



## Springmoor Grange School Newsletter Volume 31 – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026

### Well Done Year 6!

We would like to congratulate Year 6 for completing their Key Stage 2 SATs tests this week – the whole team are so proud of the children. They worked hard all week and demonstrated great determination, endurance, confidence and effort. Huge thank you to the staff for supporting the children so well - not only this week but in the run up as well. Well done Team SGS!

### Bike and Roll to School – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May

Between the 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> of May it is Bike and Roll to school week. This is a national event to encourage children to use their bikes or scooters to come to school to celebrate the benefits of active school commuting and the importance of safety. This year, on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May, we are asking as many children as possible to come to school on their bikes or scooters. We ask that they wear a helmet to keep them safe and that the things they bring are named. There will be two areas within the school grounds where children can keep their bike/scooter for the day. Area 1 at the main entrance and area 2 at the Y5/6 door. There will be staff around to help show children on the day.

### SpringFest Summer Fair - Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 1 - 4pm

It's back, and it's going to be bigger and better! After the amazing success of Christmas at Springmoor, we have decided to make SpringFest not only a festival of wellbeing, but also a summer fair to raise a few funds for all the amazing things we do at school. SpringFest has always been one of the highlights of the school calendar and we would love for you to join us again this year. It's a perfect opportunity to invite all parents or other family members to come along and enjoy the afternoon with us in our school grounds. You can take part in a range of wellbeing activities (we'll have to persuade Mr Webb to get hit with wet sponges again this year!) but also have the chance to support local businesses on their stalls at the fair. We will of course have the ever-popular food vans and ice cream man to keep everyone fed and watered. If you, or anyone you know, would like to book a stall, please contact the school office. Stalls can be secured with a £10 donation to school fund. We can't wait to see what this year's fair brings!



### Spennymoor Gala Day - Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July



Don't forget to pop the date in your diary for a Western themed parade with school. We need your help to come along to the parade in your best Western outfits, cowboy boots and hats and show Spennymoor what Team SGS are made of. Don't forget that anyone taking part in the parade can gain free access into Jubilee Park for the remainder of the Gala Day. Details of times and meeting places will be confirmed closer to the time.

### Weekly Class Charts Top Scorers

Reception	Lilly F	Year 4	Angel T
Year 1	Violet J	Year 5	Mollie D
Year 2	Theodore N	Year 6	Amelia M
Year 3	Sienna R		

## Attendance and Punctuality

Overall statutory attendance for the week is 94.1% and the Year Group with the highest attendance is Year 2 with 98.4%. The winning classes this week was Elm Class and Falcon Class with 100% - well done!



The overall school attendance for the academic year is 93.6% for the whole school and 94.5% for children in Reception to Year 6.

The Primary starts at 8:30am, with the gates opening from 8:20am. Please ensure that your child is at school on time so that they do not miss out on any learning. This week, we have had 483 late minutes and lost learning time.

## Dates for the Diary

Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	2pm – Kingfisher Class – Parent/Carer Workshop
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	2pm – Swallow Class – Parent/Carer Workshop
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	2pm – Owl Class – Parent/Carer Workshop
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	2pm – Y5 Parent/Carer Workshop
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	3pm Close for Half Term
<b>May Half Term</b>	
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Children back to school
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Careers Day – Summer 2
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June – Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 Multiplication Check
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Nursery – Visit to Hall Hill Farm
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June – Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	KS1 Phonics Screening Check
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	2pm – Y6 Parent/Carer Workshop
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Phototronics – Nursery Graduation Photos
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	1:30pm – Nursery Sports Day <i>Reserve Date – Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June</i>
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Y6 – Whitworth Park Transition Day
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	1:30pm – Reception Sports Day <i>Reserve Date – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June</i>
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	1:30pm – Y1/2 Sports Day <i>Reserve Date – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June</i>
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Wear Pink for Team Solan Day
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	1:30pm – Y3/4 Sports Day <i>Reserve Date – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July</i>
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	1:30pm – Y5/6 Sports Day <i>Reserve Date – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July</i>
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	1:45pm – Reception Father's Day Event
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Outdoor Education Day
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> June – Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Y6 Residential to Newby Wiske Hall
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	2pm – Y1 Parent/Carer Workshop
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	2pm – Y2 Parent/Carer Workshop
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	10:15am and 2pm – Buttercup Stay and Play
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Reception – Visit to Seaham Marina
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	SpringFest
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Years 3 and 4 – Visit to Jarrow Hall
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	1:45pm – Nursery Graduation
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	9am – Year 6 Celebration Assembly
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	2pm – Year 6 Guard of Honour
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	3pm Close for Summer
<b>Summer Holiday</b>	
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	PD Day – School Closed
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	PD Day – School Closed
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Start of New School Year – Open to Children

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](http://nationalcollege.com).

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE GROOMING

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Online grooming is when someone builds a relationship with a child or young person online to gain their trust for the purpose of sexual abuse, exploitation, radicalisation, or criminal activity – such as county lines or financial scams. According to the NSPCC, police in the UK recorded over 7,000 offences involving sexual communication with a child in a single year – an increase of 89% since 2017/18.

### STRANGERS USING FAKE IDENTITIES

Groomers often pose as children or teenagers online to build trust. They may create convincing fake profiles, share photos stolen from real people, or mimic the interests of the child. By pretending to be someone their age, they make conversations feel safe and relatable. Over time, they may ask for personal details, photos, or suggest meeting in person, exposing children to significant emotional and physical harm.

### EXPLOITATION THROUGH GIFTS AND FLATTERY

To gain trust quickly, groomers often send gifts, gaming credits, or money. Alongside material offerings, they use excessive compliments, affection, and attention to create emotional dependency. These tactics make children feel valued and special, lowering their defences. Once trust is secured, groomers may escalate their requests, often asking for photos or private conversations, making the child feel pressured or indebted to continue.

### GROUP CHATS AS HIDDEN PATHWAYS

Unmonitored group chats on platforms like WhatsApp or Discord provide a cover for groomers. They can watch how children interact, identify those who seem vulnerable, and then move conversations into private messaging. This transition makes detection difficult for trusted adults. The seemingly harmless group setting often masks the presence of predators, giving children a false sense of security.

### THE RISE OF SEXTORTION

Sextortion involves pressuring children into sharing explicit content, then blackmailing them for more. Offenders may claim to have hacked a child's device, threaten to share images with friends or family, or demand money. Many victims remain silent out of fear and shame. This growing crime is particularly dangerous because children often feel trapped, believing there's no safe way to escape the situation.

### GAMING PLATFORMS AS GROOMING GATEWAYS

Games like Roblox, Fortnite, or Call of Duty, which include live chat features, are frequent targets for groomers. Conversations often begin casually during gameplay and can become manipulative over time. Groomers may offer in-game gifts, credits, or exclusive add-ons to build rapport. Children using headsets or private chat features are especially at risk, as conversations are harder for adults to monitor.

### CRIMINAL & RADICALISATION RISKS

Grooming is not always sexual. Some offenders manipulate children into criminal activities such as drug running or online fraud. Others attempt to radicalise young people with extreme ideologies. Groomers often use fear, money, shame, or promises of belonging to control their victims. These forms of exploitation can be just as harmful as sexual grooming, and often leave lasting psychological and social consequences.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### KEEP CONVERSATIONS REGULAR

Rather than having one "big talk" about online safety, weave conversations into everyday life. Ask questions about children's online friendships and interests. Share real-life examples to make discussions relatable and encourage honesty instead of secrecy. When children feel comfortable discussing their digital lives, they are far more likely to share concerns or admit when something feels wrong, reducing the chance of risky interactions going unnoticed.

### CREATE A "TELL ME" CULTURE

Children often keep silent because they fear being punished or losing access to their devices. Reassure them that coming forward with concerns won't get them into trouble. Emphasise that you are there to help, not judge. Creating a safe, open environment encourages children to speak up if something feels wrong, and helps to ensure they don't suffer in silence when facing potential grooming risks.

### UNDERSTAND THE PLATFORMS CHILDREN USE

Take time to learn about the apps, games, and social platforms children are on. Familiarise yourself with privacy settings, parental controls, and group chat features. Use resources like The National College guides or conduct quick searches to stay updated. By understanding how these platforms operate, you'll be better equipped to set boundaries, guide safe use, and notice any unusual or concerning online behaviour early.

### STAY ALERT TO WARNING SIGNS

Be attentive to both behavioural and digital red flags. Sudden secrecy, mood swings, or new online contacts may signal a problem. Watch for unexplained gifts, new social media profiles, or changes in sleep patterns. Increased anxiety or reluctance to attend school can also be indicators. Regularly checking in and showing interest in those whom they communicate with online help prevent small issues from escalating into serious risks.

### Meet Our Expert

Staffordshire Police is dedicated to keeping people safe and tackling crime across both the physical and digital world. The force continues to strengthen its digital investigation and safeguarding capabilities to protect children and vulnerable people online, working in partnership with local, regional and national organisations, schools, and the wider community.



See full reference list on our website

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