



NEWSLETTER:26th JANUARY 2024

Dear Families

As you know, we have a new attendance policy which we have shared with you recently <https://stjosephsstanley.bwcet.com/statutory-information/policies-related-documents/> We have also shared each child's individual attendance for autumn term 2023 with families. As part of the next stage of implementing this policy, we will be issuing letters where a pupil's attendance is below 97%. This information will be based on the dates from Tuesday 5th September 2023 – Friday 26th January 2024.

Where this is the case, attendance will be closely monitored for a period of 4 weeks. After this period, if attendance concerns remain, you may be called into school to discuss how improvements can be made and what further support is necessary to ensure your child is able to attend school regularly.

Staffing Update

Mrs Jones is leaving us at the end of this 1/2 term. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to her for her contribution to St Joseph's. We will keep you updated regarding any new appointments.

Ben & Jet

This week, the boys and girls in EYFS were lucky enough to have not 1, not 2 but 3 special visitors in school! They all listened carefully and found out all about the job of a police officer. They then learnt more about police dogs and even got the chance to stroke Jet and Ben (if they were feeling brave enough!). There was also a selection of police uniform which the children were very excited to try on - I think we may have some future police officers on our hands!



Centre for Life

As part of their class studies children in Year 2 & Year 5 will be going on a visit to the Centre for Life on Friday 1st March. Please complete the form using the link below to advise us if your child requires a school packed lunch.

Year 2 <https://forms.office.com/e/VNuqnxjJHy>

Year 5 <https://forms.office.com/e/d2Ru8maGRt>

Newcastle Theatre Royal

As part of their class studies, children in Year 4 will be going on a visit to Newcastle Theatre Royal on Thursday 2nd May to see "The Boy at the Back of the Class".

A voluntary contribution towards the cost of these trips would be very much appreciated and can be paid via ARBOR. Donations can be paid in instalments (e.g. £2.00 a week) if you wish. Your donations do make a difference to what we can offer the children.

On-Line Safety Workshop for Parents

We are holding an "On-line Safety" workshop for parents on Tuesday 6th February at 3:15 pm. There is a cost to school for this workshop and we would be obliged if you could complete the form using the link below to advise us if you are able to attend.

<https://forms.office.com/e/ugrvL6b4xS>

Times Table Rock Star

This week's 'Rockstar of the Week' is **Harry**! Well done for your amazing multiplication and fantastic studio speed! Children can see all our previous TTRS winners on our 'Times Table Rockstars' display board outside the Year 6 classroom.

This week has been the first week of the 'Battle of the Classes' KS2 tournament. This week's winners are **Year 5** with 156 points. This puts them straight to the top of the table, well done!

St Joseph's are currently **9th** on the TTRS leaderboard for schools in our area. We currently have an average time of 3.78 seconds to answer each question which is very quick!

House Points

Children can earn house points from all staff during the week.

Congratulations to St Oswald who earned the most house points this week.

Star of the Week

The following children have received a Star of the Week certificate this week:



Nursery	Efetobore	For always trying her best and joining in during carpet sessions.
Reception	Noah	For showing such enthusiasm for all that we do, always trying his best!
Year 1	Sayuni	For trying her best to use her phonics when writing.
Year 2	Olivia	For trying her best to be independent in her work.
Year 3	Madeline	For always having a positive and enthusiastic attitude to work
Year 4	Cade	For some fantastic work in Maths this week, multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100.
Year 5	Chloe	For an excellent Apollo 11 recount
Year 6	Nathan	For some excellent algebra work in maths this week

Attendance

We aim to provide the highest quality education for our pupils. We know that they will only benefit fully from this high-quality school experience if they attend regularly and on time. When pupils are absent, they risk missing out on our carefully planned curriculum. Research also tells us that pupils who miss school can sometimes struggle to develop secure and lasting friendships.

This week's attendance is 95.7%

Our target is 97%

Nursery	Reception	Year1	Year2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
95.6%	96.6%	97.6%	98.5%	96.1%	91.4%	94.8%	95.1%

Lateness

This week, on average, 21 **children were late for school**. This is a slight increase in numbers. A reminder that children are welcomed into school from 8.40 in readiness for 8.45 start. If you are still approaching school at 8.45, your children will arrive late into class which is unsettling for them. Please give your children a relaxed start to the school day by arriving on time.

Online Safety

Encourage your child to think critically and question what they see online. Talk to them about where they go to get information they trust, talk about fake news, fake followers and scams. Help them develop a healthy suspicion of whether people are who they say they are.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MYLOL

AGE RESTRICTION
13-19

MyLOL is a free social networking and dating site aimed at teens. Profiles can publicly display users' images and information, including sexual orientation and personal interests. The service bills itself as "the number one teen dating website in the world", claiming to have more than a million users globally. Despite its popularity, the MyLOL app is no longer available from Google Play or the App Store, although the site is still active. In some countries, police forces and schools have previously warned parents about "sinister predators" and "inappropriate activities" on the site.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

FLimsy AGE GATES

Although MyLOL states it is exclusively aimed at users aged between 13 and 19, there is no credible age verification system to prevent a younger child – or an older adult – from signing up to the platform. Coupled with the fact that it's impossible to establish a user's true identity on MyLOL, this raises a serious concern that the site could be used for grooming.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

MyLOL maintains that it monitors all uploaded images for nudity or sexual content. It also claims to be able to detect suspicious keywords. However, there have been numerous reports of explicit content being found on the platform, with users often posting provocative, semi-nude pictures of themselves and engaging in flirty or sexually explicit conversation.

POTENTIAL CYBER-BULLYING

MyLOL lets users 'vote' on other people based solely on their appearance, much in the same vein as the now-defunct site Hot or Not. This feature could easily lead to distress and bullying, especially if a young person's profile pics receive an unfavourable response. Various reviews of MyLOL have noted that bullying frequently becomes an issue in the platform's chat groups and private messages.

IN-APP SPENDING

MyLOL is free to join and use, but it also offers paid-for memberships. Users who have paid money get their profiles promoted at the top of the site and in search results. They can also earn additional credits for increased engagement with the platform – such as sharing, replying to messages and voting. At the time of writing, the monthly membership fee was \$9.95 (just under £8).

DATA COLLECTION

According to its privacy policy, MyLOL collects user data including email addresses, contact details and interests. While the company says it is committed to protecting users' privacy, the same policy states that information may be shared externally. MyLOL claims to follow procedures to keep data secure, but does not specify what these procedures are, or whether such information is encrypted.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

MyLOL makes it easy to connect with strangers. In fact, the site's rewards feature encourages users to send private messages to people they don't know. There have been several media stories of adults posing as teens on MyLOL to connect with minors, which could lead to extremely dangerous situations, such as a young person meeting up with someone who has been posing under a false identity.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DISCUSS ONLINE DATING

It's vital to talk to your child about the possible dangers of platforms like MyLOL – particularly the threat of online predators. Remind them of the risks of sharing intimate images and information with strangers and emphasise that most people don't realise they're being 'catfished' until it's too late – it really isn't wise for a young person to meet up with someone they've only spoken to online.

EXPLAIN PRIVACY RISKS

Before your child begins using a service such as MyLOL, it's important that they understand the potential pitfalls of giving out their personal data on this type of platform. Explain to them, for example, that they shouldn't divulge any personally identifying information to people who they don't know, as scammers can be quite convincing when attempting to steal someone's identity.

RESTRICT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child has access to a bank card or other payment method, they may be enticed into signing up for MyLOL's premium features. Having their profile boosted and receiving more attention could be especially tempting if their friends also use the site. You could consider altering their device's settings to disable internet purchases, or at the very least keeping an eye on their online spending.

SET UP LOCATION ALERTS

If you're worried that your child may be planning to meet up with someone they've met on MyLOL, you could consider utilising GPS or WiFi location tracking technology to follow their whereabouts in real time. You can even set up a virtual boundary or 'fence' and opt to receive an alert to your phone if your child enters or exits a specified area.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of TechRadar's magazine, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.

The National College

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