



# Euxton Church of England Primary School



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Headteacher: Mrs Mairi Ash

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parents,

## **Euxton Superstars!**

Congratulations to our Euxton Superstars this week:

**Reception:** Harrison

**Year 1:** Harry W

**Year 2:** Alice

**Year 3:** Max

**Year 4:** Emily M

**Year 5:** Emily K

**Year 6:** Stanley

Well done to everyone!

## **Good luck Rev. Amy!**



It was Rev. Amy's last worship with us this week before she starts her new role as a hospital chaplain in Kendal. We wish her all the very best in her new job!

## **School Photos**

Adam was in school on Thursday taking photos of all the children on their own and with their siblings/pre-school siblings. Your child has brought home an order form so we hope you get chance to have a look at the photos over the weekend and place an order. The deadline for free delivery of orders to school, is Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Y6 Trip to Manchester Jewish Museum and Imperial War Museum**

As part of our learning about World War 2, Year 6 had a double-museum trip on Monday. We spent the morning at Manchester Jewish Museum, learning about the Jewish community in Manchester, visiting their synagogue and making challah bread. Next, we visited the Imperial War Museum to observe their vast collection; we focused particularly upon the World War 2 section. The behaviour of the children was outstanding throughout the entire day; they impressed staff at both museums with their knowledge and enthusiasm. This trip has greatly enriched our learning.

### **Football Tournament**

Well done to all of the Year 5 and 6 boys who have been taking part in the Chorley SSP football tournament over the last 3 weeks. They showed perseverance to keep playing against some tough opposition and played some excellent football over their 6 matches. We are so proud of all of you.

### **Mrs Ormes and Miss Dent leaving**

We are sad to say goodbye to Mrs Ormes and Miss Dent, who will leave us at the end of half term. Amy has been a fantastic support to parents, children and member of the office team. Rebecca has given fantastic support to many classes and children throughout school. We thank them both for all their hard work and wish them the very best in their next ventures.

### **Wellbeing week**

Next week we are marking World Mental Health Day by having a whole week dedicated to understanding the importance of Wellbeing. Homework next week will also reflect this by having some wellbeing activities to try at home.

Please note that **sporty day** next week will swap to **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October** – children are to come in PE clothes on this day as opposed to Tuesday.



On **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October** we invite everyone to come to school that little bit brighter by wearing something yellow or bright. We are suggesting a donation of **£1**, as this is a non-uniform day, to the charity YoungMinds who raise money to show young people that they're not alone with their mental health. As the YoungMinds charity says "*Because we stand brighter, together*". Thank you for your support with this.

On Friday the children are having a special assembly to share all of their learning from the week and present ideas so that we can vote for a whole school courageous advocacy focus.

Celebration assembly for certificates, birthdays and achievements will resume **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October**.

### **Online Safety**

Please see attached guidance on in-game chat for parents.

### **Asda Rewards – Cashpot for Schools**

You may have seen Joe Wicks promoting the Asda Rewards Cashpot for Schools incentive recently on television. Please encourage friends and family who shop at Asda to choose Euxton CE Primary School as their choice to receive these rewards. Please use the link for more details thank you <https://www.asda.com/cashpotforschools>

## Admissions – Primary and Secondary Places

You can now apply via [www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools) for school places for next September. Supplementary Faith forms are available in the school office for our school. If you are applying to any faith school a separate form should be provided by them and completed. The closing dates are as follows:

**Secondary (Y7 in Sept 2025) – Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024**  
**Primary (Reception in Sept 2025) – Wednesday 15 January 2025**

High School Open Evening at Holy Cross – Thursday 10th October 4.30-7pm.

Our Open Day for prospective parents is on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October** from 9.30-11.30am with two sessions for Headteacher talks at 9.30am and 10.30am.

Please inform the school office if any prospective parents would like to attend. Our Year 6 children are already excited about showing people around and I know they will do us proud!



## Reading volunteers

We are looking for more reading volunteers to support school. We already have some wonderful members of our school family who come into school weekly. The children benefit enormously from volunteers as positive role models in the classroom and the extra reading sessions really help improve reading confidence and enjoyment.

If you have some free time in the week to share with the children and would like to help spread the joy of reading in school, then please contact Mrs Obertelli or the school office. Any help is much appreciated by all. Thank you For all your support.

## NHS Dentist accepting children

Another dentist accepting children at the moment is The Oaks Dental Practice, Preston Road, Chorley. For more information or to register your child please call 01257 230230.

## PTFA Meetings

Thank you to all parents who joined the online meeting this week. The team have some lovely events planned for Autumn term.



The next meeting is the PTFA AGM meeting on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm.**

This will take place **in school** and refreshments will be provided – **cheese, wine, hot/cold drinks.** We need as many parents as possible please to attend this meeting so that we have enough votes to elect committee members.

We are still looking for people to offer to take on the role of chair or be a co-chair and vice-chair of the committee. We would love you **ALL** to join us and this is also a great opportunity to welcome new members to our already amazing team!

To join in please message [euxtoncofeptfa@gmail.com](mailto:euxtoncofeptfa@gmail.com), contact the school office or feel free to turn up in the day.



### **PTFA Autumn Disco**

**Thursday, 17th October:**

- Reception, Y1 and Y2: 5.45pm-6.30pm (a parent needs to accompany their Reception child)
- Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6: 6.45pm-7.45pm

Tickets are on sale from the school office. Please send **£3.50** in a named envelope and tickets will be sent home with your child. Tickets are **£3.50/child in advance** or **£4.00** on the night.

Ticket price includes a drink. Tuck shop available on the night. If you can offer some time to help out please contact Helena (euxtoncofeptfa@gmail.com) or the school office and we can add your name to the list of helpers. We hope to see you there!

### **Communication via School Spider App**

Thank you for your patience as we adapt to a new method of school communication. As with any new system there are always teething problems. We are all learning together and we appreciate your support towards staff as they help solve any issues.

If you haven't already done so, **Parents' Evening** slots are available to book via the App until 12pm on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October**.

### **Healthy Snacks**



As a school we like to promote a healthy balanced diet. Please support us by only sending children into school with healthy (nut-free) snacks. We are still seeing lots of children bringing crisps and chocolate based snacks into school. If children have toast in the morning, they will only need one snack for afternoon play if needed. Fruit is provided for free for infant children.

### **Festive dates ahead**

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November – PTFA Christmas Fair at school 11am-1pm

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December - Infant Nativity. Performances will be at 2pm and 6pm.

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December – Whole school trip to see Cinderella at King George's Hall, Blackburn.

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Y5 and Y6 Christingle in the afternoon.

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Parties

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December -Grandparents' Coffee Morning 9.30-10.30am (a list will be in the office after half term – we will let you know when it is open).

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December – Carols in the hall from 2.45pm

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December – End of term. Please note there is no after school club on this day and we will now finish the school day at 1.30pm.

Have a great weekend.

Best wishes,

Mrs Mairi Ash  
Headteacher

**In our Christian family, we all SHINE in the light of Jesus.**

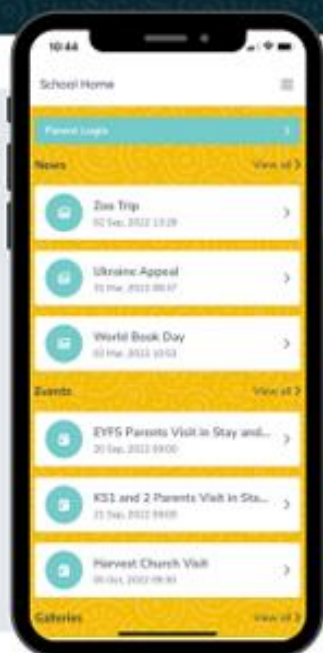
Wisdom Compassion Humility Friendship Peace Trust Forgiveness Hope

# Guide to our app for parents & carers



School Spider allows you to receive and return information directly to and from the school. Receive instant messages, complete surveys, book your parents' evenings and report absences.

Select your school to get started!



## How to get started

Once you have selected the school, you will see posts from the school website. Click parent dashboard to login or create an account. Create an account by pressing "create account" and enter your email address.

**You must have your email linked with the school!**

## Take a look around...

See all action items on your dashboard

Click to respond or book for each child



Click the envelope to see your recent messages

Click these 3 lines to:

- Switch between areas
- Edit your profile
- Logout

**DOWNLOAD NOW**



EUXTON CE PTFA PRESENTS



*Autumn*  
**DISCO**

**TICKETS £3.50 IN  
ADVANCE  
OR £4 ON THE DOOR**

INCLUDES FREE DRINK

**17TH OCTOBER 2024  
5.45-6.30 PM - R, Y1, Y2  
6.45-7.45PM - Y3-6**

**RECEPTION PARENTS WELCOME TO STAY**

**REG CHARITY 1046492**

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# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about IN-GAME CHAT

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Video games are continuing to grow in popularity – including, of course, among children and young people – and the emergence of gaming communities has been accelerated by the inclusion of chat functionality across many different titles. While in-game chat isn't inherently a bad thing, it can create some concerns about online safety and the people that children might be interacting with.

## DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT

There are a number of ways that gamers commonly chat with one another online. As the name would suggest, in-game chat happens within the game itself. There's also party chat: a group voice conversation that console users can have with anyone on the same platform. This tends to be more commonly used by players who already know each other. Finally, many gamers – especially on PC – will chat via a third-party app such as Discord.

## CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Whether it's text- or voice-based, in-game chat is frequently open to all players to use. Many games default to making it an opt-in function, but some don't: meaning a child could start seeing messages within the game from people they're playing with, regardless of whether they know those individuals or not. While most strangers won't necessarily have ill intent, there are some who may behave inappropriately when chatting to a child – intentionally or otherwise.

## DANGER OF GROOMING

It's been reported that some young gamers have encountered older players online who pretend to be a lower age to manipulate children, sending gifts in exchange for chatting and sending photos. Just as on any messaging platform, it's good to advise young people to avoid speaking to strangers; emphasise that they shouldn't accept gifts from anyone online that they don't know.

## BULLYING AND ABUSE

While some in-game chat can turn toxic because of how a match plays out, others turn that way because of people who engage in trolling – in essence, behaving in an offensive and abusive way simply to cause pain or get a rise out of whoever they're talking to. These 'trolls' often lean on racial slurs, anti-LGBT sentiment and other hateful rhetoric; they normally feel most confident preying on younger, more impressionable gamers.

## POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE CHAT

If a player would like a re-match with a stranger after meeting them in the game, they can send a friend request, or use the party chat together in the future. For the most part, this is harmless – but it might lead to messages being exchanged in private. This could then escalate to the sharing of private information, and potentially attempts to manipulate or scam younger players.

## COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE

Certain games are very competitive, and players can sometimes get upset if they feel a teammate is underperforming, an opponent won unfairly, or they're just a bad loser. This can lead to unpleasant messages that stray away from playful 'trash talk' and wander into the territory of bullying. Some players have been known to get incredibly abusive in situations like this, and the impact of this on a young gamer's emotional wellbeing could be severe.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT

In-game chat can often be disabled in the game's settings. This allows children to play without risk of contact from strangers – but it will need to be done in each individual game. Text chat appears in the corner of the screen in many titles, so it's normally easy to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the dangers themselves.

### REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS

Most games offer a robust means of reporting other players, so you can flag an account as potentially harmful. This normally leads to the account not being matched with yours in the future and, if that person's conduct breaks any of the game's rules, they may be banned from playing entirely. This is done within the game itself, so each title has a slightly different process, but these tend to be designed for simplicity.

### CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS

If a child wants to play with people they know, consider using party chat or a third-party service like Discord. This allows everyone involved to chat on a private server and even enjoy each other's company while playing different games. It's also far more secure, as anyone looking to join will need to request and be granted access – normally by whoever is hosting the chat.

### COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Make sure children understand the differences between being competitive and being abusive. Talk about what constitutes unusual or inappropriate behaviour from strangers online. Be clear that if anything ever concerns or worries them, they should tell a trusted adult as soon as possible. Empower children to identify the risks of in-game chat for themselves and reassure them they won't get in trouble for seeking help if anything goes wrong.

## Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon and has been working in the games media industry for five years. He's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at [nationalcollege.com/guides/in-game-chat](https://nationalcollege.com/guides/in-game-chat)

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