

Leadgate Primary School – Friday Newsletter

Caring, Sharing, Learning Together

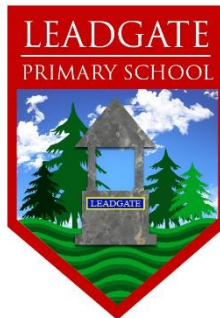
Friday 9th December 2022

On this day in history:

1868 The first traffic lights are installed outside the Palace of Westminster in London. Resembling railway signals, they use semaphore arms and are illuminated at night by red and green gas lamps.

1892 English football club Newcastle United founded.

1931 Spain becomes a republic.



**Whole School Attendance
Weekly Attendance figures**

Reception = 89.7%
Year 1 = 90.5 %
★ Year 2 = 93.4 % ★
Year 3 = 92.1%
Year 4 = 94.3%
★ Year 5 = 94.5% ★
Year 6 = 93.6 %



Congratulations

Well Done Year 2 for the best attendance in Keystage 1 and Year 5 for the best attendance in Upper School across the whole week.

Christmas JUMPER DAY



Thank you to all the children and staff who wore their Fabulous Christmas Jumper on Thursday 8th December. Everyone looked amazing and brought the joy of Christmas back into school. All monies collected will be sent to Save the Children UK Charity.

Christmas nativity story

St Ives Church

Join us on Monday 12th of December, at 10am

Leadgate Primary School
Key Stage 1 & Key Stage 2

All parents/grandparents welcome.
Come and join the celebrations!

School Dates



School Holiday Dates



The next school Holiday is Christmas and the School closes for Christmas on Friday 16th December and reopens on Wednesday January 4th.

School dates confirmed so far :

- 12th Dec – Christmas Performance Years 1 to 6 to be held at Church next to Brooms School
- 13th Dec – Year 1 Christmas Coffee, Cake and Craft
- 13th Dec – Christmas Dinner day on both sites
- 13th Dec – Early Years Christmas Performance 2.15pm
- 14th Dec – EYFS Christmas Party a.m.
- 14th Dec – Durham Music Service Vocal Concert
- 14th Dec – Keystage 1 Christmas Party

In a change to the previous date Keystage 2 Christmas Party will now be held on Wednesday 14th
Children should bring party clothes to school and they can change after lunch

Friday 16th Dec – School Closes for Christmas Holiday



3 - 17 DECEMBER

FOLLOW THE CHRISTMAS ELF TRAIL AROUND CONSETT TOWN CENTRE

Local children have been busy making Christmas elves. The elves have been up to their usual mischief and hidden themselves inside shops on Middle Street, Consett.

Can you find the elves and solve the Christmas puzzle?

Look out for the shops displaying this poster in the window and pick up a trail form in-store to find out more and get started.

Completed entries which are handed in to Empire Consett by 5.00pm on 17 December will be eligible for our Christmas prize draw!



Reception Class visits Seven Stories

Reception thoroughly enjoyed their first ever school trip to Seven Stories in Newcastle this week. They had a wonderful day exploring the reading and storytelling provision. They dressed up, played with props from some of their favourite story books, made some wonderful Christmas crafts and watched a live performance by Santa's cheeky Elves. They used their listening ears fantastically well throughout the day whilst demonstrating exemplary behaviour. They were an absolute credit to our school, parents and carers. Well done Reception!



Forest School

A huge thank you to Forest Adventures for running our fantastic Forest School this term for Year 1 and Year 2. They are really looking forward to working with Years 3 and 4 next term at Upper School however we need a few more supplies to make this an amazing lesson. Please can you look in your garages, gardens and sheds for the following:

- Log seats
- Branches (den building)
- Tyres
- tarpaulins
- Wood - splinter and nail/screw free for loose parts play

Any / All items can be left at Upper School Reception Desk. Thank you



E-Safety Update / Information

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 app of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

HiPAL

AGE RESTRICTION
12+
(with reduced functionality for under-12s)



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

HiPal is a trending social media app which turns phones into walkie-talkies, allowing people to have voice conversations with friends or strangers. There are two account options: one for users aged under 12 and one for those aged 12 or above. The former has fewer features and limits interaction with strangers, enabling use of the walkie-talkie feature or photo sharing with friends and family only. The 12+ accounts offer more options, including adding strangers as friends, sharing photos and videos publicly, sending private messages and holding voice chats with strangers as well as friends.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

HiPal's under-12 accounts don't allow direct connections with strangers (although children seeking more friends can share their 'Friend Code' on other platforms), but for older users, chatting with strangers seems to be the app's main appeal. The 'Public Square' shows nine online users (hitting 'refresh' replaces these with another nine), and clicking on someone's profile starts a conversation.

SEXTING AND SUGGESTIVE PICS

Almost immediately after our expert downloaded the app, strangers began to message privately – asking for provocative images or sharing explicit photos of themselves. Likewise, in the 'Explore' feed, many of the pictures and videos are innocent... but some are far more edacious. There is always the risk of other users secretly saving a revealing photo and re-sharing it elsewhere.

NEED FOR VALIDATION

Some users – particularly girls – post photos on apps of this type hoping for positive reactions and comments to boost their self-esteem. Suggestive images tend to attract more flattering feedback, encouraging the user to post more frequently and with more explicit content. Conversely, receiving unkind comments about their picture can impact a young user's confidence and sense of self-worth.

NO AGE GATES OR MODERATION

Although users are given an initial choice of the under- or over-12 profile, there is no verification method to confirm someone's age; it is quite clear that the 'older' option offers a more complete experience on the app, but there seems to be no content moderation in place. Likewise, there is a reporting button for users to make a complaint but these reports do not appear to be followed up.

INTRUSIVE FEATURES

HiPal's walkie-talkie gimmick is no different from a normal phone call and seems rarely used; although it allows conversations to still be heard while a phone is locked, which could have awkward results. HiPal also offers 'Boom' messages: unmissable large-text notifications which are highly distracting and briefly take over the phone – users can't access other apps until the message fades.

LARGE GROUP CHATS

The app offers group chats with up to 100 people – both friends and unknown users. This not only means excessive 'Boom' messages taking over your child's device, but near-constant notification alerts and – most worryingly – the potential for walkie-talkie chatting and sharing photos with strangers outside parental supervision and apparently with no moderation from the platform itself.

Advice for Parents & Carers

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Remind your child of the dangers of connecting with strangers online. Some may be using the app innocently; others may have more sinister intentions. Encourage your child to consider what information they disclose in private messages and emphasise that they should inform a trusted adult if someone on the internet ever attempts to persuade them to meet in person.

TALK ABOUT SEXTING

It can be an awkward conversation (which young people are often reluctant to have), but it's vital to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sharing explicit images, as well as the emotional impact. Make it clear your child should never feel pressured into sexting – and that they should tell a trusted adult if they receive any unwanted explicit images.

BUILD RESILIENCE

With HiPal's lack of moderation, it's imperative that children are prepared for comments they might receive after uploading an image. You can build their resilience and equip them to manage these situations by having them show you any comments they've received. Together, discuss how the nice ones made them feel – and what they could do if someone posted a comment that upset them.

AVOID OVER-SHARING

Young people should think carefully about what they share in their profile, bio and posts. Talk to your child about not disclosing personal details such as phone numbers, other social media accounts or images which could reveal where they live or go to school. It's essential for children to recognise that strangers can assemble a detailed profile of someone based on things they can find online.

CONSIDER MENTAL WELLBEING

Many users on HiPal publicly share photos that are intended to be alluring in the hope of gaining more likes, friends and positive feedback – boosting their self-esteem and making them feel more self-assured. When young people regularly engage with social media platforms, it's important that parents and carers keep in mind the potential impact such platforms can have on mental wellbeing.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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#WakeUpWednesday

<https://hipal.app/about/privacy.html>



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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 07.12.2022

Dear Parents and Carers,
Over the Christmas holiday period, Kalma Life are running free holiday activity clubs with Fun and Food fully funded by Durham County Council for all children in and around the Consett area.

Each day there will be a range of fun yoga activities, games, crafts, workshops, mindfulness and more aimed at primary aged children between 4-11 years old. A morning snack, lunch and drinks will also be provided for each child. Any dietary requirements must be noted on the booking.

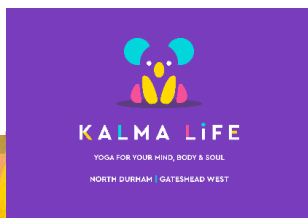
Please note there are no limitations to how many sessions your child can attend however, there are a maximum of 20 places each day and bookings are to be made on an individual daily basis via the website below. Priority will also be given to children eligible for free school meals.

As the places are limited and very sought after, we respectfully ask that any sessions that can't be attended due to illnesses etc we are told about so the place can be given to another family to benefit from. If we are not informed and 2 or more dates are missed, then we will assume you no longer require the remaining pre-booked places and these will be offered to someone else. All clubs will run between 10am – 2pm at **Consett Academy, Ashdale Road, Consett. DH8 6LZ**

Wednesday 21st December
Thursday 22nd December July
Friday 23rd December
Wednesday 28th December
Thursday 29th December
Friday 30th December

Bookings made via;
www.kalmalifeuk.co.uk/gatesheadwest
Click on 'Book a Class' at the top then filters 'Holiday Club 4-11 years' to show all clubs.

Any questions, please contact via
emma@gatesheadwest.kalmalifeuk.co.uk
or 07581359585.



ATOMS
EDUCATION CIC

Derwent Valley
Area Action
Partnership
Better for everyone

FUN & FOOD
Holiday activities with healthy food
Funded by Durham County Council

CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

Christmas crafts and
party fun
Friday 23rd December
10am - 12pm

FREE Kids Session at
Consett Heritage and
Arts Centre (Consett
HEART) this Christmas

Scan to
book

email: atomsvonni@gmail.com with any queries

Christmas 2022

Short Breaks Solutions are working in partnership with Fun and Food to develop inclusive opportunities for your children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Booking is essential. Please email-
Shortbreakssolutions@durham.gov.uk
Places are limited and open to school aged children & young people.

Creative Kitchen 21 st December 11:00am- 1:30pm Consett	Infinite Air 22 nd December 4:30-5:30pm Belmont, Durham	The Fish Tank Fully Booked
Tiny Treasures 22 nd December 10:00- 11:30am 29 th December 10:00- 11:30am Seaham	Haystack 28 th December 11:00am -1:00pm Lanchester	Eric Knows 30 th December 09:30-12:30am 1:00-4:00pm Horden

FUN & FOOD
Holiday activities with healthy food
Funded by Durham County Council