

Dear Parents,

Next week in school will see our Harvest Assemblies taking place. The children have been busy practising the songs they will sing and we look forward to welcoming you to the assemblies next week. We are collecting donations for the St Neots Foodbank, and will be joined by David Pacini, from the Foodbank, on the day. If you would like to donate, please send donations in by Thursday morning.

The week will end with Year 6's Viking Day— children in Year 6 are invited to dress in Viking costume for the day—please check your letters for ideas of how to do so, from the Year 6 team.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Keefe

Support for Parents with Online Safety

As a school, we are approached from time-to-time by parents about concerns relating to online safety. To support parents in their role of keeping children safe online, we have invested in a fantastic source of support for parents. This is a website full of information and short videos to have a look at, which will talk about specific sites, apps or issues. A separate letter accompanies this newsletter—please do register and make use of this resource. You can do so by visiting <https://nationalcollege.com/enrol/priory-junior-school-1>

Within school, we teach children a regular programme of online safety lessons, and have an e-safety assembly each half-term.

Use of WhatsApp

We have been made aware of children messaging each other using Whatsapp—and sending inappropriate pictures and messages to each other on this. Please do check what your child is doing on any device they have.

Attached is some useful information about the use of Whatsapp. Did you know that the age limit for this App is 16?

Trim Trail

A gentle reminder that the Trim Trail is for KS2 children only, for safety reasons. Please keep your younger children with you, when you come to collect at home-time.

We know it's tempting, but they should not be on the trim trail.

Diary Dates

Harvest Assemblies	5th October
Year 6 Viking Day	6th October
Year 6 Whistle-Stop Tour Workshops	9th October
FOPJS Coin Drive Week	9th—13th October
World Mental Health Day	10th October
LF5 Class Assembly	11th October
TM3 St Neots Tour and Museum Visit	16th October
MHST Resilience Workshops; Year 5 and 6	17th October
Year 4 Coffee Morning	17th October
LP6 Class Assembly	18th October
AN3 St Neots Tour and Museum Visit	18th October
EW3 St Neots Tour and Museum Visit	19th October
MHST Parents' Coffee Morning	20th October
Half-Term Holiday	23rd—27th October
Autumn 2 Half-Term Starts	30th October
Parents Evenings	1st / 2nd November

Chinese Students Visiting

We have some very exciting news to share! We will be hosting a group of Chinese students who will be visiting St Neots from 28th January—3rd February. Children in Years 5-6 are being invited to apply for this role by writing a letter to Mrs Keefe over the next two weeks.

Further information has been sent in a letter home today. This promises to be an amazing experience for all the children.

Year 5 Science Centre Visit

On Thursday, 28th September, we had a visitor from the Cambridge Science Centre. They talked about air resistance and how it pushed land yachts forward. We made land yachts out of paper for the body, small wooden circle for the wheels, a rod for the axle, a straw for the bearing. To make the sail you got given a piece of A4 paper, 3 wooden lollipop sticks and put them together with tape. We had to make the sail ourselves—we had to think about weight of the sail and the air resistance on the sail to push it forward.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
16+
in UK and Europe;
rest of the world 13+

...MSG ME...

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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.

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.

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

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Saturday 14th October 2023 From 10am - 4pm

- A free, fun-packed, educational day of biology
- Get hands-on with science activities
- Talk to research scientists, health professionals and other experts
- Learn about different careers in biology
- Meet birds of prey



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NO PARKING IS AVAILABLE ON SITE

www.facebook.com/BigBiologyDay



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