



HEADTEACHER'S BLOG

We have started a theme this half term in our Thursday Thoughts assemblies around the importance of keeping safe which will involve exploring safety in the home, on the roads, stranger danger, staying safe online and that our pants are private. I hope you will support our work here talking through these areas with your child and you can find further support for keeping safe online on our [website page](#). It contains information on how you can create restrictions on devices at home and monitor your child's online activities on tablet devices and mobile phones. As a parent, I know it is a minefield whilst we continue to monitor devices our children have access to and that unfortunately the world wide web has inappropriate content that our children get exposed to, even with the best filters and monitoring. Therefore, we always say to our children that they must tell an adult if they come across something that makes them feel uneasy, where they will never be in trouble for telling. Our school motto is to be SMART as explained on the next page of the newsletter; this poster is displayed around the school.

Driving our keeping safe theme is that the staff focus this week has been on safeguarding. Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 has been published and we have updated our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy accordingly. New focuses include: a wider definition of domestic abuse to include emotional and coercive behaviours following the instruction of the new Domestic Abuse Act 2021; the review findings of Ofsted's study into sexual abuse in schools (which includes peer-on-peer sexual abuse and harassment); and child sexual and criminal exploitation and county lines where staff have explored a scenario based on this. Online safety and mental health are also featured. We all have our role to play because it is everyone's responsibility to safeguard our children and families. To our new families, I am the Safeguarding Lead for the school and Mr Herd, our deputy head, is the Deputy Safeguarding Lead should you wish to get in contact with us.

Yesterday, I attended my first principal leaders' meeting under the Aspire MAT. Already, we have a calendar of meetings as subject leaders and responsibility leaders with colleagues of other primary schools in the MAT sharing best practice. Also, we have purchased a new phonics scheme, Little Wandle, with the MAT where we have a significant cost saving. The meeting was online via TEAMS, but it was great to work with like-minded headteachers where we are all focused on similar priorities with our own contexts taking into account the current challenges. We reviewed the 'return to school' data and it was shared that schools would not be attending the MEN Young Voices concert this academic year following the risk assessment; I hope you appreciate this was a difficult decision evaluating the risk / benefit.

Currently in our assemblies, we are putting British Sign Language to our songs - I hope your children have shared this with you because we are getting really good.

Finally, I would like to confirm that we have families and pupils positive with Covid. This is in agreement with the recent CE statistics which are showing an increase in Macclesfield. If anyone in your household tests positive for Covid, please can I remind you that all members of the household then need to book a PCR test under the current guidance. We started the academic year with staff absent due to positive tests and are thankful that families and staff are managing their symptoms well, but please bear in mind that we are already needing to employ supply cover to support the school operation.

Take care and thank you for your continued support.
Mrs Gill

LUNCH REMINDER

School dinners cost £2.35 per day. Lunches **must** be paid for in advance. Where payment is not received, you may be asked to provide a packed lunch until payment is received.

DINNER MENU—W/C 20.09.2021 ** Week 1 **

The menu can be viewed [here](#) on our school website.

INCOME RELATED FREE SCHOOL MEALS

You can claim free school meals for each child who attends school in Cheshire East if you receive one of these benefits:

- Universal Credit with no earned income or with net monthly earnings less than £616.67
- Income Support
- Income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income related Employment Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit - as long as you have a yearly household income of less than £16,190 (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) and do not get Working Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

We suggest you do make a claim for free school meals even if your child is in early years or key stage 1 as the school can claim additional funding (pupil premium) for new equipment and resources.

You can apply for nursery-age children if they attend before and after lunch sessions

To apply phone 0300 123 5012 or apply through the [Cheshire East website](#)

For further information or help please contact our Pupil Premium lead, Mrs Hayhurst, at lhayhurst@ivybank.cheshire.sch.uk



UNIFORM

Please can we ask that the children wear the correct footwear—black leather shoes, **not** black sports shoes/trainers.

Hairstyles should be appropriate please.

VANDALISM

If you see anyone on the school site who you believe should not be here, please phone 999, not 101, so the police can attend whilst the perpetrators are in action.



WE ARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA



We have a "closed" parents [Facebook group](#) and a [Facebook Page](#). Or if you're a Twitter user, [follow us](#) on there!

NURSERY FUN!



SMART POSTER

Be smart on the internet

Childnet International
www.childnet.com

S SAFE Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information – such as your full name, email address, phone number, home address, photos or school name – to people you are chatting with online.

M MEETING Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents' or carers' permission and even then only when they can be present.

A ACCEPTING Accepting emails, IM messages, or opening files, pictures or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems – they may contain viruses or nasty messages!

R RELIABLE Information you find on the internet may not be true, or someone online may be lying about who they are.

T TELL Tell your parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online. You can report online abuse to the police at www.thinkuknow.co.uk

www.kidsmart.org.uk

KidSMART Visit Childnet's Kidsmart website to play interactive games and test your online safety knowledge. You can also share your favourite websites and online safety tips by Joining Hands with people all around the world.

LOCAL EVENT

Wildier Weekend Macclesfield

Cheshire Wildlife Trust

25-26th September

West Park

- * Hedgehog trail in partnership with Macclesfield primary schools
- * Nature crafts
- * Nature scavenger hunt
- * Help us create a wild flower meadow

Macclesfield Leisure Centre

- * Wild sports day
- * Wellbeing with nature walk
- * Become a local wildlife recording champion using the iNaturalist app

Town Centre, St Michael's Church, Macclesfield

- * Come and make a pledge for wildlife
- * Get advice and resources on how to help wildlife on your doorstep
- * Connect with local nature and environmental groups

Drop in activities throughout the weekend or book online at cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk to secure your spot

cheshire wildlife trust
@CheshireWT
@Cheshirewildlifetrust

#wildiermacclesfield
cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

Registered charity number: 214327
A company limited by guarantee in England no: 745931

PTA NEWS

Friends of Ivy Bank will be holding the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday 4th October at 7pm. The meeting will be held online and you can take part by clicking [THIS LINK](#). Please join us to meet the team, hear our plans, and offer some input into fundraising ideas. *We have many exciting plans for the 2021/2022 academic year, and would love your support.*

SICK OF BUYING EXPENSIVE UNIFORM THAT IS LOST WITHIN A WEEK?!

The PTA have their very own [pre-loved uniform shop](#). Follow the link and grab a bargain...delivery to your child's class without having to trawl the shops!

Please report any positive covid results as soon as possible to covid@ivybank.cheshire.sch.uk