



Churchfield C.E. Primary Academy

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Friday 27th February 2026

Next Week

Dates of future events are at the end of the letter

Monday	
Tuesday	Art Club after school with Miss Cornes
Wednesday	
Thursday	World Book Day - dress as favourite book character (or non-uniform)
Friday	Year 2 Library visit Reception - Vision screening Celebration Assembly for invited parents

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back after the half-term break. The week got off to a bit of a difficult start when we found there had been a leak in the Year 4 classroom which had then run through to Hedgehogs below. After a couple of days in the hall, I am pleased that Year 4 are now back in their class. Hedgehogs might take a little longer unfortunately. I am really proud of how well the children managed a few unexpected changes!

This week's online safety poster is at the end of the letter as always. This week is all about WhatsApp and it is well worth a read. Of all the online platforms available this is the one we get most concerns raised about.

Remember - if you need any support with online safety, then please do get in touch with us.

Learning at Churchfield

The Bumblebee Conservation Trust came to work with Dragonflies as part of our exciting opportunity as a school to gain an award to be a bee friendly school, supporting the local bee population to keep the bumble bees buzzing!



Kingfishers and Stags had a brilliant first day back at Hogwarts on Tuesday. They were all sorted in to houses and have already begun to enjoy reading *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. Finally Squirrels have been doing lots of practical maths this week as they start looking at measurements.



If you have anything you would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours Faithfully

Mr G Lloyd
Trust Headteacher

Value of the Month: Justice

When thinking about 'justice', some people think first about giving wrongdoers the punishment they deserve. 'Justice' evokes ideas of 'just deserts', 'the punishment fitting the crime', 'an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth'. However, that would be a one-sided picture of justice. Justice also means giving all people - particularly the poor and oppressed - what it is right and fair for them to have: life, health, freedom and dignity. It is about acting out of a concern for what is right and seeing right prevail. It is about social justice, especially for those who suffer most and are least able to protect themselves.

*The righteous care about justice for the poor
(Proverbs 29:7)*

Upcoming dates

Thursday 19 th March	Parent's meetings (booking is now open)
Thursday 26 th March	Year 5 and 6 trip to Harry Potter Studios
Friday 27 th March	Break up for Easter

WORLD BOOK DAY

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WALK IN THE LIGHT OF THE LORD

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Come dressed as your favourite book character!

Thursday 5th March



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP



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. With 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 in the same space, but this can also make it easier for young people to feel excluded or overwhelmed. Negative comments can escalate quickly, and young people may feel pressure to respond or stay engaged even when the conversation is uncomfortable or upsetting.

SCAMS TARGETING YOUNG USERS

Scammers are increasingly using WhatsApp to trick users into sharing personal information. Common scams include fraudsters posing as family members in an emergency or tricking users into revealing security codes. These can lead to identity theft or access to private conversations.

DISAPPEARING AND HIDDEN MESSAGES

WhatsApp offers features like disappearing messages and 'Chat Lock', which can give users a false sense of security. While intended to protect privacy, they can be used by young users to hide inappropriate conversations or content, making it harder for adults to spot potential issues.

EXPOSURE THROUGH CHANNELS

'Channels' are an optional feature that allows users to follow updates from public figures or organisations; however, there is no way to block this feature or filter its content by age. Young users may encounter adult or distressing content, including misinformation and harmful ideologies.

UNWANTED CONTACT AND LOCATION SHARING

WhatsApp users can share their live location, and if not managed carefully, this can allow others – even those in mutual groups – to track someone's whereabouts. Also, without the right privacy settings, young users may be contacted by strangers.

COMMERCIAL AND AI CONTENT

WhatsApp now includes ads in the 'Updates' feed and has introduced an AI assistant – Meta AI – across the app, which cannot be removed. These additions raise concerns about targeting, privacy, AI use, and the type of content children and young people might interact with.

...ONLINE...

Advice for Parents & Educators

REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Help young users check who can see their profile photo, status, and location. Activate the 'Silence Unknown Callers' setting and set group chat invitations to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...' for added safety.

TEACH HOW TO SPOT SCAMS

Encourage caution around unusual 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. Enable two-step verification to add an extra layer of protection.

BE OPEN ABOUT HIDDEN CHATS

Discuss why children and young people might use features like disappearing messages or 'Chat Lock'. Encourage them to share if something made them uncomfortable, even if the messages are 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 the potential for AI to share inaccurate or age-inappropriate responses. Encourage young users to think critically before trusting or interacting with these features.

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.



See full reference list on our website



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