



**St Ives Primary School,**  
Sandy Lane,  
St Ives,  
Ringwood,  
Hants  
BH24 2LE

Tel: 01425 475478  
Email: [office@stivesprimary.com](mailto:office@stivesprimary.com)  
Web: [www.stivesprimary.com](http://www.stivesprimary.com)

Company number 9809895  
Headteacher: Mrs L Crossley

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## Newsletter 33 – 28th May 2021

### Article of the Month 24 – Health, Water, Food, Environment

You have the right to good food and water and to see a doctor if you are ill.

### Class News

- Nursery - have been learning all about the letter sound 'x' in phonics!  
YR - have loved our first swimming lessons and showed great independence skills whilst getting changed.  
Y1 - have loved getting into the swimming pool and developing their swimming skills.  
Y2 - have really enjoyed their swimming lessons this week and are super-fast at changing!  
Y3 - thoroughly enjoyed singing with the rest of the school on Wednesday!  
Y4 - had great fun completing our science experiments.  
Y5 - have really enjoyed getting crafty making their own Titanic rooms.  
Y6 - have been learning about vertebrates and invertebrates in Science

Dear Parents,

A huge thank you to SISA, as yet again, they have worked tirelessly to get the swimming pool up and running for our children to learn this crucial life skill. It has been amazing to see the resilience of our children, with some children not having been swimming since the last time our pool was open in 2019. Our reception and Year 1's were amazing and showed off their water confidence brilliantly!!

I hope you can all have a wonderful and hopefully sunny half term!

### Books

Thank you for the deliveries of books, it is very much appreciated!

Do you have books that your children have grown out of? Would you be happy to donate these to school? If so, our classroom libraries could really do with some more reading material. Thank you in advance!!

### Sponsored Fun Run

The school councillors have organised a sponsored fun run for Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June to raise money for our chosen charity, Battens Fighters Forever (BFF). As a school, we are going to aim to run 250 miles collectively. Each child will be bringing a sponsorship form to start collecting sponsors. Please bring all money in by Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June. Let's raise lots of money!

### Parking

Please be reminded to park sensibly and be respectful to residents. Residents will be contacting the police with any parking issues or disputes.

### Swimming

Swimming will be the first day back! Rash vests can be worn for sun protection and warmth. Please ensure your child has a swim hat and goggles if that is what they normally wear.

### KS1

	Tuesday & Thursday
09:15	R
10:00	R
10:45	Yr2
12:45	Yr1
1:30	Yr1

### KS2

	Monday		Friday
08:45	Yr6	08:45	Yr6
10:00	Yr4	09:40	Yr3
11:15	Yr5	10:30	Yr4
1:15	Yr3	11:20	Yr5

### School Gates (after half term)

After half term our school start and finish times will be changing back to our normal times. Please note all KS2 will start at 8.40am and finish at 3.15 with all of KS1 starting at 8.50am and finishing at 3.05pm.

Gate	8.40am	8.50am	9.00am
<b>Pedestrian</b>		Reception	
<b>1</b>	Year 4	Year 1	
<b>2</b>	Year 3	Reception	Nursery
<b>3</b>	Year 5	Year 1	
<b>4</b>	Year 6	Year 2	

Gate	3.00pm	3.05pm	3.15pm
<b>Pedestrian</b>		Reception	
<b>1</b>		Year 1	Year 4
<b>2</b>	Nursery	Reception	Year 3
<b>3</b>		Year 1	Year 5
<b>4</b>		Year 2	Year 6

### Internet Safety

TextMe is a free messaging service where you can send texts, voice messages, pictures and videos. Please see the attached guide which explores the key features of TextMe and the themes that parents need to know about, including safety tips around ensuring a safer experience for children.

## PE Kits

Tuesday - Sporty Tuesdays are to continue for all. Reception - Y6 – Full PE kit

Wednesday - Year 3 & 4 – Full PE kit and shin pads

Friday – Year R, 1, 2, 5 & 6 – Full PE kit

Year 3 & 4 – School Uniform and trainers

## Dates for the Diary:

### May

31<sup>st</sup> May - 4<sup>th</sup> June – Half term

### June

7<sup>th</sup> - Swimming lessons start

15<sup>th</sup> - Reception parent meetings

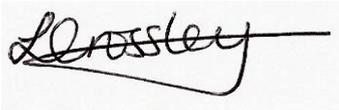
22<sup>nd</sup> - Climbing wall

### July

5<sup>th</sup> - Whole school transition day

16<sup>th</sup> - Last day of term

Yours sincerely



Mrs L Crossley  
Headteacher





## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about



# TEXTME



TextMe is a free texting and calling service. Users can send texts, voice messages, pictures and videos to any phone number in more than 40 countries. The app is free and available to install on any Apple or Android device. On registration, it assigns a 'new' mobile number to each user, effectively making them anonymous. TextMe is not recommended for children below 13 years old but there is currently no way to determine a user's actual age: children under 13 could easily bypass this age criteria since no verification is required to download the app.

### Visible Location

Like many communications apps, TextMe has a feature which allows users to share their location with other people. This function presents a risk if children are not careful about who they share their whereabouts with. It would make it much easier, for instance, for online predators to establish roughly where a child lives and – even more dangerously – discover their current location.

### Protection for Predators

Messages and phone calls using TextMe cannot be traced. Indeed, texts and calls made through the app do not even appear on an itemised phone bill. This means that not only can children communicate with other users without their parents knowing, but also if they were to be approached by a predator via the app, it would be difficult for even the authorities to establish the offender's identity.

### Exposure to Advertising

Users can earn points on TextMe by watching adverts, completing surveys or playing games within the app. Points can then be exchanged for extra calling minutes or more messaging credits. The desire to accumulate points could result in children spending longer hours on the app and heighten their exposure to advertising content; some of which isn't always age appropriate such as dating websites and dieting products.

### Anonymous Users

Users are allocated a 'new' phone number on joining TextMe, separate to any they might already have. This creates a potentially dangerous degree of anonymity, rendering it impossible to know exactly who your child is chatting with. The feature could facilitate online bullying, harassment or sexting, while some people are concerned that it essentially turns any device into a burner phone – often used in illegal activities.

### In-App Purchases and Subscriptions

TextMe is free but *does* also offer a premium subscription service which removes adverts and unlocks extra calling minutes. The subscription renews automatically on expiry, potentially meaning a rolling charge. Additionally, there is a range of bundles available as in-app purchases for increased minutes and extra text credits, which children could easily purchase inadvertently.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### Keep Locations Private

Try to help your child understand why using TextMe to share their location might not be safe. Even sending it to a genuine friend from their everyday life could be hazardous if they're in a group chat which also includes people they don't really know. In general, it's important to explain to your child that revealing their whereabouts to someone they have only spoken to online is *never* a good idea.

### Set Spending Limits

Given that TextMe offers numerous options to buy extra minutes and text credits, or take out a premium subscription, it would be wise to set your child a spending limit in advance if you *do* decide to let them download the app. Alternatively, you could remove any payment methods that are linked to their device, so they cannot make in-app purchases – either deliberately or unintentionally.

### Monitor Digital Wellbeing

TextMe actively encourages users to fill in surveys, play games and watch adverts to earn themselves more credit for calling and texting. This can easily result in children spending an unhealthy amount of time on the app. Should you allow your child to download TextMe, you might first want to establish restrictions on how long they can use it for each day.

### Discuss Online Dangers

It may be wise to discourage children from downloading anonymous messaging apps given the lack of transparency. However, if you *do* feel that your child is mature enough to use TextMe, it's safest to talk to them about the possibility of predators contacting them through the service. Make sure they know to tell a trusted adult immediately if a stranger asks for personal details or invites them to meet offline.

### Leave, Block and Report

If you discover that a young person is in a group TextMe chat that is making them uncomfortable, or they have been added to a group they do not want to be part of, encourage them to leave. There is an option to block any user who is sending them unwanted messages (swipe on that conversation, tap 'More' and then 'Block'), while any instances of harassment can also be reported via email.

## Meet Our Expert

Parven Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



SOURCES: <http://go-text.me/>, <http://www.textmeinc.com/>, [https://textme-www-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/docs/privacy-policy/privacy\\_policy\\_v27.html](https://textme-www-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/docs/privacy-policy/privacy_policy_v27.html), <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/text-me-second-phone-number/id514485964>, [https://textme.zendesk.com/hc/en-us?mobile\\_site=false](https://textme.zendesk.com/hc/en-us?mobile_site=false), <https://hushed.com/reviews/textme-app-review/>