

STAPLES ROAD PRIMARY

June 2026



June at Staples Road Primary School

What a sensational, action-packed June we had at Staples Road Primary School! Our brilliant Year 2 students kicked off the month with a sun-soaked seaside adventure to Southend-on-Sea, while our Year 6 cohort created lifelong memories during their unforgettable residential trip to Aylmerton in Norfolk. The Year 6 pupils threw themselves into an array of fantastic activities, from boating on the broads and a magical seal-spotting trip to hands-on learning with fossil hunting and a coastal erosion study.

Back in school, we were also delighted to extend our global community by hosting a group of visiting students from Beijing, which was a wonderful cultural exchange for everyone involved. And on the sporting front, a huge well done goes out to the talented children who showcased fantastic teamwork and determination at the Year 3/4 tennis tournament in Harlow. To top it all off, the entire school community came together for our spectacular annual SRS Sports Day, kindly hosted once again by the Loughton Cricket Club. It has been an absolute joy to see our pupils shining, staying active, and embracing so many new experiences this month!

Y2 trip to Southend



Students from Beijing



SRS Sports Day



Y3/4 Tennis



Y6 Residential



Y6 Residential



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EMOJIS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION

An emoji like 🍑 (thumbs up emoji) might seem friendly to adults, but teens often interpret it as sarcastic or passive-aggressive. These differing interpretations can create confusion or unintended tension in cross-generational conversations.

SHIELDING BULLYING OR PEER PRESSURE

When embedded in emojis, mean-spirited jokes or exclusionary language can fly under the radar. Terms like 'mid' or 'delulu' may seem harmless, but they can be used to undermine peers in subtle ways.

RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS

Emoji meanings can change overnight. A person standing emoji (🧑) once signified awkwardness but might now be repurposed for something entirely different. This ever-changing lexicon can leave adults in the dark and young people vulnerable to misunderstanding or misuse.

MASKING DISTRESS OR HARM

Some emojis are used to discreetly signal troubling behaviours. For instance, 🍃 (falling leaves emoji) or 💊 (pill emoji) might suggest drug use, while 🌵 (wilted flower emoji) could hint at emotional struggles. Such usage can obscure serious issues, making them harder for trusted adults to detect.

NORMALISING RISKY BEHAVIOURS

Emojis can make harmful actions seem light-hearted or fashionable. Strings like 🔥👤 (fire + 'woozy' face + pill emoji) may appear humorous but can reference partying, intoxication or dangerous challenges, which might otherwise raise red flags.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LEARN THE LINGO

Stay updated with emoji trends and definitions using resources like emojipedia.org or Urban Dictionary. Knowing current meanings builds confidence when engaging with young people and helps spot potential concerns early.

ASK, DON'T ASSUME

Approach unfamiliar emojis with curiosity rather than suspicion. A light-hearted "What does 🍷 (juice box emoji) mean these days?" can open conversation and show that you respect their knowledge.

CREATE SAFE SPACES FOR DISCUSSION

Encourage casual chats about emojis, online slang, memes, or social media trends. Showing interest without judgement reassures young people that they can talk about their digital world openly and safely.

PRIORITISE TRUST OVER SURVEILLANCE

While parental controls and monitoring tools can be useful, emotional safety matters most. Be someone children and young people feel they can come to – not just someone who's watching them.

EMOJI CHEAT SHEET – The following slang terms and emojis are some common examples – please be aware this isn't an exhaustive list.

COMMON EMOJIS:

- 🤡 (Clown face) Foolishness or clowning around
- 🙄 (Pleading face) Over-affectionate or 'simping'
- 😏 (Cold face) Cool, stylish or ruthless
- 👁️ (Eyes) Watching drama unfold
- 🔥 (Hot face) Intense attraction or excitement
- 🐐 (Goat) Greatest of all time (G.O.A.T.)
- 😐 (Moi!) Stone-faced, unbothered
- 💅 (Nails) Confidence, sassiness, or indifference
- 👑 (Crown) 'Slaying', as in doing great
- 🚩 (Triangular flag) Red flag: a warning sign about someone's behaviour

POTENTIALLY CONCERNING EMOJIS

- 🍌 (Ear of corn) Slang for pornography (avoids censorship algorithms)
- 🍃 (Wilted flower) Often used to convey emotional struggle or sadness
- ❄️ (Snowflake, snowman, snow cloud) Can symbolise cocaine
- 🐍 (Snake) Can represent betrayal or being 'two-faced'
- 🔑 (Key, lying face) Related to cocaine use
- 💧 (Water pistol) Sometimes used to reference violence or self-harm
- 🍂 (Falling leaves, herb, maple leaf) Can symbolise cannabis
- ⚠️ (Warning) Used to emphasise drama, threats or emotional turmoil
- 💊 (Pill) May reference drug use or prescription misuse
- 🍜 (Steaming bowl) Refers to nudes ('noods' is an abbreviation of noodles)

Meet Our Expert

Keith Brani is a globally renowned emoji expert and the Editor in Chief of emojipedia.org, the world's number one emoji resource. He has an MSc in Business Psychology from University College London and an MBA from Quantic School of Business and Technology.



The National College