



QUORN HALL
SCHOOL

Notes from our Headteacher

It was my greatest honour to represent the school alongside Anna, our Head of Therapy, at the National Association of Special School Annual Awards Ceremony. We were shortlisted for the 'Breaking Barriers Award', an award in recognition of the work that we do with all stakeholders outside of the school to support our pupils.

I am delighted to say Quorn Hall School won the award for maintaining provision throughout the school holidays during the pandemic. In particular supporting pupils for whom their home lives were either extremely challenging or care placements were at risk of breaking down.

In this way the staff were able to mitigate some of the additional pressure we all felt as families during the pandemic. I am incredibly proud of the staff who worked during their holidays to help our pupils and families and it is lovely for them to be recognised nationally for their tenacity and diligence when it comes to supporting our pupils.



It has also been really lovely welcoming everyone back to school following our summer break, and I am also extremely proud of the new pupils that have started. It is always hard to start a new school, particularly as we are journeying out of lockdown and I thank all the staff, parents/carers and other pupils for their help in making the transition to a new school as stress free as possible.

We look forward to welcoming all our pupils back after our half term break.



Antonia Jackson

Headteacher

Please Note:

You may need to click *View Entire Message* at the end of the email to enjoy this newsletter in full! You may also need to click to display images to appreciate the images in this newsletter.



Monday 18th October – Friday 29th October

Half Term

Tuesday 7th December

KS2 Parents/carers evening – 3.30pm

Wednesday 8th December

KS3 Parents/carers evening – 3.30pm

Thursday 9th December

KS4 Parents/carers evening – 3.30pm

Monday 20th December 2021 – Monday 3rd January

Christmas Holidays

Friday 31st December 2021

INSET day

Tuesday 4th January 2022

School opens for pupils

IMMUNISATION SESSIONS AT SCHOOL

The Community Immunisation Service from Leicestershire Partnership

NHS Trust will be delivering vaccinations at your school for the:
Seasonal flu vaccination for school age children (Reception to Year 11)
on Wednesday, 08-Dec-2021
Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination for young people (school Year 8)
on Tuesday, 07-Sep-2021
and Friday, 10-Jun-2022 (including outstanding doses for young people in school Year 9)
Teenage booster + meningitis ACWY vaccination for young people (school Year 9)
on Friday, 11-Feb-2022
Covid-19 vaccination for young people (school Year 8 to Year 11*)
For dose 1 on Monday, 22-Nov-2021
For dose 2 on Friday, 28-Jan-2022

Any updates to share?

ð The flu vaccination programme will now be expanded and the vaccination will be offered to all children from Reception to school Year 11.

ð Following the Covid-19 pandemic and the successful implementation of the Covid-19 vaccination programme in adults, we are anticipating a decision from the government if the Covid-19 vaccine will be offered to young people.

ð Should this be confirmed, we are anticipating that this will be given within a school setting this autumn as a two dose course. Thus, in the interest of planning we are sharing provisional dates with you for this programme as well.

ð *Please note that we are also awaiting confirmation about the age range that the Covid vaccination offer will be extended to.

ð The planning for the programme this year has been a more complex exercise than usual and we are keen to work closely with schools to ensure that children are offered the vital protection that vaccinations offer and that they are given within recommended timeframes.

ð We recognise that Covid-19 will have impacted the way that your school works (for example, introducing social distancing measures) and we are keen to continue working alongside you to support the safety of children, young people and school staff.

ð The team will continue wearing uniforms and utilising Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in school sessions in adherence to the latest guidelines as advised by Public Health England.

What's next?

- Please take a note of these dates and save them in your calendar for the next academic year.

- Further details will be shared with you in the new autumn term.

Forest School

Liam has continued to develop his fire lighting skills in Forest School this term. He has been using cotton wool but has recently used charcloth to light his fires.



Edward created a willow weave and learnt about how Iron Age people also used the same technique but on a grander scale to build their roundhouses and protective fences.



Pupdate...

Basil has been doing his homework so he can support some pupils with their reading.

Perhaps he is pondering on whether to get some more pet friends to join him in school!



Basil the horse whisperer... he certainly has a certain charm when it comes to our pupils but it looks like this skill extends to horses too! Basil thoroughly enjoyed making new friends on his visit to the stables!



The pupils have done an amazing job teaching Basil some new tricks. Rewarded with yummy treats of course! It's a hard life being Basil...



Mandela Class

We have been busy this term.

The pupils in Mandela class have been working hard on their reading and writing assessments, they all did so well with everyone making improvements.

We have been reading everywhere... including our local park!



Mandela has also benefitted from a school trip this half term to the beautiful Beaumanor Hall in Quorn, where the pupils enjoyed developing their rope tying and lashing skills and working together as a team.



Student Council News

Student Council have met weekly since the term began with a keen focus on school trips and how they can all work towards making them happen in a fair and cost effective way.

Their first task was to choose and purchase new Science books, which we are happy to say arrived this week.

Student Council members will be promoting the importance of Wellbeing and Mental Health and supporting each other in completing our Student Wellbeing questionnaire this week.

The results from this will then be a focus for the Council after half term. This research aims to help us find the best way to measure and support wellbeing in school.

Last week the council members were thrilled to meet one of the school Governors who will be joining them again in November for breakfast.



Blood Brothers



On the 15th September, Key Stage 4 pupils travelled to watch Blood Brothers at the Theatre Royal in Nottingham.



For some, this was their first trip to the theatre but they embraced the experience and it was an enjoyable afternoon for both staff and pupils.



The pupils represented the school exceptionally and as well as supporting their English learning, many also demonstrated their learning for life skills by independently buying their interval snacks.



Lower School Get Creative

Lower School are producing artwork based on books they are currently reading.

James and Alex are busy producing a display in their classroom based on the book 'Plastic Planet' by the author Neal Layton.

They have created and decorated a funky fish design using a plastic bottle,

acrylic paints and mixed media. They are also making jellyfish from plastic bottles, ready to be painted.



Boden has been making a magic wand in his Art and Design lesson, based on the book *Spiderwick Chronicles* that he is currently reading. He has also been introduced to the woodwork room for the first time and will be producing a wooden magic box. Here, Boden can be seen using the orbital sander.



What's The Point?

Two of the members of the GCSE maths class enjoyed playing the game 'What's the point?'



Players spin the arrow which lands on a picture of a fraction and they have to match it with their cards; which may have equivalent decimals or percentages.

If they are lucky, the arrow lands on the red star. This means you can put one of

your cards back in the pack. Landing on the blue star means you need to pick up an additional card!

"We played two games – Harvey won the first and Mitchell the second. I had no luck!" Ms Anderton, Maths teacher



PowerPoint Fun

Did you know that PowerPoint has some fantastic image formatting features!

Pupils learnt how to use borders, artistic effects, layers, cropping and background removal amongst others.

They applied these skills to create unusual scenes with their staff members as the stars!





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What Parents Need to Know about



TINDER



WHAT IS TINDER?

Tinder is a free online mobile dating app regularly used by more than 60 million people worldwide. Users sign up and are matched with other people based on various preferences, such as location, age and shared interests. The user can swipe right to show interest in a profile (and connect as a match) or swipe left to ignore (decline) the match. If two users both like each other's profile and become a match, they are then able to communicate with each other directly.

AGE RATING
18

USING THE APP ...

FAKE PROFILES

Tinder doesn't require much information for a user to create a profile, which means that there's no verification of people's details. Therefore, you may have very limited information about who you are actually speaking to. This can include not knowing the real age or identity of a person that you're matched with - making it far easier to be taken in by fake profiles.

PRESSURE TO MEET

While people can find love through the app, Tinder has become synonymous with casual or short-term relationships. It allows for quick conversations which can put pressure on matches to meet up as soon as possible. This may put young users at risk of meeting individuals they don't know much about or who are only looking for sexual encounters.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Tinder let users share some of their personal details such as name and age - and link their Tinder account to Facebook. The app allows searches of a specific location, which could lead to a user discovering a young person's exact location. It's also possible that photos uploaded to Tinder could be saved and used in other ways without consent or notification.



EMOTIONAL HARM

The idea of instant feedback and satisfaction can put young people at increased risk of emotional harm. They may feel pressure to look or act a certain way and with begin to measure their self-worth based on how many matches they receive. This can have a negative long-term influence on young people's mood, self-esteem and confidence. It also strongly implies that compliance is a way to fit in and be liked.

Advice for Parents & Carers

COMMUNICATE OPENLY

Be candid with teens about the possibilities of online dating - but also discuss the potential dangers. An honest chat can help them feel more comfortable about coming to you with any future worries or concerns. This can reduce any stress they are feeling and increase their sense of security.

REPORT AND BLOCK

Tinder gives users the option to "unmatch" with someone they have previously connected with, as well as to report any inappropriate interactions they experience. If an account appears to be suspicious, then it's important teens are aware that they can unmatch with a user, block them and report them to the app itself. They can also report any inappropriate or offensive messages.

AVOID OVER-SHARING

Teenagers should seriously consider what they include on a Tinder profile. They should never disclose sensitive details - and be cautious about sharing their phone number, date of birth, email address and location. Using different profile pictures on their various social media accounts makes it tougher for someone to track them down.

MONITOR EMOTIONAL HEALTH

With cyber bullying presenting a significant risk, it's important that young people stay aware of their own emotional state. How do they feel before and after they use Tinder? Help them to identify when it might be time to take a break from the app and consider ways they can improve their mood. They should also know who they can speak about how they are feeling or any negative experiences they may have online.

BUILD IN SAFEGUARDS

It's vitally important that young people take precautions if they want to meet up with someone from Tinder. This should include meeting in an extremely public place and telling a friend or family member where they are going in advance. It may be useful to decide on a code word that a young person can include in a text or call to their friend or family member, to signal that they feel unsafe on the date.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Rina Bojaj is a Consulting Psychologist, who has worked in mental health since 2008 for the NHS, statutory organisations, in the corporate world and the voluntary sector. Her areas of specialism include dating and relationships counselling, and she has diverse experience in helping people from a range of backgrounds.

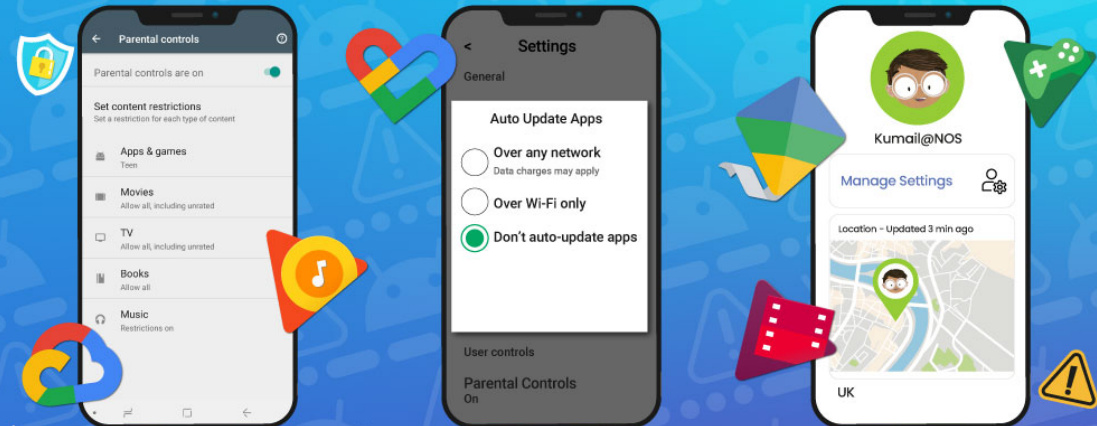


SOURCES: <https://tinder.com>, <https://apps.apple.com/uk/app/tinder-dating>, <https://www.tbs.com.au>

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How to Set up PARENTAL CONTROLS for APPS Android Phone

On Android phones, restricting access to particular apps usually requires going onto Google Play. From there, it's fairly easy to navigate your way through the settings to manage the parental controls and authentications relating to any apps on the device. These features can prevent your child from downloading or buying anything unsuitable for their age. Updated versions of apps or games that your child has already installed may occasionally contain something inappropriate, so we've explained how to stop those, too.



How to Block App Downloads (This Also Disables In-app Purchases):

- 1 Open Google Play Store
- 2 Tap the profile icon in the top right
- 3 Tap Settings
- 4 Scroll down to the Family section and tap Parental controls
- 5 Toggle 'Parental controls are off' to 'Parental controls are on'
- 6 Create a PIN and tap OK
- 7 Confirm your PIN and tap OK again
- 8 Tap Apps & Games
- 9 Set the age limit you wish to set
- 10 Tap Save to apply your changes

How to Stop Auto-updates

- 1 Open Google Play Store
- 2 Tap the profile icon in the top right
- 3 Tap Settings
- 4 Tap Auto-Update Apps
- 5 Select 'Don't auto-update apps' and then tap Done

Restricting Apps Through Google Family Link

- 1 Open Google Play Family Link for parents
- 2 Tap the three horizontal lines in the top left
- 3 Select your child's account
- 4 Tap Manage
- 5 Tap Controls on Google Play
- 6 Tap Apps & Games
- 7 Select the age limit you wish to set



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How to Set up PARENTAL CONTROLS for APPS iPhone

Apple devices come with built-in apps already available: Mail, FaceTime and Safari, for example. However, you can choose which apps and features appear on your child's device and which ones don't. You can also manipulate the features in Game Centre to enhance your child's safety and privacy when playing games, as well as blocking iTunes or App Store purchases if you wish.



How to Restrict Built-in Apps/Features

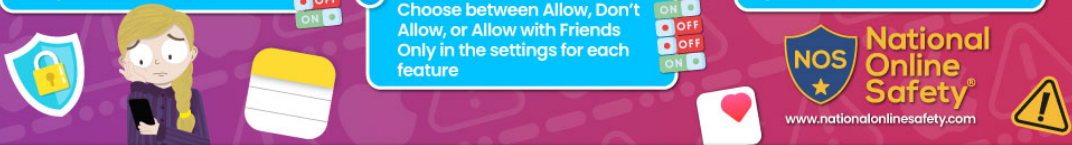
- 1 Open Settings
- 2 Tap Screen Time
- 3 Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
- 4 Tap Allowed Apps (you may need to toggle this to 'on' at the top)
- 5 Enable or disable the apps you wish to appear (or disappear) on your child's device

How to Restrict Game Centre

- 1 Open Settings
- 2 Tap Screen Time
- 3 Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
- 4 Tap Content Restrictions (you may need to switch the toggle at the top to the 'on' position)
- 5 Scroll down to Game Centre
- 6 Choose between Allow, Don't Allow, or Allow with Friends Only in the settings for each feature

How to Restrict iTunes & App Store Purchases

- 1 Open Settings
- 2 Tap Screen Time
- 3 Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
- 4 Tap iTunes & App Store Purchases
- 5 Select Allow or Don't Allow for each feature (you can also lock these settings with a password)



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What Parents Need to Know about POKÉMON GO

AGE RESTRICTION PEGI 7

Pokémon GO has been among the world's most popular mobile games since its spectacular release in 2016. It's recently enjoyed a resurgence, thanks partly to people combining entertainment and exercise during lockdown; in Pokémon GO – like the Pokémon TV show, trading card series and other video games – players capture, train and battle with their Pokémon creatures; physically exploring locations while using augmented reality via their phone's screen. The game generally provides a positive experience, but there are still some safety concerns to consider.

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

Pokémon GO requires players to visit in-game landmarks like Pokéstops and Gyms. These are often situated at public real-world locations such as churches or post offices. Sometimes, however, they can inadvertently end up being placed in dangerous areas which are unsuitable for children, even when accompanied by an adult near a construction site or a main road, for example.

STRANGERS & MEETING OFFLINE

Players often cooperate with friends in the game, and there are many online discussion hangouts. As well as sharing tips and info, these groups may arrange to meet offline to catch Pokémon or attend raids (communal events where players flock to the same real-world place for a mass battle). This can put children at risk of being messaged and invited to meet by strangers under the pretence of talking about the game.

DATA COLLECTION

When a player logs into their Pokémon GO account, the game collects personal data about the user and their device. Locations, emails, names, ages and even camera images can all be accessed. What then happens to this information is open to debate. Nintendo, the game's developers, maintain that they do not sell user information to third parties – but the fact that they have it at all is a concern, nonetheless.

VISIBLE PROFILES & LOCATION

Pokémon GO players can add each other as 'friends' in the game by sharing their trainer codes. Two trainers who do this can then view each other's information, such as their username. If a username gives any clues to the player's real name or personal details, a stranger may then be able to look them up online. The game also lets users upload images to social media, which could publicly disclose a child's exact location.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

The game uses a currency called Pokécoins, which can be bought for real money (in bundles between £0.79 and £99.99) and exchanged for in-game items such as Pokéballs and berries. It's extremely easy for a child to purchase Pokécoins (even accidentally) if there's a payment method connected to their mobile phone – and possibly rack up a sizeable bill without realising it!

Advice for Parents & Carers

PLAY ALONGSIDE YOUR CHILD

Finding and catching Pokémon with young ones could turn into a great mutual hobby. At 25 years old, it's one of the few games franchises that spans two generations. Enjoying the game together will give you plenty of new things to talk about with your child – and if you played Pokémon in your own childhood, you might impress them with your knowledge of the digital critters!

ENCOURAGE AWARENESS

Remind your child of the physical dangers they could face while catching Pokémon and emphasise staying aware of their surroundings. The game will often alert children (through their phone) when they are close to an interesting Pokémon item – usually sending them excitedly rushing off to find it – so they should never play Pokémon GO near busy roads or in places they don't know well.

DISGUISE THE EXERCISE

One of Pokémon GO's benefits is that it encourages young (and not-so-young!) ones to get exercise outdoors. Some parts of the game can be completed from home, but it's best experienced while walking around your local area. Certain tasks (like visiting Pokéstops) can be repeated every day – and an hour outside having fun catching Pokémon will hardly feel like exercise at all!

USE AN OLDER PHONE

If children use an older phone to play Pokémon GO, then they won't be walking around with their own new device, which could get broken or stolen. Parents are also far less likely to have left a credit card linked to the old mobile. It also means that you can limit the amount of information used to set up an account, and what companies who gain access to your data can do with it.

AGREE PLAY BOUNDARIES

Ensure your child knows where they are (and aren't) allowed to go searching for Pokémon, when they have to be home, and how often they can play the game. Talk to other young Pokémon GO fans' parents or carers to see what boundaries they set for their children. Lunchtimes (if allowed by the school) or after school are ideal times for getting some exercise and catching all those Pokémon!

Meet Our Expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for several years as a writer, actor and presenter. He is the gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, USA Today Gaming and GameRant. Having started gaming at a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work – but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.





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#WakeUpWednesday

SOURCES: <https://beebreaker.com/blog/pokemon-go-safe>
<https://beebreaker.com/games/pokemon-go-announces-quality-of-life-updates-for-february-2021/>

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