

# Church Crookham News

## *"Achievement By All"*

It has been wonderful this week to hear all about our Year 6 pupils thoroughly enjoying their time at Osmington Bay and those who have been out on day trips too. I've had messages from PGL who have said that they have been very impressed with our children and how their behaviour has been great and their positive attitudes to the activities have been really impressive. The Year 6 pupils that have been to Osmington Bay are due back on Friday and we know they'll return with many stories of their week away. It's been great having quick updates from our school twitter account @CCJSvisits and to see pictures of the activities. All gates at school (including the Tudor Way gate) will remain open until they return on Friday.

### **Fantastic Friday on 13<sup>th</sup> October**

Planning is well underway for our first Fantastic Friday on 13<sup>th</sup> October. Prior to the day we provide opportunities for children to choose activities they can undertake. There is a lot on offer for children to choose. Some activities included are additional trips and a separate email has gone out about these to find out the interest for them. On Fantastic Friday it is a non-school uniform day and children are asked to come dressed appropriately for their activity. This means that if they have chosen a sporting event, they come dressed in suitable PE clothes. Nearer the time the children will have chosen their activities and know what their day involves.

### **Music lessons – Brass Lessons**

We are always pleased when children take the opportunity to learn a musical instrument. We do have spaces for children wanting to learn a brass instrument, such as trumpet or trombone. If your child is keen to learn, or has been inspired from seeing Mr Riches perform at the Last Night of the Proms then please do contact Jo Bickerstaff at our school office who can provide more information. (Did you spot Mr Riches perform on Saturday evening? He was playing the tuba and there was a particularly good shot of him at the end of the performance!)

### **Free School Meals**

Please inform us if you think your child is eligible for Free School Meals. We are able to claim extra funding to support your child's learning if this is the case, even if you decide not to actually take the meals. You are able to claim Free School Meals if you are in receipt of any of the following benefits:

Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seekers' Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on—paid for 4 weeks after not being qualified for Working Tax Credit
- All Universal Credit Claimants, provided you have an annual income of no more than £7,400.

If you think you are eligible, please pop into the office and pick up an application form.

## County Lines and Criminal Exploitation

### What are County Lines and Criminal Exploitation?

Recently you may have heard the term 'County Lines'? County lines is when gangs and organised crime groups exploit children to transport and sell drugs, usually between big cities where exploiters are based to smaller towns, sometimes across county boundaries but also locally and within the area. The children have dedicated mobile phone 'lines' for taking orders for drugs; children are used as they are less likely to be stopped by police, allowing adult dealers to avoid the risk of arrest.

County lines is a form of criminal exploitation; this occurs where a person or a group of people takes advantage of their contact with and influence over a young person to coerce or manipulate them into carrying out a criminal act.

Examples of criminal exploitation include:

- Forced theft
- Forced begging
- Cannabis cultivation
- Money mule (where the young person's bank account is used by others for money laundering)

As children become more independent and spend more time with their friends, some parents may worry about their child becoming involved in drug dealing and violence associated with 'county lines'. For many children, becoming involved in county lines happens because they are being exploited by others. Children of a young age can easily be led into this activity.

### How do young people become involved?

**Young people may be recruited for county lines and other forms of criminal exploitation by a process of grooming:**

- At the targeting stage, the exploiter befriends the young person and gains their trust. Young people may also be recruited through social media and/or through their peer group
- At the experience stage, the young person is initiated into the lifestyle by being offered gifts, money, drugs or alcohol as a way of gaining control over them.
- At the hooked stage, the young person becomes more involved in criminal activities and taking on more responsibility within the group. Young people may initially feel like they are undertaking activities by choice.

- At the trapped stage, the young person may find they are trapped and unable to leave; they may be controlled through threats against themselves and their family and physically attacked to ensure they are too scared to tell anyone.

Often young people are unaware of the exploitative nature of their friendship until it's too late, and parents are unlikely to be aware of what is happening.

### For more information visit the following:

**The Children's Society**

[www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work/tackling-criminal-exploitation-and-county-lines/county-lines-resources](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work/tackling-criminal-exploitation-and-county-lines/county-lines-resources)

**Safe4me**

[www.safe4me.co.uk/portfolio/child-criminal-exploitation-county-lines](http://www.safe4me.co.uk/portfolio/child-criminal-exploitation-county-lines)

**NSPCC**

[www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/gangs-criminal-exploitation](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/gangs-criminal-exploitation)

**National Crime Agency**

[www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/drug-trafficking/county-lines](http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/drug-trafficking/county-lines)

## Possible signs a young person is being exploited

Some parents of young people who have been exploited through county lines involvement have reported that they went through a sudden change in behaviour. Possible indicators of involvement include:

Unexplained money, clothes or gifts

Having several mobile phones, balaclavas, weapons or digital scales

Frequent, unexplained phone calls, seeming edgy and anxious after receiving calls and texts

returning from being away from home looking tired and dirty

staying out overnight or going missing for days

being in trouble with the police and/or found in possession of drugs

dropping old friends, hobbies and interests

having a new friendship circle including older youth/adults

unexplained injuries

sudden and uncharacteristic changes in behaviour or interests (e.g. interests in postcodes, boundaries)

being found in an area or at an address a distance from home that they have no connection with

carrying weapons

not going to school/college

appearing in online (music) videos with weapons

## What should you do?

As a parent/carer, it's important to have good communication with your child and provide the right level of supervision for your child, especially when they are out playing with their friends, such as at local parks. It's important to give your child some independence as they move through the Junior years, but providing the right boundaries too are very important. Checking things like who your child is playing with, looking out for any changes in behaviour or any new items they may have and find out where they have got them from. If your child has a mobile phone, check devices regularly and check the security settings and apps your child is using. Use open questions and stay calm when talking to your child, also be open and try to be non-judgemental.

Any concerns you have, report to the police or if there is a particular child you are concerned about you can refer your concern directly to Hampshire Children's Services on 0300 555 1384 and speak to the Designated Safeguarding Leads at school.

## What are CCJS doing about County Lines & why are we writing about this now?

At school we have included regular age appropriate PSHE work, such as work on friendships, peer pressure and being safe online. We work closely with the police and, where appropriate the police who have been in school and delivered some specific lessons on helping children to keep themselves safe. We are also raising awareness with you too. Our staff have all received child protection training, which includes an understanding of county lines.

We have been made aware of some suspicious activity in a skate park in the Hook area, which suggests County Lines is actively 'recruiting' children who use the skate park – this has included Junior aged children, where some children were offered new scooters for doing 'jobs' for them. County lines have operated (and may well be operating) in the Fleet area and, the nature of this criminal activity, means that different 'lines' are needed by criminals. It's important that everyone is aware and plays their part in helping our children to keep and remain safe.

**You are invited to a Parent/Carer coffee morning on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 9-10am in the main hall.**

We are delighted to invite you to our coffee morning. Hampshire Primary Behaviour Service will be attending to explain how to help when your child experiences big emotions. All children show big emotions, which can include anger, worry, fear, anxiety, frustrations and excitement but they can often be hard to understand and manage. The coffee morning is designed to be very practical, will provide you with some ideas, or even just some reflection time, to consider strategies to support your child. We look forward to welcoming you to this event.

**The event is free of charge and you are welcome to book tickets ahead of the event at**

**<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/433537912567>**

**or contact the school Office to book a place.**





## **Bourley Grange Care Home**

Bourley Grange Care Home are inviting children, with their parents and teddy bear to visit on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September in the afternoon until 4.30pm! Any child who arrives with their teddy bear will get a free ice-cream.

### **Individual Photos**

All children (except for Year 6) will have received the photo proofs of the individual school photographs taken last week. If you co-parent and haven't had a paper copy of the proof, this photo should have been sent to you via email. The deadline for completing the order is Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. If you think you have not received the proof, then please do contact the school office.

### **Parent Workshops**

Many of our Year 3 Parents were able to come to school to share a book with their child and they will be invited to come into school on Friday at 9.15am to share a board game. There will be opportunities later this term when parents will be invited to take part in specific activities to support your child's learning.

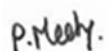
### **Absence Requests**

From time to time there maybe a need for your child to not be in school, such as attending a medical appointment. We do request that, where possible, appointments are made outside the school day (such as standard eye checks with the optician). Schools cannot authorise holidays during term time.

### **Just a reminder ...**

- Our school is a 'Nut Free' school. Therefore, please ensure that any nuts / nut-based foods are not sent in for snacks or lunch.
- If your child is unable to attend school due to being unwell, please inform the school office either by phone or email as early as possible. Please note, we no longer use ParentMail.

Kind regards,



Pam Meek  
Headteacher