



Welcome back ,

We hope you all had a lovely half term holiday.

Attendance update– If your child is 25 minutes late after the closure of the register they will be given an unauthorised mark. This is in guidance with the Local Authority and Government policy. If your child is late and within 25 minutes they get a late mark. Please make sure that you try to get your child in on time but if you are running late that you are within 25 minutes.

Playground refurbishments—They are well underway but may take a little longer to complete. I know on South it is a squash at home time but please do try to stay off the newly laid flooring as we want it to dry successfully.

Unacceptable language and behaviour towards the office staff.

We had a parent today screaming at the office staff as we had called for them to pick up their child who had been physically sick. As a school we want to welcome parents all of the time and work together but this kind of behaviour is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. There is a parent code of conduct that was completed with the Parent Council. It is only a few parents and family members who think it is ok to behave this way, but it isn't and it won't be tolerated.

4th March Pancake Day—We will be celebrating Shrove Tuesday with a special lunch menu. Please see later in the newsletter. If your child usually has packed lunch why not let them join in the fun of having a pancake for lunch on Tuesday!

Ballet

We still have some spaces left for children to go to the Peacock Theatre in Holborn to see The English National Ballet perform Swan Lake. The cost is £10. We originally only opened it up to year3 & 6 children but we will now be opening it up to children in year 4.

Camping—year 5

We have only had a few parents sign up for the camping trip. We do not want to cancel this fantastic opportunity so please just register your interest so we can make sure it goes ahead.

Katie Jennings

Headteacher

You will have seen an alert that we still have a few spaces left for this years week away at the Isle of Wight. The cost is £500 but that includes everything.

The cut off date for telling the office or Mrs Khan if you are interested is next Wednesday.

Year 4 Sleepover

This year we are doing the year 4 sleepover earlier than we normally do. This is because we are also doing a star gazing workshop with the children. The sleepover will be on Friday 21st March. A letter will come out next week explaining more and what the children will need to bring.

And to get them in the mood, look in the sky tonight!

On February 28, 2025, the night sky will showcase a rare and breathtaking event—a seven-planet alignment featuring Mars, Jupiter, Uranus, Venus, Neptune, Mercury, and Saturn. This extraordinary planetary lineup, known as a “planetary parade,” won't happen again until 2040.



## SPECIAL DATES

### 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.



### March

- 4th Winter Fun Run
- 6th World Book Day—come dressed as a character, or a colour from a favourite book. Only if you want to.  
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.
- 12th Seated football— year 5 & 6  
Year 2 & 4 @ INTO fil festival Woodgreen cinema
- 14th Comic Relief—wear it funny  
Year 5 & 6 Basketball
- 17th Waxwing class @ V & A
- 18th Chaffinch @ Transport museum
- 20th Inclusive swim festival  
Finance Governors
- 21st Year 4 sleepover  
Swallow & Wren Class Assembly
- 24th Rock Steady Concerts—participants can come dressed as a Rock Star.  
Wagtail @ V & A Museum
- 25th Woodpecker @ V & A museum  
Year 1 @ London zoo

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!**

Meeting with Baroness Harris. – written by Alina Sanam Hanif

A few students from years 4,5 & 6 had an online meeting with Baroness Harris with her exemplary character. She introduced herself and explained all the different that work at the House of Lords. Baroness Harris also told us what she does there, for example they debate on topics, check the laws and question the Government about the work they are doing. One fact is that in the House of Lords there are around 800 members.

At the end we had a chance to ask some questions and one of them was if the Baroness had a challenging experience. She replied she did and it was when she went against David Cameron about policing– and she won. She also talked about her role as a former deputy speaker. Her advice for children was to speak up about things that matter to them. The Baroness' thoughts was that more needs to be done about climate change.

Wren & year 5 & 6 School Council had a trip on Monday to meet the Mayor of Walthamstow. Hopefully, we will have some words from them in next weeks news letter.



Chicken nuggets Or vegetarian  
nuggets served with chips and  
ketchup

Pasta with tomato sauce and  
basil.

Butternut squash,carrots and  
chickpea tagine served with rice

Pancake served with chocolate  
sauce

Low fat yoghurt.  
Fresh fruit



# **NATIONAL PANCAKE DAY 2025**

*"Flipping into joy—Happy National  
Pancake Day 04 March 2025!"*

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP



## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With more than two billion active users, 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. The UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging, but for the time being, this controversial feature remains.

## 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 they want to message. Therefore, if a 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 the child might be added to a group chat or community (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people they don't know.

## FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allow 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.

## CHAT LOCK AND SECRET CODES

In 2023, WhatsApp introduced a feature that lets users keep their chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind their phone's passcode, fingerprint or face ID. There is an additional feature – 'Secret Code' – where users set a unique password for locked chats. Unfortunately, this creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of.

## VIEW ONCE CONTENT

The ability to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate material or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't reopen 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 protection of privacy.

## 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 is safe while out, for example. However, anyone in a user'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 & Educators

### EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider whether it 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.

### ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings 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 a 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

Check in with the child about how they're using WhatsApp, making sure they know you only have their safety at heart. If you spot a Locked Chats folder, you might want to talk about the sort of content they've stored in there, who they're talking to, and why they want to keep these chats hidden. Also, if children send any View Once content, it could be helpful to ask them why.

### DISCUSS GROUP CHATS

Make children aware that there could be members of a group that they don't know well and that words can be misinterpreted. Encourage them to leave a good impression, to avoid joining in if conversations turn towards bullying, and to respond to such situations in an appropriate way. Make sure they know that it's OK to leave a group chat if it makes them uncomfortable – or for any reason, in fact.

### THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children 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 that a user posts to be shared more widely, even publicly on social media. Encourage children to consider how an impulsive message or forwarding might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

## 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.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/whatsapp-2025>

