



## SLT MESSAGE

It was wonderful to welcome the children back after the Christmas break. The spring term has begun well, and we have much to look forward to. The new student council has been formed and is currently ready to take a leading role in activities such as school trips, performances, and overall school development.

The enrichment curriculum, which runs from 14:15 to 15:00, has started off promisingly. We will continue to engage with children and staff across the school to explore ways to further develop this curriculum. We have also employed a head of curriculum for our Woodland Provision. This provision will take a lead on development our lost gardens and the other forest area on site.

Additionally, the spring term marks the beginning of our watersports curriculum as part of our outdoor education program. However, it might be a little too cold for that at the moment.

All the staff are very excited about the spring term.

## *Key Dates for your Diary*

### **Spring Term**

Monday 6th January 2025 -  
Friday 4th April 2025

### **National Story Telling Week**

Saturday 1st February 2025 -  
Sunday 9th February 2025

### **Parental Engagement Week**

Monday 3rd February 2025 -  
Friday 7th February 2025

### **Half Term**

Monday 17th February 2025  
- Friday 21st February 2025

### **Students return -**

Monday 24th February 2025

### **World Book Day**

Thursday 6th March 2025!  
Dress up!

**All key dates will be  
uploaded on our website.**

**To view our news and  
events please [click here](#).**



## MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

24th January

[Martin Luther King Day 2025: Why people celebrate it - BBC Newsround](#)

**Martin Luther King Day is a special day in in America where people celebrate the civil rights hero.**

For more than three decades, the third Monday in January has been dedicated to celebrating the legacy of [Martin Luther King Jr.](#)

Martin Luther King was an incredibly influential figure who helped to shape America's history.

He was a civil rights activist who fought for racial equality.

Before 1964, black people in America were treated as second class citizens.

In some parts of the [country](#) they weren't allowed to use the same schools, diners, cinemas or even public toilets as white people.

On buses, black and white Americans sat [separately](#) and black people could even be arrested for not giving up their seat for a white person.

Martin Luther King wanted to change this.



## Hawkers Cove



In between the culinary masterclass and college applications our class has been incredibly focused on their core subjects and preparing for the forthcoming GCSE examinations. We are all very proud of their mature and positive attitudes to learning!




After a fantastic week of core subject lessons, one of our students cooked up a storm in the professional catering kitchen at Camborne college, scratch making an authentic Bolognese 100% independently.





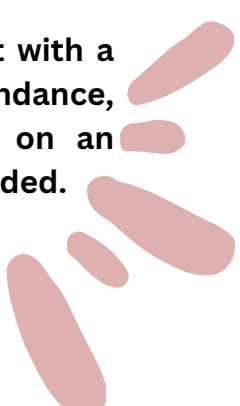
## Welcome



**My name is Kiah, and I am a Parent and Carer Support Worker here at Oak Tree School. I am very excited to begin this new journey and work as part of a great team doing such an important role within the school. I have cared for and supported young people and their families for 4 years in my previous role working in a day nursery.**

**When I am not at work, one of my favourite things to do is take my dog for walks on the beach with a hot chocolate. I also enjoy reading and spending time with my family!**

**As a Parent and Carer Support Worker, I can provide support with a wide range of matters that range from transport queries, attendance, signposting to external agencies, assessing family's needs on an individual basis and helping to develop support plans when needed.**





**Thank you to all the parents that attended our Cream Tea afternoon this week! It was so lovely to see some many faces and for everyone to have a chance to chat to staff and to meet Melanie from Healthy Cornwall!**

**Healthy Cornwall provided us all with lots of helpful information about the benefits of healthy eating and physical activity! Melanie also gave everyone a chance to try out the Tanita Scales which measure body composition and provides lots of helpful information about individual body types.**

**We look forward to hopefully seeing lots of you at our parent and carer events in the near future!**



## Careers Website

As part of our ongoing effort to grow our careers programme throughout the school, I am delighted to share exciting updates to our school website. Research suggests that career websites used as part of the schools wider curriculum offer can impact positively on young peoples career readiness and prepare them for their futures when they leave school.

The website aims to provide information and resources to students, parents, teachers and employers and the “Student Zone” and “Parent Zone” are now live. In these sections there are links which include:

Information about jobs and the local labour market.

Online self-assessment tools to help students understand themselves better and link their strengths and interests to future career paths.

Information about post-16 options available after Oak Tree

Resources that support young people create CV's, cover letters as well as tips for filling in application forms and attending interviews.

Access to these pages can be found at:

<https://www.oaktreeschoolcornwall.co.uk/student-career-zone/>

<https://www.oaktreeschoolcornwall.co.uk/parent-career-zone/>

We aim to continue development of this website so if you have any suggestions on how to improve this further please feel free to contact me on [chris.penfold@oaktreeschoolcornwall.co.uk](mailto:chris.penfold@oaktreeschoolcornwall.co.uk)



Omegle is a website that pairs random strangers for live text or video chats. It first launched in 2009 and its slogan is "Talk to strangers!" There is an option for adult (18+) content and a section for people aged 13+ with parental permission. Anyone can use the site. Users simply go to [Omegle.com](http://Omegle.com) and then choose 'Text' or 'Video' chat and the page states how many users are currently online. Depending on the time of day this can be hundreds of thousands. Omegle markets itself as a great way to meet new friends however has been known to feature pornography and inappropriate content within chats, so it's important parents are aware of the risks associated with the site.



# What parents need to know about

# OMEGLE



## NO AGE VERIFICATION MEASURES

Omegle is completely free to use and allows users to communicate with others without the need to register, supply an email address or create a profile. This means users can remain anonymous and it's hard to trust who your children are talking to. Furthermore, there are no age verification measures and other than agreeing to the terms and conditions, your child can easily start online engagement with strangers and potentially access more adult themed content.



## RISK OF CYBERBULLYING

The anonymity of Omegle can increase the risk of cyberbullying on the site. Engaging in chat with strangers means that topics of conversation can lead almost anywhere including discussions about looks, body image or the sharing of other personal information. With the availability of video chat as well, this could lead to children being coerced or forced into carrying out activities online which could then be used against them.



## UNMODERATED CHAT

Omegle encourages video chat as much as it can, prompting users during their text chat to activate their web cam. Whilst text chat has a degree of moderation, the content in Omegle's video chat rooms is not moderated by administrators and, at any time of the day, there can be thousands of users online. This means that your child could easily come across illegal, unacceptable or inappropriate images or media. Omegle currently offers no function for reporting online abuse or inappropriate behaviour on its site and instead offers advice to 'please be careful'. It also advises to 'Use Omegle at your own peril. Disconnect if anyone makes you feel uncomfortable.'



## PRIVACY RISK VIA FACEBOOK

Omegle can be linked to a user's Facebook account to match their interests and likes with other users. This means that Omegle can access your child's basic Facebook information, and Facebook friends may potentially view Omegle activity. In addition, users can save the chat log and share the link without the other user's knowledge. It is not uncommon then for users to request being added to Snapchat, Instagram or WhatsApp for further interaction, moving the conversation into a more personal setting.



## RISK OF EXPLOITATION

Omegle chat picks another user at random and there is very little way of verifying who your child may be chatting to. This can lead to a number of risks including catfishing (users pretending to be of similar age), identity theft (users eliciting information to commit fraud) and sexual/psychological grooming (users coercing others to act in a way or do something they wouldn't normally do).



## ADULT THEMED CONTENT

Unfortunately, Omegle is infamous for its pornographic content and it is not uncommon for users to expose themselves or engage in sexual acts. If a user selects video chat, then the other user's webcam will automatically be switched on before the action to 'end chat' can be selected. There is also no 'preview' in smaller thumbnail windows. As video chat is so easy to access, it means that unintentionally viewing more mature, inappropriate or even illegal images can't always be avoided.



# Safety Tips for Parents



## DISCUSS RISKS WITH YOUR CHILD

It's important to speak to your child about the dangers of Omegle. Guiding and educating young children is far more useful than ignoring the possibility of Omegle being accessed. Explain to your child that Omegle is not completely anonymous and that other users will and do use Omegle to exploit others. Try to emphasise the risk of speaking to strangers and that engaging online is no different to engaging offline.



## PROTECT PERSONAL INFORMATION

Omegle does not provide advice about how to protect your personal information so it's important that children are aware of what they should and shouldn't share online and with whom. If they use Omegle, always advise against sharing any personal information such as their real name, age, phone number, address or any other personal identifiable information. This also includes details of their social media accounts or gaming ID's. You should also adjust your child's Facebook settings to control what information is shared with Omegle.



## REPORT CONCERNS

If your child comes across any inappropriate content or something which upsets them on Omegle, then it's important that they are able to discuss it with you and that you provide them with the support they need. If you think the content is illegal, then it must be reported to the police.



## DISCOURAGE VIDEO CHAT

Try to discourage your child from using video chat on Omegle. Not only is there no filters or moderation in place, but children may be coerced into sharing intimate images or videos of themselves, which is illegal if they are under 18 and may be used against them. Omegle text chat has a degree of moderation controlled by Omegle through software and several actual moderators. The software moderates, identifies and prevents certain words and sequences of words to try and prevent bullying and grooming however is still not a 100% failsafe.



## TRY OMEGLE YOURSELF

It's always an excellent idea to get a feel for the website or app your child is using so that you can see and understand the issues and risks for yourself. More importantly, it will also provide you with first-hand experience of the risks and dangers if/when you decide to speak to your child about Omegle and what they need to be aware of.



## USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Omegle is a website chat service. Children can only access the text chat on their phone and would need access to a PC or laptop to engage in video chat. If you have genuine concerns over Omegle and don't wish your child to access the site, you can add [www.omegle.com](http://www.omegle.com) to the list of banned websites and URLs. However, it's important to remember that Omegle can still be used via a web browser on an iPad, tablet, smart TV or gaming device and similar controls would need to be implemented on each of these devices separately.



## Meet our expert

Jonathan Taylor is an online safety expert and former Covert Internet Investigator for the Metropolitan Police. He is a specialist in online grooming and exploitation and has worked extensively with both UK and international schools in delivering training and guidance around the latest online dangers, social media apps and platforms.



SOURCE: <http://www.omegle.com>