

22 July 2025

Dear PCS Families

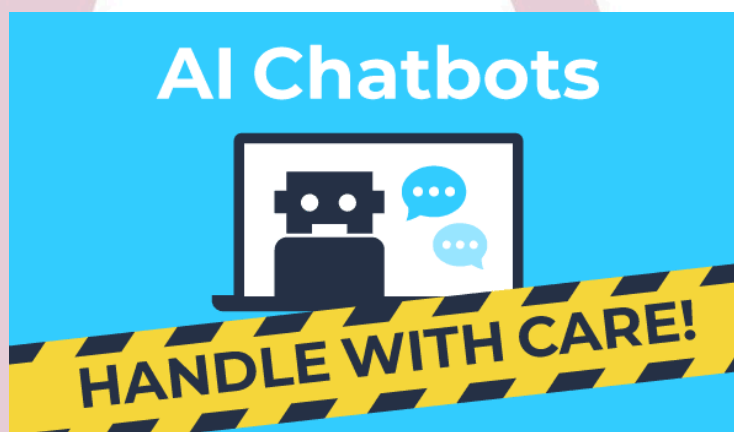
### Is your child chatting to a real friend - or an AI chatbot? Message from internetmatters.org

AI Chatbots are built into platforms children are using every day on their phones and other devices. Research from [Internet Matters](https://www.internetmatters.org), shows that **two-thirds of children are using AI chatbots** like ChatGPT, Snapchat's My AI, character ai and others, and they're being used for schoolwork, to seek advice and even for companionship\*.

**Chatbots interact in a human-like way**, they are always available, are friendly and non-judgemental, and use empathetic language - which can make children feel acknowledged and understood. However, this makes it harder for children to recognise that they're interacting with a tool rather than a real person. Chatbots are not real and their responses cannot always be trusted.

Also, they're **often not designed with children in mind** - most lack safety settings or parental controls. So if children ask for advice on sensitive topics, the lack of age checks plus inconsistent filtering mean they may be presented with responses that are inappropriate for their age.

To help you get to grips with what AI chatbots are, and for advice and tips on how you can help your children use them safely, [check out Internet Matters new AI information hub](https://www.internetmatters.org).



### **PCS School Uniform Drop and Swap - Message from the PCS Climate Ambassadors**

In response to lots of interest by our parents and carers, we are delighted to be able to inform you of our PCS Uniform Drop and Swap donation station which will be up and running in September.

See the attached poster for details. Please feel free to donate any unwanted/outgrown items of school uniform to our school Reception any time, any day of the week that suits you. Leave your name with our Reception team and come back on the last Friday of the month to take your pick from our donated uniform items.

As we come to the end of this term we will be collecting for the first few days of the summer holidays as well.

Not only will this help with costly uniform expenses as your child grows out of items, it will also support our school sustainability plan.

We hope you have a lovely summer!

### **Upcoming Key Dates**

- **Monday 1 September** - INSET day 1 - School closed for staff training
- **Tuesday 2 September** - INSET day 2 - School closed for staff training
- **Wednesday 3 September** - Start of term for Y7 (08:25 arrival and met on the tennis courts by tutors followed by assembly) and Y11 (11:00 arrival on tennis courts for registration and assembly)
- **Thursday 4 September** - Normal timetable for Y7 and Y11 (08:25 arrival and straight to tutor group classroom). Start of school for Y8, Y9 and Y10 (08:25 arrival to tennis courts to be registered by tutors)