

ISSUE 08

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER



DEAR PARENTS AND CARERS,

At Phoenix Primary, safeguarding remains at the heart of everything we do. As we come to the end of the another half term a much-needed break has certainly been earned by both children and staff alike.

This time of year can bring lots of new experiences, opportunities and challenges for children and families, and in this month's newsletter we have included guidance around supporting children with grief and difficult news, online safety and screen time, attendance, and road safety during the lighter evenings.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support in helping our children feel safe, happy and ready to thrive. We hope all of our families enjoy a safe, restful and enjoyable half term break.

Phoenix Safeguarding Team

ONLINE SAFETY & DEVICES

With lighter evenings and warmer weather, many children are spending more time online gaming, chatting and using social media. While technology can be positive, too much screen time can impact sleep, mental health, concentration and emotional wellbeing, as well as increase exposure to inappropriate content.

Please remember, many popular apps and games are not designed for primary-aged children, even if "everyone else has it."



ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance helps children stay connected to learning, routines and friendships. As we approach the summer holidays, we kindly remind families that holidays during term time may result in a fixed penalty notice in line with Liverpool Local Authority guidance.

Thank you for your continued support in helping children attend school every day, ready to learn and thrive.



ROAD SAFETY & LIGHTER EVENINGS

With brighter evenings and warmer weather, children are naturally spending more time outdoors riding bikes, scooters and playing with friends.

Please continue reminding children to:

- Stop, look, listen and think before crossing roads
- Use crossings where possible
- Wear helmets when cycling or scootering
- Avoid distractions such as phones or headphones near roads
- Stay aware around driveways and car parks



Children can sometimes become more confident outdoors during the summer months, so regular reminders about staying alert and safe remain really important.

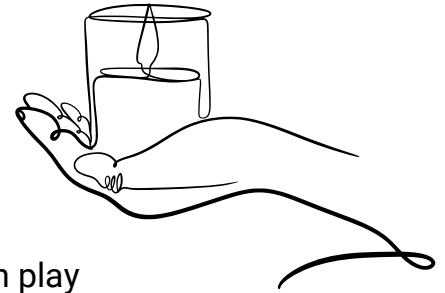
SUPPORTING CHILDREN THROUGH GRIEF & DIFFICULT NEWS

This week, our school community has experienced the incredibly sad loss of one of our pupils. Our thoughts continue to remain with the Hughes family, friends and all those affected during this deeply difficult time.

At times like these, children may experience a range of emotions including sadness, confusion, worry or anxiety. Some children may want to talk openly, while others may become quieter, emotional or unsettled. It is important that children feel safe, listened to and reassured by the adults around them.

When talking to children about difficult news or bereavement:

- Use calm, honest and age-appropriate language
- Give children time to ask questions
- Reassure them that their feelings are normal
- Keep routines as consistent as possible
- Encourage children to talk, draw or express feelings through play
- Remind them that trusted adults are there to help and support them



Children often revisit feelings of grief or worry over time as their understanding develops, so ongoing reassurance and open conversations can really help.

We understand that some children and families may need additional support when processing grief, loss or difficult news. The following organisations provide trusted advice, guidance and support for parents and children:

- Child Bereavement UK: <https://www.childbereavementuk.org/>
- Winston's Wish: <https://winstonswish.org/>
- Young Minds – Supporting a Child Through Bereavement: <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/bereavement-and-loss/>
- NSPCC – Talking to Children About Difficult Topics: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/talking-about-difficult-topics/>
- Kooth: <https://www.kooth.com/>

IMPORTANCE OF TALKING

Talking really helps. When children feel worried, upset or confused, having the opportunity to talk to a trusted adult can make a huge difference. We encourage all children to speak to someone they trust – whether that is at home or in school.

At, we remind children that no worry is too small to share and that there will always be adults ready to listen, support and help them feel safe. If you or your child need any additional support, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff at Phoenix. We are always here to help and support our families in any way we can.

