



Newsletter 12 - May 2024

As we near the end of term 5, we have a few important notices to share. As ever, we keep our [blog](#) updated with information on various subjects children are studying in school - please also go back and explore previous posts to see how we continue to develop our curriculum. At the end of the newsletter, there is some information on school attendance and illness, as well as a parent guide to Whatsapp.

Language Development and Reading

As a staff, we have been focussing our recent training around language development. All children in our school continue to develop their language proficiency and reading is a key factor in this. Research indicates that reading to children aged 4-5 years old can make the difference of 1 year by the time children reach 8 or 9 years old in their reading skills. We encourage all of our families to support language and reading development by reading as frequently as possible.

Summer term - warm weather

As we hope to enjoy more of the good weather, can we please remind you to send children into school with sun cream already applied and plenty of water. If your child requires additional cream to be applied throughout the day, please ensure you put

this in a named bottle for them to self-apply. We will not allow children to share products due to allergies. We encourage sun hats and the [website](#) gives guidance on uniform during the summer.

Road safety

It is imperative that the zigzag lines outside of the school gates are kept clear. All too often, parents are dropping children off in this area which is used for emergency access.

In a similar vein, please be mindful of your speed if travelling by car near the school - we all have a responsibility to keep our children safe.

Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

Year 4 children will be participating in the multiplication tables check in June (after half term). The purpose of the check is to

determine whether children can fluently recall their times tables up to 12, which is essential for future success in mathematics. Times tables knowledge is vital for quick mental maths calculations and problem solving, as well as for many of the topics children learn in more depth during year 5, 6 and beyond. It is a statutory assessment that all Year 4 pupils will undertake this year.

The test itself is an on-screen check consisting of 25 times table questions. Children will be able to answer 3 practice questions before taking the actual check. They will then have 6 seconds to answer each question and the overall check should not take roughly more than 5 minutes.

There are many ways to practise the tables, such as TT Rockstars, Singing TT songs on YouTube, chanting and reciting, playing games, learning the tricks, skip counting, doubling and halving and many more.

For more information on the check - please visit this [parent guide](#).

Year 1 - Great Fire of London

Year 1 have been studying the great fire of London and took part in a history workshop to find out more about life at the time of the event and the fire itself. They also made houses which were set alight on the playground so they could experience how the fire spread. Great job year 1!



Mr Harrington - Kent Teacher of the year Awards

We are very proud to announce that Mr Harrington scooped the West Kent Senior Leadership Team member award in this ceremony which celebrates teachers from across the county. Mr Harrington was nominated by members of the school community and recognised by the panel for all of his hard work and commitment to the school. We thank all of our parents and carers who took the time to recognise other teachers in our school, as we received several nominations.



Class Dojo

Please could I remind you that all messages about absence or early collection from school should go through the school office. Staff will not always check messages throughout the day and will be focussed on class teaching. Similarly, if staff are absent, we can ensure that these messages reach the relevant adult.

Walking to School

This week has been Walk to School Week across the country. This is an initiative run by a walking charity to encourage children to walk to school wherever possible. Parking even a little way from the school reduces congestion and air pollution at the school gates and improves road safety. It also increases physical activity which is good for positive mental health.

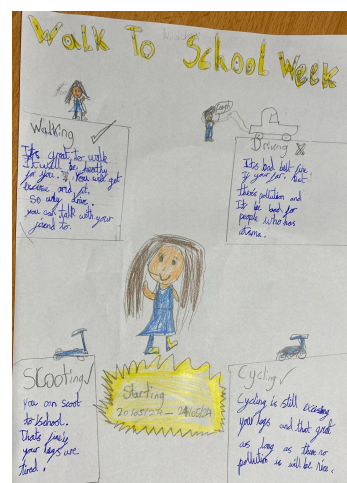
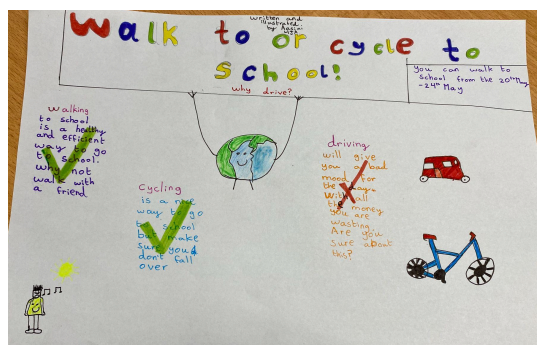
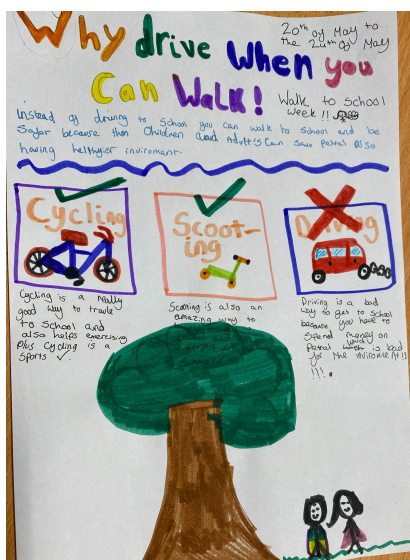
**Happier
and healthier
CHILDREN**

**Less
CONGESTION
and
POLLUTION**

**SWAP
your school
ride for a
SCHOOL WALK**

Take a look at these [top tips](#) to encourage children to walk to school.

Some of our Y4 children have created posters about walking to school.



Mental Health and wellbeing

Looking for ways to support mental health and wellbeing over the half term?

Keep in touch - Stay connected to people over the holidays. Arrange playdates for the children to give you an opportunity to catch up with friends too.

Try something new or do something together - Why not try a family swim at the local pool, or visit an adventure park?

Spend time outside - Visit a local park or castle with grounds with outdoor activities. You could have a go at the trail at Manor Park in West Malling.

Have a routine - Even in the holidays it's good to stick to a routine. Work to a schedule with something to look forward to each day.

Have downtime - You don't have to fill every moment of every day with something active, it's important to have downtime too.

Water Safety

As part of our work to support the children's safety and wellbeing, we've talked in school this week about water safety and the important things to remember when around water, the 'Water Safety Code'.



More information about water safety can be found [here](#).

Why not try one of these quizzes at home over the holidays to see what the children have learnt about water safety?

<https://rnli.org/youth-education/education-resources/lower-primary/is-this-safe> (age 3-7)

<https://rnli.org/youth-education/education-resources/upper-primary/water-activity-quiz> (age 7-11)

Captain Wonderweb and the Esteem Machine

This week the children were visited by a company called Shooting Stars. The children absolutely loved the workshop where they talked about positive mental health and the importance of resilience.



Take a look at this [post-show video](#) for you to see what the children learnt.

WhatsApp

It has been brought to our attention this week that there are children that are using WhatsApp. The minimum age for using WhatsApp is 13 - recently lowered from 16. It is crucial that if you are allowing your child to use this app under age, that you monitor their use of it closely. Here is some guidance from the [NSPCC](#) around safe use of WhatsApp.

EAL coffee morning

We would like to inform you that we have another EAL Coffee Morning planned for Thursday 13th of June, between 9am and 10am, in the Conference room.

The session will be dedicated to a variety of strategies you can use at home when raising a bilingual child. We know that being bilingual brings many benefits. Bilingual people can be creative and flexible. They can be more open-minded, and they also find it easier to focus on a variety of tasks simultaneously. Our special guest on the day will be Mrs. Bhupinder Gill, our EAL Advisory Teacher from the Education People Company, who will share her knowledge and expertise with us.

It will also be a chance for you to ask about any suggestions and propositions regarding our Cultural Day, which is being organised at Wentworth this summer.

KS2 SATs

We are enormously proud of our Year 6 cohort who completed their SATs last week. These end of primary school assessments are taken by children across the country to provide important information on performance and also form part of the information passed on to secondary schools.



The group were treated to a special cooked breakfast in school on Friday and enjoyed a trip to Chessington on Monday as a reward for their hard work. Below are some comments from the children:

For me, the SATs were a pretty stressful time even though we had done lots of preparation to maximise our learning. Every bit of work and learning in our classroom had to be covered up which made the classroom seem very strange and all the tables were moved too. On the day of each test, we were given a little breakfast snack which helped us all to head into the tests with the right mindset. After all our SATs were finished, we were treated to a celebratory breakfast as a year group. I'm proud to say that I survived the SATs!

Ben

The SATs were not an easy thing to do but thanks to our teachers and all the extra work we did, I think I did brilliantly! When the last paper was over, the relief on people's faces was really clear. On the morning after the SATs it was lots of fun when we went to the hall to have a sausage in a roll. We spent time talking to each other and feeling proud of what we have achieved.

Jay

On the first day of SATs week I felt really nervous, but then I remembered our PSHE lessons when we learned about ways to cope with stress; breathing deeply and calmly really helped me. Every day before a test we were given a small breakfast which gave us 'extra brain power' according to our teacher. At the end of the week, when the SATs were finally done, we had a delicious breakfast together and it was really nice to get together as a year group. Overall, I'm glad I've done the SATs because it has taught me to be resilient and to cope with pressure and nerves.

Simran

Leading up to the SATs, I came in early with other children to do extra maths and comprehension which really helped me and I am grateful to the teachers for their support. In PSHE we learned not to stress too much and also how to deal with stress which really helped me in some tests. On Friday we had a celebration breakfast which was delicious. I'm glad the SATs are over but happy that I did them at Wentworth because all the teachers have really helped me.

Erin

PTA fundraising

The PTA does a fantastic job at raising funds for the school throughout the year. They currently have tickets available for some local attractions which offer a competitive price and also raise money for Wentworth. Currently, there are tickets for Adventure Island, Southend at £18 per ticket and tickets for the Sealife Adventure, Southend Tickets at £10 per ticket. Please email pta@wentworthonline.co.uk to purchase.

The PTA also have special price tickets for Robin Hood Pantomime at the Orchard Theatre, Dartford.

Available dates:

Wednesday 18th December 7pm

Thursday 19th December 7pm

Seats are available in stalls, upper stalls and circle and will be pre-allocated to you. All tickets are £21 each. Again, please contact the PTA via email for tickets.

Maths Workshops for parents

We are working with Quest to run a Maths workshop for parents. This starts on Monday 10th June at 9.15am. It's completely free.

For every parent who attends the first session (the taster session), £5 will be donated to our PTA.

For more information, see the poster at the bottom of the newsletter.

And finally

Lots of running achievements to celebrate!

Amelia in 2JP walked 6.64 miles on Saturday 11th May for the Ellenor hospice countryside trail and has raised £170!

Elodie in 6NA completed the Race for Life 5km in 34 minutes along with her friend Evelyn. We are very proud of her as she raised a great total for Cancer Research.



Jack in 2JP completed a 2.6 miles mini marathon in 30 minutes and has raised £565 for Greenwich and Bexley Hospice! Well done Jack!



Please feel free to share any good news stories to be included in future newsletters!

Upcoming dates for the diary

- 24th May - Last day of Term 5
- 3rd June - First day of Term 6
- 14th June - PTA someone special sale
- 17th / 18th June - Y5 trips to Knole Park
- 24th June - Y1 trip to Hobbledown Farm
- 3rd July - Bag2school collection
- 5th July - PTA summer fair
- 9th July - Y6 production
- 12th July - Cultural Day (Details to follow)
- 16th July - Open afternoon
- 17th July - Sports Day (KS1 AM, KS2 PM)
- 18th July - Y6 leavers performance
- 19th July - PTA discos
- 23rd July - Last day of Term 6

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
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.

...MSG ME...

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 ...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

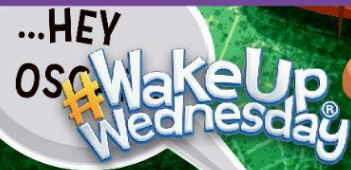
Help your child to understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content to then be shared more widely (even publicly on social media). Encourage your child to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

CHAT ABOUT PRNACY

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.



Source: <https://blog.whatsapp.com/an-open-letter> | <https://faq.whatsapp.com/1077018839582332> | https://faq.whatsapp.com/361005896189245?helpref=hc_fmav | <https://www.whatsapp.com/security> | <https://blog.whatsapp.com/chat-lock-making-your-most-intimate-conversations-even-more-private> | <https://www.cara.com/learn/whatsapp-scams>



Should I keep my child off school?



Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.



Quest are working in partnership with **Wentworth Primary School** to deliver our Multiply programme. Our sessions are tailored to help learners develop lifelong Maths Skills. The programme is completely **FREE** all you have to do is turn up!

Register your Interest



Link to Form

**Monday
10th June
at 9:15am**
Wentworth
Primary School,
Wentworth Drive,
Dartford,
DA1 3NG

FREE MATHS CLASSES

- Free refreshments provided
- Activities tailored to support you with KS1-3 maths, school syllabus & national curriculum!
- Build your confidence around school-based maths!
- Support from our enthusiastic and passionate tutor!

 Free £5 P.T.A. donation if you attend the taster session!

For more information please contact Quest at:



multiply@questfortraining.com



01474 704441