



Happy, Valentines, Friendship Day, Eid & Half term,

A few updates:

Nursery wall North site. You may have noticed that there is some safety fencing around the Buxton Road garden area and inside the Nursery grounds. During the high winds we had in January the movement of the trees has caused some small structural damage to the wall. It has been surveyed by the council, as a precautionary measure we have put up the fencing until it has been fixed.

Playground refurbishments. The works will start when we return after half term on both sites. This will mean that we have a skip, materials and work vans on each site. On the north it should not cause any problems due to the size of the playgrounds and where they will be working. The MUGA and trim trail will be out of use for the week, or until the works are completed. Due to the size of the South site it poses more problems. There will be staggered playtimes and lunchtime breaks. Can I please ask that you make sure that in a morning and during pick up your are mindful of the space and if you have younger children you keep them with you at all times.

UNICEF Rights and Respecting

After meeting with the School Captains and Council members we have agreed that we will focus on 1 or 2 rights a month. So for February we will continue to focus on Article 15—Every child has the right to meet with other children and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.

March will be Article 14—Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights.

Competition Time—We would like the children to design a mascot for the Mission Grove Rights and Respecting work that we are doing. The closing date is Friday 28th February. Please give entries to Mr Darling or me making sure that your child's name and class is clear.

Have a wonderful half term and see you on the 24th February.

Katie Jennings

Headteacher

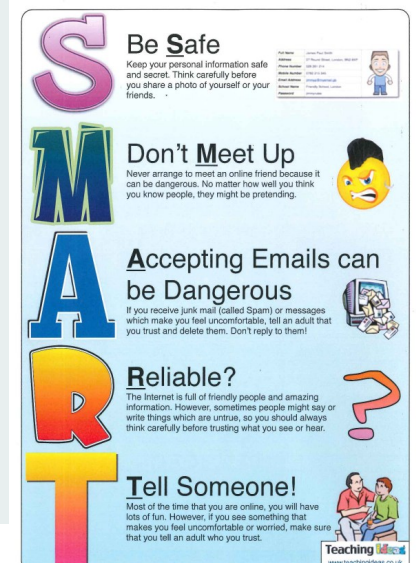
Thank you to Mrs Ahmed and Sparrow class for delivering a Safer Internet Day assembly.

All classes have completed work this week around safer internet usage and Sparrow class did a wonderful job of showcasing how important it is to keep us all safe.

Check out this [website](#) for more parent information.

As a parent or carer you play a key role in helping your child to stay safe online.

You don't need to be an expert on the internet to help keep your child stay safe online. The advice and resources on the website are there to support you as you support your child to use the internet safely, responsibly and positively.





## Playground refurbishment



Donate now!

[gofund.me/d2efadb9](https://gofund.me/d2efadb9)



### EdenRed vouchers

There will be vouchers given at February Half term for parents who have successfully applied for Free School Meals via the council website. Click [here](#) for the application details.

The school will issue the vouchers to the email address of the primary contact . If your details have changed please speak to the office as soon as possible. Once we have issued them to an email we can not get them back to reissue.

## SPECIAL DATES

### 17th– 21st Half Term

24th Children return to school

Playground works commence on both sites—there will be some disruption in the playground.

Wren class, year 5 & 6 School Council & The Town Hall

TBC Ramadan

24th Woodpecker library visit

25th year 3/4 football tournament

Waxwing library visit

26th Wagtail library visit

Crow & Chiff Chaff @ Hindu Temple

27th Year 4 Anglo Saxons workshop

Wren library visit

28th Year 5/6 boys football tournament

Kestrel Class assembly

Cuckoo & Chaffinch @ Hindu Temple

### March

4th Winter Fun Run

6th World Book Day

Curriculum Governors

7th Girl's big football match

Waxwing Class Assembly

10th STEAM week—check future newsletters for more information.

If you work in the science, computing, technology or maths industries and feel that you could come in and do some workshops with the children, please let your class teacher know.

11th Chiff Chaff @ transport museum—reception INTO film festival @ WoodGreen.

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



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

**MissionGrove**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

RESPECT YOURSELF RESPECT OTHERS



Shouting & swearing will not be tolerated anywhere in school.

Year 1s have been creating toy theatres during their D&T lessons. They based their initial designs on their core text, which was Traction Man and then progressed towards considering new settings for his adventures. Once their designs were completed, they created their puppets and used recyclable boxes to make their theatres. Although it was a little tricky given the different sizes and lack of openings of the boxes, year 1s were resilient and continued in their successful efforts. They explored how to create pulleys as their key mechanism. Merlin class especially enjoyed participating in role play after producing their brilliant creations.

Thank you to the PTA for helping run another successful disco on Thursday evening. The money raised will be going towards the playground refurbishments. There will be more events coming up in the new half term. If you think you would be able to get involved please email [friends@missiongrove.org.uk](mailto:friends@missiongrove.org.uk). Any support is greatly appreciated.

children communication committee  
fundraising PTA school  
pupils staff parents  
rewarding events organisation ideas  
teachers

# Half-term All Ability Cycling Clubs

Cycling should be accessible and possible for all children to enjoy!



Brought to us by Bikeworks, half-term all-ability clubs are designed for students with physical, sensory or learning disabilities, people with health conditions and carers, to enjoy cycling by accessing an exciting range of adapted cycles including tricycles, side-by-side cycles, wheelchair-platform cycles and recumbents.

The club sessions offer your students a social and friendly place to meet other people.

Our friendly experienced team will provide advice on the right fit of cycles and any adaptations.

**Dates and locations:** Drop-in February Half Term All Ability Cycling Club

- Tuesday 18 Feb: Rolls Sports Ground in the basketball courts/MUGA area, E4 9XD
- Wednesday 19 Feb: Leyton Jubilee Park, close to KukooLaLa Cafe, E10 7BL
- Thursday 20 Feb: Lloyd Park, behind William Morris Gallery, E17 4PP

**Session times:** 10am - 12pm.

Aside from during a yellow weather warning, sessions will go ahead regardless of forecast.

The sessions are drop-in so there is no requirement to book in advance. We look forward to seeing you there!

If you have any questions, **visit the Bikeworks website:** [www.bikeworks.org.uk/all-ability/](http://www.bikeworks.org.uk/all-ability/)



TfL  
TRAVEL  
FOR LIFE



Share your active travel stories with us:  
[schooltravelplans@walthamforest.gov.uk](mailto:schooltravelplans@walthamforest.gov.uk)



Year 3 had great fun chopping and making healthy and tasty wraps.



Thank you to year 3 and 6 parents who joined us for our come dine with your child events. And a big shout out to Salim and his catering team.



Year 1 traction man work!

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE RELATIONSHIPS & DATING APPS

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Dating apps are used to help people find new relationships – whether casual or more long term – matching users based on age, interests, gender and more. Some may consider dating apps harmless to under-18s because they aren't able to use them, but effective age verification measures are quite scarce, and it's been known for young people to end up on apps of this type.

### EASE OF ACCESS

The relatively lax age verification process of many dating apps makes them incredibly accessible to children who really shouldn't be using them. This carries the obvious risk of exposing under-18s to a dating scene populated by adults – who may not even be aware of the young person's true age. This is concerning when we consider the 'hook-up culture' common on these apps – with many people using them to arrange casual sexual encounters.

### CONTACT AND CONDUCT RISKS

Once someone is active on a dating app, their social media profiles can be linked to the app and might be accessed by others. This can lead to random users 'sliding into their DM's' (sending a direct message) without consent. Complete strangers could start bombarding a young person's inbox with pictures, messages and sexual comments.

### SCAMS AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Some young people may feel they've formed a real bond with someone through online dating, but there's always a risk that it's not genuine. Scammers on these apps often build romantic connections with their victims – then once they feel they have their victim's trust, they begin asking for money under false pretences (such as suggesting they meet in person and requesting a 'loan' to cover a train ticket).

### UNVERIFIED ACCOUNTS

As with all online interactions, you may not be talking to whom you think you are. Without paying a subscription, users of dating apps can often only view a certain number of profiles at a time. A TikTok trend has advised young people to set their age limit to 80 years and over – putting them in a sparse and more 'exclusive' category to bypass the usual restrictions. Unfortunately, this can lead to matches with someone much older.

### PEER PRESSURE

The pressure to be in a relationship can be huge, and many young people use online dating apps as a cost-effective way to meet others. Some users find it difficult to meet people organically due to their lifestyle, and may not have the time or money to go out and socialise. It's also common for young people to set up accounts for their single friends in the hope of finding a match for someone they know.

### SKewed PERSPECTIVES

Dating apps can promote an unrealistic view of what makes someone attractive. With such vast options, some users can become both picky and extremely harsh about others' appearance. Ultimately, all you see on these apps are pictures (with no insight into someone's personality), and some young people struggle with the fear of being judged. Even when someone does start dating, there's a persistent paranoia that their partner is only one swipe away from a potentially better match.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### TALK ABOUT DATING APPS

Let young people know that they can talk to you about anything, even something as private as their dating life. At school, the relationships, sex and health curriculum can assist with conversations around healthy relationships, consent and online safety. Emphasise the message that you want to help them make healthy, safe and informed choices. If they feel embarrassed talking to you, make sure they have a trusted adult who can help them.

### VERIFICATION STAMPS

Explain that someone using a dating app should only communicate with those who have gone through a verification process. Online dating apps use a variety of methods to ascertain a user's identity, including scanning valid documents (such as a driver's licence or passport). Verification can also involve users taking a selfie to ensure that the photos on their profile match it.

### ENCOURAGE DATA PROTECTION

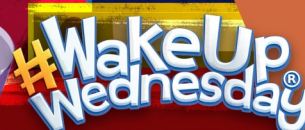
Empower young people to protect their data and personal information. Explain why including things like their school, age and surname in their profile could potentially be dangerous. Make sure they know never to give out personal details, and that there's no reason for other users to ask for them. If they feel uneasy about a situation online, they need to speak to someone that they can trust.

### REPORT AND BLOCK

Remind young people that they can always report or block (or both) anyone who makes them feel uncomfortable on any platform. Ask if they know how to do this and offer to help them figure it out if they're unsure. Every app should have advice on how to report or block another user, so be sure young people are familiar with the settings.

## Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings works at RAISE ([www.raiseducation.org.uk](https://www.raiseducation.org.uk)) in the field of relationships, sex and health education, providing educational, age-appropriate workshops for pupils around the more sensitive areas of the curriculum – including online safety and healthy relationships.



The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/online-relationships-dating-apps>