

EASTER CELEBRATION ENDS THE TERM



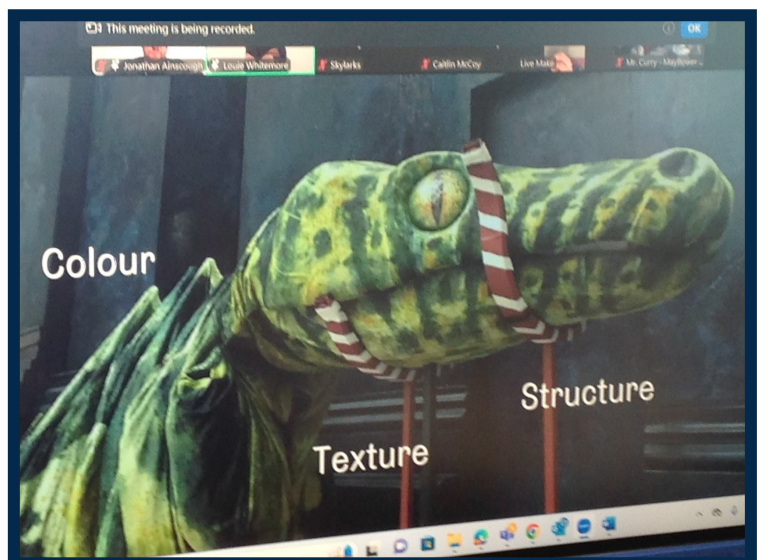
Both schools walked to St Mary's Church in Marshchapel for a celebration of Easter. The Kestrels performed two tunes on the toots with Mr Egerton's guidance. Lapwings clucked and gamboled through two springtime action songs before the Skylarks told us about why we have Easter in church. Barn Owls and Kestrels shared readings from the Bible and poetry and joined in with the singing throughout. Thanks for the support from families who filled the church.

We had a final celebration to share - Mrs G has been working at Marshchapel for 40 years and was presented with her longtime service award. What an achievement for her and how lucky we are to have her.



MARSHCHAPEL LEARNING

Skylarks joined an online live lesson with the Royal Ballet and Opera. They used Design Technology to create a serpent based on Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. They found out a little about stage and costume design and about how an opera is brought to life in a performance. They even got to watch some parts of the opera being performed on stage at the Royal Opera House. The children have also loved reading the story of *The Magic Flute*, watching an animation and listening to some of the music from the opera.



MARSHCHAPEL READING

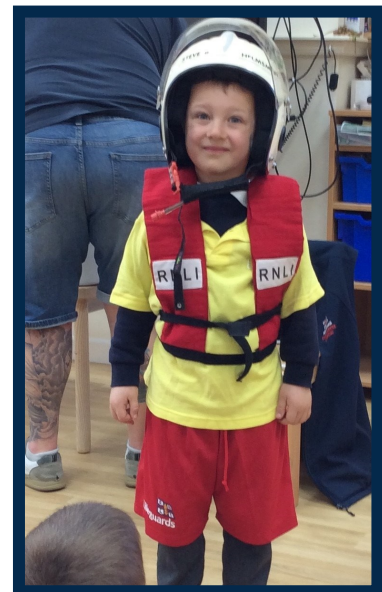
Skylarks and Lapwings have a new reading companion. Every Friday, Molly the therapy dog enjoys being read to by the children. It's so relaxing to have a canine friend in school and she never barks if you get the word wrong! Thanks to Mrs Lindwall for making this possible.



PEOPLE WHO HELP US - THE RNLI



The children enjoyed a session with the RNLI Cleethorpes and learned about the life saving work the volunteers perform. Having studied Grace Darling earlier this year, the Skylarks had some interesting questions to ask. Our donations totalled £38 so thank you for your generosity.



MARSHCHAPEL EASTER ASSEMBLY

Both schools welcomed Liz and Diane from Generations Church in Louth for an assembly about the Easter story. Here you can see the Marshchapel children enjoying the experience.



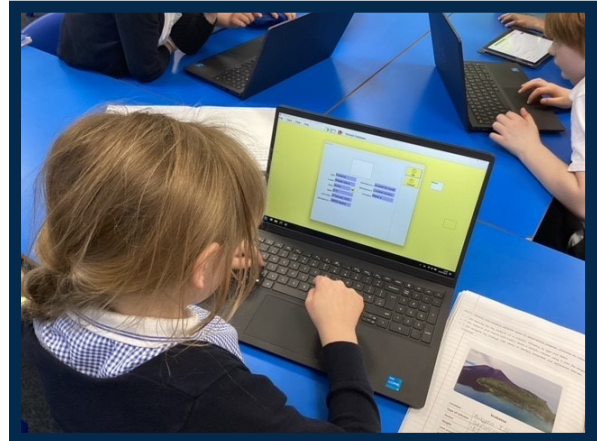
MARSHCHAPEL STARTING BIKEABILITY

Following on from Mrs Manders' and Miss Waterhouse's successful training, the children have started to use the new bikes we have. They were very confident!



GRAINTHORPE - ALL THINGS VOLCANIC in BARN OWLS' CLASS

The Barn Owl geologists put their volcanic knowledge to the test, working together to create a fantastic collaborative database using 2Investigate software on the laptops. They researched, recorded, and shared fascinating facts about these powerful natural wonders!



The children designed volcanoes and then experimented with creating eruptions! It was so nice of Miss Chatterton to send home the models - please ensure your children experiment outside!



GRAINTHORPE - WHAT A GREAT RESIDENTIAL FOR KESTRELS!

The Kestrels experienced an adventure last week. Travelling to Dearne Valley, they were expecting fun and excitement but were not prepared for the challenges! It was three days packed with team building tasks which pushed everyone to be the best they could be. Everyone said it was the best school trip ever. It's great to see how the group has bonded so well and we hope the skills of resilience and perseverance continue to grow.

Mrs Clifford, Miss Brine and Miss Campbell went that extra mile to make the trip enjoyable - huge thanks to you!



GRAINTHORPE SCHOOL COUNCIL MEET THEIR LOCAL MP

The School Council welcomed Rt Hon Victoria Atkins MP to Grainthorpe and shared an hour of questions and answers. The children learned so much about how parliament works and were invited to visit the Houses of Parliament!

Ms Atkins was given a grilling by the children who wanted to know what was being done to stop littering and what could stop the pylons in our area. The group were curious to know why she wanted to become an MP (to help people who get into trouble), how many people she has helped (thousands), and what her favourite food is (chicken salad and/or chocolate!)

It was an inspiring session for the children and they were also joined by school governor, Vicki Jackson. We're sure to have discussions next term about a visit to London...



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

INSTAGRAM

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Instagram remains one of the world's most popular social media platforms, especially among teens – with around 70% of 13 to 17-year-olds using it. Owned by Meta, Instagram allows users to share photos and videos, create interactive 'stories', broadcast live, send private messages and follow others. With regular updates and new features, it's essential for parents and educators to stay informed about how children are using the app – and what the risks are.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Instagram's design encourages prolonged use through endless scrolling of trending content and generating a fear of missing out (FOMO). Children can quickly lose track of time browsing posts from friends, influencers, and strangers, which may disrupt their day-to-day activities.

AI CHATBOT CONCERNS

Meta's AI, which is available on Instagram, allows users to chat with an in-app chatbot. While often helpful, it can blur boundaries for young users, who may ask for or read content that is inappropriate or see it as a real friend or confidant. Privacy issues also arise, as conversations may not be as secure or private as children assume.

RISKS OF GOING LIVE

The livestream feature allows real-time broadcasting to followers – or anyone, if the account is public. This increases the chance of unwanted contact from strangers and pressure to act in ways that gain attention, including engaging in inappropriate behaviour. Viewers may also post offensive or harmful comments during live sessions.

THREADS INTEGRATION

Threads is Instagram's sister app for public, text-based conversations. Posts from Threads appear in users' Instagram feeds and can lead children to view, share, and comment on public conversations with strangers. The content may not always be age-appropriate and can be misleading or false.

SCHEDULED MESSAGING

Instagram's newer ability to schedule direct messages means that children could receive messages late at night or early in the morning. This can disrupt their sleep or keep them preoccupied before the school day even begins.

EXCLUSION AND LOW SELF-WORTH

Feeling left out online can have a real emotional impact. Being left out of photos, receiving fewer likes, being unfollowed, or being ignored in chats and comments can leave children feeling excluded, which often hurts as much as in real life. There is a risk this can lead to reduced self-esteem and a sense of not belonging.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE INSTAGRAM'S SUPERVISION TOOLS

Instagram's built-in Family Centre lets parents monitor how much time their child spends on the app. Specialised 'teen accounts' are private by default and offer controls on who can message them. Make sure that children use their real age when registering their account to ensure they have these protections.

OPEN UP THE CONVERSATION

Talk regularly to the children in your care about what they enjoy on Instagram – and what makes them uncomfortable. Encourage honest chats about filters, body image, and online approval. Reassure them that they don't need to edit their appearance or chase 'likes' to feel valued.

SET BOUNDARIES FOR THREADS AND AI

Parental controls on Instagram also apply to Threads. These allow parents to monitor time spent in the app, check follower lists and adjust exposure to sensitive content. Discuss AI features, too, therefore helping children understand that chatbots aren't real people and should be used with care.

BE MEDIA-SAVVY WITH INFLUENCERS

Parents should follow a few of the influencers their child watches, so they can better understand the content they're seeing. Use this as a springboard to talk about the difference between genuine recommendations and paid promotions – and how online personalities can shape opinions and behaviour.

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.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



FENLAND FEDERATION

MARCH/APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER



DIARY DATES

WHAT'S COMING UP IN TERM 5 2025

Wednesday 23rd April 2025 Term 5 begins

Wednesday 23rd April 2025 Road Safety Day with the Road Safety Partnership - at both schools

Monday 28th April 2025 Heroes of History Workshops for KS1 and KS2

Tuesday 29th April 2025 Healthy Relationships Workshops at Grainthorpe

Thursday 8th May 2025 VE Day Celebrations - come dressed in red, white and or blue

Monday 12th May 2025 to Thursday 15th May 2025 - Year 6 SATs days - special breakfast club laid on for the Year 6 group.

Thursday 22nd May 2025 - Marshchapel children to visit the Marshchapel Arts Exhibition

Friday 23rd May 2025 - Last day of Term 5

Monday 2nd June 2025 Term 6 begins

Tuesday 22nd July 2025 - Last school day of the year!

Thursday 4th September 2025 - Term 1 begins

APRIL FOOL PRANKS

Miss Waterhouse wins the best April Fools Award this year. She asked a child at Breakfast Club if they'd like a sausage sandwich instead of the usual cereal...

Later that morning, Skylarks were told they had chocolate for break time. There was a huge cheer followed by a loud groan when bananas and apples were shared along with the immortal words "April Fools!"

SAFEGUARDING IN OUR COMMUNITY

If you have any safeguarding concerns to do with children please let us know. Our Federation has a designated safeguarding lead professional (DSL), Mrs Turner and deputy DSLs, Mrs Manders and Mrs Clifford.

Please telephone school on 01472 869075 (M) or 01472 869035 (G).

If you have a safeguarding issue to discuss, you can contact Children's Services directly on 01522 782111.