



The STANWAY SCHOOL

Co-Headteachers: Mr Jonathan Bland BSc (Hons) and Mr Scott Holder BA (Hons)

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Dear Parent/Carer

COMMUNICATION – GROUPCALL XPRESSIONS APP

In September, we notified you on the back of the data collection sheet that The Stanway School is implementing a new system to improve the way school communicates with parents. I am sure you can appreciate that the school needs to send you lots of information about your child, their attendance and the school in general, throughout the year. We hope that this system will be a better way in which to communicate.

The new system we are using is called Groupcall and this letter aims to provide information on how it will be used.

Groupcall gives us the ability to send personalised text messages (SMS) to your mobile phone and emails directly to your registered email inbox. This new facility will enable us to get a message to individual parents or the whole school very quickly.

To this end, we will cease to send paper letters home after 30th March and all communication will be via email, text or the app outlined below; however, we will have paper letters available to collect from reception if you would still prefer this method.

Nothing can replace a telephone call when it is needed, so mobile text messaging, push notifications via the app or email will only be used in appropriate situations. Examples of these might be:

- School closure
- Changes to school meetings or events
- Cancellation of after school activities
- Detention reminders/ notifications
- School trip reminders
- Advise/acknowledge that your child is absent from school
- Unauthorised absence reminder notices
- Parents' evenings



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- Upcoming school events
- Report information
- Newsletters
- Praise cards
- Exam information

It will now be much easier for us to get information directly to parents, it will also allow us to ascertain whether the message has been received so we will be more confident that the message has been read. If the message could not be delivered, the system will alert us.

Groupcall Xpressions App

The app is completely free of charge to you and can be installed on your mobile phone or tablet. It currently supports both Apple iOS and Android devices (with Windows mobile to follow) and you'll be able to receive messages from the school direct to your device.

If you have children in different schools and those schools also use Groupcall Xpressions, you will be able to view information on multiple children within the same app.

What do I need to do now?

Please ensure we have your correct **mobile number and email address** on our school database to ensure you can use the new app. You'll need to make sure you keep these details up-to-date in future to maintain access to the service. Please send an up-to-date email address and mobile number to admin@stanway.essex.sch.uk **if this has changed since you sent in the last data collection sheet.**

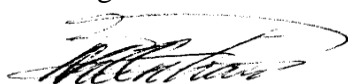
What happens next?

Groupcall has already set up the system in school and you will now need to install the app by searching for groupcall xpressions in your app store and login in order to get access to your child's information. Once installed and set up you will be able to receive free messages sent by the school delivered directly to the app. The attached document Groupcall Xpressions – Account Registration will assist you in creating an account to use the app.

Where can I find more information?

Parents can find further information on the Groupcall website by visiting <http://www.parents.groupcall.com>

Kind Regards



Mr Orchard
Assistant Headteacher