



Sally Banfield

Headteacher

24th October 2025

Dear Parents and Families,

As we reach the end of another busy and rewarding half term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and partnership in your child's education.

This term has been filled with wonderful moments of learning, growth, and achievement. From classroom projects and sporting events to school trips and performances, our pupils have shown great enthusiasm, resilience, and creativity. It has been a joy to witness their progress and celebrate their success.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to our dedicated staff, who work tirelessly to create a nurturing and inspiring environment for all our children. Their commitment to excellence and care ensures that every child is supported to thrive academically, vocational, socially, and personally.

As we look ahead to the next term, we are excited about the opportunities it will bring. We will continue to focus on high-quality teaching and learning, as well as fostering a strong sense of community and wellbeing across the school.

In the meantime, I hope you and your families enjoy a restful and enjoyable break. Whether you are traveling, spending time with loved ones, or simply taking a moment to relax, I wish you a safe and happy holiday.

Thank you once again for your continued support. We look forward to welcoming everyone back next term.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Banfield', written in a cursive style.

Sally Banfield

Headteacher

Remember that all letters that are sent out are also available on the school website in a dedicated place for easy navigation. The link for this page is here: [Combe Pafford School - Letters to Parents](#)

Combe Pafford Social Media

We are thrilled to announce that our school has officially launched accounts on Facebook and Instagram! This is an exciting new way for us to share the vibrant life and achievements of our school community with all of our families.

We invite you to connect with us immediately! Please check us out and give us a follow on both platforms to stay completely up-to-date with:

- School events
- Pupil achievements

Make sure you click "Follow" so you don't miss any of the wonderful things happening at our school!

Wellbeing and Attendance

Your child's wellbeing is important to us and if they are not in school and we do not know where they are, or why they are not in, it is a worry.

It is essential that you contact the school before 9:00am if your child is ill and not going to be in, with brief details of the illness/reason. There are several ways you can do this:

1. You can call school to speak to someone in person between 8:15am and 9:00am
2. You can leave a voicemail before 8:15am stating your child's full name and why they will not be in school
3. You can report an absence on the Arbor Parent app
4. You can email the school at: emails@combepafford.torbay.sch.uk

Please note:

- If we do not hear from home, it is our Safeguarding/ Attendance policy and duty to continue to reach out to all contacts listed until we do
- In some cases, this may require a home visit.
- Repeated unauthorised / unexplained absence can trigger a penalty notice.

Thank you for your continued support.

Parent and Carer Network and School Nurse Visit

We're excited to announce the beginning of a regular half-term coffee morning for all our parents and carers! Meet the School Nurse Team!

We warmly invite you to come along to our first session to meet the School Nurse Team. This is a great opportunity to ask questions, learn more about the health support and services available for our children and families, and understand how they contribute to your child's well-being.

There will also be some time to connect, chat, and share ideas that will help make our school community even stronger. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet other families and engage in conversation about school life.

Event Details

- Date: Wednesday 5th November
- Time: 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
- Location: The Yellow Frog Café & Room 39



The poster features the Torbay School logo at the top, followed by the text 'PARENT AND CARER NETWORK'. Below this is the Parents & Carers Network logo and the text 'BEGINNING OF A REGULAR HALF-TERM COFFEE MORNING In The Yellow Frog Cafe & Room 39'. Two 'THE YELLOW FROG CAFE' logos are placed on either side of the text 'MEET THE SCHOOL NURSE TEAM', which includes the bullet point: '• An opportunity to ask questions & learn more about the support available'. The date and time 'WEDNESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM' are prominently displayed. At the bottom, it states 'These networks ensure the collective voice of parents and carers is heard' and 'Be a voice for our school'.



The poster has a blue header with 'Torbay School Nursing Team' and the '0 to 19 TORBAY for you' logo. The main title is 'School Nursing Service Parent and Carer Drop in'. It states 'A member of the school nurse team will be attending your child's school on:'. The date is 'Wednesday 5th November 2025' and the time is '11 am - 12.30pm'. It lists support areas: 'We will be able to offer support and advice for: Bowel and bladder, Diet and nutrition, Sleep, Emotional wellbeing, Behaviour (if there is an associated health need)'. It includes the text 'No booking needed, just turn up!'. The 'Contact Us' section provides: 'T: 0300 333 5352 (Monday - Friday 9am to 5pm)', 'E: tsdft.0to19torbay@nhs.net', 'A: 0 to 19 Torbay, St. Edmunds, Victoria Park Rd, Torquay TQ1 3QH', 'W: torbayfamilyhub.org.uk', and 'Chat via the Torbay Family Hub App'. It also features an image of the Family Hub app and the NHS Torbay and South Devon logo.

Support and Information for Families

Please find below support and other opportunities for you and your family.

Are you the parent or family of a child who enjoys singing and drama? Look no further!



If you are aged 7 or over and enjoy drama, performing, singing or making theatre you will love this!

It's a 4-day workshop for young people to come and work with Drama & Performing Arts Students from the University of Gloucestershire. You'll spend four days putting together a show that will include: singing, dancing, having fun, making costumes and then you'll perform the show to your friends and family on Friday 31st Oct.

This is a free opportunity, but spaces are limited and booking is essential. Also a commitment to attending all four days is a must. If you'd like take part in this Quest please book a free space below.

You will need to be available for rehearsals on 10.00 – 3.00pm for the following days:

- Tuesday 28th October
- Wednesday 29th October
- Thursday 30th October
- Friday 31st October

Light refreshments will be provided but please bring a packed lunch each day.

All rehearsals and the show will be held at Indigos Play & Ecology Centre,
Packhall Lane, Brixham TQ5 0EQ

Life on The Edge Quest

Play Torbay
Rowan Way
Brixham
TQ5 0SB



Keeping your children safe online

This week's focus is Group Chats. Please see the leaflet below to ensure you are aware of the risks to children and advice for parents and families.

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 for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

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Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert; potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

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CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat. Instead of responding to the person who's upset them, validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

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.

NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @natorlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

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Rugby Club

Please see attached Rugby Sessions Available for October Half Term and also a Girls Rugby Activity Day being held on 27th October 2025. For more information about other rugby sessions available throughout the year, please contact school@paigntonrugby.com

OCTOBER HALF TERM CAMP!

NATIONAL T1 RUGBY SERIES
#T1RugbySeries

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING FUN, ACTIVE, AND PACKED WITH ENERGY THIS OCTOBER HALF TERM?

COME AND JOIN US AT PAIGNTON RUGBY CLUB'S HOLIDAY CAMP - OPEN TO EVERYONE AGED 8 TO 15, WHETHER YOU'RE A TOTAL BEGINNER OR A YOUNG RUGBY PRO!

- ★ NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED - JUST BRING YOUR ENERGY AND ENTHUSIASM!
- ★ DAILY PRIZES, FUN COMPETITIONS, AND RUGBY MADNESS GUARANTEED!
- ★ DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR MULTIPLE DAY BOOKINGS - SO COME ALONG!
- ★ PLACES ARE LIMITED - SO DON'T MISS OUT!

PAIGNTON RUGBY CLUB,
QUEENS PARK, TQ4 6AT

TUESDAY 28TH OCTOBER
WEDNESDAY 20TH OCTOBER
THURSDAY 30TH OCTOBER

PLAY. CREATE. BELONG.

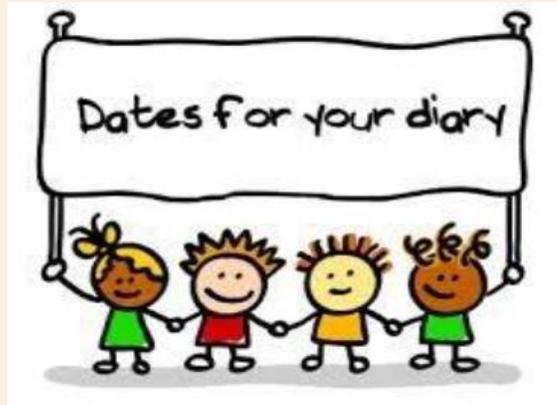
ENJOYED THE RWC? JOIN US FOR!

PAIGNTON'S GIRLS ACTIVITY DAY!

27 / 10 / 25 ~ 11 - 2 PM ~ AGES 6 - 12

TO BOOK
EMAIL: [SCHOOLS@PAIGNTONRUGBY.COM](mailto:schools@paigntonrugby.com)
SPECIFY YOUR DATES, YOUR CHILDS NAME AND AGE
£ 22 PER DAY!

RED ROSES England Rugby
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IMPACT 25



NOVEMBER 2025

- 3rd FIRST DAY OF TERM – CHILDREN WELCOMED BACK
- 4th GCSE Resit (Eng Lang 1)
- 4th KS2 Swimming
- 5th GCSE Resit (Maths Pt 1)
- 5th School Nurse Drop In Service (YFC)
- 5th Year 7 Kents Cavern Trip
- 6th GCSE Resit (Eng Lang 2)
- 7th GCSE Resit (Maths Pt 2)
- 7th Year 7 Swimming
- 10th GCSE Resit (Maths Pt 3)
- 11th KS2 Swimming
- 11th Post 16 SEND Evening
- 14th Year 7 Swimming
- W/C 17th Year 11 Work Experience Week 1
- 18th KS2 Swimming
- 21st Children in Need
- 21st Year 7 Swimming
- W/C 24th Year 11 Mock Week
- 25th KS2 Swimming
- 28th Year 7 Swimming