



Grove Road Community Primary School

20th March 2026

Passionate
Resilient
Intrepid
Dependable
Empathetic

From all things and learning together with PRIDE

Upcoming Events

School closes Friday 27th
March at 3:15pm

School reopens Monday
13th April 8:50am

Weekly Update

Welcome to our weekly update; we hope you find the information useful.

Key dates and upcoming events

Please make a note of the key dates and upcoming events in the school.

Comic Relief Day

What a fantastic Comic Relief Day we had at Grove Road Community Primary School! The children all looked amazing in their colourful outfits, and the school was full of laughter and smiles.

The class joke competition had everyone giggling—some jokes were so funny that even the teachers couldn't keep a straight face! A big well done to all the children for their brilliant costumes, funny jokes, and for helping make today so special.

We will advise how much we has raised at the Bale Sale in next week's update.

Library Visit

Jeffers and Bright class had a wonderful visit to the local library this week, where they enjoyed listening to fun and engaging stories.

The children loved exploring the colourful books and discovering all the different stories the library has to offer. They enjoyed asking questions, sharing their favourite stories with friends, and learning about how a library works.

It was a fun and exciting trip that helped the children develop a love of reading and left them eager to visit the library again soon.

Parents Evening

A huge thank you to all our parents and carers who attended Parents' Evening. It was wonderful to see such a fantastic turnout, and we really appreciated the opportunity to discuss the children's progress and achievements with you.

Your support and involvement make a real difference to your child's learning, and we look forward to continuing to work together throughout the school year.

Staffing News

At the end of this term, we will be saying goodbye to a valued member of our staff Miss Erdei. Miss Erdei has made a positive contribution to the school community during her time here, and we thank her for her dedication and support for our pupils and colleagues. We wish her all the very best in the next chapter of her career.

Attendance

Please see below the attendance totals for each class- Monday 2nd March to Friday 6th March.

Alborough	77.8%
Jeffers	92.9%
Bright	95.8%
Hendra	93%
Gray	94.6%
Pilkey	95.8%
Percival	98.6%
Morpurgo	96.3%
Taylor	97.7%
Reynolds	97%
Earle	95.65%

Safeguarding Update

Thank you for taking the time to read this week's online safeguarding information. Talking to your child about safe and respectful behaviour on line and regularly checking their phone activity is the best way to keep them safe.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

13+ (Age Restriction)

WhatsApp is a free messaging app owned by Meta, allowing users to send text and voice messages, share multimedia, make video calls, and chat in groups. While end-to-end encryption, only the sender and receiver can view messages. This may offer privacy, but it also comes with risks that parents and educators need to be aware of.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- GROUP CHAT PRESSURES**
Group chats enable multiple users to message at the same time, but this can mean it's easy for young people to feel excluded or overwhelmed. Negative comments can become nasty, and young people may feel pressure to respond or stay engaged even when the conversation is uncomfortable or upsetting.
- EXPOSURE THROUGH CHANNELS**
WhatsApp offers optional features that allow users to broadcast updates, their profile pictures or experiences, however, there is no way to limit the feature or filter its content by age. Young people may be exposed to or share content, including misinformation and harmful messages.
- SCAMS TARGETING YOUNG USERS**
Scammers use technology using WhatsApp to trick users into sharing personal information. Common scams include phishing (asking for family members to be added to a group) or trading, sometimes involving currency codes. There are also bots that try to access private conversations.
- UNWANTED CONTACT AND LOCATION SHARING**
WhatsApp users can share their live location, and if not managed correctly, this can allow others to monitor their location. There is no way to limit this feature or filter its content by age. Young people may be exposed to or share content, including misinformation and harmful messages.
- DISAPPEARING AND HIDDEN MESSAGES**
WhatsApp offers features like disappearing messages and 'read receipts', which can be turned on or off. While these features can be useful, they can also be used to hide inappropriate conversations or content, making it harder for adults to spot potential issues.
- COMMERCIAL AND AI CONTENT**
WhatsApp now includes ads in the 'Updates' section and has introduced an AI assistant - 'Wally' - across the app, which cannot be removed. This introduces new concerns about targeting, privacy, AI use, and the type of content it can be shared among people using commercial apps.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER**
Help young users check who can see their profile photo, status, and location. Review the 'Who can see your status' and 'Who can see your location' settings in the app. Encourage them to be open about hidden chats.
- TEACH HOW TO SPOT SCAMS**
Encourage caution around private and unexpected messages, especially if they involve money or codes. Help young users understand the signs of scams and what to do if they receive a suspicious message. Encourage them to report suspicious messages to the app.
- BE OPEN ABOUT HIDDEN CHATS**
Discuss why a friend and young person might use features like disappearing messages or 'read receipts'. Encourage them to be open about hidden chats. There are no reports for hidden chats, so if the message is gone, let them know that privacy should not mean secrecy.
- TALK ABOUT ADVERTISING AND AI**
Explain that WhatsApp now includes ads and AI tools. Discuss the difference between genuine and sponsored content, and how personal data is used to target ads. Encourage them to be open about hidden chats.

Meet Our Expert
Dr. Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented safe, safeguarding and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and created and delivered for The National College's professional learning, online use and sending behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

WakeUp Wednesday The National College

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Warm Regards,

Richard Walker

Headteacher