

Newsletter



Week Beginning

24/02/2025

Dates for your diary

Class Assemblies

<u>26/02/25</u>	<u>05/03/25</u>	<u>12/03/25</u>	<u>19/03/25</u>	<u>26/03/25</u>	<u>02/04/25</u>	<u>09/04/25</u>
Year 5	Year 6	Year 3	Year 2	Year 4	Reception	Year 1

6th March- Y4 Bikeability Afternoon

6th March - World Book Day

7th March - Street teams - Parent awareness session - How to keep your child safe online

12th March- Y4 Blists Hill Trip

8th May - Red, White & Blue Day - special celebration of Victory in Europe

Walsall School Term date 2024 - 2025

Spring term 2025

- Term starts: Monday 6 January 2025
- Half term holiday: Monday 17 February 2025 to Friday 21 February 2025
- Term ends: Friday 11 April 2025

Summer term 2025

- Term starts: Monday 28 April 2025
- Half term holiday: Monday 26 May 2025 to Friday 30 May 2025
- Term ends: Monday 21 July 2025

PE Champions

Each week, one pupil from each class will get to bring home their class PE Champion trophy! This will be a pupil who has shown resilience, dedication and hard work during their PE sessions. Can we ask that the trophy is returned the following week, ready to be awarded to the next pupil.

<u>Nursery</u>	Serenity, for showing great resilience and not giving up when things get tricky
<u>Reception</u>	Logan - for his his best listening during our circus themed lesson.
<u>Year 1</u>	Jack -For being his 'best self' during our lesson, working hard on his speed and balance.
<u>Year 2</u>	Ethan F - excellent skills in ball control.
<u>Year 4</u>	Rosalie for developing her confidence and becoming more independent.
<u>Year 5</u>	Michael for never giving up and for pushing himself throughout the whole lesson.
<u>Year 6</u>	Scarlett - Improved attitude towards joining in with P.E.

World Book Day



World Book Day celebrations took place across the school on Thursday! It was lovely to see so many children dressed as their favourite characters from books that they have read.

Children took part in some amazing activities throughout the day, including sharing stories with pupils from different year groups. Children really enjoyed spending time with an older or younger reading buddy and reading with them.

Your child will have been given a book token which entitles them to a FREE book - please read the information on the back of this to see where the token can be redeemed.

100% Attendance - Spring 1

A massive well done to all of the children who were in for the whole six weeks of the last half-term. Keep it up!



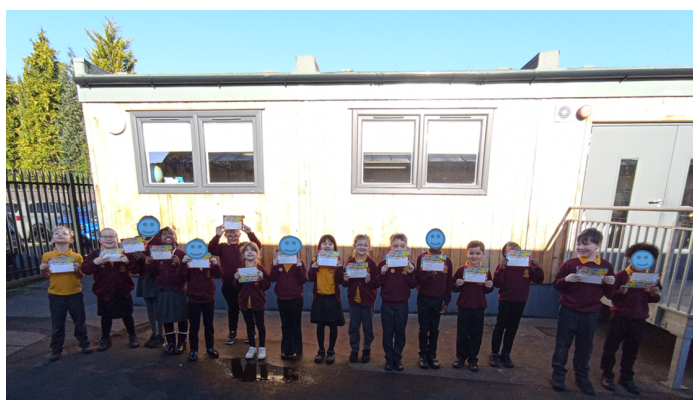
Nursery



Year 1



Year 2



Year 3



Year 4



Year 6

Year 3 Bishop's Wood

Year 3 have been on a very exciting trip this week to Bishop's Wood. We have had an amazing day learning all about the Romans. We took part in a Latin name game where we had to hunt for different Latin words, all linked to what the Romans brought to Britain. We then took part in some Roman army marching, built a tent and also used a groma to create a straight road.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With more than two billion active users, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. The UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging, but for the time being, this controversial feature remains.

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency' – plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user they want to message. Therefore, if a child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that the child might be added to a group chat or community (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people they don't know.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allow news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "Forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original – and might not be entirely factual, either.

CHAT LOCK AND SECRET CODES

In 2023, WhatsApp introduced a feature that lets users keep their chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind their phone's passcode, fingerprint or face ID. There is an additional feature – 'Secret Code' – where users set a unique password for locked chats. Unfortunately, this creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of.

VIEW ONCE CONTENT

The ability to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate material or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't reopen them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this disappearing content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing protection of privacy.

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's Live Location feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child is safe while out, for example. However, anyone in a user's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. You can give permission to My Contacts or My Contacts Except.... Additionally, if a child needs to use Live Location, emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Check in with the child about how they're using WhatsApp, making sure they know you only have their safety at heart. If you spot a Locked Chats folder, you might want to talk about the sort of content they've stored in there, who they're talking to, and why they want to keep these chats hidden. Also, if children send any View Once content, it could be helpful to ask them why.

DISCUSS GROUP CHATS

Make children aware that there could be members of a group that they don't know well and that words can be misinterpreted. Encourage them to leave a good impression, to avoid joining in if conversations turn towards bullying, and to respond to such situations in an appropriate way. Make sure they know that it's OK to leave a group chat if it makes them uncomfortable – or for any reason, in fact.

THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content that a user posts to be shared more widely, even publicly on social media. Encourage children to consider how an impulsive message or forwarding might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/whatsapp-2025>