

St Martin's Newsletter



SPRING TERM - Friday 26th January

Assembly

Next week the assembly will be led by **Year 4**. Parent's and carers are invited to join us.



Online Safety

This week's safety advice focuses on **myLOL**
<https://nationalcollege.com/guides/mylol> and is attached with this newsletter.



St Martin's Stars

Well done to everyone who got a certificate this week.

Purple Tie certificates are given for children who embody our rules of being Kind Respectful and Responsible.

Pre-School – Daisy A

Year R – Isla S

Ava-Grace C

Year 1 – Kingsley N & Olivia T

Olivia HG

Year 2 – Elsie C & Francis M

Freddie MP

Year 3 – Evie S & Olina C

Amelia F

Year 4 – Athena B & Laurence J

Lillie J

Year 5 – Luke B & Gabby M

Ava F

Year 6 – Archie A & Halle F

Max D

Attendance

A slight drop this week but still above 90% with whole school attendance at 91%. Well done to **Y2** who have achieved **10 stars for 100% attendance**. They will be rewarded with a **movie afternoon** later on today.

OBA

Some of our children attended **OBA** last week for their Saturday **WOW days**, the staff were so impressed with how amazing our children were, they sent in some sweets for them as a **reward**. **Well done** everyone you have made us all very **proud!**

Development of EYFS area

Work extending the **EYFS outdoor area** is due to be completed by the middle of next week. Thank you for your patience while the work has been taking place. The children can't wait to get out there and access it.

NSPCC Number Day

On **Friday 2nd February** we will be celebrating **NSPCC Number Day** to raise money for the NSPCC.

Children can come to School dressed as their age, i.e. if 7yrs, you could wear 7 bobbles. We are asking for a **£1 donation** to be paid on the **gateway**. If any Pre-School parents have any issues donating please contact the school office.

Attendance

Year R - 86% 4 Lates

Year 1 - 97%

Year 2 - 90% 9 Lates

Year 3 - 94% 7 Lates

Year 4 - 88%

Year 5 - 93%

Year 6 - 92%

Just 3 Classes with less than 10 lates

Well done to year 2, this weeks Dojo Champs

Anyone who comes into school after 8:50am is marked as late. Please try to be an attendance



Jewellery

We have had a few occasions of lost and broken **jewellery** and accidents caused by wearing jewellery in school. Children should not wear any Jewellery to school – the only exception to this is small stud earrings. If your child is unable to remove these for PE then they should be taped up in the morning on their PE days. This is a **health and safety requirement**.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MYLOL

AGE RESTRICTION
13-19

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MyLOL is a free social networking and dating site aimed at teens. Profiles can publicly display users' images and information, including sexual orientation and personal interests. The service bills itself as "the number one teen dating website in the world", claiming to have more than a million users globally. Despite its popularity, the MyLOL app is no longer available from Google Play or the App Store, although the site is still active. In some countries, police forces and schools have previously warned parents about "sinister predators" and "inappropriate activities" on the site.

FLIMSY AGE GATES

Although MyLOL states it is exclusively aimed at users aged between 13 and 19, there is no credible age verification system to prevent a younger child – or an older adult – from signing up to the platform. Coupled with the fact that it's impossible to establish a user's true identity on MyLOL, this raises a serious concern that the site could be used for grooming.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

MyLOL maintains that it monitors all uploaded images for nudity or sexual content. It also claims to be able to detect suspicious keywords. However, there have been numerous reports of explicit content being found on the platform, with users often posting provocative, semi-nude pictures of themselves and engaging in flirty or sexually explicit conversation.

POTENTIAL CYBER-BULLYING

MyLOL lets users 'vote' on other people based solely on their appearance, much in the same vein as the now-defunct site Hot or Not. This feature could easily lead to distress and bullying, especially if a young person's profile pics receive an unfavourable response. Various reviews of MyLOL have noted that bullying frequently becomes an issue in the platform's chat groups and private messages.

IN-APP SPENDING

MyLOL is free to join and use, but it also offers paid-for memberships. Users who have paid money get their profile promoted at the top of the site and in search results. They can also earn additional credits for increased engagement with the platform – such as sharing, replying to messages and voting. At the time of writing, the monthly membership fee was \$9.95 (just under £8).

DATA COLLECTION

According to its privacy policy, MyLOL collects user data including email addresses, contact details and interests. While the company says it is committed to protecting users' privacy, the small print states that information may be shared externally. MyLOL claims to follow procedures to keep data secure, but does not specify what these procedures are, or whether such information is encrypted.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

MyLOL makes it easy to connect with strangers. In fact, the site's rewards feature encourages users to send private messages to people they don't know. There have been several media stories of adults posing as teens on MyLOL to connect with minors, which could lead to extremely dangerous situations, such as a young person meeting up with someone who has been posting under a false identity.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DISCUSS ONLINE DATING

It's vital to talk to your child about the possible dangers of platforms like MyLOL – particularly the threat of online predators. Remind them of the risks of sharing intimate images and information with strangers and emphasise that most people don't realise they're being 'catfished' until it's too late – it really isn't wise for a young person to meet up with someone they've only spoken to online.

EXPLAIN PRIVACY RISKS

Before your child begins using a service such as MyLOL, it's important that they understand the potential pitfalls of giving out their personal data on this type of platform. Explain to them, for example, that they shouldn't divulge any personally identifying information to people who they don't know, as scammers can be quite convincing when attempting to steal someone's identity.

RESTRICT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child has access to a bank card or other payment method, they may be enticed into signing up for MyLOL's premium features. Having their profile boosted and receiving more attention could be especially tempting if their friends also use the site. You could consider altering their device's settings to disable internet purchases, or at the very least keeping an eye on their online spending.

SET UP LOCATION ALERTS

If you're worried that your child may be planning to meet up with someone they've met on MyLOL, you could consider utilising GPS or WiFi location tracking technology to follow their whereabouts in real time. You can even set up a virtual boundary or 'fence' and opt to receive an alert to your phone if your child enters or exits a specified area.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



The National College

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

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