



The Avenue Infant School  
**FRIDAY UPDATE**  
 Friday 19th April 2024



In celebration assembly today we said well done to the following children, who received **Special Awards** and special gold Headteacher's Award sticker:

**Zayaan** (Beech class) - for trying hard in English, improving his focus when writing.

**Olivia** (Hazel class) - for writing brilliant descriptive sentences about the story main character.

**Motiejus** (Maple class) - for always contributing in class discussions and being confident to share his view.

**Nidish** (Cherry class) - for showing excellent understanding in Maths and supporting his peers.

**Lilly** (Willow class) - for trying really hard to write a sentence independently.

**Aarna** (Oak class) - for showing great confidence by choosing to eat in the hall at lunchtimes.



### Class Accolades

**Hazel Class** - Miss Morris was proud of your hard work on your ball skills in P.E.

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



### WHAT'S ON NEXT WEEK (Summer 1 Week 2):

Monday 22nd	- Rock Steady Club - Year 2 Writing Club
Tuesday 23rd	- Year 2 P.E
Wednesday 24th	- Play & Perform club 3.15 - 4.15pm
Thursday 25th	- Year 1 P.E.
Friday 26th	- Year 1 Family Reading 8.50 - 9.10am - Reception P.E.

### LETTERS / EMAILS HOME THIS WEEK:

Newsletter 5  
 Play and Perform Club  
 email (Years 1 and 2  
 only)



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 need to know about: Clickbait

While scrolling online, you'll almost inevitably have come across posts or links with headlines like "You Won't Believe These 10 Crazy Facts about ...". Such lurid language – and the often-dubious nature of the content it promotes – has become something of a running joke on the internet. Yet while these articles are often laughed at by communities online, they can have an insidious side.

Clickbait, as it's known, can frequently function as part of a trap: intended to draw users in for the sake of advertising revenue or, in worse cases, masking an attempting to collect their personal information. This week's guide explores the various risks of clickbait and offers some top tips for evading the pitfalls of this controversial marketing technique.

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

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CLICKBAIT

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Clickbait is a controversial online marketing strategy which uses sensationalist (and frequently misleading) headlines to encourage engagement with an article, image or video – often playing on users' emotions and curiosity, while much of the actual content is of questionable accuracy. Clickbait is also sometimes used to disguise scams, phishing sites and malware.

### HARMFUL MISINFORMATION

Clickbait tends to play fast and loose with the truth, opting for eye-catching content over objectivity. This is particularly dangerous for younger internet users, who are generally more susceptible to that type of material. A child could be presented with fake news, misleading articles and – in some cases – outright lies without fully understanding what they're viewing and why it's harmful.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Due to the misleading nature of many examples of clickbait, what may seem to be innocuous and child friendly could actually contain age-inappropriate material such as extremist political views or violent, pornographic or sexually explicit content. This is clearly a hazard for young people, who could be upset, disturbed or influenced by exposure to such subject matter.

### HIDDEN MALWARE

While most clickbait is simply trying to promote engagement to earn companies additional revenue, some of it does redirect to dubious sites with the potential to infect devices with viruses or malware. This could put a child's sensitive data – such as their name, their location and their date of birth – at risk of being accessed and exploited by malicious hackers.

### PRIVACY PROBLEMS

Some clickbait leads to sites which could coax a child into volunteering their personal data – using pop-ups to ask them for their email address and phone number, for example, in exchange for accessing additional content or subscribing to various services. Normally, this harvested information is then sold to third parties, who often utilise it for targeted adverts and other sales schemes.

### A DRAINING DISTRACTION

Clickbait encourages spiralling consumption of online content, which could easily result in a young person spending hours scrolling aimlessly instead of doing something productive or interacting with family and friends. This can leave them tired, asocial and lacking focus – and, in the long term, can negatively impact their social skills, education and mental wellbeing.

### IMPACT ON BEHAVIOUR

Depending on the type of clickbait a child is interacting with, you might notice negative changes in their behaviour. Weight loss scams, for example, are common among clickbait and have the potential to influence eating habits and body image – while deliberately inflammatory 'rage bait' articles can leave impressionable young people feeling irritable, restless or argumentative.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### START A CONVERSATION

The sheer volume of clickbait can make protecting children against it quite challenging. It's vital to talk to young people regularly about the types of content they encounter online, so that they understand the risks of engaging with clickbait. If you're still concerned, it may also be wise to keep an eye on children's online activity to ensure they're not being tempted by clickbait headlines.

### PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Encouraging children to question the legitimacy of sensational headlines and too-good-to-be-true promises will help them to become savvy online – and far less likely to be drawn in by clickbait content. These critical thinking skills will also serve to protect them in other areas of the digital world where misinformation is becoming increasingly common.

### SPOT THE TELLTALE SIGNS

There are certain common elements in clickbait, including headlines and images that use shock and outrage to grab people's attention – as well as numbered lists, such as "8 Facts You Won't Believe Are True". Some clickbait combines several of these tactics to snag users' interest. Learn to recognise these techniques for yourself so you can teach children to notice them as well.

### TAKE CONTROL

Many parents opt to place limits on how long their children can spend online each day, which obviously reduces the chance of exposure to clickbait. Alternatively, most internet-enabled devices have built-in controls that allow parents to manage what sort of online content their child can access – including filtering by age, which can screen out a percentage of inappropriate material.

### Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology writer with more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, she is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant who writes for Forbes, TechRadar and Wired, among others.



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