



# FRIDAY UPDATE

Friday 29th September 2023



Thank you for your support of our Macmillan Cancer Support Cake sale after school today. It was lovely to have so many generous donations of cakes and purchases for such a good cause.

I am afraid we have had contact from local residents this week who are concerned about some unsafe driving and parking around school at drop off and pick up times. Can I please remind everyone that cars should NOT stop / park on the yellow zigzags outside school, no cars should park on or near the sharp corner opposite or obstructing the pavement or any driveways. This is for the safety of our children and none of us want an accident to happen. The police will be stopping by to monitor the situation. Thank you for your support with improving this issue.

In celebration assembly today we said well done to the following children, who received

**Special Awards** and special gold Headteacher's Award sticker:

**Amelia** (Beech class) - for showing our Avenue values and understanding the golden rules.

**Lexi** (Hazel class) - for being an excellent role model, always following the golden rules.

**Souley** (Maple class) - for setting a great example to the class, always listening and following rules.

**Gideon** (Cherry class) - for working really hard in phonics and reading confidently.



## Class Accolades

**Beech Class** - Mrs McCullough was so proud of the lovely, kind things you wrote about each other.

**Cherry Class** - Miss Startin is impressed with how you have adapted to being in Year 1.

**Maple Class** - Miss Cooper and Mrs Bolter are proud of your listening in English lessons this week.

**Each class was presented with their Class Accolade certificate and earned two class ticks. Well done everyone!**



## WHAT'S ON NEXT WEEK (Autumn 1 Week 5):

Monday 2nd Oct	- Rock steady club
Tuesday 3rd	- Year 2 P.E. - <b>Year 2 NSPCC workshops</b>
Wednesday 4th	-
Thursday 5th	- Year 1 P.E.
Friday 6th	- Year 1 Family Reading - 8.50-9.10am - Reception P.E.



Values tokens  
total this week:  
**142**

## LETTERS / EMAILS HOME THIS WEEK:

Parent Governor  
Deadline email  
Reception Learning  
Newsletter



As part of our commitment to safeguarding, it is important that we ensure that parents/carers are as informed as possible about online safety.

### What parents and carers need to know about sharing photos online

One of the more heart-warming, life-affirming aspects of social media is being able to share special moments in our children's lives with family and friends: from the first day at school or blowing out birthday cake candles to smiling holiday selfies and cute Halloween costumes. Is there, however, such a thing as too much sharing – and can it actually put children in danger?

With potential risks such as accidentally displaying identifying details (images showing where a child lives or what school they go to, for example) and photos being seen and saved by strangers, perhaps we need to take a little more caution over what we post and where we post it. This guide runs through some safety considerations when sharing images.

A larger version of these guides can be downloaded from our school Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/TheAvenueInfantSchool/>

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SHARING PHOTOS ONLINE

School is often a time chock-full of milestones for your child, and you may well be eager to share their accomplishments with the world. In today's digital age, sharing images of such precious moments on social media is commonplace, and – while that's a lovely thing to do – it *does* come with some risks attached. Our guide can help parents and carers to consider the potential dangers and make informed choices about safely sharing photos of their children online.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### INVASIONS OF PRIVACY

Even with the right settings in place, absolutely nothing online is 100% private. Anyone who can view your photos could take screenshots and potentially share them elsewhere. Privacy settings are still important, though, so it's always wise to ensure your social media accounts have them set up; just bear in mind that you can't completely control what happens to anything once it's gone online.

### REVEALING PERSONAL DETAILS

Small details in photos can often reveal personal information. Backgrounds can give clues to where you live, for example, while school logos on uniforms, sports kits, or bags could help someone identify which school your child attends. With interactive maps and reverse image searches commonplace online, information like this could easily be misused by an individual with malicious intentions.

### MISUSE OF IMAGES

Once something's been shared online, it's almost impossible to get it deleted. Photos can show up in search engine results and be downloaded, manipulated, and shared without consent. There's the potential for someone's images to be used for advertising purposes (which in many cases, isn't illegal) or even more inappropriate reasons, such as cyber-bullying or serious forms of exploitation.

### ONLINE GROOMING

Pictures that convey details about your child's interests, activities, or daily routines could arm an online predator with the kind of information they can deploy to gain a child's trust. They might use this knowledge to pretend to be the same age as the child or to have a shared hobby. Essentially, the more a predator knows about a young person, the easier it is for them to invent some 'common ground'.

### PRESSURE TO PLEASE

When their parents or carers share notable moments and accomplishments in a child's life on social media, some children may begin to feel an expectation to always meet certain standards, to achieve things, or to behave in ways that are "worth sharing". Knowing that other people (even friends and family) can see these posts on social media might also add to the pressure they're feeling internally.

### IMPACT ON DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Every photo of a child posted online contributes to their digital footprint. Young people's lives have never been so closely and publicly documented as they are now, and this permanent online presence could affect a child's future opportunities or the choices they make as they grow up – in addition to influencing how they see themselves and, consequently, their emotional wellbeing.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### REVIEW SETTINGS REGULARLY

Make sure your social media's secure in terms of who can view your content or see your location (only family and trusted friends, for example). Privacy settings aren't totally foolproof, but they *do* make it tougher for strangers to access your pics. Reviewing your settings regularly is also a good starting point for conversations with your child about managing their own social accounts when they're older.

### CONSIDER OTHER CHILDREN

When taking a group photo, make sure you get parents' or carers' permission to share it on social media. There may be an important safeguarding reason for them not wanting their child's photo posted publicly online, or it might simply not tally with their personal beliefs or cultural background. A quick conversation in advance, just to make sure, is usually hugely appreciated.

### CHECK YOUR PHOTOS

Photos of your child shouldn't provide any clues to where they live or go to school: even a house number, street name, or car number plate could be a giveaway. Cover up or blur out school logos, too. If you *really* want to share a particular pic, you could post a watermarked or low-res version, which can help to discourage misuse as those images are less appealing to download or reproduce.

### THINK AHEAD

Try to consider the longer-term implications of what you post. Would you be happy with that photo being online in 10 years' time? Would your child still be OK with the image when they're older? Once your child is mature enough, you could ask for their consent before posting: it respects their privacy, fosters trust and understanding, and helps them to start thinking about their own online life.

### Meet Our Expert

Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with more than 30 years' experience working with children, families, and adults in education, local authority, and mental health settings, both in the UK and internationally. She has developed online safety training for local authorities and foster care agencies across Britain and is the online safety expert for FosterWiki.

