

## Parents' Group Communications

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With many ways of communicating these days we often find Facebook & Google Forms are a good medium to keep all up to date with information and last-minute changes and notifications of camps and activities.

We will use letters emails and texts also, but Facebook allows all to see the most current information quickly often before we send out letter's texts and emails. Google forms allow us to gather information quickly and saves money on producing paper forms.

If you are on Facebook and can join the closed parents' group, please search for '7th Darlington Sea Scouts' and ask to join.

We understand not all have Facebook for various reasons and we will always try our best to communicate information to all. We also use Google forms for camps and activities and are able to email these to parents and share them on the groups Facebook account. This will cut down on the cost of printing and retaining information it also generates spreadsheets with the information which is easier than looking through sheets of paper.

## Communications During Camps and Activities

All leader's follow The Scout Associations communication and 'in touch' policy

Communication channels must be kept clear and only direct, important and emergency information should be transmitted between parents and leaders. This is to prevent misinformation which can cause undue distress.

**Group Chair:** Alex Edwards [chairperson@7thdarlingtonseascouts.org.uk](mailto:chairperson@7thdarlingtonseascouts.org.uk)  
**Group Secretary:** Emily McMillan [group.secretary@7thdarlingtonseascouts.org.uk](mailto:group.secretary@7thdarlingtonseascouts.org.uk)  
**Group Treasurer:** Chris Gibson [treasurer@7thdarlingtonseascouts.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@7thdarlingtonseascouts.org.uk)  
**Group Manager:** Richard Smith [gsl@7thdarlingtonseascouts.org.uk](mailto:gsl@7thdarlingtonseascouts.org.uk)

So, what does this mean?

We ask that you do not contact leaders but instead use the in-touch person instead. All camp forms have a person that parents can contact should there be a need to pass on a message likewise this person will contact parents with any necessary information. Posts to Facebook will still happen but this will not be done until all leaders and children are returned safe from the activity / camp. We may post brief updates letting parents know everyone is happy and ok.

We also ask parents not to contact other adults involved in the group who may not be at camp as they will have no more information than yourselves.

These rules sound strict and unfair, but they have proven to work over a very long time for Scout Groups across the country in ensuring only important information is cascaded to the correct people I realise this may be the first time your child has stayed away but please enjoy the fact that they are having a fantastic time learning new skills and making new friends AND enjoy the peace for the weekend!

I assure you that if it is necessary, we will contact you but for the safety and security of the activity / camp we can no longer respond to individual texts / Facebook posts. Quite often where we camp, we have poor or no mobile signal and have alternative arrangements in place for contacting people.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this then please speak to your child's section leader or myself and hopefully we can answer any concerns you may have. The group has been around for over 100 years and the combined camping experience of the current leaders is well over 100 years. It may be your child's first time, but it certainly isn't ours! I hope that gives a little peace of mind for you.

**Group Chair:** Alex Edwards [chairperson@7thdarlingtonseascouts.org.uk](mailto:chairperson@7thdarlingtonseascouts.org.uk)  
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