

Thames View Primary School Newsletter



Responsibility

Resilience

Respect

Special events coming soon

- 30th January Year 2 Trip to Bloors Wood
- 2nd February PSG Athletics (Years 3 and 4)
- 6th February NSPCC Number Day
- 8th February Internet Safety Day
- 8th February Table Tennis Championships at Medway Park
- 10th February Half Term
- 20th February Staff Training Day
- 21st February Children Back to School
- 24th Feb – PTA School Discos

Mrs Rogers Message

It gives me great joy to start this week's Newsletter with praise for our singers that represented Thames View in Young Voices at the O2. The children had a very long day in Greenwich but the singing was beautiful and a real time of shared joy for all that took part in the trip, including Miss Bailey and Mrs Riddington, who said the children were a real inspiration.

We have two school visits next week, with Year 2 having their Trip to Bloors Wood as part of their 'Spring Watch' topic looking at wildlife. We also have the PSG Athletics competition for years 3 and 4. If your child is representing the school in this, they will have brought a letter home from Miss Bailey. Our school target was to achieve the Bronze Mark Sports Award this year as a school, but I am pleased to tell you that we are on course to achieve the Gold Sports Mark Award! So, a big congratulations to all of our children for their hard work in PE lessons and competitions.

With the weather being cold and icy, can we please remind parents to send coats in for their children and we remind all families on icy days to stick to the pathways, as the playground can become quite slippery.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and stay safe, Mrs Rogers.



Quote of the week

'A little nonsense now and then, is relished by the wisest men'

Roald Dahl

Young Voices Choir @ The O2 - 23rd January



Medway Primary Games - Indoor Athletics - 26th January





Golden Ticket is every Friday and a child in each Key Stage 2 class can win the golden ticket for outstanding effort, behavior and for showing our 3 school values, Respect, Responsibility and Resilience.



STARS OF THE WEEK

PE Uniform Stars:
Windsor

PE Champions:
KS1 : Ellison
KS2 : Joseph

Attendance Stars:
KS1: Fortune
KS2: Enterprise

Nursery Stars:
AM: Darius
PM: Caden

Year 4 Timetable Stars:
Ronnie, Jacob
Cooper, Emily-Rose

Class	Star of the week	Star Reader	Star Writer	Maths Champion
Pippin	Reggie	Veer	Logan	Blake
Sunrise	Aiden	Salina	Theo	Catherine
Elstar	Isla	Buddy	Lily	Albie
Kanzi	Georgie	Logan	Mila	Oscar
Fortune	Raven	Theo	Luella	Sofia
Liberty	Lacey	Sienna	Bella	Daisy
Opal	Evie	Rose	Phoebe	Owen
Topaz	Daniel	Felicia	Eden	Freddie
Enterprise	Bluebelle	Jessica	Zachary	Katie
Victory	Ronnie	Freddie	Eliza	Imojen
Blenheim	Olisha	Jack R	Frankie	Kieran
Windsor	Eddie	Hayden	Alice	Aston
Discovery	Finn	Lucy	Melody	Henri
Pioneer	Hussaina	Isabelle	Aston	Darcy

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about



WHATSAPP



WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service, with around two billion users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls. Its end-to-end encryption means messages can only be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp can read them. Updates to its privacy policy in 2021 (involving sharing data with parent company Facebook) caused millions to leave the app, but the new policy was widely misinterpreted – it only related to WhatsApp's business features, not to personal messages.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SCAMS

Fraudsters occasionally send WhatsApp messages pretending to offer prizes – encouraging the user to click on a link to win. Other common scams involve warning someone that their WhatsApp subscription has run out (aiming to dupe them into disclosing payment details) or impersonating a friend or relative and asking for money to be transferred to help with an emergency.

DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Users can set WhatsApp messages to disappear in 24 hours, 7 days or 90 days by default. Photos and videos can also be instructed to disappear after the recipient has viewed them. These files can't be saved or forwarded – so if your child was sent an inappropriate message, it would be difficult to prove any wrongdoing. However, the receiver can take a screenshot and save that as evidence.

ENABLING FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp has unfortunately been linked to accelerating the spread of dangerous rumours. In India in 2018, some outbreaks of mob violence appear to have been sparked by false allegations being shared on the app. WhatsApp itself took steps to prevent its users circulating hazardous theories and speculation in the early weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic.

POTENTIAL CYBERBULLYING

Group chat and video calls are great for connecting with multiple people in WhatsApp, but there is always the potential for someone's feelings to be hurt by an unkind comment or joke. The 'only admins' feature gives the admin(s) of a group control over who can send messages. They can, for example, block people from posting in a chat, which could make a child feel excluded and upset.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a WhatsApp chat, you only need the mobile number of the person you want to message (the other person also needs to have the app). WhatsApp can access the address book on someone's device and recognise which of their contacts also use the app. So if your child has ever given their phone number to someone they don't know, that person could use it to contact them via WhatsApp.

LOCATION SHARING

The 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, allowing friends to see their movements. WhatsApp describes it as a "simple and secure way to let people know where you are." It is a useful method for a young person to let loved ones know they're safe – but if they used it in a chat with people they don't know, they would be exposing their location to them, too.

Advice for Parents & Carers



CREATE A SAFE PROFILE

Even though someone would need a child's phone number to add them as a contact, it's also worth altering a young person's profile settings to restrict who can see their photo and status. The options are 'everyone', 'my contacts' and 'nobody' – choosing one of the latter two ensures that your child's profile is better protected.

EXPLAIN ABOUT BLOCKING

If your child receives spam or offensive messages, calls or files from a contact, they should block them using 'settings' in the chat. Communication from a blocked contact won't show up on their device and stays undelivered. Blocking someone does not remove them from your child's contact list – so they also need to be deleted from the address book.

REPORT POTENTIAL SCAMS

Young people shouldn't engage with any message that looks suspicious or too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they'll be given the option to report it as spam. If the sender claims to be a friend or relative, call that person on their usual number to verify it really is them, or if it's someone trying to trick your child.

LEAVE A GROUP

If your child is in a group chat that is making them feel uncomfortable, or has been added to a group that they don't want to be part of, they can use WhatsApp's group settings to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once, if they leave a second time, it is permanent.

THINK ABOUT LOCATION

If your child needs to use the 'live location' function to show you or one of their friends where they are, advise them to share their location only for as long as they need to. WhatsApp gives a range of 'live location' options, and your child should manually stop sharing their position as soon as it is no longer needed.

DELETE ACCIDENTAL MESSAGES

If your child posts a message they want to delete, WhatsApp allows the user seven minutes to erase a message. Tap and hold on the message, choose 'delete' and then 'delete for everyone'. However, it's important to remember that recipients may have seen (and taken a screenshot of) a message before it was deleted.

CHECK THE FACTS

You can now fact-check WhatsApp messages that have been forwarded at least five times, by double-tapping the magnifying glass icon to the right of the message. From there, your child can launch a Google search and decide for themselves whether the message was true or not.

Meet Our Expert

Parveen Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks; a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



Safeguarding Corner

If you have concerns about you child, please come in and discuss these with Mrs Flynn or Mrs Stevens. Each week there will be safeguarding tips here, let us know if we can help! Today's focus is keeping safe on mobile phones and Whatsapp rules!



Medway Council and local libraries hold Lego clubs around the area... please see below for further information:

If you like building brick creations, no matter how old you are, you can join our LEGO® clubs which take place at various libraries around Medway.

Come along to free weekly family drop-in sessions with the world's favourite blocks - build, play and have fun!

Suitable for children aged 4 and over (under 8s must be accompanied by an adult).

LEGO® club times

Sessions are held weekly at the following libraries:

- [Gillingham Community Hub](#), Saturday, 12.15pm to 4pm
- [Hempstead Library](#), Saturday, 11.30am to 2.30pm
- [Hoo Library](#), Friday, 3pm to 5pm
- [Lordswood Library](#), Tuesday, 3.30pm to 4.30pm, and Saturday, 10.45am to 11.45am.
- [Luton Library](#), Thursday, 3:45pm to 4:45pm
- [Strood Community Hub](#), Wednesday and Friday, 3pm to 5pm
- [Rainham Library](#), Tuesday, 4pm to 5.30pm
- [Twydall Community Hub](#), Thursday, 3.30pm to 4.30pm
- [Walderslade Hook Meadow](#), Wednesday, 3.30pm to 4.30pm
- [Walderslade Village Library](#), Tuesday, 3.30pm to 4.30pm, and Saturday, 10am to 12pm.

Many thanks to the LEGO® group of companies for generously allowing us to use the LEGO® trademark.

This club is not sponsored, authorised or endorsed by the LEGO® Group of companies.