

24TH NOVEMBER 2023

I can hardly believe that next Friday will be the start of December! I know the Year 3 Christmas production is coming along nicely and Mrs Hardisty and I are enjoying listening to them rehearsing their songs whilst we are working! The children are looking forward to sharing their hard work when they perform to parents on Wednesday 13th December and to the rest of the school as well that morning!

We are delighted to share the happy news that Mr Butler became a proud new daddy to baby Alfie last Friday! Mum and baby are doing well and Mr Butler is enjoying the first few blissful (and tiring!) days of paternity leave as a newly formed family of three.

As one of our Gayton passport experiences, last year we treated our Year 6 children to a visit to the pantomime at Nottingham Playhouse: it was lovely to be back in a theatre with the children again post-COVID and this year we will be treating our Year 6 children to the same trip, this time to see Cinderella on **Thursday 7th December**. Letters have gone home this week so please check bags if you have not seen one and return your permission slips as soon as you can!

Class Attendances—Week beginning 20th November 2023

Our attendance for this week is improving and this week is **96.1%**. Thank you for your support with promoting good attendance in school, it is much appreciated.

Class 1	98.7%
Class 2	93%
Class 3	98%
Class 4	89.4%
Class 5	95%
Class 6	97.2%

Class 7	98.2%
Class 8	99%
Class 9	96.5%
Class 10	96.9%
Class 11	96.7%
Class 12	95.2%

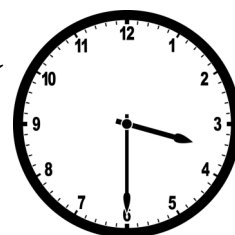


Please remember that I am still *unable* to authorise any term-time leave of absence requests this year and, in the majority of cases, these will incur fines. These requests should be made in advance and not retrospectively please.

Kind regards,
Mrs J Hill

Dropping off and Collecting Your Child

There are children arriving at school and waiting on the premises as early as 8:20am some mornings. Please be aware that staff are not on duty outside until 8:45am when doors open. Similarly, we are getting an increasing number of children who are not being collected on time at 3:30pm. Please allow for extra time if you are travelling to collect your child from work by car if it is raining as we find this always increases the amount of traffic across the city! Please remember there are before and after school childcare facilities that can be booked at [Ridgeway](#) should you need it.



Coffee Morning—Wednesday 6th December

Our next Coffee Morning will be held on Wednesday 6th December and will focus on reading. Please come along to find out more about how you can best support your child with reading at our session, which will be led by Mrs Aujla, our Reading Leader. Reading at junior school is about much more than just *learning* to read! Doors open at 9am for tea and coffee for a 9:30am start. The session should finish by 11am.



Prefects

A special congratulations to the children chosen to be this term's prefects. These children have stood out amongst their peers as model pupils whose attitude and effort at school at the start of the year has been exemplary:



Year 3—Amaya

Year 4—Zidan

Year 5—Arya

Year 6—Navtaiah



Christmas Diary Dates—A Reminder

Tonight we have sent out a letter about ordering food for Christmas Dinner day on **Wednesday 20th December**. This year, we are asking parents to place orders online. Click [here](#) to place your order if your child did not bring their letter today. Orders must be placed by **Monday 11th December** please and these meals **must be paid for in advance**.

Wednesday 20th December is also **Christmas Jumper Day**—the children are welcome to come to school wearing their Christmas jumpers, or t-shirts, tights, hats—anything with a Christmas theme, in addition to their school uniform—along with a £2 donation for the *Save the Children* charity please. As usual, the Office Staff will be selling Christmas pin badges and slap bands from **Monday 4th December** in the school hall when doors open at 8:45am each morning, this year raising money for Young Minds, their chosen charity. Badges are £2, slap bands are £1 and both can be worn with school uniform throughout December.



The School Council have requested **Christmas Discos** again this year. These will be held on **Thursday 21st December**. Lower School Disco will run from 5pm-6:15pm and Upper School Disco will run from 6:30pm-7:45pm. **All children MUST be collected by an adult please**. Tickets will go on sale nearer the time—please keep an eye out for details.

Our Year 3 children are busy learning their lines and songs for their **Year 3 production**, which they will be performing to parents on **Wednesday 13th December** at 2pm and 6pm. A letter came home this week with information about tickets.

On **Thursday 7th December**, our Year 6 children will be visiting Nottingham Playhouse to see the pantomime Cinderella as part of our Passport of Experiences. This will be funded by school and a letter has been sent home today.



2023-24 DATES

Wednesday 29th November	All Day	Year 4 visit to Tutbury Castle—see letter
Wednesday 6th December	9.00-11.00am	Coffee Morning
Thursday 7th December	PM	Year 6 Pantomime trip to Cinderella—letter to follow
Wednesday 13th December	2pm & 6pm	Year 3 Christmas Production to Parents/Carers
Wednesday 20th December	All Day	Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 20th December	12:15pm	Christmas Dinner
Thursday 21st December	AM	Lower School Gold Reward Trip—Bowling
Thursday 21st December	Lower School 5:00-6:15pm Upper School 6:30-7:45pm	Christmas Discos—Ticket information to follow
Friday 22nd December	AM	Upper School Gold Reward Trip—Bowling
Friday 22nd December	3:30pm	End of Autumn 1 Term—BREAK UP FOR CHRISTMAS
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS		
Monday 8th January 2024	All Day	INSET 4
Tuesday 9th January 2024	8:55am	Spring 1 Term begins—BACK TO SCHOOL
Monday 15th January 2024	Midnight	Closing date for Y3 applications for September 2024
Friday 16th February 2024	3:30pm	End of Spring 1 Term—BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM
HALF TERM		
Monday 26th February 2024	8:55am	Spring 2 Term begins—BACK TO SCHOOL
Thursday 28th March 2024	3:30pm	End of Spring 2 Term—BREAK UP FOR EASTER
EASTER HOLIDAYS		
Monday 15th April 2024	8:55am	Summer 1 Term begins—BACK TO SCHOOL
Monday 6th May 2024	All Day	May Day Bank Holiday—School Closed
Monday 13th—Thursday 16th May 2024	Mornings	Year 6 SATs Week
Friday 24th May 2024	3:30pm	End of Summer 1 Term—BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM
HALF TERM		
Monday 3rd June 2024	All Day	INSET 5
Tuesday 4th June 2024	8:55am	Summer 2 Term begins—BACK TO SCHOOL
Tuesday 23rd July 2024	3:30pm	End of Summer 2 Term—BREAK UP FOR SUMMER

School Dinners

Next week we will be on Week 3 from our Autumn/Winter Dinner Menu. Meals cost £2.40 per day and should be paid for in advance please.

[View Menu](#)



Breakfast

This week we have provided breakfast to 62 children. Children can come to the hall when doors open to collect a breakfast bar if they wish. *Please remind your children that this provision is for those that have not had access to a breakfast at home.* Thank you.

breakfast
fuel for learning

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
16+

in UK and Europe;
rest of the world 13+

With more than two billion active users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls, 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. This privacy issue has been in the spotlight recently, as the UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging; WhatsApp is unwilling to do so and has reportedly considered withdrawing its service in the UK should this legislation go ahead.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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 that they want to message. If your 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 your child might be added to a group chat (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people that they don't know.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allows 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.

'VIEW ONCE' CONTENT

The facility to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate images or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't re-open 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 increased privacy.

CHAT LOCK

Another new option allows users to store certain messages or chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind a passcode, fingerprint or face ID authentication. The risk here is that this function creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content that they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of (such as age-inappropriate material).

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's safely on the way home, for example. However, anyone in your child'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 & Carers

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage your child to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider, for example, whether the message 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.

THINKING BEFORE SHARING

Help your child to 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 to then be shared more widely (even publicly on social media). Encourage your child to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change your child's WhatsApp settings (go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups') 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 your 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

Some parents like to check in with their child about how they're using WhatsApp, explaining that it will help to keep them safe. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of chats that are in there, who they're with and why your child wants to keep them hidden. Also, if your child has sent any 'view once' content, you could discuss their reasons for using this feature.

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.



...HEY OSCAR...



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://blog.whatsapp.com/an-open-letter> | <https://faq.whatsapp.com/1077018839582332> | https://faq.whatsapp.com/361005896189245/?helpref=hc_fnav
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<https://www.aura.com/learn/whatsapp-scams>