

WHATSAPP

Please have a good look at the information about WhatsApp attached to this newsletter. We often have issues arising from children using WhatsApp. Never assume that everything your child is doing online is safe and healthy!

DRINKS

Please note that the only drink your child should bring in their water bottle is water or squash. Please do not put juice or other drinks in the bottle. They can have fruit juice in their packed lunch, but please do not send fizzy drinks or energy drinks.

POETRY WEEK

We've had a great week with our visitors Dreadlock Alien and Kurly McGeachie, creating and performing poetry. Here's what some of our children thought about it: Max and Nico (6MS):

In the morning, we had an assembly led by Dreadlock Alien and Kurly. It was about rhyming and beatboxing. They asked some pupils and teachers to have a go at beatboxing. They had to say "boots and cats", "popping to the chemist" and "born to be clever". Then, Dreadlock Alien came up with rhymes about some of the teacher's names like Lancaster and pasta.

After lunch, Dreadlock Alien and Kurly came to visit our classes and help us with our class poem. Later that afternoon, we all went into the hall and Year 5 and Year 6 performed their class poems. One class had six poems and one class had drums to use. The poems we did had rhyming couplets and actions in them. It was a fun day.

Daneen and Melayah (5W):

In the morning our teachers took us to the hall. We sat down and two people introduced themselves: Dreadlock Alien and Kurly. Dreadlock Alien and Kurly called up a child from each class to represent their classes, along with Mr Wheatley and Mrs Ambris! They had to do different types of beatboxing at the front of the hall. After all that, we went back to class to start practising our poems that we were supposed to present in front of the hall later on. We had practised for full on four hours! Other people also presented their poems. One hour later, Dreadlock Alien and Kurly came in to help us with our own poem writing and practice. Next, Mr Wheatley showed us his very own poem about resilience and believing in yourself. Everyone had practised in their classes. On this day, we had very fun times, we didn't do any writing! But we still worked extremely well and hard. We also wrote our own poems and read them out to the class. We loved our extremely fun experience.

Riya and Sienna-Rose (4L):

On Tuesday, we had an amazing assembly by two poets (Dreadlock Alien and Kurly). They were hilarious! They taught us how to beatbox and got a few of us up, as well as Mr Lancaster and Miss Parmar, who can't beatbox! Each class, with the help of the poets, created a poem around a key word - 4L's was 'Wisdom'. At the end of the day, we all performed in the 'Poetry Slam' in front of all the other classes. We had a brilliant day!

Alice and Maya (3P):

We had a visit from two poetry teachers who did good beat boxing! Year 5 and 6 performed their poetry for us and included some dancing. We made our own poems with cool rhyming words. We all did a good job at performing them.

MACMILLAN COFFEE AFTERNOON

Come and join us for a cuppa and slice of cake on Thursday 28th September, 2:30pm to raise money for Macmillan. We would be grateful for any donations of cakes or biscuits (homemade or shop-bought). Children can bring these into the main office from Wednesday 27th September. Please make sure that all items are **nut-free**. This year, we will also be holding a 'cake-off' competition. Bake your best cake and a judge will pick the winner. Cake entries to be brought to the main office on Thursday 28th. Last year we raised over £600 - let's beat that this year!

PARKRUN (OR PARKWALK!)

Some of you joined us for Parkrun last year, and some of you won't know what we're talking about! Parkrun is a weekly event that takes place in parks around the world where participants run, jog or walk 5km. It takes place on Saturday mornings at 9.00am. Some members of staff will be heading there on Saturday 14th October and we would love to see some of you there! You can find more information and details on how to sign up (it's free of charge) here: <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/perryhall/>. It's for people of all ages and all levels of fitness. Please have a chat with Mr Smart if you want more information. Please note, staff will not take responsibility for your child - you will be responsible for them at all times.

OPEN EVENING

King Edwards VI Handsworth Wood Girls' Academy have an open evening coming up. See information attached to this newsletter.

DIARY DATES

Mon 25 - Wed 27 Sep	Year 6 residential visit to Condoover
Thu 28 Sep, 2.30pm	Macmillan Coffee Afternoon
Sat 14 Oct	Beeches does Parkrun!
Fri 27 Oct	Break up for half term
Mon 6 Nov	School reopens
Tue 7 Nov	Professor McGinty visiting Year 4
Wed 8 Nov	Professor McGinty visiting Year 5
Thu 9 Nov	Photographer in school

PUPIL OF THE WEEK

3C: Alannah	3W: Alfie	4B: Ava	5A: Latifa	6IS: Lexi
3L: Deshane	4F: Rayyan		5P: Ellie	6MS: Logan
3P: Maya	4L: Jeeya		5W: Shikye	6SM: Hasnain

BEECHES BRILLIANT READERS

Year 3: Freddie (3L)
Year 4: Zac (4F)
Year 5: Mina (5A)
Year 6: Tinara (6MS)

TEAM POINTS

1.	Team Lewis	669
2.	Team Cadbury	649
3.	Team Malala	597
4.	Team Zephaniah	554

Beeches Junior School Tel: (0121) 272 5888

Beeches Road,
Birmingham
B42 2PY

E-mail: enquiry@beechesjnr.bham.sch.uk
Website: www.beechesjnr.bham.sch.uk
Follow us on Twitter: @BeechesJnr



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.

'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.

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 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://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>



King Edward VI
Handsworth Wood Girls' Academy

YEAR 6 OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 27th September 2023
4:30pm - 7:30pm

Meet staff and students in different departments.
You will be joining a new school building in 2024.
All students are provided with a device for learning.

Come and join our Outstanding Academy in September 2024

Church Lane, Handsworth, Birmingham, B20 2HL



0121 554 8122



enquiry@hwga.org.uk



@KEVIHWGA

www.hwga.org.uk

SCHOLARSHIP

CHARACTER

COMMUNITY