

## DIARY DATES

**Child Safety Week**  
4-8 June 2018

**Stand Up to Bullying Day**  
Wednesday 13 June 2018

**National School Sports Week**  
25-29 June 2018

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## Alison & Kerry's Stories – London Marathon

Alison Deeley, a Primary School Teacher at Caldmore Primary Academy recently ran the London Marathon and raised money for the NSPCC. She has currently raised £2750. Caldmore Primary Academy have created a 'Guard of Honour' Video for Mrs Deeley, follow this link to the [video](#).

Below is the bio from her JustGiving Fundraising Page:

"I am running the London Marathon in 2018, for the NSPCC because I work with many disadvantaged children that need support and guidance every day. Therefore, it is poignant to me to support the NSPCC and everything they do".

Amy Bills, Principal at Caldmore Primary Academy, said: "We supported the cause with a non-uniform day on Thursday 19 April which raised £290 – a relatively small contribution to the overall total but fantastic given the deprivation of our community. All pupils wore green and we spent the day off timetable working on a 'Healthy Body, Healthy Mind' themed day. The children all ran a mile around the playground and did activities linked to wellbeing (e.g. healthy eating, mindfulness, resilience and relaxation). Running is Alison's way of alleviating the week to week pressures of teaching in the current climate".

For the link to Alison's JustGiving Page, please follow this [link](#).

Kerry Isbell, a PE Teacher at Icen Academy also recently ran the London Marathon and finished it in an excellent time of 4 hours 26 minutes. Kerry ran the London Marathon to raise money for Child Bereavement UK, which she has raised over £800 so far. Kerry explained that she chose this charity because her friends sadly lost three children and she wanted to show support.

As Kerry was in the Navy she was going to run the Marathon for a military charity, but being a mum herself, she wanted to share her love and support for this charity.

Another reason why she decided to run the London Marathon was to beat her husband's time that he achieved last year. She is very pleased to share, she did in fact beat her husband's time!

## Ten popular children's apps parents are being told to watch out for amid danger concerns

Police are telling parents to be aware of ten potentially dangerous apps, this comes amid fears children could be exposed to danger online. Parents have also been told to stay up to date with the latest online trends to increase awareness of cyber safety.

The below list is not exhaustive, but these are the apps that have been outlined for potential danger:

1. Calculator App Lock - This app might look like a calculator, but it actually functions as a secret photo vault. Calculator App Lock hides your most private photos and videos in plain sight, as it is disguised as a humble calculator. Other similar apps include Secret Calculator Vault and Calculator & Photo Lock Vault.
2. Omegle - Omegle is one of the most recognisable names on the list. The service is a free online chat website that promotes chatting anonymously to strangers. Omegle, which was launched in 2009, randomly pairs users in one-on-one chat sessions where they can chat anonymously to people around the world.
3. Yubo - Formally known as Yellow, this app has been criticised for encouraging young users to swap texts and photos with nearby strangers, with a similarity to adult dating apps like Tinder. Users swipe other users they are interested in and swap selfies with each other. The app has been criticised as it may encourage the trading of naked photos.
4. Whisper - Whisper is an app created to promote sharing secrets and meeting new people, with the service allowing users to post and share private photo and video messages anonymously.
5. Ask.fm - This app, launched in 2010 has been linked to the most severe forms of cyber-bullying as it allows users to ask and answer questions anonymously. The site came under fire following the deaths of two English teenagers who committed suicide after they were bullied on the site.
6. Hot or Not – the basic concept of Hot or Not needs no explanation, but if you're unfamiliar, the aim of the game is to upload your pictures and get rated by other users.
7. Burnbook – This anonymous gossip app, named after the book in teen comedy Mean Girls, is arguably the most harmful of the ten, as it's designed to post anonymous rumors via audio, messages, texts and photos. You can then share this to other school communities within 10 miles. Naturally this has caused mass complaints of cyber-bullying, even leading to iTunes and Google Play removing the app from their online stores.
8. Wishbone – Another app that allows users to compare items, this leads to children competing against each other by rating themselves on a scale.
9. Kik Messenger – You can also join special groups and video chat using the app, allowing access to external web content that would be filtered when using a home computer. Kik is known for its features preserving users' anonymity, such as allowing users to register without providing a telephone number.
10. Instagram – This photo sharing social media app allows users to have and use more than one account, this means children normally have an account for family and one for friends.

For more information and the full article from Birmingham Mail, please follow this [link](#).

## Anti-knife crime campaign

The Home Office has launched an anti-knife crime advertising campaign to reduce the knife crime among young people and challenge perceptions that carrying a knife is normal. The campaign includes a dedicated #knifefree website which provides advice, signposts support services and highlights activities to empower young people to change their behaviour.

All campaign information and materials can be found on the [ATT Safeguarding Portal](#).

For the #knifefree website, please follow this [link](#).

## Fake teacher Umar Haque groomed his pupils for terror attacks

A self-styled Islamic teacher who groomed an army of children to commit terror attacks was dragged through from the dock for preaching the end of Western Domination as he was recently jailed for a minimum of 25 years. Umar Haque created a 'mini militia' during evening classes at an East London mosque, the Old Bailey was told.

He began plotting attacks on sites including Heathrow Airport and Parliament after concern were raised about his extremism, it was revealed. Mr Justice Haddon-Cave said that in June 2016, Haque was offered and declined the opportunity to engage in Prevent, the Government's voluntary deradicalization programme.

Haque enlisted children as young as 11 at the Ripple Road mosque in Barking, East London, where he groomed them with terrorism role-play and exercises. Even though he had no teaching qualifications, Haque had access to 250 children 35 of whom are still receiving support at the madrasa and two East London schools over five years. The judge said that the grooming of children was the most pernicious aspect of Haque's crimes and jailed him for life.

For more information and the full article from The Times, please follow this [link](#).

## Scale of child abuse survey 'needed every 10 years'

Thousands of children should be surveyed to build a true picture of sexual exploitation experts have said. The government says it does not know how many girls have been groomed in the wake of questions about sexual exploitation in Telford. But the Centre of Expertise for Child Sexual Abuse is designing a survey of children to run every 10 years to assess the scale of the problem.

Authorities raised 18,800 concerns of children at risk in 2016-17, this was equivalent to 51 every day. There were 29,600 assessments of children by Social Services in England about other sexual abuse because of concerns raised by teachers, social workers and health services. That works out at 16 assessments of whether children were at risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and 25 for sexual abuse for every 10,000 under 18s.

The Centre of Expertise for Child Sexual Abuse, which is working with the government to prevent and tackle abuse, said the data was only a slice of the true picture. The centre, funded by the Home Office and led by charity Barnardo's, has recommended a national prevalence survey to be carried out every 10 years.

For more information and the full article from the BBC, please follow this [link](#).

## Schoolgirls are forced to wear shorts under their skirts to prevent 'upskirting'

Girls are being forced to wear shorts under their skirts at school to stop boys from 'upskirting', a teacher's leader has warned. Dr Mary Bousted, President of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL), said that sexual harassment has been normalised in adolescent culture and that schools are no longer safe for girls. She explained that the practice of 'upskirting' – where photographs are taken up girls' skirts without their knowledge – has led to girls wearing shorts under their skirts to prevent this from occurring.

The advent of camera phones is behind the growth in 'upskirting', Dr Bousted said: "It enables teenagers to quickly take a picture then share it among their friends or upload it to a social media site. It is highly unlikely someone would have bought in a camera and develop a photo. But with a camera phone you can just press a button and send it round. It can happen in an instant, sending it around and then giving the name of the girl, that is the worst thing the absolute humiliation the embarrassment and shame. Social media just provides a new vehicle, another way that girls can be harassed".

She said that it is likely that the idea of wearing shorts under skirts has spread between schoolgirls as a way of countering the surge in instances of 'upskirting'.

For more information and the full article from The Telegraph, please follow this [link](#).

## Social media firms warned to act amid link to rising gang violence

Social media companies have been warned they must no longer be passive hosts in the fight to tackle surging levels of violence. Ministers told firms that the status quo cannot continue as they unveiled a blueprint for making Britain's streets safe following a spate of killings.

Home Secretary, Amber Rudd called on platforms to review their terms and conditions and make it clear they will not host content linked to gang violence. She said: "Some might say this is impossible, but when I called on social media companies to deal with terrorist content, they listened and took action. I'm asking them to do so again because it's the right thing to do".

A Home Office report laying out the new strategy says social media has a substantial role in facilitating gang activity. Threats of violence, gang recruitment and drug dealing are glamorised in the seemingly secluded space, according to the paper.

One option could be the promotion of 'Trusted Flaggers' within community groups to allow platforms such as YouTube to receive flags of harmful content and speed up the process of assessing material for potential removal. Although the vast majority of social media usage has nothing to do with serious violence, the growth in smartphone ownership has created an almost unlimited opportunity for rivals to antagonise each other.

There is strong evidence that rival groups are using social media to promote gang culture, taunt each other and incite violence; some gang members have thousands of followers, flagging up the risk that comments and videos that rack up large numbers of views can glamorise weapons and gang life, according to the study.

For more information and the full article from BT, please follow this [link](#).

## Dangerous social media crazes parents should be aware of

Teenagers are putting themselves in danger by videoing themselves engaging in the bizarre activities. Here are four of the strangest social media crazes of the year so far:

1. Condom snorting – the craze, which started in the US is being dubbed 'the condom snorting challenge'. Worryingly it's feared it could extend to the UK.
2. Tide Pod – An online craze where young people put washing machine pods in their mouths has led to St Johns Ambulance issuing advice.
3. School mobile phone craze – teachers are being driven off social media by pupils who are filming staged classroom incidents and posting them on the internet.
4. Ikea – This has come from an 11-year-old boy who went missing in the Swedish furniture store and ended up spending the night. His father is claiming he took part of the 'Stay in Ikea overnight and not get caught challenge'.

For more information about these crazes and for the full article, please follow this [link](#).

## Anti-bullying app Tootoot proves success at Great Heath Academy

A Mildenhall primary school is taking an innovative approach to combat bullying by using a digital app where pupils can report concerns. Great Heath Academy launched the anonymous Tootoot app with the aim of providing pupils with a safe and trusted way to speak up about any concerns. The school has experienced great success with its implementation so far – more than 100 concerns have been resolved, including cases involving bullying, issues at home and friendship problems.

Steven Vincent, Principal at Great Heath Academy, said: "Our vision for Great Heath Academy is that the school gives children a sense of their place in the world. We achieve this with fun and engaging lessons, activities and resources, whilst also ensuring that they feel safe and free of worry. Tootoot supports this vision by giving us valuable data that we can analyse from a whole-academy overview, right down to a single pupil that we have concerns about".

For the full article, please follow this [link](#).

## Careers of people working with children being destroyed by 'misleading police checks'

'Misleading' criminal record checks are destroying the careers of people who want to work with children, teachers have warned. One woman committed suicide after she lost her job for failing to disclose a disorder fine for 'snorting like a pig' at an undercover police officer when at University. And another woman was told she could no longer work as a childminder because her nephew had been convicted of rape, the National Education Union ATL section's conference heard.

Delegates at the conference in Liverpool raised concerns the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) – which checks criminal records of those applying to work with children – is not fit for purpose.

Josie Whiteley, President of AMiE, the union's leadership section, said: "The career prospects of individuals are being destroyed by misleading information shared through police intelligence".

Ms Whiteley said she had heard of a young woman who lost her dream job of working with children in care after she snorted at an undercover police officer on a night out during her University years. She said: "She decided, perhaps rather foolishly, to snort like a pig at a man she suspected was an undercover police officer. He was a police officer and she was told she had committed a public order offence. They told her if she accepted a penalty notice for disorder and a fine she wouldn't have to go to court, so she accepted". The woman was allowed to start working with children in care but when her employer saw the check, they said she had acted dishonestly by not disclosing the penalty notice and she was dismissed.

In another case, a woman reported her nephew to the police when he attacked his girlfriend in front of her when he lived with her. Ms Whiteley said: "A decade later, the nephew was convicted of rape, and Jane who was a childminder, was prevented from working with children for fear she might invited him back into her home. She is just one of many innocent people who have been made unemployable in their chosen profession after police include tenuous allegations about them or their supposed links to criminals".

For the full article from The Independent, please follow this [link](#).

## School expulsions fuel rise in youth crime, says experts

School expulsions could be fueling a rise in crime among children, a Home Office report has warned. Experts said teenagers, who are kicked out of school are more vulnerable to getting caught up in gang violence and county lines drug operations, as data revealed the number of young people excluded from school has been rising steadily over the last few years. Research conducted by The Telegraph shows in areas where school expulsions are high, rates of crime recorded among young people are also higher. The number of children found in possession of a knife or offensive weapon has risen by 65% in the last four years alone.

It came after Amber Rudd announced new measures to tackle gangs which use young people to ferry drugs across the country and promised new money to tackle the deep-rooted causes of youth violence. The most recent figures available for 2015-16 show there were 6,685 permanent exclusions, an increase of 15.4% compared to the previous year. This equates to 35 children being expelled from English primary, secondary and specialist schools every day.

When plotted against the exclusions data, Office of National Statistics figures show Birmingham has the highest rate of young people involved in crime and also the second highest rate of exclusions per year according to the most recent data.

The Serious Violence Strategy also revealed there has been 77% increase in the number of 10-17-year-olds convicted of Class A drug production or intent to supply between 2012-2016.

There are fears that gangs which run drug operations around the UK are recruiting vulnerable young people who are not in school and have chaotic home lives, which could explain the rise in Class A drug convictions.

The strategy, published on 9 April, set out how an increase in the number of vulnerable young people could be contributing to rising violent crimes.

For more information and the full article from The Telegraph, please follow this [link](#).