



Wisdom Courage Respect



Newsletter 9
24th January 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and members of our school community,

Welcome to the ninth newsletter of the academic year. We have all enjoyed settling into the new term. This week we celebrated World Religion Day on Monday and the children across school impressed me with their knowledge and understanding of faith and the importance of peace and mutual understanding between religions. Next week is National Storytelling Week and then we have Children's Mental Health Week at the start of February. All classes will be completing work on these areas alongside their usual studies.

New road markings

We are very pleased that the new double yellow lines on the roads around school have now been painted. Thank you to all the parents who have supported this and we hope this leads to safer parking around school at busy times.

Arrival and collection

Please remember that the school gates are open from 8:45 to 8:55am. It is important that all children arrive in school on time to prevent issues with pupils missing lessons. Collection time is 15:25 for Early Years and Key Stage One and 15:30 for Key Stage Two. Please can all parents endeavor to arrive on time. The gate will stay open until 15:40.

Communicating with staff

Sometimes, things can happen either at home or at school meaning you need to speak to staff in school. If this is the case, please call Mrs Barrett or email enquiries@ancaster.lincs.sch.uk. We can then forward your query on to the appropriate staff members. Simple messages can be shared with teachers/teaching assistants at the

School Day Ready

#LCC_SchoolDayReady



beginning or end of each day but please be aware staff are unlikely to be able to step away from class at this time for detailed conversations. Staff are usually able to arrange to meet you or have a telephone call at a later point in the day.

LCC School Ready Campaign

Lincolnshire County Council 'School Day Ready' campaign is aimed at supporting families to set up great routines to support children at school. Their social media campaign will focus on morning routines, bedtime habits and much more. We will share further updates in future newsletters. **#LCC_SchoolDayReady**

Malicious Communication Act / Online Bullying

Nationally, over the last few years, there has been a rise in children and young people receiving a criminal record for Malicious Communications due to their online interactions with others.

Children may not understand the impact of the things they are saying online or that they could face legal repercussions. Malicious communication is the act of sending messages, pictures and, or videos with the intention of causing distress or anxiety to another person. Some examples of malicious communication include:

- threats - verbal or written threats of violence or harm to someone or their property
- harassment - repeatedly sending messages that are insulting, offensive or upsetting
- offensive messages - sending messages that are sexually suggestive, extremely rude or discriminatory
- inappropriate images - sharing embarrassing photos or videos of another individual without their consent
- false information - knowingly spreading false information about someone with the intent to cause them harm or distress. Pretending to be someone else to trick someone

Please find attached a factsheet with information for parents provided by LCC. More information can also be found here [Malicious communication - Stay Safe Partnership – Lincolnshire County Council](#).

Best wishes,

Mrs Lucy Jackson, Headteacher

Naming items

Please ensure all items coming into school are clearly named. This helps us return items to the correct owner quickly if they get misplaced. During the current colder temperatures, this will include hats, scarves and gloves 😊.

Many thanks for your help in this.



Safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone.

If you believe that a child may be a victim of neglect, abuse or cruelty call Children's safeguarding - 01522 782111 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm). This is Lincolnshire Children's Services who will take the information and log any details you wish to share. The out of hours number is 01522782333 or email lscb@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

Useful Contacts

Childline: 0800 1111

Lincolnshire Prevent Team: 0207 340 7264

Young Carers Helpline: 01522 553275

NSPCC Whistle Blowing Helpline: 08088 005000

Domestic Violence: 0808 2000 247

Samaritans: 01522 528282

Lincolnshire Social Services: 01522 872111

Anxiety UK: 08444 775774

Healthy Minds Lincolnshire is a children and young people's emotional wellbeing service. For further information, please visit their website

www.lpft.nhs.uk/young-people

If you are wishing to contact Healthy Minds regarding suitability for a referral into the service of a child or young person in your care, please contact the Here4You line on: 0800 234 6342

If you wish to contact school for additional support, our Mental Health Lead is Mr Kidd and our SENDCO is Mrs Tomlinson. Both can be contacted via enquiries@ancaster.lincs.sch.uk.

Key Dates for Spring Term

Week beginning 27th January

National Story Telling Week

Week beginning 3rd February

Children's Mental Health Week

Tuesday 4th – Safer Internet Day

Week beginning 10th February

Friday 14th – Last day of term

Half term Monday 17th to Friday 21st February inclusive

Week beginning 24th February

Monday 24th – First day of term

Week beginning 3rd March

NSPCC Assemblies and follow up work

Thursday 6th March – World Book Day

Week beginning 10th March

Science Week

Term dates can be found here –

[School term times – Lincolnshire County Council](#)

Parking

We ask all members of our school community to park with care and respect for our children and other road users.



Rule 243 of the Highway Code

This rule in the Highway Code makes it very clear that we **must not** park near a school entrance, anywhere that would prevent access for the Emergency Services or on a bend. Please take care and make sure you follow the Highway Code.

Park and Stride

The car parks at the playing field and social club are available for use for any parents to 'park and stride' each day. This may help with congestion and therefore help keep our children as safe as possible.

Staff Clubs

A huge thank you to all the staff who give up their time to run clubs after school. We have all sorts going on including Lego Club, Football, Dance and Multi-Sports to name just a few!

Please note, these start next week and run from 15:30 to 16:20.

MALICIOUS COMMUNICATION

Over the last few years, we have seen a rise in children across Lincolnshire receiving criminal records for offences covered by the Malicious Communications Act. The act has existed since 1988, so what exactly is it, and how can we, as parents, protect our children?

What is it?

Malicious communication is sending messages, pictures, and videos **intended to cause distress or anxiety** to another person. It can happen through various ways, online and offline, and can be categorised into a few types:

- **Threats:** This includes verbal or written threats of violence or harm to someone or their property.
- **Harassment:** Repeatedly sending messages that are insulting, offensive, or upsetting also known as spamming someone.
- **Offensive Messages:** This includes sending messages that are sexually suggestive, extremely rude, or discriminatory.
- **Inappropriate Images:** Sharing embarrassing photos or videos without someone's permission.
- **False Information:** Knowingly spreading false information about someone with the intent to cause them harm. Pretending to be someone else to trick someone.

The key point is that the sender's intention is to cause distress or anxiety. A single message might not be considered malicious communication, but a repeated pattern of messages intended to bully or frighten someone would be.

Impact on Children

Malicious communication can have a serious impact on children's emotional well-being. It can make them feel scared, anxious, and depressed. In severe cases, it can even lead to self-harm or suicide.

On the other hand, if your child is found guilty of malicious communication, they could be excluded from school and face criminal charges.

What can I do to protect my child from malicious communication?

There are a few things parents can do to help protect their children from malicious communication:

- **Don't Respond. Report the user. Block or Mute.** It can be tricky but it is important children try not to engage with hurtful messages as this can often make things worse. Use the report features available on the apps and then block that person from contacting you. If there is a risk they may create a new account to contact you on, use the mute feature to stop getting notifications from them.
- **Communication is key.** Taking an interest in our children's online lives, asking them who they are chatting to, what games they are playing etc will make them more confident to talk to you when things go wrong. Although it can be tempting to take the device away when things go wrong, as a method of protection, this has been shown to put a barrier up and stop children telling adults about concerns. Instead work together to deal with the issue. Report together, Block together and praise them for talking to you.
- **Teach them online safety practices.** This includes things like not sharing personal information online, being careful about who they befriend, and being selective about what they post.
- **Know your reporting options.** Most social media platforms and websites have ways to report malicious communication. Take screenshots as a way of collecting evidence, as you may want to consider reporting it to the police. [Click here](#) or visit <https://reportharmfulcontent.com> for more guidance and support on reporting harm.

How do I teach my child to be a good digital citizen?

Teaching your child to be a good digital citizen can feel overwhelming but remember it just requires the same key behaviours we already teach our children when navigating the real world. **Show respect** for others and their boundaries, be polite and speak with kindness. If you are feeling angry or overwhelmed **walk away** and take some time and space. **Don't respond** to unkind comments instead get help from a trusted adult. Remind them that their words online have **real-life consequences**. It is important to have regular conversations about what they are doing and who they are talking to. Discuss things that upset them online and how they can regulate themselves when emotions get too big. Children can often say or do things out of anger that they later regret, reinforce the need to **stop and think before reacting**. Work with them to establish **clear boundaries** for how we speak to others and what is acceptable. If you feel you need more support, reach out to your child's school and check out the sites below.

[CEOP education](#) provide lots of helpful tips for parents including on how to set boundaries.
<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/>



Internet Matters is your one stop shop for guides on how to set up parental controls on devices and on your internet.
<https://www.internetmatters.org>

Help and Advice

**internet
matters.org**

Check out our video about Malicious Communication on YouTube by clicking [here](#)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ak19CgpP9t8>

