



# St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

## Newsletter –9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

### [School details](#)

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Head Teacher: Mrs. A. Brogden

### [Our Parish Links](#)

St. Mary's Lea Town, Darkinson Lane and

St. Andrew and Blessed George Haydock, Hoyles Lane Cottam.

[www.standrewscottam.org.uk](http://www.standrewscottam.org.uk)



‘Loved and Inspired by Mary ...

We shine and learn as a family of God’

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We have reached the end of the first half of spring term and we are ready for our half term break.

When we return after half term we will enter the special period of Lent. Your child will already have brought home their Lenten planner. The weekly activity for week one is shared below.



Lenten Mass and Breakfast	Lenten Thursday Activity
22.2.24 – 8.15 Mass followed by Breakfast	Crazy Hair day £1.00 to Dementia UK

## **History Workshop – Class 4 – 5.2.24**

We started off the week with Professor Tuesday and an Islamic Civilisations workshop!



*"It was a very good experience, we all had a very fun time!" Ella Mullarkey*

*"The Professor made us have to use lots of teamwork and she gave us a great experience and a brilliant time!" Tymon Niezgoda*

*"It was a very interactive lesson and was also full of learning. We all loved the end bit where we go to do our actions " Finney Griffiths*

## **6.2.23 - Gymnastics event**

On Tuesday a group of children represented us at the Gymnastics event in Longridge.



*"It was great because I saw how good other people were at Gymnastics and I enjoyed having a go myself"* Maxwell Houlding

*"It was very exciting because we learnt how to do gymnastics!"* Dougie Pye



*"It was very exciting as I got to see lots of people that I knew and I lots of fun- and that is the main part, always have fun!"* Isla Pennington

## **7.2.23- A visit from the Fire Service – Class 2**

On Wednesday Class 2 had a special visit from the Fire Service and learnt about how to keep safe in the event of a fire. The fire service told us...

**‘Get out, Stay out!’**



*“They told us how to keep safe”* Jaymin Modasia

*“It was very fun to listen to the Firemen”* Eli Heslop

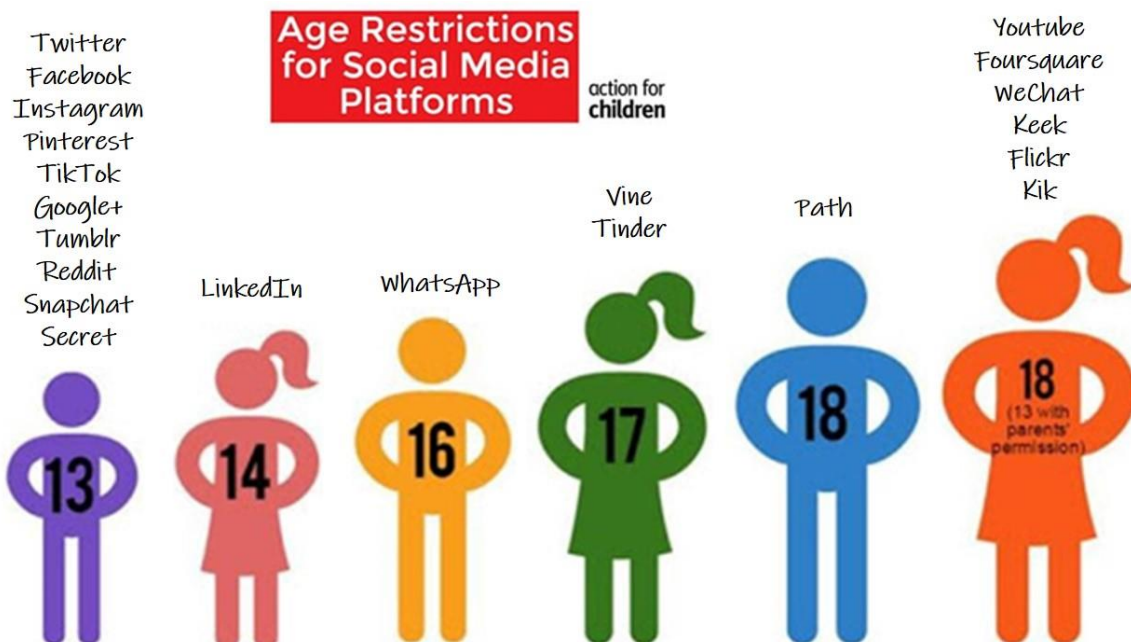
*“They were friendly firemen”* Merry Holmes

## **Safer Internet Day**

This week we had a Safer Internet ‘live’ lesson and discussed ways to stay safe online.

Below you can find some useful links on E- Safety

[https://www.internetmatters.org/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIpIPhxdWbhAMVjz0GAB1fyQAxEAAYASAAEgIqHfD\\_BwE](https://www.internetmatters.org/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIpIPhxdWbhAMVjz0GAB1fyQAxEAAYASAAEgIqHfD_BwE)



[https://www.barnardos.org.uk/blog/online-safety-parents-questions?gclid=aw.ds&gad\\_source=1&gclid=EA1aIQobChMIpIPhxdWbhAMVjz0GAB1fyQAxEAAYAiAAEgLRPD\\_BwE](https://www.barnardos.org.uk/blog/online-safety-parents-questions?gclid=aw.ds&gad_source=1&gclid=EA1aIQobChMIpIPhxdWbhAMVjz0GAB1fyQAxEAAYAiAAEgLRPD_BwE)

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, tips and tips for adults.

## 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.

**UK AND EUROPE 16+ REST OF THE WORLD**

### 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 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

#### 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

Parvyn 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.

**NOS National Online Safety #WakeUpWednesday**

## After School Club and Breakfast Club

New Booking Forms have been issued for Spring Two and are also available on our Website.

Please Note: We are unable to accept/ Secure Bookings without payments – Thank you for your ongoing support.

## **School Meals – Change to Pupil and Staff Charges**

Please note due to increased LCC charges the Cost of a Pupil meal will increase from £2.45 to £2.50 from 19.2.23. Adult meals will also increase by the same percentage.

### **FOSM**

Watch this space.....Beak the rule days may be coming soon!!!!

## **First Holy Communion Preparation**

### Sacramental Preparation

We are really looking forward to meeting the children and starting their preparations. The first session will take place at the Church Annex on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 3.15pm. The first three sessions will focus upon First Reconciliation (First Confession).

The remaining dates are as follows;

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 3:15pm

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 3:15pm – The pupils will make their First Reconciliation which will focus on First Holy Communion. Please could we ask that parents attend this session.

The last three sessions will focus on First Holy Communion

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 3:15pm – 5.15 –Church Annex extended session**

~~**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 3:15pm – Church Annex-canceled session**~~

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 3:15pm – Church Annex

These sessions will start straight after school, we will collect the pupils from school and walk them over to church. At 4:20pm they are to be collected from the annex, the meeting room behind church. The children will be greeted with a drink of juice and biscuits.

Pupils will make their First Holy Communion **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 9.00am Mass St Mary's** followed by Communion Breakfast in the school hall.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to ask. Jackie Fitzpatrick

## **Forest School- Can you help ?**

Mrs. Reid is looking for some sturdy coat hangers to be used for storing Waterproofs/ Puddle suits- making it easier for pupils to identify their own items and making it easier to dry at the end of the session.

If you are able to help we would be very grateful of donations which can be handed into the school office



## **Helping Hands**

With the support of St. Mary's Parish we have created a '*Helping Hands Fund*' - This means we have a stock of tinned food/ non-perishable items and toiletries ...So, if you ever need a little '**Helping Hand**' please just ask and we can gladly put a pack together.

## **Dates for your diary**

09.02.24	- School closes for half term at 3.15 pm
19.2.24	- School re opens at 08.55 am
22.2.24	- Lenten Mass at 8.15
	- Crazy Hair Day

## **Celebrations Awards**

	Faith in Action Award	'EAT' Award Winner Explore, Active, Think creatively	Welfare Award Winner
Class 1	Nevaeh Halton	Maya Harrison	Phoebe Simpson
Class 2	Oliver Lawson	Roisin Moss	
Class 3	Nabila Malek	Maxwell Houlding	Dougie Pye
Class 4	Elliott Reid	Elliott Williams	

*At St. Mary's School we*

"Live our lives as Jesus taught us,  
Work hard together to achieve our best,  
Respect each other and the world around us,  
Have fun and enjoy learning!"



