

Editor Ms G Adamou



AVS Newsletter June 2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

School has been very busy over the last few weeks and the end of term seems to be accelerating towards us at pace as we look towards the last three weeks of term.

Last week I was delighted to welcome over 1200 of you to our school to watch our production of 'Matilda'. It was a fantastic show and many of you commented to me on the amazing talent and the very polished performances that you had seen. As you can imagine I feel very proud of what the school achieved. I would like to pay tribute to all of the students in the cast and also to the Performing Arts team, and associated staff and student helpers, who put in many hours of work in rehearsal. It was an absolute delight of a show and it was wonderful to be able to open our doors to the public and have so many of you in our school again.

The PE Faculty have also been very busy during this last fortnight, welcoming primary schools onto our field for our annual Primary Football Festival. By the end of last week nearly 600 primary school students had spent the morning with us and 75 of our Avon Valley Students had taken on the role of Junior Sports Leaders helping the PE staff out on the field. The activities continue this week with the final event taking place this morning.

Now that year 11 have left, I am about to start interviewing the year 10 prefects as part of the selection process for the Senior Prefect roles next year. For most of the candidates this will be their first experience of a formal interview and, though they are frequently very nervous, past experience has shown that they always rise to the challenge. The final part of the selection process will be a whole school election where all students and staff get to have their say on the final choice. This is the first time that we have run the process in this manner and I hope that all of the students will take part in this democratic vote.



Next week we look forward to meeting our new Year 7 students for their induction days and also to visiting our Year 10 students on their work experience placements. Before we reach the last day of term, we also have the annual Awards Evening to look forward to, along with Trips Day and Sports Day. It promises to a busy and enjoyable end to the school year and I hope to see as many students as possible engaging with all of the activities that we have on offer.

Alison Davies
Headteacher

Fortune House News

As the end of the year draws closer it's a good time to reflect upon the successes of 2021/2022. It is impossible to list every student who has been successful this year. However, the lists below show the highest House Point earning students, in Fortune House, for the academic year. Well done to these students who consistently work hard, get involved and try their best, not just in lessons but around the school too.

Although the end of the year is approaching, we still have a number of events and activities to look forward to, including: Splash Day, Sports, Day, Year 10 Work Experience, the Prom and Yr6 Induction Day. There will also be opportunity for students to apply for a range of leadership positions across the school.

Once it finally arrives, I wish everyone an enjoyable summer break!

Mr D Phelan

Head of Fortune House



Beatrice	Swaffield	7GKE	Freya	Lee	8JES
Hollie	Smith	7GKE	Evelyn	Tan	8JES
Isabella	Silver-Vallance	7GKE	Charlotte	Barnes	8JES
Tia	Whiteford	7GKE	Grace	Buxton	8JES
Abigail	Dimberline	7SNO	Jusinta	Ali	8JES
Isla-Grace	Iles	7SNO	Maja	Borowska	8JES
Grace	Pallett	7GKE	Rohan	Hoque	8JES
Raisa	Konieczna	7GKE	Ruby	Romao	8JES
Shiloh	Akeroro	7SNO	Khaddy	Buchanan	8SEL
Alex	Dumbrava	7GKE	Sophie	Needham	8JES
Isabel	Lanceman	7GKE	Nicoleta	Gutu	8JES
Oliver	Swieboda	7GKE	Tarena	Tarin	8SEL
Summer	Martin	7GKE	Becca	Gilbey	8JES
Julia	Niewi- adomska	7GKE	Somgoliechu kwu	Nke- makonam	8JES
Willow	Martin	7SNO	Jayden	Rumsey	8JES
Finley	Chambers	7SNO	Shannon	Plumb	8JES
Bailey	Evans	7GKE	Eryk	Kar- czewski	8JES
Rachelle	Utrera	7GKE	Molly	Bower	9EQU
Tommy	Cornes	7GKE	Logan	Cooper	9EFO
Poppy	Stokes	7SNO	Zack	Edwards	9EQU
Aimee	Wilson	7SNO	Anya	Reed	9EQU
Yashika	Parmar	7GKE	Ceri	Barbour	9EQU
Finley	Baylis	7GKE	Eliza	Buras	9EQU
Christina	Batchelor	10MOW	Cormac	Donnelly	9EQU
Maisha	Akand	10MOW	Alfie	Lee	9EFO
Joycelin e	Obimpeh	10TJE	Jayden	Evans	9EQU
Rosie	Ford	10TJE	Jake	Edwards	9EFO
Jess	Pawlus	10MOW	Isabel	Cartwright	9EQU
Caitlin	Plumb	10MOW	Michael	Purczynski	9EQU
Hannah	Lissaman	10TJE	Lina	Tounsi	9EFO
Lauren	Osborne- Wells	10MOW	Eva	Telling	9EQU
Lana	Warren	10TJE	Allen	Payawal	9EFO
Lily	White	10TJE			

New Governors Pen Portraits



I am Sarah Pick, mum/step mum to a 12-year-old daughter who attends AVS, a 9-year-old son and a 3-year-old son. I am a newly elected Parent Governor here at AVS and am looking forward to learning more about how I can best support the governance of this school. I have previously been a Co-opted Governor at a local village Primary School.

For my day job I work part-time as a Qualifications and Apprenticeship Manager for an Awarding Organisation, developing and seeking accreditation for qualifications and end-point assessments for a range of Apprenticeships. I have worked in the vocational education sector for almost 20 years and have a good understanding of vocational qualifications and training programmes. I look forward to learning more about mainstream education and how I can apply my current skills to my role as Governor at AVS.

With a lively three-year-old often in tow, it is hard to have many hobbies of my own but my passion is definitely reading and anything book-related! With a degree in English Literature I've always been a bookworm and as a busy working parent I now turn to books as a means of escape and relaxation. I am also an Independent Usborne Books Partner, selling books directly to customers and into schools / nurseries.

I look forward to working closely with parents, teachers, students and staff as part of my role as Parent Governor.



My name is Belinda Leslie and I have lived in Rugby for 20 years. For 18 of those years, I worked as the Exams Officer at a secondary school in Coventry. I originally applied for that job because I had small children and needed a (mostly) term time only job. I stayed on as my children grew up because I found that a school is a great community to belong to and I was proud to be a part of the important work of developing the next generation. But, there comes a point when you realise that it is time for a younger person to take over, and I retired a year ago, telling myself that I would be able to use my skills and experience to serve my local Rugby community as a school governor.

In addition to my experience in secondary education, I have a Master's degree in Business Administration, which means that I have a reasonable grasp of financial issues, and an earlier career in advertising and marketing.

I am very impressed with what I have seen so far of The Avon Valley School and look forward to learning a lot more about it.

Belinda Leslie

Co-Opted Governor

New Governors Pen Portraits



My name is Christian Mba and my eldest daughter attends AVS. I currently work as an Assistant Principal in a secondary school in Northamptonshire.

Throughout my career, I have worked in several roles both as a curriculum and pastoral leader. I have previous experience serving on a governing body as a Staff Governor. I have a MA in Educational Leadership and have recently completed my NPQSL. In the past, I worked for the London Borough of Croydon as a School Adviser for Looked After Children.

I have also worked for the University of Leicester as a Senior Widening Participation Officer, helping to provide access and opportunities for young people in Higher Education. I am passionate about improving the life chances of young people, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Outside of teaching, I also work as a speaker, delivering revision workshops and motivational talks to young people across the UK.

Christian Mba

Parent Governor



My name is Theresa Silver-Vallance, I am a parent governor and my daughter is in Year 7. I am a Solicitor-Advocate (Criminal), with substantial experience of advising and presenting in both the public and private spheres. I qualified as an Advocate in South Africa and re-qualified as a Solicitor-Advocate in England and Wales.

A former CPS Crown Advocate and senior lawyer with the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, I am now a Director of Regulation Enforcement & Governance (Interim) at RICS, with key responsibility for the regulatory governance function and leading a team of lawyers and paralegals delivering regulatory, disciplinary and litigation casework.

I am looking forward to using my legal and governance skills, to support the Headteacher and staff at Avon Valley to deliver against their objectives and to contribute to the strategic direction of the school.

Theresa Silver-Vallance

Parent Governor

ROALD DAHL'S Matilda THE MUSICAL



A cast of 100 students, from Year 7 to Year 11, recently performed in a superb five night production of 'Matilda' from 21st - 25th June.

The musical, based on Roald Dahl's book, follows the story of an extraordinary girl who, armed with a vivid imagination and a sharp mind, dares to take a stand and change her own destiny.

Four talented students, Daisy Adamson, Emily Adamson, Freya Lee and Isla-Grace Iles each took a turn at performing in the show as the principle role, Matilda. They were joined on stage by the rest of the cast, the ensemble and dancers who were students from across all year groups.

Each night was a sell out, and the audience were so impressed. We had some fantastic feedback:

"We loved the convincing facial expressions, commitment to strong and powerful body movements and dramatic use of props / lights / special effects etc. We could see the hours and hours of rehearsal that you must have done to make it look so fantastic." Bilton Junior School

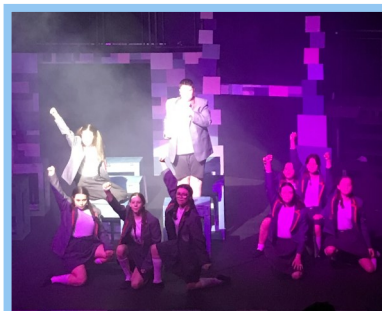
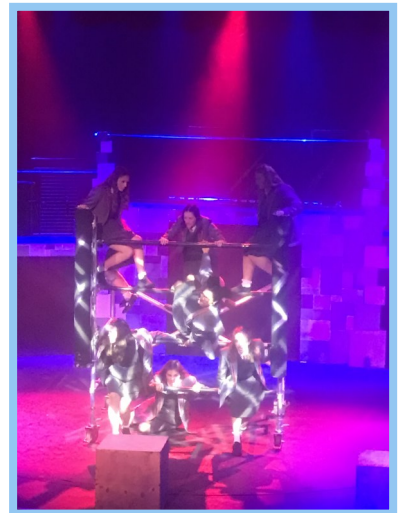
"We came to watch it tonight and we were blown away by it! The casting was superb- Bruce, Miss Honey, Matilda and Miss Trunchbull all really stood out- you have some very talented pupils. The staging was also brilliant- Revolting children and Miss Trunchbull's solo were particular highlights." Paddox Primary School.

Miss E Wheatley

**Faculty Lead of Performing Arts and
Head of Drama**



ROALD DAHL'S
Matilda
THE MUSICAL



Queen's Jubilee at AVS

Apollo Year 9 student George Docker had been saving his pocket money since Christmas, with some help from his mum and his grandad, George went to Tesco and spent £100 to buy food for the Foodbank collection.

A true act of kindness, thank you George.



Our talented textiles teacher Mrs Jesson and student Ella-May Goodman created this stylish tribute to the celebrations.



Garrick House
Well-Being walk for the Jubilee

Postcards of Kindness for the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations

As part of the celebrations to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, students had the opportunity to write a postcard of kindness to help spread joy and positivity in the local area over the Jubilee weekend.

In total, around 800 postcards were carefully written by the students and sent to members of the emergency services at Rugby Fire Station, West Midlands Ambulance Service and Rugby Police station, along with NHS staff at St Cross Hospital, and residents in local care homes.

On the postcards, students told the recipients about the activities they were taking part in at school to mark the Jubilee, thanked them for their service, and wished them all the best for the extended bank holiday.



Careers visit to Warwick Uni

This month, 24 Year 8 students visited Warwick University Esports Centre for a digital skills workshop, designing, marketing and competing in an Esports tournament. The 'Inspire Through Esports Programme' demonstrates the possibilities in creative and digital careers including graphics design, event management, social media and marketing. Students really enjoyed the experience and provided some feedback below;



“The experience was a first and definitely something to consider for a career”

“It was an amazing experience to give me an insight for the future”

“I got the chance to play games with people I would never usually play with”

All students have had a careers talk delivered by Miranda B-T this month during assembly. Miranda attended Avon Valley and is now working for Morgan Sindall as a Civil Engineer. She emphasised to students how they should take up every opportunity to find out about jobs, as she attended a trip about engineering while at school and decided that it sounded like an interesting career choice.

If you would like to take part in the AVS careers programme by giving a virtual talk, offering a work experience placement or would like to get further information about post 16 destinations / applications, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Owen (lowen@avonvalleyschool.uk) or Mrs. Jones (djones@avonvalleyschool.uk), or look at the information available on the school website: <https://avonvalleyschool.uk/>. Careers can be found in the curriculum tab at the top of the webpage.

Mrs Owen

Careers Lead



Geography News

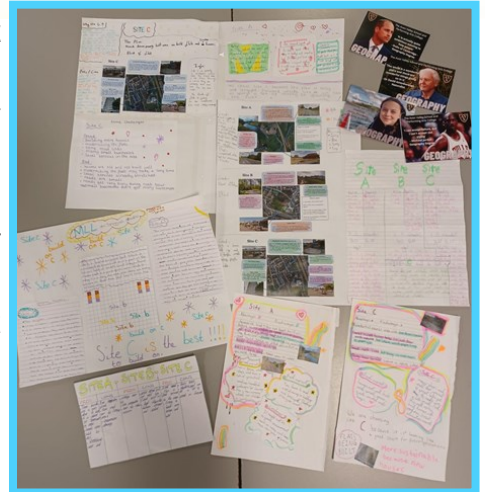
Year 7 Town Planning

This term, year 7 students have been learning about settlements and how they can become more sustainable. Students were given the opportunity to develop their communication, presentation and team-working skills through a team research and presentation task whereby they took on the roles at Town Planners for a local authority. Within their group, they had to investigate 3 possible housing development sites and select one to present as the most suitable location.

All groups were required to justify why their selected site was most suitable, focusing upon its impact upon the local environment, people and economy.

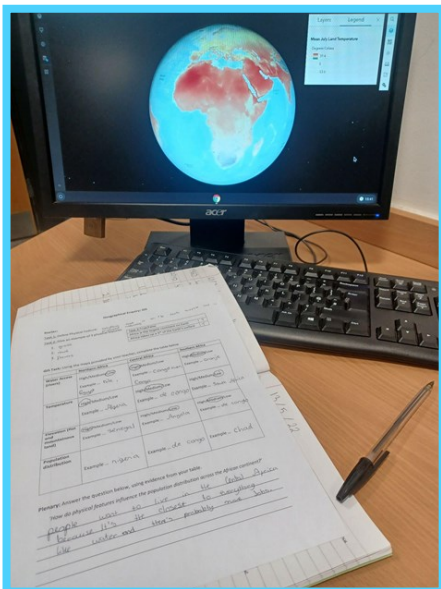
Students who took part developed their critical thinking, communication, presentation and group work skills, all of which are incredibly important for geographers moving forward, as they are often expected to make important decisions regarding the future for example, climate change or environmental conservation.

Students were excellent at trying to incorporate as many positive social, economic and environmental impacts in order to ensure their impact upon the world was sustainable. Well done to all who took part!



Year 8 - GIS Specialists

This year we have been working on building opportunities into our curriculum that enable students to learn skills and have experiences which lend themselves to an ever changing job market. GIS (Geographical Information Systems) are computer based programmes which enable people to analyse and display data in a visual way, and are becoming increasingly important to the running of global companies.



Some year 8 students have had the opportunity to utilise GIS based technology within their lessons to explore our current topic of Africa. Students investigated physical (natural) features within Africa and explained how these could influence the population density within a location. This was completed using ArcMap online and data layers comprising of; elevation, water access and average temperature.

Miss K McHale

Teacher of Geography

LGBTQ+ Support Group

At Avon Valley we pride ourselves on being inclusive to everyone. As such, we have an LGBTQ+ Support Group where members of the LGBTQ+ community, and their allies, can come and be their authentic selves. In our group we have discussed issues that are faced daily, language that is used and discovered new elements of the history of the LGBTQ+ community. This group is open to anyone who supports equality.



Understanding our roots and our origins can help us appreciate what young people of the LGBTQ+ community go through and experience day to day. There has been such a huge rise in awareness and understanding of gender and sexuality in recent times that it's no wonder we can sometimes get a bit overwhelmed. When people don't understand, that's when harmful things can be said. As such, we wanted to give students somewhere to go – free of judgement. As part of our well-being focus, we created the LGBTQ+ Support Group and we have over 60 members – making it the largest after-school club within AVS. This demonstrates how much something like this was needed, how far we've come, and throws into stark reality how far we still have to go when it comes to understanding and equality. We have had badges made that students and staff can wear with Pride, showing support for youngsters who might need a little support.

Considering stories of origin, here's a quick summary of the beginning of the Pride March.



The Pride March was borne out of necessity. The idea that people were being punished for living authentically within, what should have been, safe spaces.

In the summer of 1969 in New York City a bar called The Stonewall Inn was raided by police officers and people were viciously pulled out onto the streets and arrested for being gay, lesbian, and transgender. The reason for this was because at that time, it was illegal to be gay or even to wear more than three items of clothing designed for the "opposite gender".

The Stonewall Inn was usually a space that was safe for people of the LGBTQ+ community but on the 28th of June, 1969 the police raided with riot gear. The clientele of The Stonewall Inn had had enough. Marsha P Johnson, a black transgender woman, and her friend Sylvia Rivera, also trans, fought back. They incited rebellion that night. The riots and fighting against the brutality of the police raged on through the night and long into the next day, raising awareness of the horrendous violence people suffered at the hands of the police.

A year later, and in memory of that night, the LGBTQ+ took to the streets again and the Pride March was created. Having a month to celebrate the achievements of this community was not purely to shine a light on and single out the people who belong, but to remind people that anyone who identifies as anything under the rainbow flag deserves to live their best, real, and full lives.

So let's be thankful to the men, women and people who took those first brave steps; who allowed the world to understand a little more, and celebrate. Because before anything else in this world – Love is Love. And we ALL deserve to be loved.

Happy Pride!

If you need any support in your journey, or that of someone you care for, then please use these sites:

<https://thebeyouproject.co.uk/resources/>

<https://mermaidsuk.org.uk/>

<https://genderedintelligence.co.uk/>

Miss A Tinham

Teacher of English



Marsha P. Johnson

Superstar AVS student Volunteers

I would like to tell you about a very special young lady who I met several weeks ago. She turned up at the Rugby Myton Hospice with her mum to join the painters and decorators who had all kindly given their time in redecorating the whole of the hospice.



Her first words to me were, "I am quite good at painting doors". This was much to my relief because with 45 doors to paint, each having two sides, needing two coats — 180 doors later none of us wanted to see a teal coloured door again!! Grace set to with a smile on her face and as you can see from the photo plenty of paint. I hasten to add she did not do them all on her own, but what she achieved was amazing.

Grace Sharples is a student to be proud of and I want to say a huge thank you to her from all at Rugby Myton.

Her manners and interaction with others was great, she was a real pleasure to work with. So lovely to see someone so young volunteering her time to make a difference to the community of Rugby.

Many thanks
Tracey Evans
Myton Hospice Rugby, Hub Manager



Business, Computing & Media Studies Trip to London

On Friday 10th June, 43 year 10 students set off from school for 4 busy days in London. Over the course of the visit, students took part in an animation workshop and walking tours where they learned about West End retail and technological advancements at companies like Google and Amazon.

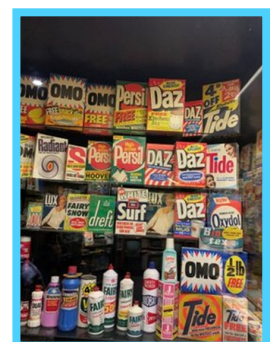
Visits to The Museum of Brands and The Tottenham Hotspur Stadium were great experiences that allowed us the opportunity to see how businesses develop in order to stay relevant to their target audience. We were also fortunate enough to have great weather, meaning it was possible to see the sights of the City both on the Thames River Cruise and with Mr Phelan as our walking tour guide! The visit to the IMAX cinema was a popular addition to the trip, as was the visit to Warner Bros. Studios for a workshop and tour at The Harry Potter experience.

All in all, the trip was a great success and planning has already started for another trip in June 2023. Current Year 9 students, watch this space!!!



Mr M Owen

Subject Leader - Media Studies



Business, Computing & Media Studies Trip to London



PE Achievements



AVS Sports Leaders



Years 7/8 Softball Team



Years 7/8 Rounders Team



Qasim Hussain
Fantasy Football Champion
2021/22

MFL News

Are you a keen linguist?

From September, we will be running a **Languages Lunch Club** where you can take the opportunity to improve your speaking skills in one of the languages learnt at Avon Valley!

This will take place once a week, (day and room to be confirmed) and everyone interested in languages is welcome! We will be playing games, singing songs and practising our speaking skills!

There will be a competition to create the poster/symbol for our club!



In the next academic year, there will also be opportunities to enter competitions run by the Languages department, so keep your eyes and ears open for these!

If you are in Year 9 and confidently speak and write in a language other than English at home (Community Languages), please go to the MFL office and find out whether you can be entered for your Community Languages GCSE exam next year.

Each year, Avon Valley is proud to conduct exams for: **Arabic, Chinese, Greek, Gujarati, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian and Urdu.**

These consist of 4 exams, one for each skill (Writing, Reading, Speaking and Listening) and are a great opportunity to get a high grade in a subject that you are confident in and would otherwise not have the chance of achieving.

Miss C Andrade De Azevedo
Teacher of Languages



Leave of Absence

The Supreme Court recently reached a decision in the case of Platt v Isle of Wight Council which has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time. The parents of children of compulsory school age are required to ensure that they attend school on a regular basis. The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

Head Teachers retain the ability to authorise leave in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. When considering such requests for a leave of absence, the school are obliged to act within the law. Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application. If the leave is granted, head teachers are able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for.

It is for the Head Teacher to decide what is 'exceptional' and it is at their discretion if the circumstances warrant the leave to be granted. The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent.

Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case by case basis and on its own merits.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child will be required to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence, which may result in legal action being taken against the parent(s), by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Failure to make an application for leave in advance can also result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council

It is important to note, Fixed Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices in the amount of £120 each, totalling £240 for both children, this is reduced to £60 per child if paid within 21 days).

Where a Fixed Penalty Notice is not paid within the required timeframe as set out on the notice, the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal proceedings under S444 Education Act 1996.

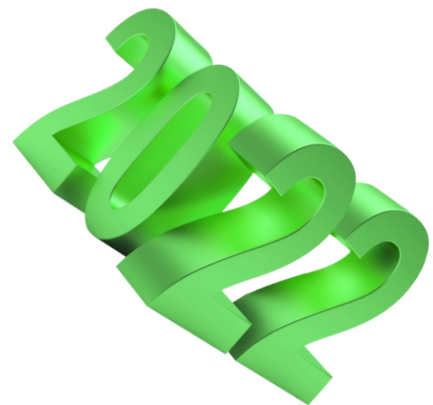
Fixed Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority

Dates for your diary

July

1st July	Year 11 School Prom
6th - 7th July	Year 6 Induction days
14th July	Awards Evening (by invite only)
15th July	Trips/Activity Day
20th July	Sports Day
21st July	Break up for the summer 12.35pm



September

5th Sept	Teacher Training Day
6th Sept	Years 7 & 11 in ONLY
6th Sept	Year 7 Photos
7th Sept	All students in school
15th Sept	Year 11 Geography Trip to Bristol
19th - 20th Sept	Year 7 Splash Days
22nd Sept	Open Evening
28th Sept	Year 10 trip to see Inspector Calls

National Online Safety



**National
Online
Safety**

**Download your Free
Online Safety App for
Parents & Carers**

Be #OnlineSafetySavvy
Keep up with the latest apps games and tech your children are using, with the worlds most comprehensive online safety app for parents.

On the National Online Safety app you'll find:

- ✔ Hundreds of online safety guides on the topics you need to know about – from screen addiction, fake news and trolling to hacking, social media influencers and sexting;
- ✔ An online safety training course for parents – developed by our experts and delivered by online safety ambassador Mylene Klass;
- ✔ A user-friendly interface with increased functionality – find exactly what you need, when you need it;
- ✔ The option to get notifications to your phone as soon as new content becomes available – so you can stay up-to-date with the latest online crazes (and risks);
- ✔ An in-app voting system so you can help determine the subjects you'd like us to cover in future;
- ✔ The facility to personalise your content by favouriting key resources.

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