

This week

- Fri 10 Mar: Friends of Thomas Coram School Disco, 3.30pm-5.30pm

Dates further ahead

- Tue 14 Mar & Thu 16 Mar: Consultation evenings, 4.00pm-7.30pm
- Fri 24 Mar: Red Nose Day
- Tue 28 Mar: Year 5 Production, afternoon performance
- Wed 29 Mar: Year 5 Production, 6.30pm

[A full calendar is available on our website](#)

Notices and reminders

The Friends of Thomas Coram will be holding [a school disco](#) on Friday 10 March – details and application form are attached. Please note that there are limited spaces and a deadline of Wednesday 8 March.

In the interest of children's safety, parents are urged to [take extreme care when driving or parking near to the school](#). Please be thoughtful and considerate to others, and avoid parking on pavements and the yellow zig-zag lines.

[Pupils and staff in Year 5 are currently working hard on their performance for the end of term](#). Details of the performance and tickets will follow. There will be a performance in the afternoon of Tuesday 28 March and another on the evening of Wednesday 29 March. If you are able to make arrangements for your son/daughter in Year 5 to attend school on the evening of Wednesday 29 March, this would be greatly appreciated.

[Furthering our collaboration with Victoria School](#)

Thomas Coram shares with Victoria School a commitment to the provision of high quality Church of England education in Berkhamsted. The Governing Body and Headteacher are in close co-operation with the Governors at Victoria School, and are currently considering future collaboration options to help us strengthen this commitment. We will share further details on these exciting potential developments to benefit our communities later this year.

In 2018, Hertfordshire County Council will be [re-commissioning the services currently delivered by school nursing, health visiting and children's centres](#). As part of this process a new survey has been launched to gain feedback on the services delivered by school nursing, which will be used to inform future commissioning decisions. We encourage you to have a say by completing the survey.

<https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/HVCCSNsurvey/>

Recent letters

Last week we sent out these letters which are also available on our website:

- Year 3 Science Family Session

This week's attachments

Today we're attaching:

- Friends of Thomas Coram Disco
- Hertfordshire's Parent eSafety Newsletter

We are now collecting [Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers](#). If you have any, please send them into school with your child.

[This week at St Peter's](#) – Sunday School is experimenting with some changes during Lent. Instead of having the usual session in the courthouse, they will go into the Lady Chapel during the sermon for a short story and discussion and then go back into the main service to sit with parents for Eucharistic prayer and communion. There will continue to be colouring/activity sheets available in the children's corner. The children's Eucharist books will be on the tables with the welcomers, so children can follow the service.

DISCO at TC



Includes
Crisps
& Drink



TUCK
SHOP

Friday 10th March

3.30pm – 5.30pm

£5 per Child * £4 per School Sibling thereafter

Places are limited and must be secured in advance as only those with signed permission from a parent may attend.

Parental consent is required.

Return of this completed form by WEDNESDAY 08TH MARCH will confirm parental consent has been given.

Child name(s) and class _____
(All children attending must be named above)
Please advise if your child has any allergies _____

I have made arrangements to collect my son/daughter at 5.30pm

Parent/carer authorising signature _____

Parent/carer email _____
(Email addresses will be added to the FoTC mailing list and not shared with any third parties)

Cash or cheque to be enclosed with permission slip -
cheques made payable to 'The Friends of Thomas Coram' please!

eSafety newsletter

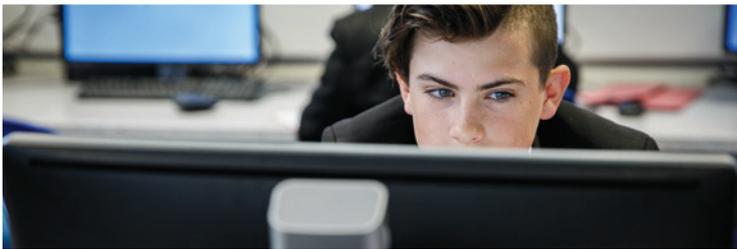


Parent edition

Spring 2017



Cyberbullying

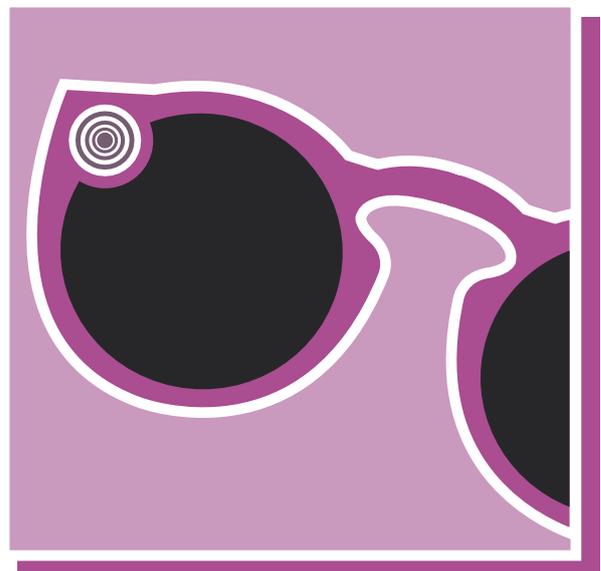


Ensuring your children understand the seriousness of cyberbullying is an essential part of modern parenting. There have been several recent reports of how this type of offence is increasing hugely (source: Childline). Information on cyberbullying can be found in many places but the NSPCC has some good statistics here: <http://bit.ly/NSPCCCB> . If you need confirmation that this is indeed a serious offence, you need not look far: <http://bit.ly/JB1407>

Bullying over social media is one of the most common problems, although sometimes the bullying can be from within a group on Whatsapp or similar; it isn't always completely public. Often the bullying can be 1:1 in the form of direct messaging too. One good resource can be found in the following link, a video created by Childline. Amy Louise's Story is an example of bullying over Facebook. For children attending primary school however, **this should not be a problem if** pupils are adhering to the age restrictions for these apps and services: <http://bit.ly/CLFBk>

Snapchat

As if we didn't need another reason to tell our children that they can't have Snapchat yet (it's a 13-plus app), they decide to launch affordable camera glasses for potentially very sneaky recordings. It is one thing to put people on the internet with their permission but altogether another to capture them without their knowledge and to upload without consent: <http://bit.ly/SnapSun>



Whatsapp

Historically, users of Whatsapp needed to be at least 16 years of age. Recently however, this age restriction has been lowered to 13 in line with the majority of similar digital communication tools. Despite this, parents should always be cautious when allowing their children to have unrestricted communication with others people - users can withhold or lie about their true identity. The extra three years of maturity which the old policy offered to its users (those who stuck to the rules at least) meant that grooming might have previously been identified by users more easily. Despite this, research suggested that even when Whatsapp had a 13 minimum age, 50% of its users were 12 or under. www.whatsapp.com/legal

Another aspect of this app worth considering is the soon-to-be available video chat option. <http://bit.ly/WA1id> This puts this app in line with the likes of Skype and Facetime, albeit safer than Oovoo – which adds multiple user video conferencing and brings with that further risks of friends accepting strangers into group conversations.

Watch out for Omegle & Chat Roulette



These **'video chat with strangers'** services are dangers for the obvious reason that you won't know who your children are talking to or seeing and vice versa. Information can be shared with complete strangers using these services and in many cases what would be seen or discussed will be inappropriate or in certain cases, illegal. There are, of course other non-video based apps to avoid such as Whisper, where users are encouraged to tell secrets to complete strangers who can then get them to release further personal information.

Ok I'm worried, what can I do?

As always, talk to your children. Tell them you won't take their devices away from

them as a punishment for letting you know that they feel worried, frightened or scared about something they have seen or read online, or about what someone might be asking them to do. It might be hard not to take things away from them, you might feel like you are protecting them, but remember that children will learn from the experience and next time might think 'I can't tell Mum or Dad because they will take it off me again'. Tell them well done, reward them for telling you, fix the problem, then return the device to them as soon as possible. Crucially, tell them this is what will happen now, before they are in trouble.

Musical.ly

This is an app which is gaining in popularity within primary schools at a very fast rate indeed. Users can sing along to famous music artists, have friends, be followed and leave comments. Not so different from the majority of social media apps then? Consequently, whilst it can be fun, parents should be cautious and apply the same logic to this as with any other opportunity for their children to contact or be contacted by strangers. The 12+ on the appstore **suggests that parental support is necessary** yet Google Play does not have a minimum age restriction at this time – often the platforms do not agree with one another regarding age restrictions. On this basis, a self-imposed 13+ rule with many unclassified apps would be a reasonable child protection measure.



Useful websites



"I want to make it less likely that my children will get into trouble at home when online"

Find out how to make internet access safer at home on the Internet Matters website:

<http://bit.ly/ParentCont>

"I don't want people to see that when they search on the internet"

Find out how to ask Google to remove information from their search results here

<http://bit.ly/RemInfo>

"I have found a website that holds illegal content. How do I report it?"

Report illegal website content here:

<https://www.iwf.org.uk>

For further eSafety advice visit:

<http://bit.ly/eSafetyAdviceforParents>