Mrs McKeown's Message

First of all, a big welcome to our new Reception class children. I have been visiting the class a lot this week to see all the happy faces and smart new uniforms. They have been busy getting to know each other and taking part in some lovely fun activities. The rest of the children in school have slid seamlessly into their new classes and routines and are busy making their first impressions on their new teachers!! Mrs Flanders will be working with Reception class, Years 1 and 2 and Year 6 to cover staff time out of class weekly, whilst Mrs Calvert will be working with Years 3 to 6. The scaffolding is starting to come down slowly and school is looking fresh again. We look forward to the new windows and doors during the October half term break. Mrs Livesey is our new caretaker and has settled in quickly. It has taken since February to find someone to fill the role.
Have a lovely weekend and keep in touch.

CAR PARK SAFETY

We have received a complaint from a motorist that two of our older pupils recently nearly caused themselves a very serious injury by running behind/in front of a car on the car park as they were manoeuvring. Please remind your child of the importance of keeping safe especially on a busy car park, and keep children with you whilst waiting for school to start.

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

If you do not currently receive our newsletter by email, and as a reminder to our new Reception parents please subscribe to the Longsands Link newsletter on our school website.
www.longsandscp.org.uk

Our target attendance at Longsands is 96%.

YEAR 1: 99.43%
YEAR 2: 96.53%
YEAR 3: 100%
YEAR 4: 100%
YEAR 5: 92.45%
YEAR 6: 98.61%

ADMISSIONS TO PRIMARY SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2022

If you have a child who has their 4th birthday between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022, you must now apply for their place in Primary School. You still need to make an application even if they have a brother or sister at your chosen school. Applications should be made online to Lancashire County Council at
APPLY HERE
It is quick and easy to do, and you will receive an email confirmation of your application. The deadline for all September 2022 applications is 11.59pm on **15th January 2022.**

ADMISSION TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

If your child is in Year 6, it is now time to apply for their place in High School.
You must still make an application even if they have a brother or sister at your chosen school. Applications should be made online to Lancashire County Council at
HIGH SCHOOLS - APPLY HERE
The deadline for all applications is 11.59pm on **31st October 2021**

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

If your child is unable to attend school for whatever reason, please contact school as soon as possible, and ideally by **9.00am**.
You can do this in the following ways:
- Telephoning school: 01772 795676.
- Contacting the school office by email.
- Sending a text, we are able to see replies to text messages from the school text service.
- Completing a Pupil Absence Form on the school website.

School office email
office@longsands.lancsngfl.ac.uk

DOGS

Please could we remind parents, and anyone dropping off or collecting your child from school not to bring dogs onto school grounds. Thank you

Happy Birthday
ARIA, DOUGIE and ZAHRA

PTFA MEETING

The **PTFA** are holding their first meeting of the year via **zoom** on **Monday 13th September** at **7.30pm**.
Please email **longsandsptfa@gmail.com** by Monday 6.30pm to get the link. Come and join us in planning our fun activities!

YEAR 2 FOOTBALL

Longsands Junior Football club are looking for Year 2 pupils to join the club for football training and games. If anyone is interested, please contact Damian Russell on 07572 578472 or email him directly at: Ljfc.pitchbookings@gmail.com

SPANISH CLUB

There are currently spaces available in the Spanish club after school on Monday's. If you would be interested in joining please contact Alison Powell for more details and prices.
alisonmp24@hotmail.co.uk

Longsands Values

RECEPTION: COMING SOON!
YEAR 1: WHOLE CLASS
YEAR 2: ZAHRA
YEAR 3: ALICE
YEAR 4: SKYE
YEAR 5: MARYAM
YEAR 6: MATTHEW

Pupils of the Week

RECEPTION: COMING SOON!
YEAR 1: WHOLE CLASS
YEAR 2: MAX
YEAR 3: WHOLE CLASS
YEAR 4: MAXWELL & SAM
YEAR 5: ELLIE
YEAR 6: ISABELLE

SCHOOL LUNCH MENU
WC 13/09/21 – **WEEK 1**

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about HOOP FOR

App Store Rating 13+

Hoop is a social networking app that syncs with Snapchat to help users build their community of friends. It works along similar principles to Tinder: swiping left or right will reject or accept potential contacts, making new connections in the process. When two users accept each other, they can then communicate via Snapchat. There is no chat function on Hoop itself: video and audio calls, messaging and image sharing all take place through Snapchat. When a user adds a new Hoop contact, they are essentially sharing their personal information from Snapchat.

No Age Verification

The app groups ages 17–13 together and age children's profiles – and Hoop warns users that +18 years separately, so adults do not see they must input their real date of birth. However, there is no age verification system, meaning that an individual with intentions of grooming could sign up pretending to be a child, so that they could be connected with younger users.

In-app Purchases

Hoop offers in-app purchases that allow users to buy 'diamonds': the digital currency required to connect with others. Users can earn diamonds by watching videos, sharing links or contact lists, adding friends and completing surveys; alternatively, diamonds can be bought in packs, with costs ranging from 99p to 28.99£, which potentially could prove to be very expensive if a child has a payment method linked to their device.

Visible Location

Hoop gives users the option to share their Snap Story on their Hoop profile. Snap Stories are visible for 24 hours and, by default, show the user's exact location on the Snap Map. This means that not only will a young person's friends be able to see this information but all Hoop users too – including, potentially, individuals who may have sinister motives for pinpointing a child's whereabouts.

Grooming Risk

If a stranger uses Hoop to connect with your child on Snapchat, it means they would have access to your child's personal information, location, photos, videos and stories shared with their friends on Snapchat (unless your child has changed their privacy settings). Messages in Snapchat are automatically deleted after they're read, making it impossible for parents to monitor conversations.

Potential Compulsive Use

Users are rewarded with diamonds for hitting certain targets. To reach these milestones, young people may be inclined to add as many friends as possible – including strangers. Users are also assigned a level that is displayed on their Hoop profile; to achieve a higher level, users must add more connections – which provides an incentive for children to spend even more time on the app.

Possible Data Collection

One of the reasons Hoop has remained free to use is that it hosts video adverts and user surveys, which reward users with diamonds for taking part. This practice strongly suggests that the app collects personal information from the user, based on the adverts they watch and their responses to surveys, and then shares their data with third-party organisations.

Advice for Parents & Carers

Learn How to Report and Block

If your child sees or is sent something that makes them feel uncomfortable, Hoop has a reporting and blocking function. When reporting a user, you are asked to provide a reason why you are reporting them (for example, nudity or sexual content, hate speech, or using a fake age or gender). You then get a notification that the other user has been reported or blocked.

Limit Spending Power

If your child's device is linked to a bank card, a PayPal account or another form of payment, ensure that you have either removed this connection or adjusted the security settings, so that you get notifications of any attempts to make in-app purchases. Make sure that you have set a password which has to be entered for a purchase to go ahead.

Avoid Over-Sharing

Talk to your child about what they share online and who they share it with. Make them aware that once something is online, then anyone can see it. Talk to them about what might not be safe to post online (for example, things which could give away their home address or that of their school, explicit photos or their current location). Make sure that they don't share something they will regret later.

Be Wary of Strangers

Talk to your child about the dangers of connecting with strangers online. Encourage them not to engage in private messaging with people they don't know – particularly on Snapchat, as automatically disappearing messages makes the app difficult for trusted adults to monitor. Ask them to think about why they are adding all these connections and whether they genuinely need hundreds of 'friends' on Snapchat.

Adjust Privacy Settings

Check the privacy settings in place on your child's Snapchat account to make sure that only their friends or a custom group can see their stories, Snap Map and any images that they post. You may wish to seriously consider going into the settings and enabling 'ghost mode' to turn off the location services, so your child's whereabouts won't be publicly visible to other users.

Encourage Safe Communication

With the amount of time that young people spend communicating with others online, it's vital to ensure that these connections are positive and healthy ones. Regularly check which apps your child is using: if there are any new ones, talk to your child about what these apps are and how they work. If you are unsure about a new app, you could download it to try yourself and see if it is suitable.

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.

National Online Safety®
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#WakeUpWednesday

SOURCES:

www.nationalonlinesafety.com   @natonlinesafety   /NationalOnlineSafety   @nationalonlinesafety

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