



# St. Peter's

## CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



*Opening doors with learning, faith and care*

FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024

## CONGRATULATIONS MUSIC STARS



Following the first of our fantastic music concerts at the end of last half-term, we were delighted to award all of the children who have started or continued their small group music tuition this year with their certificates of musical achievement this week, in recognition of how far they have come on their musical journey this year. Congratulations to all!

## THANKYOU FOR COMING!

This week we welcomed our Year 1 and Year 2 parents in for a Maths Workshop to find out how Maths is taught at St. Peter's and what parents/carers can do to support learning in this area at home. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us, we hope that you found it useful and for those unable to attend resources and information have now been sent home with the children. Next week we look forward to welcoming our Reception parents for a Speech and Language workshop, we hope that you are able to join us.

## COMING UP THIS WEEK ...

- **World Book Day:** Please be reminded that children are invited to come to school dressed as book characters on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March to celebrate world book day.
- **Mother's Day Breakfast:** Our first session of Mother's Day breakfast is on Friday next week from 8.30am – 9.30am. No need to book in advance, cost for this will be £1 per person on the door (cash/card) and entry will be via the OOSC gate at the rear of the dining room. We can't wait to welcome all of our wonderful families to share in this special occasion!
- **Upcoming School Trips:** All classes from Year 1 – Year 6 have an educational trip coming up in the next 2 weeks. Please ensure that you have given consent for the visit and paid any outstanding fees by 08.03.2024.

## ONLINE SAFETY – WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Over the past few weeks we have had a numbers of concerns raised regarding children's conduct on mobile phones outside of school, particularly when using Whats App. Can we please urge all parents/carers to regularly check children's phones and speak with children about what to do if they are worried/ upset about anything that they see to ensure that any inappropriate conduct is quickly addressed. A parent information guide to managing WhatsApp safely is available overleaf and if you need any further advice please do not hesitate to speak with us, we are always happy to help!

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

*\* Please see individual letters for more information*

05.03.24	<b>Rec Parent Workshop: Speech and Language</b> Parents invited at 2.45pm
06.03.24	<b>Year 2 Visit to Ancient High House</b>
07.03.24	<b>World Book Day</b> Learners invited to dress up as their favourite character.
08.03.24	<b>Mother's Day Breakfast (Session 1) 8.30am – 9.30am</b>
11.03.24	<b>Mother's Day Breakfast (Session 2) 8.00am – 9.00am</b>
11.03.24	<b>Sport Enrichment Day: Quidditch World Cup</b>
12.03.24	<b>Y5/Y6 Visit to RAF Cosford</b>
13.03.24	<b>Y1 Visit to Ancient High House</b>
14.03.24	<b>Y3/4 River Studies Expedition</b>
15.03.24	<b>Red Nose Day</b> See Class Dojo for Details
20.03.24	<b>PTFA Easter Eggstravaganza!</b> After school activity 3.30pm – 5.00pm
22.03.24	<b>Year 6 Social Action Project Presentation</b> Y6 parents invited for 9.15am
22.03.24	<b>Open Door Friday @ 2.45pm</b>

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION  
**16+**

in UK and Europe;  
rest of the world 13+

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

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

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.



...HEY OSCAR...



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://blog.whatsapp.com/an-open-letter> | <https://faq.whatsapp.com/1077018839582332> | [https://faq.whatsapp.com/361005896189245/?helpref=hc\\_fnav](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>