	L11	All

	Badminton Club	3.30 - 4.25	Sports hall	KS3
	Board Game Club	lunchtime 1.40 - 2.15	M7	all
	Dance	3.45pm -4.25pm	Activity Studio	All KS
	Film club - week B	After school	M4	yr12/13
Thursday				
	Boys Rugby	3.30pm - 4.25pm	Field	Boys
	Drama & shakespeare	Thursday 3.30-4.30	H1	7-10
	Climbing	3:30pm-4:30pm	Climbing Wall	Y8,9,10,11
	Chess Club	3.30 - 4.30pm	D2	All
	History Club	1.45 - 2.20	B plaza	Yr7, 8, 9
	GCSE coursework	3.30-4.30	B plaza	yr11 only
Friday				
	Car Care and Basic maintenance	3.25 - 4.20	B3	Yr12-13
	Basket Ball Club	Lunchtime 1.45-2.15	PE	all years
	Board Game Club	lunchtime 1.40 - 2.15	M7	all
	Chatter	1.45-2.15pm	Library	All years

DANE COURT PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Events 2023

Quiz Night

Dane Court School Theatre
 Friday 24th March 2023



Tickets: Adults £7.00 Children £3.00

Doors open at 7pm quiz starts 7.30pm

(price includes ploughman's supper - bring your own drinks, glasses provided)

Teams up to 8 persons per table.

To book a table please contact Mrs Lois Gadd (Maths) (Tel (or text) 07968 687145 or Email gadd@danecourt.kent.sch.uk) by 4pm on Wed 22nd Mar

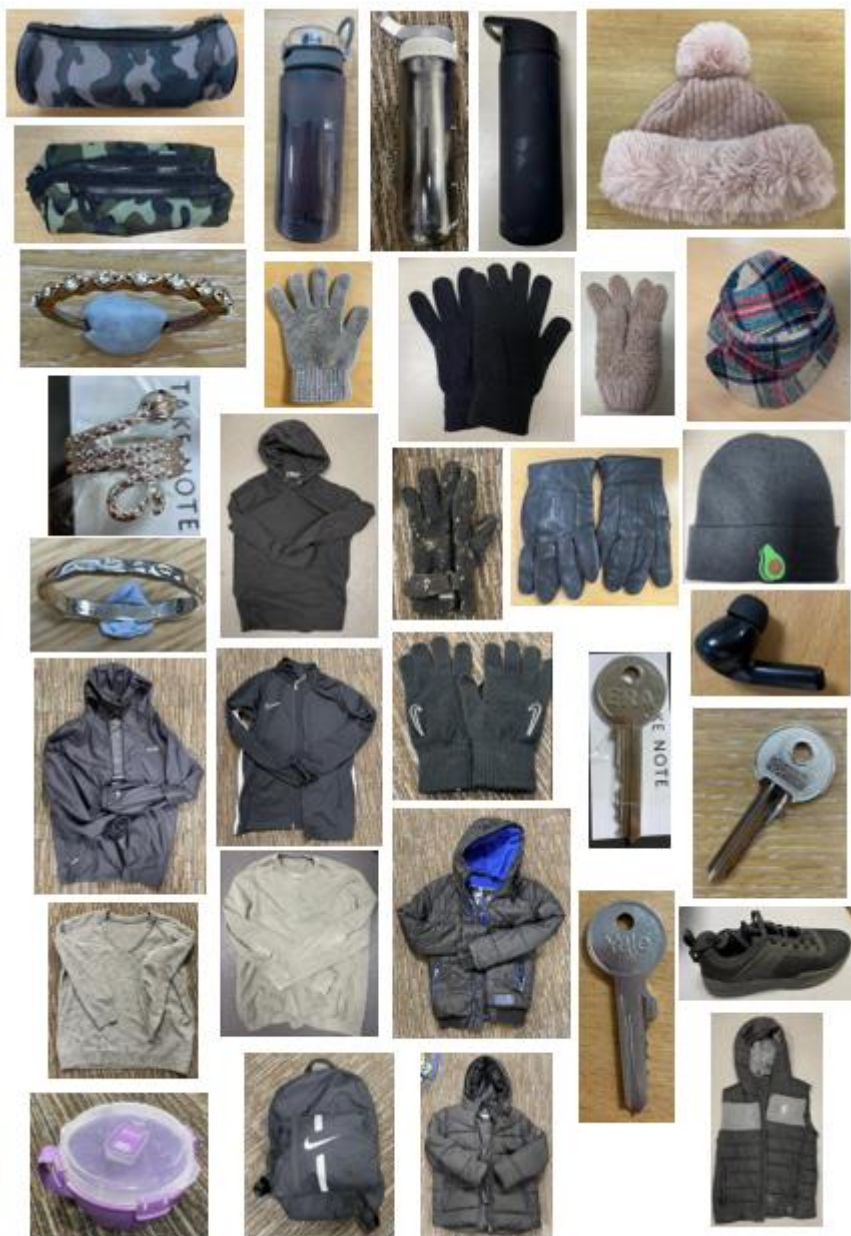
Charity number 1023394



Lost Property

We already have a number of items in our lost property so far this term. They include unnamed uniform, pencil cases, coats, jumpers, a PE kit in bag, an odd trainer, hats, gloves, a plastic tub, water bottles, keys, rings and an earbud headphone. Please remember to name any items your child brings into school to help us quickly return any lost items. Photos of the easily identified items are set out below. If you or your child recognise any of them, or think that the items of unnamed uniform may belong to your child, please do contact the office on 01843 864941 to arrange collection as soon as possible.

Many thanks, Office Team



LET'S CONNECT



TIPS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Dear parents and carers,

6 - 12 February 2023 is Children's Mental Health Week. The week is run by children's mental health charity Place2Be to raise awareness of the importance of children and young people's mental health. This year's theme is Let's Connect.

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Let's Connect is about making meaningful connections, and for Children's Mental Health Week 2023, Place2Be is encouraging people to connect with others in healthy, rewarding and meaningful ways.

As parents and carers, you are an important role model to your child. How you connect with friends and family will influence your child, and how they develop their own friendships and relationships. For example, how you greet people and maintain friendships, but also how you forgive people or say sorry when you need to.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Here are a few simple ways you can connect with your child and help them to make meaningful connections.

1. Connect with your child in everyday ways

Moments of connection (and re-connection) are really important in child-caregiver relationships. For example, when you pick them up from school, or come in from work, try to give them your full attention and see if this helps you feel better connected as you hug, talk, smile and hear about their day. Watching your child play and joining in is really important to them – so put your phone away and have a bit of fun – being playful is good for adults, too!

With your older child, you may find times such as car journeys a good time to talk, or to re-connect by playing music you both like. It is important to be accessible to a teenager when they need to talk. You may have to be there 'on their terms' and be ready to listen.

2. Talk to your child about important connections

This could include talking about family members, friends, neighbours, childminders, people in the local community and others in your faith group (if you have one). Remember it's ok to talk about people they miss, for example, family members who live in a different country or people who have died.

Children learn a lot from their parents about how to express their feelings, including the joy that comes with feeling connected to others and the sadness that comes with missing others.

3. Talk to your child about their friends

As children become teenagers, their friendship groups become increasingly important to them. Be open to hearing about their friendships and try to listen without judgement.

Ask them about their life in real life and online. You may not think online friends are 'real friends', but your child may feel differently. Losing friends, feeling left out or being bullied is very painful and your child needs to know you will support them through these difficult times.

4. Connect by taking an interest in your child's world

As adults we can sometimes be dismissive of the things that our children and teenagers are interested in, e.g. their music, fashion, what they watch etc. If you do take an interest in these things, however, you may feel better connected to your child and the important things in their world. This can lead to other conversations about other things in their lives that matter to them.

5. Find time to connect as a family

Family life can become busy and stressful, so it's important to find some time where you connect together. This could include simple things like cooking, watching a film, playing a game, going to the park or even doing the family shop together.

6. Try to resolve conflict and re-connect after arguments

Arguments and moments of disconnection are bound to happen in families - between your children, between yourself and your children and between yourself and your partner, if you have one. It is important that children learn how to disagree in appropriate ways, how to say sorry and how to make amends when they have done something wrong. They will learn a lot about how to do these things from you - so try to model the behaviour you want to see in your children. Talk to them about how to re-connect with friends after arguments including what they can do to help repair relationships.

Video activities from Place2Be

Puzzle Pieces – aimed at 4-7 year olds, this activity is presented by CBBC's Art Ninja, Ricky Martin, and will show children how we are all connected. Why not take part as a family? childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/puzzlepieces

Connecting Paperchains – developed by Place2Be's Art Room team for 7-11 year olds, this activity helps children think about the people, things and activities they feel connected to. childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/paperchains

Exchanging Postcards – developed by Place2Be's Art Room team for 11-14 year olds, this activity encourages young people to explore what connection means to them. childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/postcards

Looking for free practical advice to help you support your child?

Parenting Smart, Place2Be's site for parents and carers, is full of expert advice and tips on supporting primary-age children, and managing their behaviour. parentingsmart.org.uk

Let your child know that if they are worried about something, they should always talk to an adult they trust. It could be you, someone in your family, a teacher or someone else in their school.

If you're worried about your child's mental health you can talk to your GP or someone at your child's school.

You can also find a list of organisations that provide support and advice on our website: place2be.org.uk/help