



Bethany CE Junior School

Newsletter: April 2024

God's hope in us to make a difference: For Ourselves, For Each Other, For the World.

Headteacher Welcome

Welcome to our April newsletter. I hope you all had a lovely Easter. The children have all settled in well after the break and are working hard. This term sees Y6 sitting their SATs in May, Y4 taking their timetables tests in June and we will begin the arrangements for all children moving up to their new year group! Certainly, a busy time! As always with assessments, we really don't want to put any pressure on the children. They have been working hard throughout the year and we will be exceptionally proud of the progress they have made. Further information about the Y6 SATS can be found here: <https://shorturl.at/gEVX8>

As always, if you have any questions/worries, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Bailey - our school dog

It's with sadness that we inform you of the passing of our school dog, Bailey, on the 15th of March. Bailey's gentle and calming presence gave the children a unique opportunity to experience the magic a therapy dog can bring to a school environment.

Bailey started at Bethany 6 years ago when we trialled a 'reading with Bailey' after school club. This was a success and Bailey was introduced as a school dog the following term, working with children in different settings. The children enjoyed seeing him around school during interventions but especially loved him 'learning' in their classrooms.

Bailey's 'special place' was in the school library with Mrs Simmonds and the children loved going in to see him and say hello. Bailey was also available to those vulnerable children who needed some precious time out to relax and re-engage before continuing with their learning.

Everyone at Bethany will miss him and the children have left beautiful and heartfelt messages and tributes, bringing much comfort to both Mrs Simmonds and others.

We leave you with a beautiful photo of Bailey taken by one of our Yr6 boys, Thomas, during a residential visit to Carey Camp last year.





Year 5 Secondary School Application (including Grammar School)

Year 5 parents may already have started to think about transition to secondary school. The application process will open later in the year. We will be inviting parents to a presentation at school on Monday 1st July to give them further information and guidance with this process. Afterwards, representatives from the Grammar school will also be discussing entry to their respective schools for those parents considering applying.

Typically, around 10% of our pupils successfully pass the 11+ test and are offered a place at Bournemouth School for Boys or Bournemouth School for Girls. Earlier this week registration for these tests opened on the BSB and BSG websites. The 11+ test does not take place until September so there is plenty of time to prepare. Last academic year we worked closely with BSG in order to deliver experiences to prepare our pupils. Events included bespoke tutoring by 6th Form pupils, visits to workshops at the Grammar schools and access to online materials. We hope to do similar to this again this year.

Mr Bielby will also be offering sessions within school time to help prepare pupils who have registered for the test. He will be writing to all Year 5 parents in due course with information regarding this. In the meantime, should you have any questions regarding the 11+ process please speak to your child's teacher. Alternatively, Mr Bielby is happy to speak to parent's either in person or by phone. Please contact the school office if you would like to arrange this.

Attendance

Each month, we will update you with the attendance figures for each class from 1st September. We aim to have attendance above 96%.

It is clear that attendance at school, as is typical during the colder months, has dropped. We will be striving to encourage good attendance at school and if you need any help with this, or if there are any barriers you are facing, please let us know.

| Class | Attendance |
|---|------------|
| 3AH | 94.1% |
| 3SD | 95.1% |
| 3RH  | 96.2% |
| 4KW | 94.0% |



Compassion

Confidence

Creativity

Curiosity

| | |
|-----|-------|
| 4EW | 94.6% |
| 4SW | 93.7% |
| 5SB | 94.5% |
| 5BD | 88.9% |
| 5AB | 92.1% |
| 6PM | 94.1% |
| 6KR | 93.0% |
| 6JW | 94.2% |

Coffee Mornings

On Tuesday 23rd April, we will be holding a Chatting Faith coffee morning in the Oasis room from 9am (just so we can get all the children in and settled first). All welcome!

Next coffee morning:

- Coffee Morning - Tuesday 30th April



Safeguarding

See next page for 'What Parents and Carers Need to Know About WhatsApp'.

WhatsApp and other social media platforms can, and regularly do, cause great distress for the children at the school. Children will often say things over social media that they would not say to someone's face - this can cause great upset to the pupils. They will also often say things 'in the moment' and these messages can be easily screenshot and then shared amongst pupils and even parents/carers. We also have regular occurrences where older, secondary aged pupils get involved. This really should not be happening.

We STRONGLY encourage parents/carers to follow social media guidance. These apps are NOT to be used by children under 13 (for WhatsApp).

There is further information here:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/is-my-child-ready-for-social-media/>



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WHATSAPP



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.

ONLINE

'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 ...TYPING...

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 PRNACY

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.



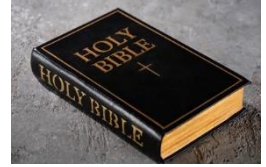
Source: <https://blog.whatsapp.com/an-open-letter> | <https://faq.whatsapp.com/1077018839582332> | https://faq.whatsapp.com/361005896189245?helpref=hc_fnav | <https://www.whatsapp.com/security> | <https://blog.whatsapp.com/chat-lock-making-your-most-intimate-conversations-even-more-private> | <https://www.aura.com/learn/whatsapp-scams>



Bible Quote



**All of them were
filled with
the Holy Spirit!**
Acts 2.4



Diary Dates

Tuesday 16th April: First day back for children

Thursday 18th April: Y3 Cricket Festival

Tuesday 23rd April: Chatting Faith Coffee Morning

Tuesday 23rd April: Y5 Dorset Fire Safety

Wednesday 24th April: 3RH/3SD Boscombe Beach

Thursday 25th April: Y5 Cricket Festival

Friday 26th April: 4KW swimming

Tuesday 30th April: Coffee Morning

Thursday 2nd May: SRE Parent's Meeting

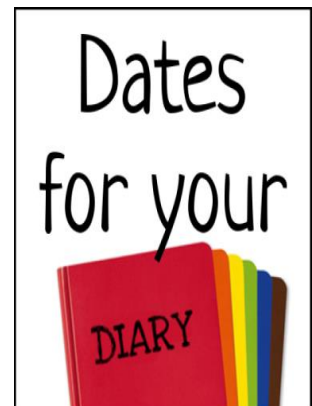
Friday 3rd May: 4KW swimming

Friday 10th May: 4KW swimming

Monday 13th May: Y6 GPAS SATS

Tuesday 14th May: Y6 Reading SATS

Wednesday 15th May: Y6 Maths Paper 1 & 2 SATS





Compassion

Confidence

Creativity

Curiosity

Thursday 16th May: Y6 Maths Paper 3 SATS

Thursday 16th May: Y4 Wessex Water visit

Friday 17th May: 4KW swimming

Tuesday 15th May: Y5 BSO Performance @ The Lighthouse

Friday 24th May: 4KW swimming

Monday 27th - Friday 31st May: Half Term

Monday 3rd June: Children start back