

# Mersey Park Primary School



## Headteacher's Newsletter - April 2022

### Foundation Stage 1 Intake 2022

If you have a child who was born between the **1st September 2018** and **31st August 2019**, and will therefore turn **3** before **31st August 2022**, then you can apply for a Foundation Stage 1 (Nursery) place for your child to start in September 2022. Application forms can be collected from our school office and once completed should be returned together with proof of your address and a copy of your child's birth certificate or passport. The admission process will begin very shortly, therefore we would kindly request that all applications are completed and returned to the school office by **Friday 8th April 2022**.

If you are unable to visit school please email the school office and we will arrange for an application form to be sent to you.



[schooloffice@merseypark.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:schooloffice@merseypark.wirral.sch.uk)

### Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a midday assistant. If you would be interested in this role please call into the school office



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### April Dates to Remember

**Spring Break /Easter Holiday**  
**Monday 11th April — Friday 22nd April**



**Half Term Trophy Assembly**  
**(Pupils Only)**  
**Friday 29th April**



**May Day Bank Holiday**  
**School Closed to Pupils**  
**Monday 2nd May**



**Staff Development Day**  
**School Closed to Pupils**  
**Thursday 5th May**



Year 6 Pupils will be invited into school for the morning of this development day for additional SAT's revision prior to their tests the following week.

### Comic Relief—Red Nose Day

Thank you to everyone who took part, donated and entered competitions for our Comic Relief Red Nose Day.

**We raised an amazing £349.50**



### PTA Easter Raffle

Our PTA will be holding an Easter Egg Raffle very soon — look out for more information coming soon!



**Easter Raffle**

## National Online Safety #WakeUpWednesday

According to recent Ofcom research, 7 out of 10 people in the UK received a suspicious text to their mobile phone last year. Almost half (44%) of those say they get a such a message every week. Banks and consumer watchdogs alike are warning of an increase in attempted phone scams, which frequently target more vulnerable groups: the elderly and, of course, young people.

Scammers' tricks have become more sophisticated in the digital age: now they can convincingly pretend to represent our bank, our health services or even our loved ones. Stay wise to their rapidly evolving schemes and protect yourself – and your family – with today's #Wake up Wednesday guide to phone scams.

[Click on the image below to download a copy of the information.](#)

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 issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about PHONE SCAMS

In a three-month period during 2021, no fewer than 45 million people in the UK experienced a suspicious attempt at being contacted via their mobile. Phone scams are a common form of cyber-attack where fraudsters engage directly with their intended victim through their smartphone. As our phones carry so many sensitive (and therefore potentially valuable) details about us, it's vital that trusted adults are alert to the tactics that scammers use to get access to user accounts, personal data and private information for financial gain.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

**SMISHING**  
SMS phishing, or 'smishing' is one of the most common forms of mobile-based cyber-attack. Smishing is when a scammer texts their target, pretending to be a reputable person or organisation. They aim to trick the victim into supplying sensitive data such as bank details and personal information, so that they can then access the target's bank accounts and remove money.

**IMPERSONATION**  
Fraudsters often impersonate someone else to trick the victim into actually transferring money directly. They might claim, for example, to be a friend or relative using a different number who urgently needs funds. Other common cons include sending fake texts informing the target that they have a package which requires a fee to be delivered, or that they have an unpaid bill to settle.

**NUMBER SPOOFING**  
Here, the scammer takes impersonation one step further by cloning the phone number of a genuine company, so when the target receives a call or text, their phone recognises the sender's number as legitimately belonging to Amazon, iStock, the NHS or the DVLA (who have all been impersonated in these cons). This makes the scam far harder to spot and the victim much more inclined to comply.

**FAKE TECH SUPPORT**  
Attackers contact a target, pretending to work for their employer's IT support team. They then advise them to download some software to fix 'a technical issue' with their device. In reality, however, the software grants the scammers access to the victim's private data and sensitive information. This can be more common on desktop and laptop devices, but is still possible to accomplish on mobiles.

**SIM HIJACKING**  
SIM hijacking switches control of a phone account from the victim's SIM card to one in the scammers' possession. Criminals use personal details pieced together from social media (birthday, address, pet's name and so on) to pose as you, then instruct your phone network to transfer your number to their SIM – giving them access to all calls and texts meant for you, including one-time login passcodes.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

**DO SOME DIGGING**  
If you've received a call or text asking for specific information, research the caller's number. There are several websites that allow you to enter a phone number and will then display any relevant information about it – this usually includes feedback and comments from other people, so you can easily see if that particular number has been implicated in potential scams.

**TRY A CALL BLOCKER**  
If a suspicious call comes through on your mobile, you can manually block the number if you believe it to be dubious or a nuisance caller. Alternatively, you could consider installing a call blocker service on your phone. They automatically stop calls getting through from numbers which have been reported as suspicious, halting potential scammers in their tracks before they can reach you.

**VERIFY THE SOURCE**  
Never disclose confidential details to an individual or organisation you're unfamiliar with. If the caller claims to represent a company you trust but is still asking for personal information or payment on an outstanding charge, end the conversation. Then find the company's genuine number on a bill or on their website and call them directly to confirm if there really is an issue you need to address.

**BREAK OUT THE TECH**  
Lots of anti-virus software now also protects mobiles. Some anti-virus apps can detect phishing links in text messages and alert you to the risk. When you're out and about, try not to use public WiFi for sensitive transactions: it's far less secure than your home WiFi network. Instead, you could consider installing a VPN (virtual private network), which encrypts all data travelling to and from your phone.

**REPORT INCIDENTS**  
If you or a family member does give out confidential information to a caller you aren't sure about, contact the actual company mentioned to check if the call was genuine. If they confirm that the call was not made by their organisation, you should report it as a potential scam via the Action Fraud website and (depending on exactly what information was divulged) consider involving the police.

**BE WARY OF LINKS**  
If you get a message from an unknown number asking you to click on a link, report it as spam and do not open the link. One recent example 'warned' victims they'd been exposed to the Omicron variant and needed to click a link to buy a special test – only to find they had paid their money to scammers. Links can also install malware onto your device, so always treat them with extreme caution.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Formed in 2018, Kryptokloud provides cyber security and resilience solutions to its customers. With offices in the UK, the company offers managed service operational packages including cyber security monitoring and testing, risk audit, threat intelligence and incident response.

**NOS National Online Safety®**  
#WakeUpWednesday

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](https://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) @natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

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## Mersey Park Primary School—Outdoor Classroom

Work has begun on developing our new outdoor classroom with our school Eco team helping to plant a willow tunnel and create a meeting circle with log seating and wood chippings. We will shortly be planting beech hedging on the perimeter to help to shelter the area and there will be much more planting over the coming months.

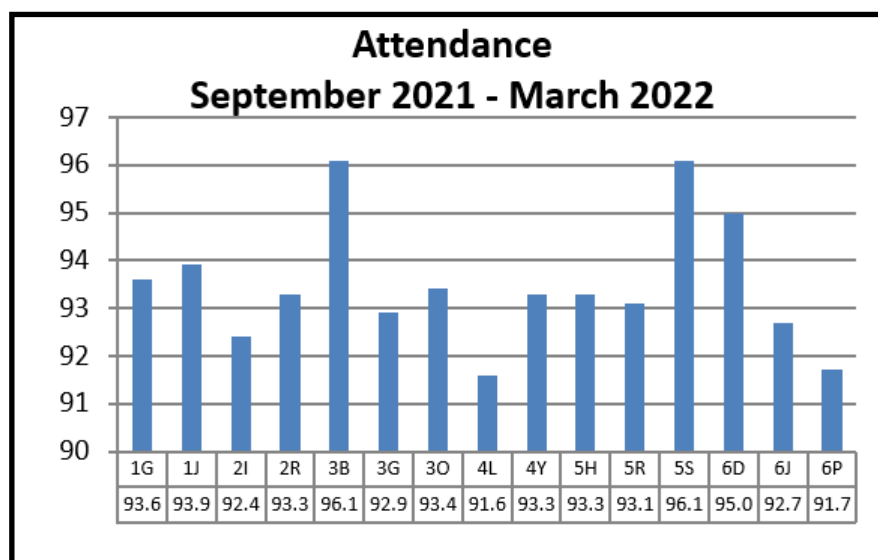
We would like to say a big **Thank You** to Mr Foster, one of our Governors, for making the lovely blue planter from recycled pallets.



The area will be used by the whole school to take their lessons outside and see learning from a different perspective.

## Attendance

Current whole school attendance is 94.4%. The classes with the best attendance so far this year are **3B** and **5S** with 96.1% - congratulations! All the classes in school are working hard in school to try to improve their attendance. Well done to **1G, 1J, 3B, 5S, 6D** and **6J** who have successfully improved their class attendance, during March.



There are **97** pupils who currently have 100% attendance for the Spring term, who will receive a certificate at the end of the term. Each week, in Awards Assembly on a Friday afternoon, pupils with 100% attendance for the week (in the class that are at the top of the attendance league), are entered into a raffle to win a box of chocolates to share at home. We also continue to run our £5 for 5 competition each week, where a randomly chosen pupil can win a £5 note if they have been in school every day that week. If the chosen pupil has not been in every day, the prize rolls-over to the next week!

If your child is absent from school, please remember to inform school of the reason as only 5 days missed due to unauthorised absence can lead to an Education Penalty Notice.