

20TH JUNE 2025

We've had a hectic week this week at Gayton with lots of different trips going out over the course of the week.

First to head out this week were Year 4. As you will be aware from last week's newsletter, they set out on Monday to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park. Incredibly lucky to get such a sunny day, the children had a wonderful time meeting lots of the different species of animals that call the park home, such as polar bears, sea lions, lions and tigers. A member of the public stopped Mrs Aujla to remark on the fantastic behaviour of Class 5, in particular, and we are extremely proud of all the children who represented the school so well during the trip.

On Tuesday, our Year 3 children set off for Matlock Farm Park. The children all had the opportunity to handle small animals, feed the family meerkat mob and get up close to the llamas and alpacas. Again, the children had a wonderful day, behaved beautifully and represented the school really well all day.

And finally, on Thursday, our Year 4 children got back on the bus, this time heading for the Derby Arena with their ukuleles in tow. As part of their work this year with the Derbyshire Music Partnership in learning to play the ukulele, they had the fantastic opportunity to play along with the Halle Orchestra on Thursday. This was a fantastic opportunity for them to really put a purpose to their learning of an instrument and to see just where learning to play an instrument well can take you.

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

## **Book Bags**

As the end of the year approaches, could we remind you to avoid buying expensive school bags for your children? We routinely get pulled up on Health and Safety audits and Fire audits that our cloakrooms in the corridors take up too much room and this is due to the size of the bags that children are bringing to school—these very often knock off coats hung on top onto the floor.

**From September 2025, children will only be allowed to bring a book bag to school:** there is no need for a larger bag than this—a book bag will fit a water bottle and reading books and this is all the children NEED to bring to school each day.

From 30th June, the school office will be selling book bags: you will be able to purchase these directly using your School Money account and they will be sent home with your child. Alternatively, book bags can be purchased directly from uniform suppliers Schoolwear Solutions, Chaddesden or Uniform Direct on Babington Lane. Plain navy book bags from other suppliers are also available (e.g. Amazon).

### School Dinner Menu

The children have been feeding back to Mr O'Donnell via the School Council about our new school dinners. Whilst overall, they are fans of the new company, Mellors, they have also expressed their disappointment that weekly pizza has disappeared from the menu cycle and that the popular 'all day breakfast' from the opening menu did not appear on the main menus after the launch menu.



Last week, myself and Mrs Hardisty met with the rep from Mellors and fed this back and—great news—weekly pizza is back: this time on 'Meat-free Mondays' and the All Day Breakfast also makes a return to the new menu cycle—next week too! We have also spoken to the team about having a suitable halal option for each day and we are happy that this is now in place.

So, whilst we will be on our Week 2 menu next week, please have a good look at the menu as there have been some changes. The menus can all be found on the app or the school website for reference and the Week 2 menu can be found [here](#). School dinners cost £2.80 each day and must be paid for in advance please.

### Summer 2 Prefects

Congratulations to this half term's prefects who have wowed staff with their attitude and effort, particularly over the last few weeks! ☺



Year 3—Arjun  
Year 4—Lola  
Year 5—Malina  
Year 6—Annelise  
Year 6—Ava  
Year 6—Seth  
Year 6—Aaliyah



### Coming Up Next Week....

End of year events are approaching thick and fast now, so please keep an eye on the diary dates pages each week.

**Thursday 26th June—Movie Night** is back—at the request of the School Council—see next page for details.

**Thursday 26th June—Lower School Sports Day & Friday 27th June—Upper School Sports Day**

Both events start at 9:15am and run up to lunch time. Please ensure your child has sun cream, a sun hat and plenty to drink. Parents and carers are welcome to join us via the field access gate on the car park. You are welcome to take photographs or film your child but we do ask that you **DO NOT share these on social media** as you do not have permission to share images or film of any other children you may mistakenly capture. Thank you, in advance, for your co-operation and understanding.



This year, at the request of your children, we will be holding parents' races! Please come in appropriate footwear if you wish to take part!

*Please see our diary dates page for our reserve dates just in case either event is cancelled due to poor weather.*

# Movie Night is Back!



Thursday 26th June

Tickets £2 — available next week in the hall before school **or online with your School Money account**

£1 bags of sweets available

**Please collect at 5:15pm**



### 2024/25 DATES

Thursday 26th June	9:15am-11:30am approx.	Lower School Sports Day
Thursday 26th June	3:30-5:10pm	Minecraft Movie Night—£3 per ticket
Friday 27th June	9:15am-11:30am approx.	Upper School Sports Day
<b>Tuesday 1st— Thursday 3rd July</b>	<b>All Day</b>	<b>City-wide transition Days</b>
<b>Friday 4th July</b>	<b>All Day</b>	<b>Sponsored Event Day—NEW DATE!</b>
Wednesday 9th July	All Day	Year 5 Seaside Trip—details to follow
Thursday 10th July	9:15am-11:30am approx.	RESERVE DAY: Lower School Sports Day
Friday 11th July	9:15am-11:30am approx.	RESERVE DAY: Upper School Sports Day
Friday 11th July	3:30-5:00pm	Summer Fair
Wednesday 16th & Thursday 17th July	6:30pm	Year 6 Production to Parents—details to follow
Friday 18th July	All Day	Year 4 Britain Since 1950s Day—details to follow
Friday 18th July	TBC	Year 5 Camp—details to follow
Week Beginning Monday 21st July	All Week	No swimming for Years 3 and 4
Monday 21st July	5:30-7:30pm	Year 6 Leavers' Party
Tuesday 22nd July	All Day	French Day
Wednesday 23rd July	12:15pm	Leavers' Dinner Special Menu
Thursday 24th July	All Day	Reward Day—non uniform for all children
Thursday 24th July	3:30pm	Break up for Summer Holiday

### 2025/26 DATES

Thursday 4th September 2025	All Day	INSET 1
Friday 5th September 2025	All Day	INSET 2
Monday 8th September 2025	8:55am	First day back at school
Monday 3rd November 2025	All Day	INSET 3
Friday 13th February 2026	All Day	INSET 4
Monday 1st June 2026	All Day	INSET 5
Thursday 23rd July 2026	3:30pm	Break up for Summer Holiday



### Plant Donations

Mrs Glasby and Mr Reed are ready to venture back outdoors with their Gardening Club now that the weather is better. If anyone has any bedding plants that can be donated for use in borders of pots at the front of school, please get in touch via the main office. All donations gratefully received.





# 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](https://faq.whatsapp.com/361005896189245/?helpref=hc_fnav)  
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