



St Ursula's Catholic Primary School

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

22.9.23

#3

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has definitely felt more autumnal this week with the wetter weather. The September 'heatwave' was short lived; however, some pupils are still attending school in uniform more suited to sunny days. Pupils should now be attending with a coat and these should be suitable for cold and wet weather, preferably with a hood.

We encourage bright colours or coats with reflective strips to ensure that our children are clearly visible, now that the mornings and evenings are getting darker. Warm, red waterproof coats are available to purchase online through our uniform stockists; however, purchasing this coat is not compulsory.

With the start of a new academic year comes our Autumn term celebrations, such as the Harvest Festival. The school has a long tradition of working with a wide range of local, national and global charities and this term, we are continuing our tradition of collecting food for the Harold Hill Food Bank. This year we are collecting:

- Long Life Milk
- Tinned Meat
- Tinned Fish
- Tinned Veg
- Tinned Fruit
- Pasta Sauce
- Rice Pudding
- Instant Mash Potato
- Long Life Fruit Juice
- Toilet Roll



During the next few weeks Year 2 and Year 4 will be working hard preparing for their Harvest Festival Assemblies and Margaret from CAFOD will be coming to speak to our children.

We are asking for food donations for the food bank from all Year groups. Donation can be brought in between Monday 25th September and Monday 2nd October.

PUPILS AND SOCIAL MEDIA—OUR STANCE

Each year it is brought to our attention that children at St Ursula's have been witness to inappropriate behaviour on social media apps such as WhatsApp. We would like to remind parents and carers that the permitted minimum age of use for WhatsApp is 16 years.



We are committed to ensuring that our children are kept safe online and it is important that what is being taught in school is echoed at home. It is our responsibility to educate pupils about the safe use of the internet. We have always ensured that our pupils are well educated on this matter and we provide support throughout the year. Parents are responsible for the behaviour of their children whilst online at home and it is at home where the misuse of social media has taken place.

As a school, we share regular internet safety information so parents can make informed decision as to whether to allow their child to access different apps. Even though a child may not be displaying the negative behaviour, allowing them to access an app with age restrictions makes them vulnerable as they may receive messages or see content they would otherwise not be open to receiving.

We recommend that all parents visit the CEOP Think U Know website for more information on keeping your child safe online www.thinkuknow.co.uk. Should your child be the recipient of threatening behaviour, this must be reported to the police immediately. Attached to the newsletter, this week, is a parent guide for WhatsApp.

Attendance TOP THREE

1	St John's	100%
2	St Philomena's	100%
3	St Margaret's	99.17%
3	St Thomas'	99.17%
3	St Jude's	99.17%

BREAKFAST CLUB

The Breakfast Club is open. To book a place for your child/ren please use our Schoolcomms booking system. If you require any help or guidance with this booking system, please contact the school office on 01708 345200.

EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS

At St Ursula's Catholic Primary School, we endeavour to provide a broad range of extra-curricular activities that promote and develop the talents and interests of our children.

Our music tutors will be starting their lessons this term so please make sure you have booked your child's place. In addition to the music lessons provided at St Ursula's, there are also the Sports clubs that are run by Superstar Sports and Mr Fielder.

Throughout the week there are opportunities for our pupils to take part in a wide variety of activities, both before and after school.

Please visit the 'Clubs & Activities' page (under the information tab) on our school website for further information



CELEBRATING OUR SCHOOL VALUES

The core values of our school focus on high expectations for all learners, developing skills for life, encouraging good self-esteem and developing a set of core moral values based upon the teachings of Jesus Christ. These values are core to every part of our lives and are reflected in the way that we treat each other, the way that we look for every day opportunities to help those in need and in the example that we demonstrate to all those we meet.

At St Ursula's we have our School Value trophies that are given out during our weekly achievement assembly.

There is an award for each of our 5 values:

Faith
Respect
Kindness
Honesty
Resilience



These 5 trophies are awarded to 5 different pupils in Key Stage 2 and EYFS/Key Stage 1, who have lived out our Gospel Values. These trophies are taken back to class and displayed on our classroom prayer tables.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS – CONGRATULATIONS!

Faith: Sophia (Year 2)

Faith: Eliana (Year 5)

Respect: Noel (Reception)

Respect: Alice (Year 6)

Kindness: Grace (Year 1)

Kindness: Daniel (Year 3)

Honesty: Emma (Year 2)

Honesty: Damilola (Year 4)

Resilience: Lily (Reception)

Resilience: Isabella (Year 5)

“There is a great need in our days for people who know how to make a courageous testimony of the moral values taught by the Gospel.” Pope Francis

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about WHATSAPP

UK AND EUROPE
16+
13+ REST OF THE WORLD

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 dupe 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 sparked 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 admins' 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 'settings' in the chat. Communication from a blocked contact won't show up on their device and stays undelivered. 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 message that looks 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 spam. 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 N Clicks; a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday