

World Book Day



We enjoyed a fabulous World Book Day on 5th March. We had lots of amazing book characters amongst the school population—thank you to all of you for your hard work and efforts in producing such amazing costumes. Throughout the day, the children were involved in lots of book activities. Each year group enjoyed a range of texts and focussed on a different author. Each class learned a poem and then performed it at our special World Book Day assembly during which we announced our Book Voucher Winners for the best costumes (as chosen by our School Council). The winners each received a £10 book token to spend on a favourite (or new) author!

Book Voucher Winners

Riggs	Isabel	Durham	Iheoma
Caterpillars	Harmony	Glasgow	Luke
Bees	Luther	Warwick	Evie
Dragonflies	Lily	Bristol	Helena
Ladybirds	Maya	Manchester	James
Badgers	Isia	Southampton	Enes
Hedgehogs	Rahen	Edinburgh	Huckleberry
Otters	Frankie	Liverpool	Jana
Kestrels	Billy	York	Yasmin
Kingfishers	Rosalie	Cambridge	Ailee
Owls	Gabriel	Oxford	Hannah
		UCL	Kandi



Lunchtimes

At the start of the year, we made a change to our lunchtime break. The children have a 45-minute break during which they have time to eat and time to play. Each class is allotted a time to use the hall to eat together. We recognise that some children eat quickly (as they want to get out to play) and others like to take a longer time to eat. This is why we do not chase the children out, but give them the time they need to eat. Changing the lunchtime break has meant the children have more space on the playground to play games (as only half the school are out to play together) and we have seen a reduction in the number of first aid incidents.



Breaktimes



Each year group has a 15-minute break each morning. Reception and Year 1-3 have their break together and Y4-6 have their break together. These last for 15 minutes. The children in Year 1 and 2 have an afternoon break determined by their teacher. There are no plans to reduce the amount of time given to breaktimes.

Year Group	Days
FS2	Friday
Year 1	Tuesday Wednesday
Year 2	Monday Thursday
Year 3	Monday
Year 4	Wednesday
Year 5	Tuesday
Year 6	Thursday

Superstars of the Week

Our Superstars 13 th March 2026			
Riggs		Durham	Adam
Caterpillars	Samantha	Glasgow	Raiyan
Bees	Akbar	Warwick	Manvik
Dragonflies	Emmerson	Bristol	Noah
Ladybirds	Olivia	Manchester	Mehek
Badgers	Isia	Southampton	Aryan
Hedgehogs	Indigo	Edinburgh	Shaun
Otters	Maryam	Liverpool	Timur
Kestrels	Konstantin	York	Matthew
Kingfishers	Dilara	Cambridge	Etta
Owls	Megan	Oxford	Ted
		UCL	Riley

Our Superstars 6 th March 2026			
Riggs		Durham	Ma-ab
Caterpillars	Ader	Glasgow	Naetochukwu
Bees	Nyla-Rose	Warwick	Evie
Dragonflies	Grace	Bristol	Samridhhi
Ladybirds	Jaxon	Manchester	Zaidan
Badgers	Lena	Southampton	Brand
Hedgehogs	Sefora	Edinburgh	Illiana
Otters	Grace	Liverpool	Mia
Kestrels	Zahra	York	
Kingfishers	Maisie	Cambridge	Henry
Owls	Zainab	Oxford	Hannah
		UCL	Elya

Online Safety

Please check you children's phones regularly to ensure they are being safe online. There have been some recent incidents of children snipping and sharing photos, without permission, on their Social Media apps. Please remember, the age restriction for Whatsapp is 16.

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.

16+
18% OF THE WORLD

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 slip 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 2018, some outbreaks of Ebola disease appear to have been sparked by false allegations being shared on the app. WhatsApp has taken 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 at a time, 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) or 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

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 'private', '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 files 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 you believe that a friend or relative, call that person on their usual number to verify if 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 exits a group, the admin can add them back in once, if they leave once in one, 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
Nora Khan 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 space and is the founder of 'Safe & Clear' a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday