

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year to all of our wonderful families. I hope that you had a restful break. It has been lovely to have all of the children back in school the last 2 weeks. We have a number of new and exciting things to share, so please take time to read this newsletter.

Women's Enterprise Stalls

We will be launching our Women's Enterprise Stalls on Tuesday 23rd January. They will run every afternoon until Friday 26th January. Stalls open at 3.15pm and close when the items sell out. Stalls will be set up round the back of the main hall.

The stalls will be;

Tuesday - Sweets and accessories

Wednesday - School cakes, brownies

Thursday - Doughnuts and cookies

Friday - Crafts and biscuits

Cash only please, no cards. Payment must be made at the time of purchase.

***FOOD ALLERGIES* Please ensure you check the ingredients with the stall holders if you or your children have any food allergies. We are a nut-free school, so the food will not contain nuts, but we cannot guarantee for every allergy. For this reason, no child will be allowed to purchase an item without an adult present.**

The money raised on Wednesday will go towards our breakfast bagels fund. Stalls are hired out by the school to our parents and the money raised through the hiring of the stalls goes into our Creating Futures Fund. More information on the fund can be found on our website

<https://www.greet.bham.sch.uk/creating-futures-fund/>

Menu Tasting – 8th February 2024

We will be launching our new school dinners menu very soon.

Please come to our menu tasting session on Thursday 8th February at 2.30pm, where you will be able to try the new recipes on offer.

We anticipate a large number of you will want to move to school dinners due to the new and improved menu. In light of this, we have decided to process all changes on Thursday 22nd February, after half term. If you want to change your meal choice, please come to the main school office at any time on Thursday 22nd February and a member of office staff will make that change for you.

Bromcom My Child At School App (MCAS)

As you are aware, we use the Arbor App for communicating to parents. On 19th February 2024 we will be launching our new parent app called **My Child At School (MCAS)**. The MCAS app is our preferred method of communication with you using app notifications.

What is MCAS?

MyChildAtSchool (MCAS) is a portal that can enable parents to view their child's academic performance in real-time via a web browser or mobile app. This enables you to access key academic dates, attendance information and the personal details the academy holds for you and your child.

The following modules which are available in MCAS:

- Notifications
- Pupil details check/update/amend
- Attendance
- Parents evening booking
- Reports
- Assessment
- Dinner money
- Clubs and trips

Downloading the app and logging in

The app is simple to download and access using the email address that you have supplied to us.

The app is available through the Google Store or Apple Store, just search for **My Child At School app by Bromcom Computers Plc** (please see guide at the end of the newsletter).

From the 19th February 2024 we will no longer use the Arbor app.

Payments (no payments to be made from 7th Feb until 19th Feb)

From Wednesday 7th February, you will be unable to make payments for meals, trips and clubs etc on Arbor. **Please make sure you are up to date with payments by 7th February.** You will be able to make payments again from 19th February through PayPoint or the MCAS app. Please note any existing Arbor (credit) will automatically transfer to your MCAS account. You can view the balance in Dinner module and top up the balance in Dinner Money.

We will be having **drop-in sessions all day on 19th February, 22nd February, and 23rd February 2024** where office staff will be on hand to help you get logged in.

PayPoint

In February we will supply each parent with a PayPoint letter which contains a barcode, so you can easily upload payments using the cash PayPoint facility.

Using PayPoint payments are for those parents/carers who wish to continue to pay for items via cash. PayPoint payments are also recorded by MCAS and can be seen by logging into your MCAS account and viewing your payment history online. Your nearest PayPoint is here: **636 Stratford Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, B11 4AR.**

Curry and Chat

Please note, next week's curry and chat will be a **women only session** (for one week only).

Afterschool Clubs

We have had some parent queries about the finishing times of our afterschool clubs. Please see finish times below. Collection point for all afterschool clubs is the area between the Middle Phase and Upper Phase buildings. Please wait in the outside space in front of the main school office entrance.

Lego Y1 4.15pm	Multi Skills Y2 4.30pm	Art Y1 and Y2 4.15pm
Multi skills Y3 4.30pm	Recorders Y3 4.25pm	Crochet 4.15pm
Multi skills Y4 4.30pm	Multi skills Y5 and Y6 4.30pm	Football skills Y4, Y5 and Y6 4.30pm
Football Academy Y5 and Y6 4.30pm	Drama Y4, Y5 and Y6 4.15pm	Mandarin Y5 and Y6 4.15pm

Greet Attendance

Below are the attendance champions from last week.

Year group	Attendance	Class	Attendance
Year 4	93.94%	5HM	96.94%
Year 5	93.77%	6SW	95.28%
Year 6	91.69%	RAB	94.64%
Year 2	90.63%	3DH	94.6%
Year 1	89.88%	4RC	94.44%
Year 3	89.43%	4RM	94.29%
Reception	86.2%	2NH	94.05%

House points

Congratulations to all the children in **Pinsent** who are our house points winners this week.

1st – Pinsent

2nd – Simmonds

3rd – Yousafzai

Key dates section:

INSET Days:

Friday 9th February 2024 (1 day)

Friday 22nd March 2024 (1 day)

Spring 1

Children finish for half term: Thursday 8th February 2024 @ 3.15pm

February half term: Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February 2024

Spring 2

Children return to school: Monday 19th February 2024

Children finish for the Easter holiday: Thursday 21st March 2024 @ 3.15pm

Easter holiday: Monday 25th March to Friday 5th April 2024

What Children & Young People Need to Know about

FREE VS HATE SPEECH

Everyone in the UK has the right of "freedom of expression". That's the right to voice your opinions and share information and ideas with others. It's not the right to say whatever you want without regard for others' feelings and values. We all have a responsibility to use this right properly: being respectful and inclusive to others. Whether online or offline, communication attacking or discriminating against groups or individuals (because of protected characteristics like race or religion) is hate speech, not free speech.

Free speech is a person's legal right to share information, opinions and ideas without fear of retaliation, censorship or legal consequences. This freedom of expression is recognised in international human rights legislation, and here's what it does for us in our day-to-day lives ...

The Human Rights Act 1988 states that everyone has the right to express themselves freely – even if their views are unpopular and might offend others.

Freedom of expression encourages listening to others and allowing opposing views to be heard. It's important to respect someone's opinion, even if we disagree with it. Free speech lets us engage in meaningful discussions with people who feel differently.

Any concept could potentially offend someone. Galileo's ideas were incredibly offensive to many at the time, while not everyone agrees with Darwin's theory today. Freely exchanging ideas promotes progress.

Free speech allows us to engage people we disagree with in a debate. The ability to challenge others' views is healthy – while having ours challenged helps us learn how to deal with criticism and think deeply about what we say and believe.

Free speech is a powerful tool for change, justice and reform. Many modern UK rights – such as women being allowed to vote or decent working conditions – couldn't have been achieved without it.

Freedom of expression includes the right not to do something, like not standing up for – or singing – the national anthem. Even though some people would find that offensive, it isn't illegal.

Hate speech refers to any communication – like talking, texting or posting online – which displays prejudice against someone's identity. Derogatory, demonising and dehumanising statements, threats, identity-based insults, offensive name-calling and slurs would all count as hate speech. Here are some common forms it takes ...

Targeting people or groups because of who they are – including but not limited to aspects such as race, sexuality, religion or a disability – and verbally abusing them with slurs and name-calling. The Equality Act 2010 has more information on this.

Content that dehumanises people based on those same attributes: referring to them as if they were animals, objects or other non-human entities, for example.

Calling for violence or hatred against certain people or groups and justifying and glorifying those actions.

Claiming that specific types of people are physically, mentally or morally inferior (or even that they are criminals) to encourage others to view them in the same way.

Making up or repeating insults about a person or group because something about their identity is different to the person who's posting.

Promoting the segregation of certain groups, or discrimination against them, because of who they are.

Meet Our Expert

The Global Equality Collective is an online community for homes, schools and businesses, a collective of hundreds of subject matter experts in diversity, equality and inclusion, and the organisation behind the GEC app, the world's first app for diversity, equality and inclusion.

GLOBAL
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The
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Source: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents>
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1988/42/schedule/12-text=1Everyone%20has%20the%20right%20to%20freedom%20of%20expression>

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SMARTPHONE SAFETY TIPS

for young people

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You may have been lucky enough to have unwrapped a smartphone at Christmas, or you might be eagerly anticipating getting a new one at some point during this year. Whether it'll be your first ever phone or an upgrade on your old model, it's always useful to have a refresher about how to set it up and adjust the settings to keep yourself – and your valuable personal info – safe and secure. We've collected some expert tips to help you enjoy your smartphone in the healthiest way possible.

UNDER 18

NEVER SHARE YOUR PASSCODE

Alongside face or fingerprint recognition, your passcode is crucial to unlocking your phone and accessing your apps and personal information. You shouldn't give it out, even to close friends – after all, you wouldn't hand them a key to your house and let them go in for a nosy around! If a friend wants to use your phone, ask them why and make sure you can see what they're doing with it.

RESPECT PARENTAL CONTROLS

If you're allowed to have a smartphone, it's because your parents or carers feel that you're mature and responsible enough to use it safely. They might set controls and boundaries on your device – not to spoil your fun but to help you avoid hazards like too much screen time or costly in-app purchases. Following these rules means you can enjoy using your phone while respecting their wishes.

TALK TO A TRUSTED ADULT

Whether it's to listen to music, play games, create content or chat with friends, using a smartphone should be fun. If you're ever feeling anxious, worried or scared about going on your phone, then something isn't right. It's important not to ignore these feelings; instead, talk to a trusted adult about what's happening and how it's making you feel.

STAY ALERT

Two words: look up. It might sound obvious, but it's so easy to get immersed in what we're looking at or listening to on our phones that we can become unaware of our surroundings – or who might be around us. People often walk with their head down, focusing on their phone, and forget to check for obstacles in their path, cars or other pedestrians coming towards them, which is clearly dangerous.

DEVELOP HEALTHY HABITS

Phones offer a vast amount of content and the chance to chat with friends whenever we feel like it, which can make it difficult to take time away from the screen. If that's something you struggle with, you could try setting time limits on certain apps. Putting our phones down for a while gives us more time to interact with others or do something physical that helps keep us fit and healthy.

IGNORE UNKNOWN NUMBERS

There are some scammers who might call or text asking you to share personal data or to click on a link and provide your details. Some may claim to be from a genuine company, but trustworthy businesses don't spontaneously call or message to ask for your information. It's safest to ignore calls or texts from unknown numbers, and never give your personal details out over the phone.

ONLY USE AGE-APPROPRIATE APPS

Before downloading a new app or game, check what age rating it has. Don't feel pressured into getting a particular game or app just because your friends are using it. If it's intended for older people, there's a definite risk that it could include content (which is violent or frightening, for instance) or language which isn't suitable and may leave you feeling upset or disturbed.

REMOVE TEMPTATION

A good night's sleep is so important for concentration, mood and overall health. Unwinding properly before going to bed – which means not staring at a screen late at night – can often improve sleep quality. Put your phone on charge overnight, but not in your room. This means you'll have a lot less temptation to check any notifications, reply to messages or get caught up scrolling on social media.

THINK ABOUT OTHERS

Watching videos, listening to music or calling someone can all help to pass the time while we're on the bus, waiting in a queue or walking down the street. It's important to remain mindful of other people, though: they might not want to hear your tunes or your conversation. Likewise, if you're calling from a public place then don't forget that anyone could overhear something personal about you.

SWITCH OFF GEOLOCATION

In your phone's settings, you'll be able to disable geolocation for individual apps and photos: this means that people online (including strangers) can't see information about where you are when you share or post a pic. On the subject of images, it's also important to ask permission before taking or sharing a photo of someone – and don't share embarrassing images of your friends with others.

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.



The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

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About MyChildAtSchool

- MCAS is a portal allowing parents to see information about their child at school.
- Your school may make information available on **attendance, behaviour and timetables**.
- Your school may also publish documents such as **school reports** through MCAS.
- You can use a browser or the App to access MCAS
- **Please use the App if you can.** You can help save your school money as you can receive notifications via the App instead of texts.

Step 1 – Access MCAS

To login to MCAS you will need to have a 'Redeem Invitation Code' email from the school.

Make a note of your School ID, Username and Invitation code

School ID:	Make a note of this
Username:	Make a note of this
Invitation Code:	Make a note of this

Step 2 – Download

Download the My Child at School App, through your App store. **The App is free**, there is no cost to you



Step 3 – Open

Click the MyChildatSchool App icon



Step 4 – Notifications

'Allow' notifications to ensure you receive alerts for your child through the MCAS App



Step 5 – Pin

Enter a 5 digit pin of your choice that you will remember. A second screen will ask you to confirm your chosen pin

