



Orchard Round-Up

FRESH FROM THE FARM



A LITTLE NOTE FROM OUR HEAD OF CENTRE

Emily Mayne

As we reach the end of another incredible academic year, I would like to thank all of our young people, families, carers and professionals for their continued support. It has been a privilege to see the progress, resilience and achievements of our learners, and I am immensely proud of everything our Orchard Therapeutic Farm community has accomplished together.

This term, we say farewell to several young people as they move on to exciting opportunities in education, employment and training. We also congratulate all those who have achieved qualifications this year, including OCN Level 1 qualifications in Animal Care, Hospitality and Catering, Sports, and Trades & Engineering, which are currently completing the final external quality assurance process.

Our Annual Camp Out for KS4 and Post-16 learners was another highlight, providing a fantastic opportunity to build independence, teamwork, resilience and confidence while creating lasting memories together. See photos above.

As Orchard Therapeutic Farm continues to grow, we are delighted to welcome Phyllis, who will support curriculum development and deliver Science, English, Maths and Horticulture, and Sophie, who will lead the delivery of PSHE.

We are also delighted to welcome Hayley, who will officially join us in September as our new SENDCo, supporting our learners, families and staff to ensure every young person receives the highest quality provision.

Lee-Ann has joined Orchard Therapeutic as our Referrals Lead, supporting families, schools and local authorities throughout the admissions and transition process.

We also say a heartfelt farewell to Alex after many years as part of the Orchard family. Alex has supported many young people throughout their journeys with us, building trusted relationships and making a meaningful difference. We are incredibly grateful for everything she has contributed and wish her every happiness and success for the future.

Looking ahead to September, we are proud to announce that Orchard Therapeutic Farm is now a registered **NOCN Centre and will begin delivering teacher training programmes**. We are equally excited to welcome our first Occupational Therapy student placement from Oxford Brookes University, further strengthening our therapeutic offer and creating additional opportunities to support our young people.

Over the summer holidays, we will also be running our popular Summer Camp, with further information about dates, activities and booking being sent to families by email.

Finally, I would like to thank our wonderful staff team for their dedication, professionalism and passion, and our parents, carers and partner professionals for working alongside us throughout the year. Have a wonderful summer.

ORCHARD THERAPEUTIC BARN



A Year to Celebrate at Orchard Therapeutic Barn

As we reach the end of our first academic year at Orchard Therapeutic Barn, we would like to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey our young people have taken, for some over the year and other over this past term, as we celebrate the progress, resilience and achievements we have witnessed every day.

A Year of Growth, Confidence and Connection

From welcoming new starters to supporting young people as they prepared for their next steps, the Barn has continued to be a place where children and young people feel safe, valued and able to thrive. Throughout the term, we have seen friendships flourish, confidence grow and a genuine sense of community develop across the provision. Our young people have shown kindness, patience and encouragement towards one another, creating a nurturing environment where everyone can succeed.

Summer Term Part II : Bringing Greece to Life

This term's theme of Ancient and Modern Greece has inspired curiosity, creativity and meaningful learning. Young people explored Greek myths, maps, culture and history through a range of hands-on activities, including clay pottery, art projects, storytelling, discussions and practical problem-solving tasks. The theme provided countless opportunities to develop communication skills, creativity and a wider understanding of the world.

Building Essential Life Skills

Life skills remain at the heart of our provision and this term has been filled with opportunities for young people to develop independence and confidence. Through cooking sessions, meal preparation, cleaning responsibilities, ASDAN activities, organisation tasks and teamwork projects, learners have continued to strengthen the practical skills needed for everyday life and future independence.

This term also included practical safety learning through fire drill activities. We were incredibly proud of how calmly and responsibly young people responded, demonstrating excellent listening skills, teamwork and awareness of personal and group safety. These experiences help prepare our learners for real-life situations while supporting emotional regulation and resilience.

Animal Care and Therapeutic Support

Visiting the Farm for the last session of our day to interact with the animals continues to play a vital role within the Barn. Feeding animals, supporting their care and creating enrichment activities have helped young people develop empathy, responsibility and emotional regulation. Many learners continue to find comfort, connection and confidence through these interactions, which remain a key feature of our therapeutic approach.

Learning Beyond the Barn

Trips into the community and wider Farm provision have supported young people to develop confidence in new environments, practise travel skills and engage with meaningful real-world learning opportunities. These experiences have encouraged independence, developed social skills and helped prepare learners for future pathways.

Preparing for the Next Step

As the year comes to an end, we are particularly proud of our secondary learners who have been preparing for transitions into post-16 pathways, college placements and wider opportunities across the Farm provision. Over recent months, they have demonstrated increasing responsibility, maturity and independence through leadership opportunities, practical learning, ASDAN Foodwise, animal care and peer support. We have watched them grow into positive role models within our Barn community and know they will carry these skills forward into the next stage of their journey.

ORCHARD THERAPEUTIC BARN (CONT.)

Celebrating Every Achievement

Whether it has been trying a new food, building a friendship, managing emotions, caring for animals, developing independence, completing a task without support, or simply finding the confidence to participate in a new activity, every achievement has mattered.

At Orchard Therapeutic Barn, we firmly believe that small steps lead to big progress, and this year our young people have proven exactly that. We could not be prouder of everything they have accomplished.

Wishing Our Leavers Every Success

To those young people who are moving on to new opportunities, college placements, Farm pathways and exciting next chapters, we would like to say a heartfelt thank you for being such an important part of our Barn family.

We are incredibly proud of how far you have come and all that you have achieved. We wish you every success, happiness and confidence in your future journeys. Remember that growth takes courage, and you have already shown just how much you are capable of achieving.

Have a Wonderful Summer

Finally, we would like to thank all of our young people, families, carers and professionals for their continued support throughout the year.

We hope everyone enjoys a well-earned, restful and enjoyable summer break filled with opportunities to recharge, make memories and spend time with those who matter most. To those returning to us in September, we look forward to welcoming you back for another year of learning, laughter, growth and achievement. We cannot wait to see what adventures lie ahead.

Have a fantastic summer, and we'll see you in September!

THE ORCHARD THERAPEUTIC BARN TEAM

"Small Steps, Big Progress."



Animal Care

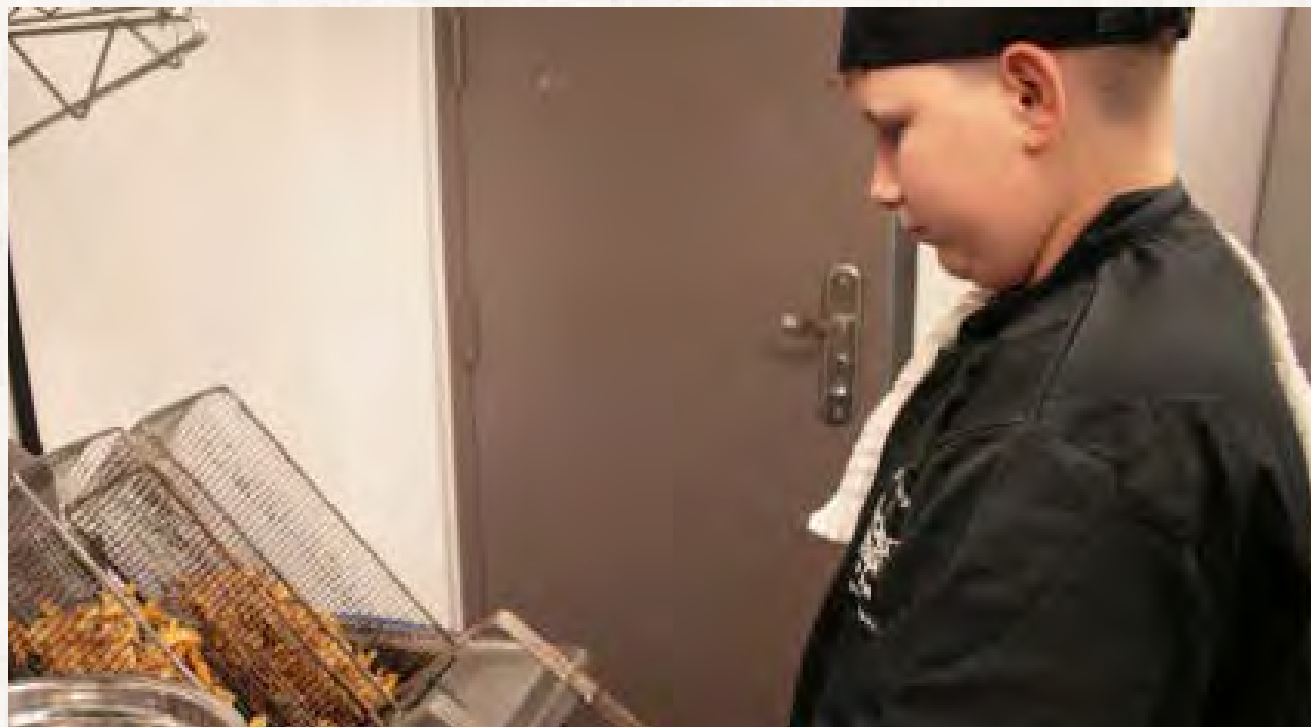
Temperatures, Treatments and Terminology

This term, our young people have been working towards their Farm Animal Health unit, developing practical skills alongside their understanding of animal health and welfare.

They have taken part in hands-on activities including taking animal temperatures, assessing body condition through palpation and learning how to safely examine livestock.

As part of their learning, they completed a case study on our calf, Rain, recording observations and carrying out research before sharing their findings with the vet to support her care. They have also explored animal identification, record-keeping and relevant legislation, while mastering some proper farming terminology along the way. Just ask them what a 'gilt' is!

The unit has also covered horse health, including common injuries, illnesses and treatments, alongside essential farm health and safety to help keep both people and animals safe.



Catering

Serving Up Success in Hospitality and Catering

As we come to the end of another successful term, I wanted to share some of the fantastic achievements from our Hospitality and Catering provision.

Zero Waste Cooking Sessions

This term our students explored the Zero Waste concept through practical cooking sessions. They learned how to reduce food waste by planning recipes carefully, using surplus ingredients creatively and making the most of every product. These activities developed sustainable cooking habits while reinforcing key catering skills.

Real Restaurant Service

Our qualification students successfully planned and delivered a real restaurant service, giving them valuable experience in customer service, teamwork, food preparation and working under realistic industry conditions. The confidence and professionalism they demonstrated was excellent.

Partnership with Photography

We have continued our successful partnership with Nik and the Photography group. Students captured high-quality photographs during practical sessions and restaurant service. These professional images provide excellent evidence for learners' portfolios while celebrating their achievements.

Looking Ahead

We have introduced a new rotating set menu that has been very well received by students. The menu will continue into the next academic year, giving learners greater consistency and opportunities to develop their culinary skills. Parents and students have access to the menu at all times, helping families stay informed and support healthy food choices.

Thrive

Finding Their Voice Through Thrive

This term, our Thrive students have been working incredibly hard to develop three key life skills such as: teamwork, confidence, and public speaking and we are so proud of the progress they've made!

Throughout the programme, students have taken part in a range of engaging activities designed to encourage collaboration. By working together on group tasks and challenges, they've learned how to listen to each other's ideas, support their peers, and contribute positively as part of a team.

We've also seen a real boost in confidence. Students have been stepping outside of their comfort zones, trying new things, and believing in their own abilities more than ever before. It's been wonderful to watch them grow in self-assurance and resilience.

A particular highlight has been their work on public speaking. Whether sharing ideas in small groups or presenting in front of the class, students have shown bravery and enthusiasm. They've been practising how to speak clearly, express their thoughts, and engage an audience - essential skills that will benefit them in all areas of life.

Well done to all of our Thrive students for their commitment and progress this term. We can't wait to see how they continue to build on these important skills in the future! 🌟



PSHE: Primary

Dream Big: Building Skills for the Future

This term in PSHE, our primary pupils have been exploring exciting topics centred around aspirations, independence, careers, and collaboration.

Our children have spent time thinking about their hopes and dreams for the future, discussing what they might like to be when they grow up and the many different opportunities available to them. They have learned that everyone's journey is unique and that aiming high and believing in themselves is an important first step towards achieving their goals.

A key focus has also been on developing independence. Pupils have been encouraged to take responsibility for their learning, make thoughtful choices, and build confidence in solving problems on their own. It has been wonderful to see them growing in resilience and becoming more self-assured in their everyday school life.

When learning about careers, students have explored a range of jobs and the skills needed to succeed in them. They have started to understand the connection between what they enjoy, the skills they develop, and future career possibilities.

Finally, through a variety of group activities, children have practised collaboration, learning how to work effectively with others. They have developed skills such as sharing ideas, listening carefully, and supporting their teammates to achieve a common goal.

We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and maturity our pupils have shown this term. They are building strong foundations for their future, both in school and beyond! 🌟



PSHE: Secondary

Preparing for Life Beyond the Classroom



This term in PSHE, our secondary students have been exploring a wide range of important topics designed to prepare them for life beyond school. The focus has been on building knowledge, skills, and confidence in areas such as community roles, careers, financial literacy, and responsible decision-making. Students began by learning about community roles and the part individuals play in supporting others. Through discussions and activities, they developed an understanding of how communities function and how they can contribute positively both now and in the future.

A significant area of learning has been careers education and planning. Students have explored different career pathways, identified their own strengths and interests, and begun to think about the steps needed to achieve their goals. They have also developed key employability and work skills, such as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving, which are essential for success in the workplace.

In addition, students have gained valuable knowledge in financial literacy and money management. They have learned how to budget, understand saving and spending choices, and consider the impact of financial decisions. These lessons help equip them with practical skills for managing money responsibly in later life.

Another important focus has been on evaluating online information reliability. Students have discussed how to identify trustworthy sources, recognise misinformation, and stay safe when navigating the digital world – a crucial skill in today's technology-driven society.

Students have also explored their rights and responsibilities, considering how these apply in school, online, and within the wider community. Alongside this, they have examined environmental issues and the importance of making sustainable choices to protect the world around them.

Finally, through community engagement activities, students have reflected on how they can make a positive difference and become active, responsible citizens.

We are incredibly proud of the thoughtful discussions, maturity, and engagement shown by our students this term. These topics are helping them build the confidence and skills they need for their future pathways and their role in society.

PSHE: Post 16

Equipping Learners for Financial Independence



This term in PSHE, our Post-16 students have been developing essential life skills through their focus on financial decision making – a vital area as they prepare for greater independence and life beyond education.

Students have explored how to make informed financial choices, considering the short- and long-term impact of their decisions. They have looked at everyday financial responsibilities such as budgeting, managing income and expenses, and prioritising needs over wants.

A key part of the programme has been building financial confidence and awareness. Learners have examined different financial products, including bank accounts, loans, and credit, gaining an understanding of how these work and the importance of using them responsibly.

They have also discussed the risks associated with debt and the importance of planning ahead to avoid financial difficulties.

Students have also engaged with real-life scenarios to strengthen their decision-making skills, learning how to weigh options, assess risks, and consider consequences. These activities have helped them to think critically about financial situations they may encounter in adulthood, such as renting accommodation, managing bills, or planning for future goals.

Additionally, the programme has supported students in understanding the importance of financial independence, encouraging them to take ownership of their choices and develop habits that will support long-term stability and wellbeing.

We are extremely proud of the maturity, engagement, and thoughtful discussions shown by our Post-16 students. The knowledge and skills they are gaining will play a crucial role in helping them navigate financial responsibilities with confidence in the future.

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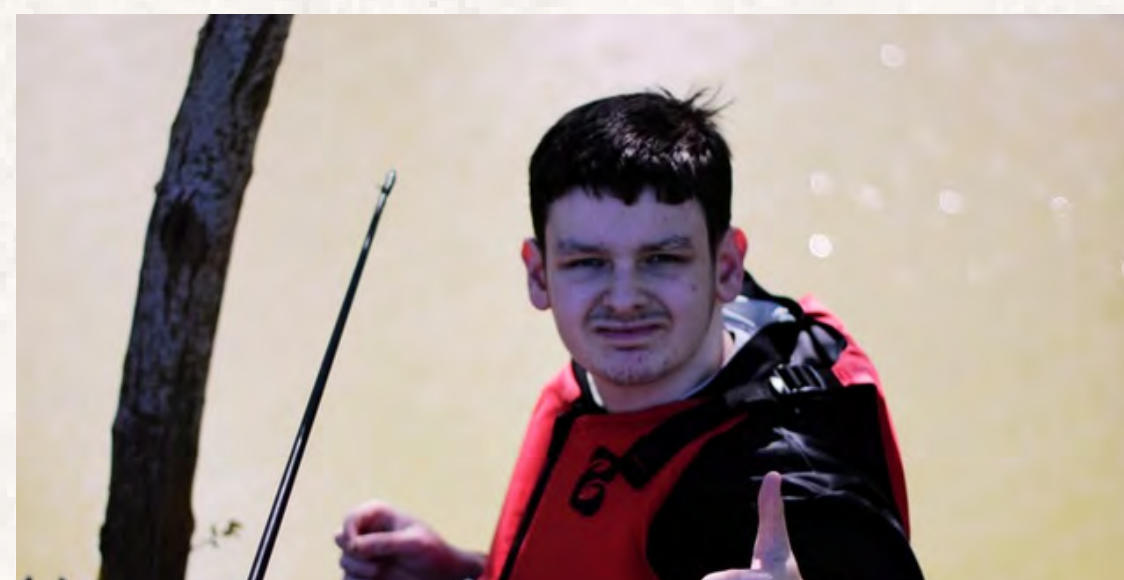
Fishing

Building Confidence, Patience and Teamwork Through Fishing

This term, our young people have spent plenty of time developing their fishing skills at the pond. With plenty of successful catches along the way, each session has provided opportunities to practise patience, concentration and perseverance while enjoying time outdoors.

Fishing has also encouraged teamwork and communication, with young people supporting one another, sharing their knowledge and celebrating each other's successes.

The calm environment around the pond provides a valuable space to build confidence, develop new skills and enjoy the sense of achievement that comes with a successful catch.



Gardening

Growing Through Every Season

This term in the garden, we've definitely had to work around the weather! Some serious rain meant calmer sessions sheltering in the polytunnel, where learners enjoyed sowing some last-minute seeds and creating crafts to decorate the garden. In contrast, the hotter weeks were spent watering and trying to revive plants that had been baked by the extreme sunshine.

Our post-16 learners planted some beautiful pots and hanging baskets, which are bringing much-needed colour to the garden, and our primary learners worked incredibly hard to plant out our dahlias, which will soon be putting on a spectacular display! One small group also took on the challenge of restoring our mini wildlife pond, which is now thriving once again.

As always, time spent in the garden brings plenty of opportunities for play, exploration and discovering wildlife and this term we've enjoyed spotting insects, frogs and even some newts!



Reptiles

Reptile Care Brings Learning to Life

In Reptiles, our young learners have been carrying out health checks on our reptiles and recording their findings. They have also learned about vivarium set-ups, the importance of enrichment, and how to design suitable and engaging environments. They have enjoyed researching and choosing materials to create their own reptile habitats and upgrade our own.



Taxidermy

Exploring Nature Through Science and Creativity

Our young learners have been exploring the fascinating world of taxidermy through a range of hands-on activities. They have been learning about animal bones, how they are carefully cleaned and preserved, as well as studying butterfly anatomy and the theory behind pinning and preservation.

Alongside this, they have been getting creative with resin art, experimenting with moulds and natural materials to produce their own unique, nature-inspired pieces. These activities combine science, creativity and practical skills, encouraging curiosity and a deeper understanding of the natural world.



Sports

Making Waves: Learners Dive into a Term of Sporting Success

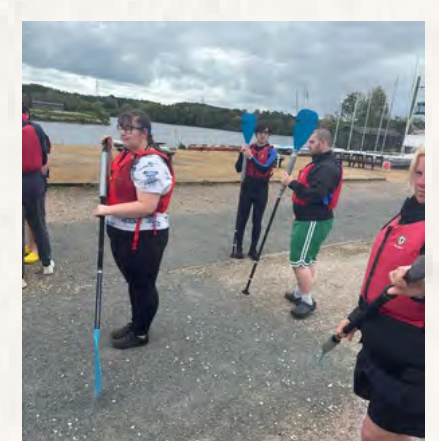
It's been another fantastic term for sport and physical activity at Orchard Therapeutic Farm, with learners of all ages embracing new challenges, developing confidence and enjoying being active both on and off site.

Our Post-16 learners have made the most of the local community by taking part in a range of exciting outdoor activities. A particular highlight was a visit to the Andrew Simpson Centre, where learners enjoyed paddle boarding, demonstrating excellent resilience, teamwork and encouragement towards one another as they developed new skills on the water. They also enjoyed an action-packed trip to Wet and Wild, challenging themselves on the inflatable aqua park while building confidence, communication and problem-solving skills in a fun and supportive environment.

Our primary and younger learners have continued to access a wide range of sporting opportunities at the local recreation ground, making excellent use of community facilities. Sessions have included team games, athletics, striking and fielding activities, fitness challenges and cooperative games, all designed to develop physical literacy, coordination and social skills. These visits also provide valuable opportunities for learners to explore their local community, practise positive behaviour in public spaces and understand the importance of leading an active, healthy lifestyle.

Across the provision, sport continues to play a vital role in supporting our therapeutic approach. Through physical activity, learners have developed resilience, self-esteem, communication, teamwork and emotional regulation, while most importantly having fun and celebrating their achievements together.

We look forward to even more sporting adventures next term!



Trades & Engineering

Pedalling Towards New Career Opportunities in Bike Mechanics

Our Trades and Engineering learners have had a productive and rewarding half term, continuing to develop valuable practical skills while working towards their OCN Level 1 Trades and Engineering qualifications.

Throughout the term, learners have been building confidence using a wide range of tools and equipment safely, completing practical projects and developing an understanding of core engineering and construction principles. Alongside these practical skills, they have been producing evidence for their qualifications, demonstrating their growing knowledge, independence and commitment to learning.

We have also been excited to introduce bike mechanics into the curriculum. Learners have begun exploring bicycle maintenance, fault finding and repair techniques, learning how to carry out routine servicing, replace components and ensure bikes are safe and roadworthy. This has been a fantastic addition to our vocational offer, with learners showing great enthusiasm and engagement. Looking ahead to the next academic year, we are planning to launch a formal bike mechanics qualification, providing learners with industry-relevant skills that can support progression into further training, apprenticeships and employment within the cycle industry. The qualification will help prepare learners for opportunities with organisations such as Halfords, independent bicycle workshops and other mechanical engineering settings, further strengthening our commitment to providing meaningful pathways into employment.

We are incredibly proud of the determination and progress our learners have shown and look forward to seeing them continue to develop their practical skills in the year ahead.



HAVE A
fabulous
SUMMER

We look forward to seeing you in September!





SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Summer Safeguarding Helpful Resources for Families

The summer holidays are a great opportunity for young people to recharge, explore new interests and spend time with family and friends. As routines change, it can also be helpful to revisit a few key areas of safety. We've pulled together some trusted resources that many parents and carers find useful over the holiday period.

Online Safety & Social Media



With many young people spending more time gaming, using social media and chatting online over the summer, it's a good time to check privacy settings, parental controls and have regular conversations about staying safe online.

USEFUL RESOURCES:

- **NSPCC Online Safety Hub** – Practical advice on social media, gaming, group chats and talking to young people about online risks.
- **Internet Matters** – Step-by-step parental controls for phones, tablets, games consoles and apps, plus age-specific guidance.
- **Childnet Parent & Carer Toolkit** – Conversation starters and practical tips to help families navigate the online world together.
- **CEOP (Thinkuknow)** – Advice from the National Crime Agency on helping children stay safe online and how to report concerns.

Summer Activities

Whether your family is spending time outdoors, travelling or enjoying local attractions, remember to:

- Stay hydrated during warm weather.
- Use appropriate sun protection.
- Take extra care around open water such as rivers, lakes and canals.
- Agree a meeting point if visiting busy places or events.



From everyone at Orchard Therapeutic Farm, we hope you have a safe, enjoyable and relaxing summer. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year of learning and growth.

Supporting Wellbeing



A change in routine can affect some young people, particularly those with SEND or additional needs.

Keeping a loose routine, planning enjoyable activities and allowing time to rest can help make the transition back to school in September much easier.

If Something Doesn't Feel Right

If your child talks to you about something that worries them—or if something simply doesn't feel right—trust your instincts. You don't have to manage concerns on your own.

HELPFUL ORGANISATIONS INCLUDE:

- **NSPCC** – Advice and support for parents and carers.
- **Childline** – Confidential support for children and young people.
- Your local **Children's Social Care team** if you have concerns about a child's welfare.
- In an emergency, always call **999**.

Useful Links

- [NSPCC Online Safety Hub](#)
- [Internet Matters for Parents](#)
- [Childnet Parent & Carer Toolkit](#)
- [Thinkuknow \(CEOP\) Parent Information](#)