

A Learning School
A Community School
An Inclusive School



A Growth Mindset School
A Reflective School
A Healthy School

Gorse Hill Primary School

Newsletter week ending 2nd February

Young Voices 2023

On Wednesday evening, pupils in our Y5/ Y6 singing club were part of the young Voices. Young Voices is choir made up of over 8000 children, who perform at the AO Arena in Manchester. It was a sell out crowd! The children were amazing- we are so proud of our singers. The children had a great time and made memories they will cherish forever!



Class 8, have enjoyed being rock detectives in science.



Our Year 2 pupils, have been very busy learning about past and present tense verbs. Next week, they will be using their grammar skills to write independently.



Class 7 have been investigating the strength of different magnets in our science this week. We carried out a comparative test to see how many paperclips each different magnet can attract. It would seem that the bar magnets were stronger than the others...



As part of our new DT topic, Healthy Pizzas, **Year 5** have been exploring different types of pizza and their nutritional facts. We then enjoyed tasting a variety of pizzas.



Sports News!

On Monday, dodgeball team A and B took part in a local tournament. They had a great time!

Also, Y5 pupils took part in a swimming gala. We are so proud of the effort everyone made as this is the first time our pupils have entered a swimming competition.



Dates for your Diary!

February

7th Feb- School Disco

10th Feb- School closes for Half term

20th Feb- School reopens 8:50am

21st Feb- M&M Production- Literary Heritage- Scrooge

March

1st Mar- Horace Bike Repair

2nd Mar- World Book Day

22nd Mar- Parents' Evening

23rd Mar- Science Day

27th Mar- Halle music concert Y4 TBC

April

4th April- break up for Easter

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about



WHATSAPP



WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service, with around two billion users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls. Its end-to-end encryption means messages can only be viewed by the sender and any recipients (not even WhatsApp, can read them). Updates to its privacy policy in 2021 (involving sharing data with parent company Facebook) caused millions to leave the app, but the new policy was widely misinterpreted – it only related to WhatsApp's business features, not to personal messages.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SCAMS

Fraudsters occasionally send WhatsApp messages pretending to offer prizes – encouraging the user to click on a link to win. Other common scams involve warning someone that their WhatsApp subscription has run out (aiming to dupe them into disclosing payment details) or impersonating a friend or relative and asking for money to be transferred to help with an emergency.

DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Users can set WhatsApp messages to disappear in 24 hours, 7 days or 90 days, by default. Photos and videos can also be instructed to disappear after the recipient has viewed them. These files can't be saved or forwarded – so if your child was sent an inappropriate message, it would be difficult to prove any wrongdoing. However, the receiver can take a screenshot and save that as evidence.

ENABLING FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp has unfortunately been linked to accelerating the spread of dangerous rumours. In India in 2016, some outbreaks of mob violence appear to have been sparked by false allegations being shared on the app. WhatsApp itself took steps to prevent its users circulating hazardous theories and speculation in the early weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic.

POTENTIAL CYBERBULLYING

Group chat and video calls are great for connecting with multiple people in WhatsApp, but there is always the potential for someone's feelings to be hurt by an unkind comment or joke. The 'only admin' feature gives the admin(s) of a group control over who can send messages. They can, for example, block people from posting in a chat, which could make a child feel excluded and upset.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a WhatsApp chat, you only need the mobile number of the person you want to message (the other person also needs to have the app). WhatsApp can access the address book on someone's device and recognise which of their contacts also use the app. So if your child has ever given their phone number to someone they don't know, that person could use it to contact them via WhatsApp.

LOCATION SHARING

The 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, allowing friends to see their movements. WhatsApp describes it as a 'simple and secure way to let people know where you are.' It is a useful method for a young person to let loved ones know they're safe – but if they used it in a chat with people they don't know, they would be exposing their location to them, too.

Advice for Parents & Carers

[CLICK HERE](#)

CREATE A SAFE PROFILE

Even though someone would need a child's phone number to add them as a contact, it's also worth altering a young person's profile settings to restrict who can see their photo and status. The options are 'everyone', 'my contacts' and 'nobody' – choosing one of the latter two ensures that your child's profile is better protected.

EXPLAIN ABOUT BLOCKING

If your child receives spam or offensive messages, calls or likes from a contact, they should block them using 'settings' in the chat. Communication from a blocked contact won't show up on their device and stays undelivered. Blocking someone does not remove them from your child's contact list – so they also need to be deleted from the address book.

REPORT POTENTIAL SCAMS

Young people shouldn't engage with any message that looks suspicious or too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they'll be given the option to report it as spam. If the sender claims to be a friend or relative, call that person on their usual number to verify it really is them, or if it's someone trying to trick your child.

LEAVE A GROUP

If your child is in a group chat that is making them feel uncomfortable, or has been added to a group that they don't want to be part of, they can use WhatsApp's group settings to leave. If someone adds a group, the admin can add them back in once. If they leave a second time, it is permanent.

THINK ABOUT LOCATION

If your child needs to use the 'live location' function to show you or one of their friends where they are, advise them to share their location only for as long as they need to. WhatsApp gives a range of 'live location' options, and your child should manually stop sharing their position as soon as it is no longer needed.

DELETE ACCIDENTAL MESSAGES

If your child posts a message they want to delete, WhatsApp allows the user seven minutes to erase a message. Tap and hold on the message, choose 'delete' and then 'delete for everyone.' However, it's important to remember that recipients may have seen (and taken a screenshot of) a message before it was deleted.

CHECK THE FACTS

You can now fact-check WhatsApp messages that have been forwarded at least five times, by double-tapping the magnifying glass icon to the right of the message. From there, your child can launch a Google search and decide for themselves whether the message was true or not.

Meet Our Expert

Farwa Idris is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of KidsHQ.co.uk, a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

