

### Achievement Assembly

Our achievement assembly this week celebrated children who have shown "determination" this week. Well done to the following children:

**Reception:** Amelia **Year 1:** Eliza & Lola **Year 2:** Roman

**Year 3:** Jack **Year 4:** Charlotte **Year 5:** Hannah **Year 6:** Lily

### Celebrating Attendance

Whole school attendance is currently at 94.7%

Well done to Year 4 for best attendance this week at 97%

### Attendance raffle

**Remember**, the 100% attendance raffle has restarted so all children will be entered back into the draw. **BUT they need to be in to win!**

### Dates for Diary

- Mon 12<sup>th</sup> Feb - Chinese New Year School lunch - no other lunch option available
- Wed 14<sup>th</sup> Feb - Valentines School Disco - whole school
- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> Feb - Break up for half term
- Thur 7<sup>th</sup> Mar - World Book Day and the start of our Scholastic Book Fair after school
- Thur 7<sup>th</sup> Mar - World Book Day special lunch menu - further info to follow
- Mon 11<sup>th</sup>, Tues 12<sup>th</sup> & Wed 13<sup>th</sup> March - book fair in hall after school until 3.45pm
- Tues 19<sup>th</sup> Mar - KS2 Dance club performing PM at the Glasshouse International Centre for Music
- Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Mar - Easter Film night - whole school
- Thur 28<sup>th</sup> March - Break up for Easter return Mon 15<sup>th</sup> April

### Reader of the Week Award

Celebrating our school's passion for reading! A huge congratulations to this week's school reading award winners. We are delighted to introduce this week's star readers who will receive a certificate:

#### **Reception**

Bronn and Isla

#### **Year 1**

Luna and Harper

#### **Year 2**

Alex and Ellie

#### **Year 3**

Jazmine and Elijah

#### **Year 4**

Ruby and Jacob

#### **Year 5**

Jack and Yanis

#### **Year 6**

Amelia and Poppy



### Sport News

A huge well done to our Year 5/6 basketball team who competed in the Gateshead finals today and came away with silver medals out of a huge 50 schools across Gateshead. 🏆

Portobello, Gateshead Champions for the 3rd year in a row in the Year 5/6 Netball event for our team today 🏆🏆 Absolutely incredible achievement and we can't wait for the county finals!

Well done to our Boccia team who competed against other Gateshead schools and managed to come 4th out of 28 schools. Well done everyone! **#TeamPortobello**



### Right of the week

Article 17 - Access to Information - Children have the right to get information from the internet, radio, television, newspapers, books, and other sources. Adults should make sure the information they are getting is not harmful. Governments should encourage the media to share information from lots of different sources, in languages that all children can understand.

### Portobello Parent/Carer Fundraising Committee

Calling all Year 1 parents/carers would anyone like to come along to our next fundraising get together and check out whether you would like to get involved? Come along on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 3pm to find out more, please let Mrs Lister know if you can attend.



### Chinese New Year

We will be celebrating in school on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February with a specially designed lunch menu. there will be no jacket potatoes or any other lunch option available on this day.

### Valentines Disco

Please ensure tickets are purchased by 9am Monday - entry tickets will be given out Monday and Tuesday next week.







# COME To the SUPER AMAZING BOOK FAIR!

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OVER £5.3M BOOKS TO SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE

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Available from 5th February

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**£7.99**

**Date:** World Book Day is Thursday 7th March

Book fair will be available after school  
Thursday 7th March until 4pm and a tuck shop too  
Monday 11th until 3.45pm  
Tuesday 12th until 3.45pm  
Wednesday 13th until 3.45pm

**Scan the QR code  
to pay online!**





### Online Safety

It's a jungle out there! If a platform where young people can video chat with random strangers sounds like an #OnlineSafety risk which is - quite frankly - bananas, you'll want to check out our #WakeUpWednesday guide to Monkey.

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 of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MONKEY

Also known as Monkey Cool, this platform aims to fill the gap left by Omegle (which has now shut down) by placing users in random video chats with strangers. Participants use their mobile number and Snapchat username to connect to the service, where they can make matches, message other people and join group chats. The mobile version has been removed from the App Store due to safety concerns, but iPhone owners can still access the site via their web browser. The app remains available on Google Play, where its listing claims that Monkey has more than 30 million users worldwide.

**AGE RESTRICTION 17+**  
(Although the lack of age verification means that someone younger could easily sign in with a false date of birth.)

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The app claims to use AI to detect sexual content or activity that violates its policies, along with having a 24/7 moderation team. However, reports in the media continue to indicate that explicit content remains commonplace on Monkey (including sexually graphic or violent material) and is therefore accessible to anybody who uses the app - including those aged under 18.

### CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

The obvious risk in accepting random video chat partners is that users cannot know what or who they will see on their next connection. Talking to strangers is, of course, potentially dangerous - especially for children who might be persuaded to meet up with these people offline. The app lets users find each other by location, increasing the chances of a child being matched with a stranger from their local area.

### IN-APP SPENDING

While Monkey is free to download, it nevertheless offers in-app purchases promising to unlock access to premium features. For example, users who wish to make use of 'Knock Knock chat' (Monkey's text-based messaging option), rather than the app's Chatroulette-style random video calling feature, will need to pay to be able to do so.

### INTRUSIONS ON PRIVACY

According to Monkey's privacy policy, personal information (such as name, profile picture and date of birth), user-contributed content (any photos, texts, videos and screenshots shared) and each user's browser and IP address are collected. That is a considerable amount of data for Monkey to gather on its users - and all of this information is shared with third parties.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### DISCUSS THE DANGERS

Even if you're comfortable with your child using Monkey, it's still important to talk about the potential dangers. It's crucial, for instance, that young people recognise the risks that stem from video chatting with strangers; that they understand not to share identifying information (like their street or school name); and that they know what to do if they are exposed to inappropriate content.

### RESTRICT IN-APP PURCHASING

If your child is accessing Monkey via an Android device, you can prevent them from making in-app purchases through the device's settings. If you do allow your child to use the site, we'd recommend that you enable this feature: young people have been known to spend significant amounts of money in their desire to unlock more features in apps such as this.

### REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Monkey states in the safety section of its site that 'people are given the power' and that, to a large extent, Monkey is self-governing. If a user is exposed to sexually explicit or inappropriate content on the platform, they can select the 'police' emoji in the top right corner of their screen to submit a report for Monkey's moderation team to review.

### SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Monkey - or that they may have been exposed to inappropriate or distressing content - it's important to watch for potential indications that they've been affected emotionally. They could be unusually irritable or unable to concentrate, for example, or failing to complete their homework or even to eat regular meals.

### 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.

**The National College** **NOS** **National Online Safety** **#WakeUpWednesday**

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