



School News

01304 611360 www.eastry.kent.sch.uk
headteacher@eastry.kent.sch.uk

No. 23

10th March 2022

SCHOOL DIARY



Friday, 11th March - NSPCC Numbers Day

On Friday, 11th March we will be celebrating the NSPCC's Number Day.

Dressing Up - Children are invited to wear maths/number themed fancy dress. This could be a t-shirt with a number or numbers on, or even something number related you make yourself!

Cake Sale - We will be selling cakes provided by the staff.

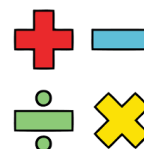
Coppers Challenge - We are asking children to bring in coppers to see which class can fill the bottle with the most coppers which will then be donated to the NSPCC.



Raffle - There will be a raffle with the chance to win a Gangster Granny's Mental Maths Games. Tickets will be on sale for £1.

Maths Theme Activities - We are sure the children will have great fun on this special day taking part in lots of Maths themed learning.

If you wish to make a separate donation to the NSPCC this can be made on their Just Giving page at <https://www.justgiving.com/nspcc>



Monday 14th & Wednesday 16th March - Parents' Evenings

We will be holding our parents' evenings next Monday and Wednesday for you to discuss your child's progress with their class teacher. **These meetings will take place face to face.** Masks are optional but we ask that you keep socially distanced. **Please can we ask that you arrive near to your allotted time to reduce the number of parents in the hall at any one time and to help with social distancing.** Ten minute appointments can be made on either evening between the times of 3.30 to 6.30pm. These meetings are a valuable way for sharing successes and concerns and I do hope you are able to make one of the evenings. Mrs Plant will also be available to discuss any Special Educational Needs on both evenings.

To book an appointment please telephone the school office on 01304 611360 **after 9.00am** when an appointment will be made for you.

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS RUNNING ON EITHER OF THESE EVENINGS.

Tuesday, 15th March - Boys' League Match & Mixed Friendly Match Home to Sibertswold Primary School Kick-off at 3.30pm

Thursday, 17th March - Year 3 Swimming

SCHOOL DIARY—Cont'd

Thursday, 17th March - Inspire Day 'Holi' - Hindu Festival of Colour



Friday, 18th March - Red Nose Day

We will be celebrating Red Nose Day on Friday, 18th March. Children may come to school wearing something red with their school uniform. As we have had a number of fundraising activities in recent weeks we are not asking for donations but there will be a collection bucket on the school gate at the end of the school day if you would like to make a donation.

SCHOOL NEWS



Chocolate Hamper Raffle

Please don't forget the school council will be selling tickets this week and next week with a chance to win one of two chocolate hampers. Tickets cost 50p and will be sold at lunchtimes by the school council. All funds raised will be split between the School Council and the Disasters Emergency Committee DEC to support Ukraine.



Attendance

At the beginning of each term we will be letting you know what the school attendance figure is for the current academic year. As of the end of term 3 our school attendance figure was 95%. Whilst we hope to keep the school attendance as near to 100% as possible we aim to ensure attendance is above 95% at all times.

We know parents and carers understand the importance of school attendance and the effect it can have on the education of children. We have produced a leaflet entitled 'Illness, Attendance and Absence from School - A Guide for Parents and Carers'. The aim of this leaflet is to help give parents advice on when children should be kept off of school and when it is OK for them to attend. If you have any questions concerning anything included in the leaflet please do let us know.

OTHER COMMUNITY NEWS

Information for parents and carers on Covid-19 vaccination for at risk 5 to 11 year olds

Children aged 5 to 11 years who are in a clinical risk group or who live with someone who is immunosuppressed can get the COVID-19 vaccine, in line with advice set out by the [Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation \(JCVI\)](#). Eligible children include those with diabetes, immunosuppression, learning disabilities, and other conditions as outlined by the [UK Health Security Agency \(UKHSA\) in the Green Book](#).

Vaccinations help to increase protection against COVID-19, which is particularly important for those with underlying health conditions.

Further information is available in the [guide for parents of children aged 5 to 11 years](#) published by UKHSA. The government have published some [frequently asked questions](#) on the vaccination programme including information on eligibility, accessibility and advice for parents of children at high risk from COVID-19. Following [advice](#) from the JCVI, healthy 5 to 11 year old children will also be offered two 10 microgram doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. The NHS will prepare to extend this non-urgent offer to all children during April.

INTERNET/ONLINE SAFETY SECTION

WhatsApp

Although in the UK the age rating for WhatsApp is 16+ we are aware that many children use this app to communicate with friends and family.

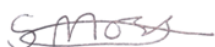
National Online Safety have produced a guide for parents with lots of information and advice when using this app. A copy of this leaflet is attached.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Latest News

The latest news or events that have happened in school can be found on each page on the school website. We update this regularly when a particular event or activity has happened in school. If you click on the 'Latest News' title you can also view past events that have been posted.

Kind regards



Mrs Sarah Moss
Headteacher

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS	
Week commencing 14.3.22	
MONDAY	
Ballet (3.30-4.15pm)	NO
TUESDAY	
WEDNESDAY	
Parachute Games Club (3.30-4.00pm)	NO
Girls Football Club (3.30-4.15pm)	NO
THURSDAY	
Singing Club (8.00-8.35am)	Yes
Multi-Sports Club (3.30-4.30pm)	Yes
FRIDAY	
Football Club (3.30-4.30pm)	Yes

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 lure 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 mob violence appear to have been spread 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 files from a contact, they should block them using 'restrict' in the chat. Communication from a blocked contact won't show up on their device and stays unlabelled. 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 messages that look 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 a scam. 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 exits 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

Parveen Kaur 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 KIDS IN CYBER, a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



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