

TYLERS GREEN MIDDLE SCHOOL



"Be yourself, be anything, we are the future."

NEWSLETTER
17th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Time really does fly when you're having fun - here we are, almost two weeks into the new school year, and it has gone by in a flash! Our new Year 3 pupils have settled in brilliantly and now look completely at home in their new surroundings. I'm equally proud of how pupils across every year group have embraced their new classes with such maturity and enthusiasm. The school feels calm yet purposeful, nurturing yet full of excitement, and I've been so impressed with the quality of learning and behaviour I see each day. A huge thank you goes to our dedicated staff for making this transition so smooth, and to you as parents, for supporting your children and the school so positively.

For our new parents and carers, I'm aware that there is plenty of communication from school for you to process and respond to. Therefore, I aim to publish one or two newsletters per half term to give important updates and information to you, and this is the first of them. I hope you find them useful and positive to read.

Mr Isaacs

Welcome Meetings 2025

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for this year's Welcome Meetings - it was wonderful to share updates and introduce your child's new teachers. We put a lot of time and energy into preparing these sessions, so it meant a great deal to see such strong attendance and engagement. The evenings really set the year off with a positive, collaborative atmosphere of **partnership**, one we are all committed to maintaining.

Of course, we completely understand that some parents weren't able to make it, and we hope you've had the chance to view the [individual presentations](#) uploaded to our website. I've also recorded a voiceover for the [whole-school update slides](#) (which Year 5 missed on the evening), so please do take a moment to catch up when you can.

Election Results: TGMS Democracy in Action

One of the fundamental British Values we teach at TGMS is *Democracy*. In recent assemblies, I've been exploring with the pupils what democracy really means - its origins, its importance, and why the idea of "*rule by the people*" is something we should all value. This learning isn't just about history or politics; it's about helping our children grow into well-informed, thoughtful, and responsible contributors to modern Britain.

To bring this learning to life, we give pupils the chance to put democratic principles into practice at the start of each year. They create their own classroom charters, elect Sports Councillors, House Captains and School Councillors - roles which come with genuine responsibilities and an increasingly important voice in shaping school life. Election Week is next week, starting with House Captains on Tuesday. We make sure pupils understand both the opportunities and responsibilities that come with being a House Captain, and Year 6 candidates are reminded that it takes stamina, perseverance and an open mind to lead for a whole year.

Importantly, we emphasise that these elections are *true pupil democracy*. Candidates must keep their speeches positive and respectful: no unrealistic promises (such as "sweets for everyone!") and no negative comments about others. If this happens, a teacher will step in to correct it, as it's important that voting remains fair and informed. This way, pupils experience democracy in action while learning valuable lessons about integrity, respect and leadership, and I am very excited to give this power over to the pupils!



Secondary Transfer Test

Speaking of Year 6, I want to pay tribute to the quite wonderful way they handled the Secondary Transfer Test last week. We spoke with the pupils at length about how the words “pass” and “fail” are woefully inappropriate for this experience, and I couldn’t be prouder of their calm yet positive self-management, as well as the support they showed one another throughout. In my eyes, if we are going to use the word “pass”, then every pupil did - whether they were a pupil who dedicated countless hours and days to prepare, or if they simply gave the papers their very best effort on the day, or made the thoughtful choice not to take part at all. So well done, Year 6, and well done, parents too!

The TGMS REACH Fund

Thank you to everyone who has been able to make their yearly or monthly contribution to the TGMS REACH Fund. As explained in the Welcome Meetings, the TGMS REACH Fund is a charitable school fund used to enhance our children’s curriculum experience by enabling our teachers to buy in engaging and unforgettable enrichment experiences. Today, we have already had the Y5 Anglo-Saxon Day (pictures to be added to our [Year Group Pages](#), soon), which was a tremendous success (thanks to our fantastic parent volunteers, too!). For more information, please see our Reach Fund website page:

<https://www.tylersgreenmiddle.bucks.sch.uk/school-fund-reach/>



As I reiterated in the Welcome Meetings, please don’t feel under any pressure to contribute the suggested £5 per month (or £60 annually) if it isn’t manageable for your family. We also want to remind you that some employers run schemes where they will donate annually to a charity of your choice. If this applies to you, please consider nominating the REACH Fund, as several of our parents have so kindly done already.

FOTGMS Annual General Meeting – 24th September

Our Friends of Tylers Green Middle School (our PTA) AGM will take place next Wednesday, 24th September, from 7.00 - 8.30 pm, as a hybrid meeting, both here at school and online:

<https://meet.google.com/mqf-qxyz-xvs>



On behalf of the Committee, we look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible. As well as celebrating the successes of the Friends over the past year, this meeting is particularly important as we say thank you and farewell to our outgoing committee members, Sarah, Katie, Jackie, Josephine and Caroline, whose dedication and creativity have been such a gift to the school.

We’re delighted to share that there has already been firm interest in the Chair and Treasurer roles, but we are still seeking a Secretary. Without these three core, democratically elected positions filled, the FOTGMS cannot run this year, which would be a real loss to the school community. Please do consider whether you could step forward and join us as we celebrate, thank, and look ahead to another successful year together.

Please find a copy of the agenda on the [FOTGMS website page](#).

Y6 PGL 2026: A Quick Update for Year 6 Parents

Due to the very late Secondary School Transition Day next year (7th July), we have moved our Liddington PGL Residential forward by one week. The trip will now run from **29th June to 3rd July**. We’ve been assured that costs remain the same, but please do make a note of the new dates.

Pupil Online Safety

We continue to support our pupils in learning Online Safety knowledge and skills through our Project Evolve lessons and assemblies. To support this, we promote the National Online Safety #WakeUpWednesday campaign, where posters such as this are released to benefit children and parents. We have posted several other particularly useful examples on our [website](#).

This week's theme focuses on [group chats](#) - an area of online life that many children encounter sooner than parents might expect. As with much of growing up in the digital age, managing group chats often falls into the *Investigate and Try* method of learning. However, we know from both research and experience that group chats can bring unique pressures, from feeling overwhelmed or left out by constant notifications, to dealing with unkind comments or peer pressure.

That's why this week's guidance shares some clear and practical advice for children and families. We hope you find it useful in helping your child to reflect on their own experiences and develop the confidence to make wise choices online.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

On messaging apps, social media and online games, group chats are one of the most popular ways that children connect. Group chats allow messages, images and videos to be shared in one place and help friendships flourish; however, they also come with a number of risks.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- TEASING AND BULLYING**
Children of all ages are keen to fit in socially, and group chats can sometimes complicate that process. While group chats can foster connections, they can also give way to mean comments or jokes at someone's expense, especially when others join in for laughs. When bullying happens publicly, in front of friends and classmates, it can intensify the emotional impact – adding to embarrassment, anxiety and feelings of isolation for the child being targeted.
- UNKNOWN MEMBERS**
Children often can't control who is added to a group, which can lead to privacy concerns. Sharing personal details in group chats can be dangerous, and children have no control over what others do with the material they send. Some members of the chat might even decide to use such information maliciously.
- PEER PRESSURE**
Children may feel they have to constantly stay engaged just to be included and keep up with the conversation. In some cases, they might participate in inappropriate behaviours – like sending photos, jokes or teasing – just to fit in. Group settings can also encourage children to act in ways they normally wouldn't, or stay silent when they know something is wrong, out of fear of being excluded. Some children may find it difficult to voice toxic group chats.
- INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**
Some group chats may include inappropriate language or imagery, even if a child isn't actively participating in the conversation, they may still be exposed to this content simply by being part of the group. Some apps have disappearing messaging features, where content is only available once or for a few seconds, which makes it harder for children to report something they've seen.
- EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION**
Exclusion in group chats is common and can take several forms. Sometimes a new group is created specifically to leave one child out on purpose. In other cases, the chat may happen on an app that a child doesn't have access to, making it impossible for them to join in. This can cause feelings of being left out – even unintentionally.
- VIDEO AND LIVE CHATS**
Many popular apps allow children to engage in live streaming with interactive chats or live group video chats. Anyone can be added to these streams, and often children tag peers in the comments and have conversations which are unmoderated. There's a risk of being exposed to inappropriate or violent content and offensive language, either in the group videos or via the group chats.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS**
Group chats can become an arena for children to compete for social status. Help children consider how people might feel if they behave unkindly. If a child does upset someone, encourage them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.
- SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT**
Group chats are an essential way for children to connect and feel like they belong. However, remind them that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded. Instead of responding to the person who's upset them, validate their feelings and empower them by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. You can also encourage children to speak up if they witness others being bullied.
- SET SOME GROUP CHAT RULES**
Discuss safe group chat practices, such as asking a parent for consent before adding them to a group chat, or leaving a group chat if a stranger is added. Tell children that if they're added to a group they didn't agree to beforehand, it's OK for them to leave immediately.
- PRACTISE SAFE SHARING**
It's vital for children to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Ensure they understand the importance of not revealing personal details – like their address, their school, or photos they wouldn't see to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they can't be certain where it might end up or how it might be used.
- BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE**
If a child encounters inappropriate content or feels uncomfortable in a group chat, encourage them to block and report the sender and leave the group. Make sure children know it's OK to leave a group chat if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe.
- SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS**
Being bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be an irritating distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Encourage children that they can still be part of a group chat while disabling notifications. In fact, it would be healthier for them to do so, helping them avoid the pressure to respond immediately.

Meet Our Expert
Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at @CyberAware, who has developed anti-bullying and cyber-safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government, comparing the internet use and online behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College

Quick News and Dates for your Diaries:

- Please make sure you are subscribed to our [Diary Dates](#) page on the website.
- We're fortunate to work with excellent external providers who offer a wide range of [clubs](#) and [music tuition](#) at TGMS. Please note our website page and posters we will display on the front and back noticeboards.
- **Learning Platform Setup:** Google Classroom is now set, and others are close. But our most important Learning Platform, the Library, is now up and running! Thank you for your patience.
- **Uniform & PE Shorts:** We'll be phasing back to buttoned shirts instead of polos (no need to replace existing ones - just switch when you next buy, as prices are similar). For PE, black shorts are required; cycle-style shorts are fine, but please ensure they are mid-thigh length. Thank you for helping us keep standards high and consistent.
- **TGMS Staff-led Clubs:** We aim to send you the sign-up details by the end of the week, aiming for a week beginning 29th September start.
- **SEND Teacher Meetings:** Wednesday, 24th of September, after school.
- **FOTGMS AGM:** Wednesday, 24th of September, 7.00 pm.
- **Y3 Stone Age Workshop:** Thursday, 25th of September.
- **Y4 Woodrow Residential Consent/Deposits:** Friday, 26th of September
- **CAT4 Assessments:** Week beginning 6th of October (for Y4 & Y5 pupils; optional but supports secondary planning. Please see our [website](#) for details).
- **Individual and Sibling Photos:** Monday, 6th of October
- **Secondary Transfer Test Results:** Emailed to parents (after 4 pm) by Bucks Council on the 10th of October.

Thank you for reading our first newsletter of the year and, once again, for your outstanding support of your children and of the school: 2025-26 promises to be an extremely successful year for us all!