



## **Ox Close Federation Newsletter Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2024 – Volume 35**

### **Spennymoor Gala - Saturday 6th July**

We are really looking forward to bringing some colour to the town on Saturday for the 69th Annual Gala Day. We have been allocated Zone 10 to 11 - please make your way to Barnfield Road dressed in all your colourful regalia for 12:15pm as the parade will begin at 12:30pm. You may like to bring some sweets to throw into the crowd, one of the favourite traditions of the day. There will be colourful staff members there to greet you however please can we stress that the children remain the responsibility of the parents/carers throughout the day. As the parade ends in the park, our banner will move to the Springmoor Grange stand where you will meet even more staff celebrating our brand-new school. We hope for dry weather again this year, why not repeat those sun dances we did for Ox Fest! See you all on Saturday!

### **Headteacher Appointment and Move to Springmoor Grange School**

I am delighted and honoured to be appointed as the permanent Headteacher of Springmoor Grange School from September 2024. It is a privilege to work with the children and staff and I love coming to work every day. I am committed to continuing to ensure that the amazing children are given the best possible education and opportunities. I look forward to building on our recent Ofsted success in the new school and continuing to build partnerships with families, both current and new, and the local community as we move to the new school. Over the Summer break, I will continue to be in touch regarding the logistics of the first few days and answer all of those questions that I know you and the children will have. Watch out for the photos on Facebook when we begin to move in from the middle of August. It is most definitely a very exciting time!

### **Staffing News**

At the end of this academic year, Mrs Reames will be leaving Ox Close Federation. She has been a committed and dedicated member of the Nursery Team for many years and I am sure that you will join us in wishing her success and luck for the future. In addition, Mrs Wilson and Mrs Lewis, known to the children as Marjorie and Allison, are both retiring. Their care and support of our Wraparound children for many years has been outstanding and I know they will be missed by many. We are currently busy recruiting into all of the positions and I will let you know who the new staff will be when I can.

### **Reading Books**

We would be grateful if children could return all library books to school on Monday so that we can audit our library stocks ready for the move to the new school next school year. Thank you.

### **Sports Day – Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July – Reception and Key Stage One**

Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	9:30am – Y1/2 Sports Day
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	1:30pm – Reception Sports Day

We would like to welcome family and friends to support all children as they participate in their events. Could we please ask that children come to school dressed in their PE kit ready for Sports Day along with a sun hat, sun cream and water bottle. All visitors should make their way onto the school field via the car park to the right of the school. Don't forget your running shoes if you would like to join in with the fun!

### **Sports Day – New Date for Years 5 and 6**

Due to the weather, we had to cancel Sports Day this week for children in Years 5 and 6. A new date has been arranged for Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July at 1:30pm. We hope you can make it.

## Weekly Class Charts Top Scorers

<b>Reception</b>	George T	<b>Year 4</b>	Nia-Rae B
<b>Year 1</b>	Ezra M	<b>Year 5</b>	Ted F
<b>Year 2</b>	Jack M	<b>Year 6</b>	Aria M
<b>Year 3</b>	Tom D		

### Attendance

Overall attendance for the week is 93.6% and the Year Group with the highest attendance is Year 5 with 97.1%. The overall school attendance for the academic year is 94.8%.

### Punctuality

The Primary starts at 8:45am, with the gates opening from **8:35am**. 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 405 late minutes.



### Dates for the Diary

Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Spennymoor Gala
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	9:30am – Y1/2 Sports Day
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	1:30pm – Reception Sports Day
New Date – Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	1:30pm – Y5/6 Sports Day
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 3/4 Visit to Theatre
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Celebration
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	10am and 2pm – Nursery Graduation and Celebration
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	9:30am – Year 6 Celebration Assembly
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	2:15pm – Year 6 Guard of Honour
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	3:15pm – Ox Close Federation Closes
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	Springmoor Grange School opens 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 TROLLING

The term "Trolling" refers to sending hurtful or provocative comments – often done anonymously online – to provoke a reaction or cause emotional distress. Anonymity can embolden people into saying things they wouldn't dare say in person. Euro 2024 and other tournaments tend to put an emphasis on this, with the abuse of both players and fans often increasing during such events.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### ESCALATION

Many trolls begin with silly, banal comments before moving on to a broader pattern of offensive messages and posts. They can also turn their attention very quickly to a new target if they grow bored with an existing one, which makes engaging with one fruitless at best – and potentially dangerous at worst.

### HIDING BEHIND A SCREEN

Because trolls tend to use anonymous profiles, they enjoy a lack of accountability. This also means they'll often have multiple profiles, potentially switching between them regularly or posting across several of them at the same time, making a target feel as though there's no escape. After all, once you block one account, what's to stop them reappearing elsewhere?

### 24/7 CONTACT

The internet has given us the ability to remain in contact at any time, from almost anywhere in the world. A troll having the ability to reach you whenever they want can leave you feeling like their abuse is unavoidable. While they don't see you in real life, they can message you at any time, reach out to your peers online and even try to discover your personal information to scare you.

### HATE SPEECH

Sadly, many trolls resort to spewing racial slurs, homophobic attacks and awful stereotypes, as these often stand the best chance of causing emotional harm. This can add a hefty degree of weight to their attacks, moving from what might charitably be described as "teasing" into a genuine hate crime. After Euro 2020, three England footballers were racially abused, resulting in several prison sentences.

### IMPACT ON VICTIMS

It's not uncommon for the victims of trolls to shut down their accounts, disappear from public life, and try to stay out of the crosshairs for a time – with some even leaving social media forever. This can have a severe impact on children and young people's connections to friends and the world at large, and may not even actually stop the troll. The victims' families, for example, may have online profiles that trolls can still access.

### NORMALISATION OF TROLLING

It is, regrettably, inevitable that some people will go too far in their criticisms or comments, both online and in the real world. This can lead to many people seeing trolls and their abuse as part and parcel of social media – an inherent risk of interacting with others online. This doesn't mean, however, that it should be considered "normal" or even tolerated.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media platforms (where most trolling tends to happen) aren't always helpful when responding to abusive behaviour, parents can set up screen time limits, so children only get to use certain apps at certain times. There's always the potential for trolling to occur anyway – such as friends showing screenshots to one another – but this would minimise the likelihood of children seeing it.

### DON'T ENGAGE WITH ABUSE

A well-known adage on social media is "don't feed the trolls". Fundamentally, if a child identifies a potential troll online, it's best not to engage with that individual directly. Instead, consider setting up a log to gather evidence for reporting them later on, including screenshots and quotes where possible.

### ENCOURAGE EMPATHY

While every professional athlete aspires to maintain high standards, it's important to separate the player from the person. A player's performance doesn't make them worthy of abuse, and that can often be forgotten by younger children who simply see the colour of the shirt without considering the person wearing it. For all the rivalries between teams, it's essential children understand that players are still human beings, with families and lives outside of sport.

### BLOCK AND REPORT

While anonymous accounts make it difficult to block trolls permanently – or even for very long – it's still good practice to help children learn to control who can engage with them online. It's not worth "feeding the trolls", and it's more helpful to block them, report them, and try to move on. Blocking and reporting is an anonymous process, too, so there'll be no indication of who specifically blew the whistle.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon, and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A long-time fan of Arsenal, he's a parent who understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer whose work has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and many more.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: [nationalcollege.com/guides/online-trolling](http://nationalcollege.com/guides/online-trolling)



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Look at what we have been up to in 3/4P

In science we have been planning our own investigations to help find out which disposable nappy is the most absorbent. We have been looking at the materials which are used to make nappies and how their properties are helpful in keeping babies dry.



We have been working hard in our art lessons with Miss Simpson. We have been looking at different artists and birds' nests. We made our own nests using Modroc and natural materials which we found on the school grounds.



In PE we have been developing our running and throwing skills. Standing jumps aren't as easy as they first appear.



We have been working hard in our brass lessons. We entertained other classes and gave a little performance.

