



Friday 28 March 2025
Edition 23

We are nearly 2/3rds of the way

through the year. Hopefully, you have all

either met or have an appointment booked to see your child's class teacher to discuss how your child is doing and what you can help them with at home. As you know one thing we ask is that all children have the opportunity to read for 20 minutes at home every night. This can include you reading with or to them or them reading to you. Reading is such an important life skill and also, with the right book can be so enjoyable.

"THE MORE THAT YOU READ, THE MORE THINGS YOU WILL KNOW. THE MORE THAT YOU LEARN, THE MORE PLACES YOU'LL GO." -DR. SEUSS

This week Miss Becky's dance troupe did an inspiring performance at Fredrick Bremer. I don't often get to go along to these events but did on Tuesday. I felt such an immense sense of pride watching them all get on stage and perform to a packed hall. They all did brilliantly with stand out solo performances from Tianna, Weny and Harry. We would like to invite the parents of the group to come and watch them perform on Tuesday at 3pm on the North site. This will follow on from the music concert that includes the guitar players, and the year 4 children. Parents are welcome to come along to watch that from 2pm on the North.

Monday, saw our Rock Steady bands perform. Again, highlighting such amazing talents. There are some spaces in the bands. It is one of our cost paying activities. The children have a weekly lesson with Erwin, the band leader every Monday in school. They also have access to some online activities. Some of the statistics from Rock Steady:

49
PUPILS ENROLLED



18
PERFORMANCES

884
PUPIL LESSONS



FEEL GOOD FRIDAY
LIVE STREAMS
ARE COMING
SOON

340
SKILLS ACHIEVED



Thank you to the PTA for organising the Mother's day bundles. I wish all the Mum's a wonderful Mothering Sunday. Also, I want to wish everyone a Happy Eid.

Katie Jennings

Headteacher

Please remember that we have an Inset day after the Easter breaks.

The children return to school on Wednesday 23rd April.

Year 5 Parents

We still need parents to sign up if they want their child to go camping.

24 children in Buzzard are signed up. Then 14 Barn Owl and 7 Blackbird.

There will be meetings the first week back to run through the timings and what the children will need to bring with them.

Eden Red Vouchers

The Government has agreed to fund £30 per child who have applied and qualified for free school meals. The vouchers will go out towards the end of next week to email address we have on our system. Once they have been issued to that address the email can not be changed. They can be resent to the same address but not to a new one. If you have changed your email please let the office know.

SPECIAL DATES

The whole school attendance has dropped to 93%. This is below what is required for a school.

Nursery South Full Time	97.24%
2yr North PM	96.92%
2 Kinglet	96.57%
6 Goose	96.42%
1 Moorhen	96.01%
4 Skylark	95.81%
3 Wren	95.76%
Nursery South PM	95.74%
5 Blackbird	95.25%
4 Swallow	95.23%
5 Buzzard	95.11%
6 Grouse	94.99%
2 Kingfisher	94.83%
4 Swan	94.72%
3 Woodpecker	94.58%
Nursery North PM	94.18%
6 Goldfinch	93.93%
Nursery South AM	93.53%
3 Waxwing	93.38%
1 Mallard	93.22%
5 Barn Owl	93.06%
2 Kittiwake	93.04%
Nursery North Full Time	92.69%
4 Sparrow	92.34%
1 Merlin	92.32%
Nursery North AM	92.16%
2 Kestrel	91.94%
6 Goldcrest	91.88%
1 Magpie	91.26%
3 Wagtail	91.26%
R Crow	91.03%
R Chaffinch	89.90%
R Cuckoo	89.23%
R Chiff Chaff	88.56%
2yr North AM	86.16%

March

31st Possible EID

April

1st Music Concert—North site 2pm

Miss Becky Dance performance North site 3pm

2dn AM—Crow @ Hampsted Heath

PM—Cuckoo

3rd Parent Evening Reception—Year 5

4th Easter Hat Parade

PTA Easter egg hunt

Attendance assemblies

Last day of term—No Tea time club.

7th—17th Easter Holiday club—book online

22nd INSET day—no school

23rd Children return

60 children visiting Peacock Theatre—My First Swan Lake

29th PARENT COUNCIL—Sustainability & UNICEF update

Year 6 Leavers Hoodies

We will be placing the order for this years leavers hoodies on **April 3rd.** We have sent an app today with all of the details. We do them at this time of year so that they can have them for some of the summer term at Mission Grove.

The children have loved them in the past. The cost is £25. You can pay on parent pay or at the school office. It will be a red hoodie with black writing.

On the app you need to click the **blue** word **SIZE** and that will open a pdf of the different sizes available



The world is full of kind people. If you can't find one, be one.

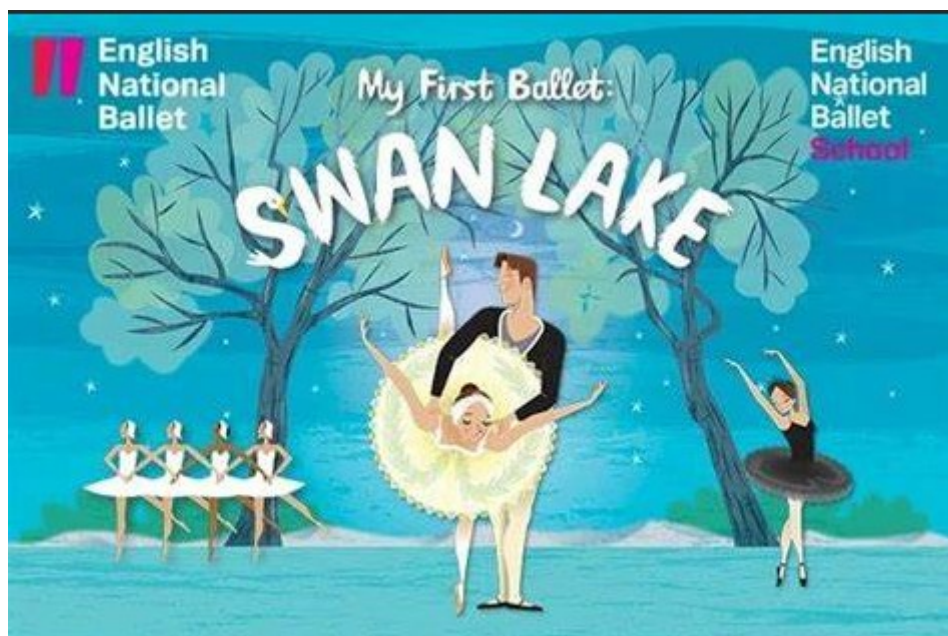


MissionGrove
PRIMARY SCHOOL
RESPECT YOURSELF RESPECT OTHERS



Shouting & swearing will not be tolerated anywhere in school.

Help us create a safe and happy environment for everyone. Think before you shout or get angry with staff.
RESPECT YOURSELF, RESPECT OTHERS!

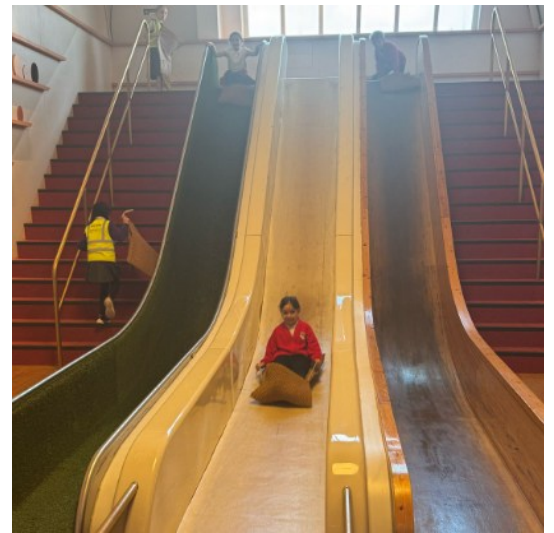


Some of the children have been learning Ballet as part of their PE curriculum this term . The lessons have been in conjunction with The Royal Ballet.

We have got the fantastic opportunity to take 60- children to watch the English National Ballet perform Swan Lake at the Peacock Theatre, Holborn.

The cost for the trip is £10. The trip is on the first day back after the Easter break, Wednesday 23rd April.

We still have 27 tickets available. If you would like your child to attend please Sign up as soon as possible .



Year 4 @Wonderlab

Spring is here!

The next community gardening session in Thomas Gamuel Park 11am-1pm Sunday 6th April.

Have you noticed the insects emerging in the warm weather? And the flowers opening up to offer their first sips of nectar to help the animals power up for the busy Spring? It's a busy time for Nature.

Please don't remove the beautiful flowers, that way they can be enjoyed by everyone including our busy insect friends too.

If you want to join a community gardening session in your area please see the flier for details.

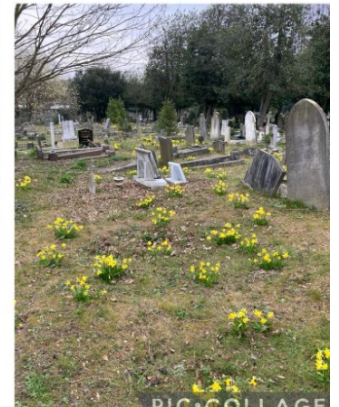
Tulip flier

Euphorbia

Purple Deadnettle

Anemone

Muscari



Saturday from 11:00-13:00
A garden for the communal graves
Public · Event by Clementine Cowton and Friends of Queens Road Cemetery.

PICCOLAGE



MISSION GROVE

**EASTER
EGG HUNT**

**FRIDAY 4TH APRIL
DURING SCHOOL HOURS**

£1 PER CHILD TO ENTER

Children can take part in a fun Easter egg
hunt on the school grounds

Includes a chocolate sweet for all
participants and an Easter Egg for the
winner in each year group



Proceeds go towards funding the school
playground works.



VE Day Afternoon Tea

THURSDAY 8 MAY 2025, 2PM



TO COMMEMORATE THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY, MISSION GROVE SCHOOL IS HOSTING AN AFTERNOON TEA. PARENTS ARE INVITED TO JOIN THEIR CHILDREN TO CELEBRATE THIS SPECIAL OCCASION

**JUST £5 PER PARENT
INCLUDES SCONE & JAM,
CAKES, SANDWICHES AND
TEA & COFFEE**

PAY ON PARENTPAY
ALL PROCEEDS GO
TOWARDS THE SCHOOL
PLAYGROUND WORKS



WALTHAM FOREST LIBRARIES

Autism SUPPORT GROUP

Group leader Surna Khan

Starting 10th March 2025

Every Monday
2-3pm
Community Room
Walthamstow library

Are you looking for a safe, welcoming space to connect with others in the autism community?

Walthamstow Library is launching a new Autism Support Group - a series of drop-in sessions designed for individuals with autism, their families, and carers. Group leader Surna Khan.

When? Every Monday from 10th March 2025

Time: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Where? Community Room, Walthamstow Library

Who can attend? Everyone is welcome! (Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.)

These informal and friendly sessions offer a chance to share experiences, find support, and build connections with others in a relaxed environment. Whether you're looking for advice, a listening ear or simply a place to feel understood, you'll find a warm and inclusive atmosphere here.

Register your interest by clicking the link below or just drop in!
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/autism-support-group-at-walthamstow-library-tickets-1261204339129#:~:text=Are%20you%20looking%20for%20a,Group%20leader%20Surna%20Khan>

For more information, visit the library or ask a member of staff. We look forward to seeing you there!

WALTHAM FOREST ADULT LEARNING SERVICE

Help your child grow and thrive!
Family Learning

Our family learning programme delivers a variety of courses, workshops and events both in person, online and at different venues in Waltham Forest - courses and workshops are free for families.

List of upcoming courses / workshops

Course Code	Course Title	Venue	Date	Time	Day
FA0339C5	Create a woven pot	Leyton library	1.03.2025	1:00-3:00pm	Saturday
FA0409F1	Calm Parents, Calm Children - Parenting	Queens Road Family Hub	05.03.2025-02.04.2025	10:00 - 12:00pm	Wednesday
FA0113C4	Let's Explore Easter Arts and Crafts -	North Chingford Library	12.04.2025	12:30 - 2:30pm	Saturday
FA0303F1	Let's Explore Easter Arts and Crafts -	Leyton library	12.04.2025	12:30 - 2:30pm	Saturday
FA0256C4	Raising Confident and Resilient Children	The Junction Centre	30.4.2025 - 14. 5.2025	10:00 - 12:00pm	Wednesday

Enrol now through our website - www.lbwfadulthoodlearning.co.uk
 For more information email adult.learning@walthamforest.gov.uk



COMMUNITY DROP IN

Our volunteers and partners can:

Provide information and support to navigate online forms.

Help residents to access benefits such as universal credit, council tax support, disability benefits.

Help with forms such as school admissions, blue badge, freedom pass and referrals for food banks.

Provide information on community activities, including health and well being activities, adult learning opportunities and family activities at family hubs.

We can support with access to services including, employment support, support for Carers, talking therapies and Early Help Link Workers.

For additional support queries please use the following:

For general WF council queries about parking, penalty charge notices, planning and building control, rubbish and recycling. [London Borough of Waltham Forest](http://www.london.gov.uk)

Call 02084963000

For Housing Advice - please email housing.advice@walthamforest.gov.uk

Apply for the LBWF housing register [here](#)

For [Waltham Forest Community Housing Advice](#)

Complex benefits queries and debt advice: [Citizens Advice Waltham Forest](#) 0300 330 1175

[Age UK](#) - 020 8558 5512

[Step Change](#) 0800 138 1111

[Legal Aid](#) - 0345 345 4345



MISSION GROVE'S

EASTER BONNET

PARADE

FRIDAY 4TH APRIL

Make your own
Easter Hat to wear
on the parade.

Best hat wins a
prize!



HOLIDAY ACTIVITY & FOOD CAMP

FREE multi-sports activities and engaging workshops for ages 8-14 year olds*. Come along and try new activities, learn new skills, have fun & make friends. **Also, enjoy hot and nutritious meals served every day!**



LOCATION	SCORE Leisure Centre, E10 5UN
DATE	Monday 14th - Thursday 17th April
TIME	10:00 - 14:00
AGE	8-14 years old *Waltham Forest resident in receipt of Free School Meals
QR CODE TO REGISTER	
BOOKING LINK	www.eequ.org/experience/7132



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about BLUESKY SOCIAL APP



With an App Store rating of 17+ & Google Play rating Mature

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

While Bluesky has been around since 2019, it's suddenly taken off in a big way thanks to a significant exodus from X (formerly Twitter). Indeed, it looks and behaves a lot like Twitter before Elon Musk bought the platform. Bluesky has been touted in recent months as a safer, more open-minded alternative to X – but like any social media site, it still has its share of risks.

NO PRIVATE ACCOUNTS

While most social networks allow accounts to be private, at the time of writing, all Bluesky accounts must be public. The development team has indicated this might change in the future, but the app is built on a public-first protocol. If private accounts are ever introduced, it may only be in a limited way – such as through the implementation of group chats.

INTERACTIONS WITH STRANGERS

Every account being public means that anyone can be contacted by anyone else. While users don't have to respond and can easily block people and move on, it does mean that youngsters are at particular risk of being conned by scammers, massaged by predatory adults or exposed to others with ill intentions. These hazards can be compounded by the fact that Bluesky doesn't require its users to provide their real name.

TROLLING AND BULLYING

While Bluesky currently feels a lot friendlier than X seems to have become, its lack of private accounts means that there's nothing to stop users from trolling and cyberbullying younger people. While accounts can be blocked and reported, a persistent bully could simply create a new profile, potentially making their victims feel unsafe in continuing to use the app.

DANGEROUS MISINFORMATION

Established news organisations have fact-checking and editing processes, but social networks have no such controls and can often serve as breeding grounds for misinformation and disinformation. Bluesky will possibly be no different once it reaches a certain size, and children may not have the critical thinking skills to tell fact from fiction – or to discern an informative, honest user from a malicious one.

ADULT TARGET AUDIENCE

Bluesky isn't designed with children in mind, and there aren't many parental controls on the platform. In an interview with the BBC, Bluesky's CEO originally said that the app would only allow users aged 18 and above to sign up, but a spokesperson later clarified its age restriction as 13+. This could imply the app was originally meant for an adult audience and suggests that making the platform more child-friendly might not currently be a priority.

RAPID GROWTH

At the time of writing, Bluesky seems calm in comparison with other social networks where moderation is lax and the atmosphere toxic – but that's due at least in part to its smaller community. The app has recently been adding as many as a million users per day, and if that continues, there'll be more unpleasant users to handle, and moderators could struggle to maintain the pleasant environment Bluesky is currently known for.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE THE ADULT CONTENT FILTER

Bluesky doesn't have much in the way of parental controls, but there are content filters which can hide sexual and graphic imagery. These are enabled by default for underage accounts but can be manually turned on in the 'Moderation' section of the app's settings. The 'advanced' Bluesky Moderation Service lets you restrict content even further, hiding – for example – self-harm content, extremist rhetoric, and even rude posts.

ENCOURAGE BLOCKING AND REPORTING

Another tool that Bluesky uses to ensure a decent experience is muting and blocking accounts. The former prevents you from seeing a specific user's content, while the latter stops them from seeing yours. If a child is encountering trolls or bullies on the platform, encourage them to use this function, while also reporting the offenders to help make the platform a nicer place for everyone.

LOOK OUT FOR FAKES

Impersonation is a problem on all social networks. While the consequences are usually benign, imposters sometimes attempt to scam or groom children by pretending to be a popular influencer or online personality. Bluesky is unique in that it can be connected to official domains, with users' handles linking to other sites; while this isn't widely used right now, it could be a reliable way to verify celebrities and public figures in future.

KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

As with all social media platforms, moderation and content filters can only do so much; it's highly likely that a child will eventually face something unsavoury. For that reason, it's important to make sure that young people are aware of the risks and know how to handle the technology if anything they see on the app makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



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



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