



Sally Banfield

Headteacher

23rd January 2026

Dear Parents and Families,

What a very rainy and windy couple of weeks we have had in Torbay. The lovely news, however, is that the 'sunshine' continues to shine at Combe Pafford. Our young people are working hard in their lessons and consistently showing our values of Compassion, Resilience and Respect towards one another.

Residentials

Hopefully, spring weather will soon be here, and we are very much looking forward to our first residential of the year, taking place shortly after the Easter break. I am completely committed to continuing and extending our wonderful residential programme for all year groups.

As a parent myself, I know that these opportunities can raise questions and, at times, some worries. If you are still undecided or would like to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me directly or speak to your child's tutor—we will be more than happy to help.

Uniform

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring our children are wearing the correct school uniform. We can really see the positive difference this is making around the school, and I am very grateful for your support.

Chewing Gum

A reminder that chewing gum is not permitted in school. The reason for this is the impact that dropped or stuck gum has on our carpets, tables and corridors. Please could you remind your children of the reason why, as we will also be doing so in school.

Saturday Club

The charity Turning Heads would like to re-establish a Saturday Club specifically aimed at young people aged 13 and over with SEND. Many families have shared their frustration about the limited SEND-specific opportunities available outside of school in the Torbay area, so this could be a very valuable provision. It would be wonderful if enough interest could be generated to help the club start again. If this is something your family might benefit from, please attend the open evening for further information.



SEND SATURDAY CLUB OPEN EVENING
THURSDAY 29TH JANUARY
5PM TILL 7PM
WINDSOR HOUSE, LIME AVENUE, TQ2 5JL

 **SKILLS CENTRE** 
www.turningheads.org.uk

Keeping your children safe online

The focus this week is cyber bullying. If you would like a printed copy of this poster, please ask at reception.

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

The Diana Award definition of bullying is "repeated negative behaviour that is intended to make others feel upset, uncomfortable or unsafe." Cyberbullying is bullying which takes place online. It can involve anything from sending messages to posting offensive comments to uploading and sharing private or embarrassing photos. It is classed as an indirect form of bullying when compared to verbal or physical bullying, given it usually takes place through a digital device. However, for those experiencing bullying behaviour, the consequences can be just as serious and have far reaching effects.

ANTI-BULLYING

FROM THE DIANA AWARD

What schools need to know about CYBERBULLYING

3 KEY ASPECTS OF BULLYING BEHAVIOUR

There are three key aspects of bullying behaviour, namely that it is repetitive, negative and intentional. These behaviours apply both offline and online. Cyberbullying can almost highlight these behaviours, particularly with access to the internet 24/7 and the different ways in which those displaying bullying behaviour online can target others. The fact that they can also easily hide their identity online can make cyberbullying much more difficult to stop.

DIFFERENT DEVICES & CHANNELS

Cyberbullying can take place over any device connected to the internet which allows for two-way communication. This includes mobile phones, tablets, computers and even games consoles as it becomes more and more common for players to chat to other players whilst playing online. From a snapshot of 1,400 students surveyed by the Diana Award in 2016, 33% of young people admitted to have experienced bullying on social media, 11% via text message and 12% whilst online gaming.

WHAT LEADS TO CYBERBULLYING

There is never any justification for cyberbullying and those who display bullying behaviour need to be held to account for their actions. Nonetheless, it can useful to try and understand some of the factors that may lead young people into bullying behaviour. For example, family issues, personal difficulties and a lack of positive reinforcement may push some young children into bullying others as a form of coping mechanism. Similarly, those exhibiting bullying behaviour may blame their targets for provoking their behaviour in the first place or engage in bullying behaviour as a call for attention if they lack social skills or understanding. Others may view their position as dominant which makes themselves less vulnerable to being bullied or they replicate behaviour they have experienced themselves in the past.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Cyberbullying can affect anyone, at any time, at any place. The impacts of cyberbullying can be less-lasting and leave people feeling scared, anxious and lonely. Some of the more obvious signs that those experiencing bullying behaviour might show in class, weight loss, crying, mood changes, depression and regularly avoiding school. Other symptoms, which might be less obvious to spot and would be difficult to pick up on in isolation, may include changes in body language like hunched shoulders, walking slower or an inability to make eye contact. In extreme cases, those experiencing bullying behaviour may have unexplained marks or scars which could be evidence of self-harm.



National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Tips For School Staff



TAKE A WHOLE SCHOOL APPROACH

In taking a whole approach towards cyberbullying, schools can cultivate a culture that raises on positive and behaviour that is assisted by ALL members of the school community including staff, support staff, senior leaders, governors and parents and carers.

BUILD CONFIDENCE IN DEALING WITH INCIDENTS

This can be achieved by having clear knowledge of what constitutes bullying behaviour, having clear sanctions and courses of action and continually updating your knowledge of safety procedures regarding online and offline incidents.

USE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AS A RESOURCE

Ensure you understand what is influencing the behaviour of young people in your community. If schools know what their students are engaging with, it can be easier to develop and implement relevant and effective tactics/strategies to counter cyberbullying issues.

UNDERSTAND THE CAUSES OF BULLYING

As previously mentioned, sometimes those who are behind the bullying are in need of support just as much as those who are being targeted. In better understanding the cause of the issue, schools can better position themselves to tackle the problem and also adequately support both those displaying and experiencing the bullying behaviour. Taking a proactive approach means that schools can gear themselves to tackle issues specific to their school environment, rather than treating each case the same.

ENSURE ALL STAFF KNOW THEIR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All staff have a role to play in educating and supporting children who are affected by cyberbullying, not just those responsible for safeguarding or online safety. Regular training, continuous professional development and clear school policies can help to empower staff in effectively managing any cyberbullying issues and in providing a united staff front on zero tolerance to all bullying behaviour.

In collaboration with





Ask For Help

For further support, advice or guidance to support you students at school, or to sign up to The Diana Award's free Anti-Bullying Ambassadors training events, head to www.antibullyingpro.com

www.nationalonlinesafety.com

Twitter - @natonlinesafety

Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

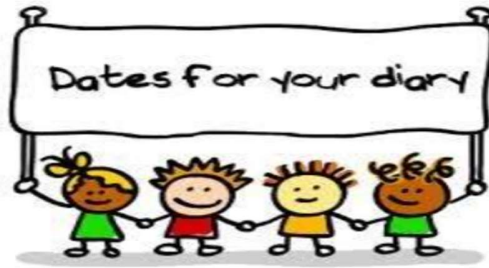
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Can I wish you all a very relaxing and enjoyable weekend. Hopefully we might even see the sunshine.

Kindest regards

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

Sally Banfield
Headteacher



JANUARY 2026

- 27th KS2 Swimming
- 30th Year 7 Swimming

FEBRUARY 2026

- 3rd KS2 Swimming
- 6th Year 7 Swimming
- 9th – 13th Year 11 GCSE Mocks Week
- 10th Parent Forum – Meet the Headteacher
- 10th KS2 Swimming
- 13th Year7 Swimming
- 13th LAST DAY OF HALF TERM
- 23rd FIRST DAY OF SPRING TERM – CHILDREN WELCOMED BACK
- 24th KS2 Swimming
- 27th Year 7 Swimming

MARCH 2026

- 3rd KS2 Swimming
- 5th World Book Day
- 6th Year 7 Swimming
- 9th – 13th Science Week
- 10th KS2 Swimming
- 13th Year7 Swimming
- 13th – 24th Residential to Kenya
- 16th Immunisations for Years 9, 10 & 11
- 17th KS2 Swimming
- 20th Year 7 Swimming
- 20th Red Nose Day
- 24th KS2 Swimming
- 27th Year 7 Swimming
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