



# Stillness Junior School

## Safeguarding News

**Issue 3 – Summer Term 2026**

The Safeguarding Leads oversee and coordinate all aspects of the school's work to ensure that children are kept safe.

They regularly attend training to ensure their skills and knowledge are up to date.

### What are AI chatbots?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) chatbots – such as ChatGPT, Google Gemini and others are becoming more common in everyday life. Children may encounter them at school, in games or even through websites and apps. While these tools can be useful and fun, it is important for parents to understand how they work, the potential risks and how to keep children safe. AI chatbots are computer programmes that can hold a conversation with a person.

### They can:

- ✓ answer questions (e.g. helping with homework or explaining a tricky topic)
- ✓ spark creativity (e.g. helping write a poem, story or quiz). Support hobbies and interests (e.g. generating recipe ideas, sports facts or coding tips).
- ✓ provide entertainment (e.g. riddles, jokes or role-play style games).

When used wisely, chatbots can be a helpful tool for learning and fun.

### When conversations can become concerning:

Although conversations may start out innocent, there are risks to be aware of:

- **Unpredictable responses:** chatbots sometimes give inaccurate, confusing or inappropriate information.
- **Role-play risks:** a child may ask the chatbot to pretend to be a friend, character or even a parent figure. This can blur the line between fantasy and reality.
- **Sensitive topics:** children may explore personal worries with a chatbot and the answers they receive might not always be supportive, accurate or safe.
- **Over-reliance:** a child might start turning to a chatbot for advice instead of trusted adults.

Please click on this [link](#) for more information on how AI Chatbots affect children.

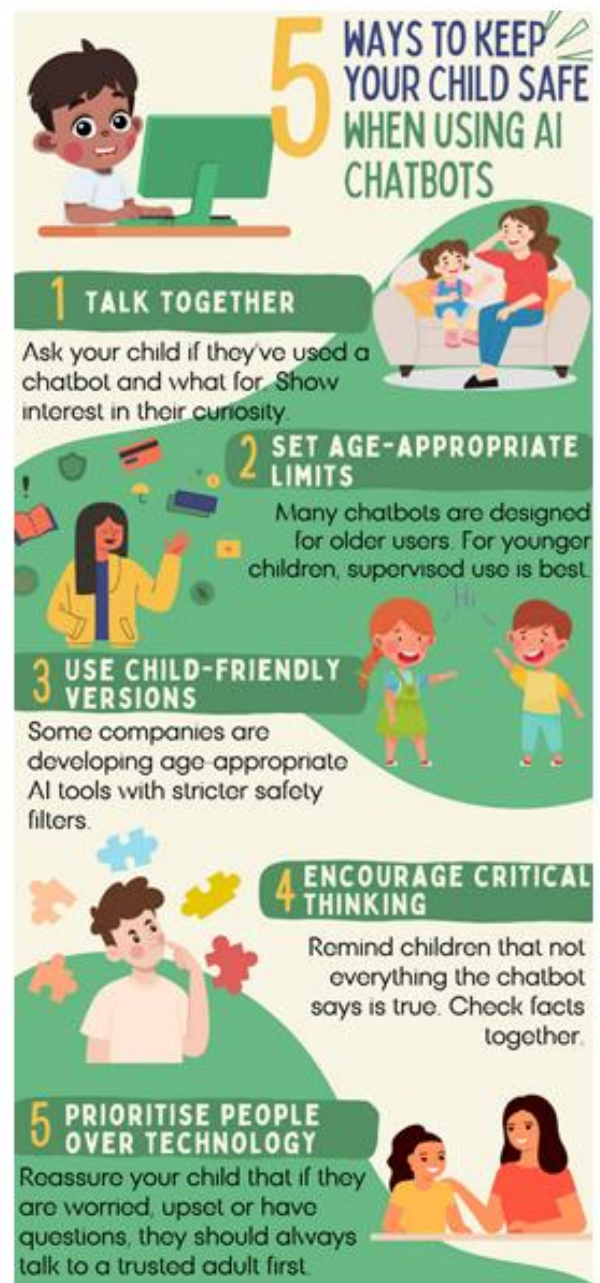
Safeguarding Leads:

Mrs Mitzi Nichol  
Headteacher

Mrs Zoe Renner-Thomas  
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Mrs P Augustus  
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Safeguarding Governor:  
Mr Ben Chambers



**Key Message:** AI chatbots can be a useful tool, but they are not a replacement for safe, supportive human relationships. With guidance, supervision and open conversations, parents can help children explore this technology in a safe and balanced way

## Attendance Matters

We are sure that, like us, you as parents and carers realise the importance of attendance and punctuality. We continue to work hard to maintain our excellent attendance levels and to reduce incidences of lateness.

There is much evidence to show that good attendance plays a vital role in helping your child to achieve their potential. We also know that poor attendance can lead to other problems for children.

### **Children who do not attend school regularly are more likely to:**

- Fall behind in their school work
- Find it difficult to make and keep friends
  - Be unhappy at school
- Misbehave so that others cannot see that they are finding the work difficult
- Learn poor attendance habits that follow through to secondary school and future employment

### **Poor punctuality can also disadvantage children in many ways:**

- Being frequently late adds up to lost learning. For example, arriving 15 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 2 weeks of the year
  - When children are late, they find it harder to settle in to the routine of the day
- When children arrive late, they often miss key messages and teaching which continues to have an effect on their learning for the rest of the lesson or day
  - Poor punctuality disrupts the class and is embarrassing for the child
  - Your child being late disturbs the learning of the whole class

### **How can you help your child attend school regularly and on time?**

- Talk to your child about school
- Take a positive interest in your child's work, including their homework
  - Make sure your child understands why school is important
- Show your child that you are interested in what they have done at school
  - Get everything ready for school the night before
- Arrange appointments before or after school or during the school holidays wherever possible
- If an appointment must be taken during the school day, wherever possible bring your child to school before and after that time
  - Take holidays during school holidays and not during term time
  - Set your alarm and an alarm for your child – see who can beat the clock!
- If your child is just slightly under the weather, still send them in to school. Children often feel better as the day goes on and they get busy. If school is worried, we will call!
  - Children can attend school if they are taking medication – speak to school office.
  - **We can give children certain medications** with your permission.

### **Please also ensure that you:**

- Keep in touch with school staff – we may be able to help you with advice, rewards for your child or other incentives for coming in
- Contact school on the first day of absence if your child is unable to attend for whatever reason and keep in contact on subsequent days
  - Make sure school has up-to-date contact details
- Attend meetings about your child's attendance if you are invited to do so. At these meetings we can agree an action plan so that school, parents and children can work together to improve things
  - If your child is absent for an appointment, please show the office the appointment card or letter

