

# LOSELEY FIELDS

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 2023

## A WORD FROM THE HEADTEACHER

It has been another busy month for us at school and all the children have been working hard showing the most amazing learning attitudes across the school. We have continued to enjoy strengthening links with other organisations this half term to give our children wonderful rich learning experiences. We are grateful to our continued work with the A level students from Guildford High School and The Royal Grammar School who come to school each week to work with our children in Gardening Club as part of the General Studies A Level course. These students are always a pleasure to have at school and are such fantastic role models for our children. Year 6 have also been working with Charterhouse School each week where they go to the school to be immersed in a range of sporting, music and drama activities. Miss Brock has particularly enjoyed leading on the drama experiences in their school theatre! Developing these links across the community, particularly with older students, is really important in our drive to inspire our students with future opportunities that might be available for them. We have also enjoyed continuing to compete in interschool sporting matches at Tillingbourne School. Thank you to Mr Riley in supporting the children to attend these events. He always talks with pride about how well our student represent the school at these matches.

In a world where technology is now a regular part of our children's lives, we are also wanting to put measures into place on how we can support you to keep your young people safe at home when they access social media or live streaming. The children already have a thorough e-Safety curriculum at school through our computing and PSHE lessons but sometimes our children's knowledge extends more rapidly than our own and so it is important that we do all we can to ensure we keep ahead of them where we can. We thought that it might be helpful to share with you some top tips to help keep you well informed.

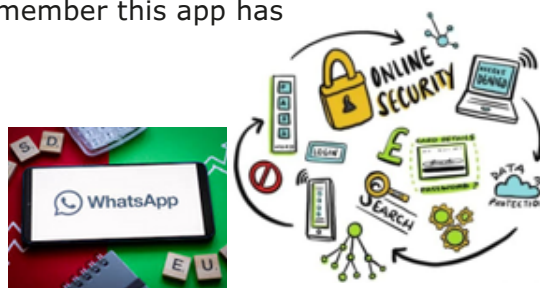
This month we will focus on some parental advice on the use of WhatsApp. Please study the poster over the page to see how you can protect your child: Remember this app has a 16+ age restriction.

More information can be found by following this link:

[https://unity-college.com/safeguarding/national\\_online\\_safety\\_](https://unity-college.com/safeguarding/national_online_safety_)

Enjoy your half term break with your children.

Kind regards,  
Amanda Pedder - Headteacher



## OUR VALUES - PUPIL ACHIEVEMENT



### Special Headteacher Awards for October:

**For INTEGRITY:** Zoe G (Y6) who is new into Loseley but has already made her mark for being such a helpful play leader – she puts herself forward for all opportunities to help others.

**For ASPIRATION:** James C (Y3) adapting well to school life at Loseley as a new student. James is loving learning in school!



**For COMPASSION:** Esme Le-Grys (Y3) also new to Loseley. Esme takes such good care of all the living creatures in our natural world.



Well done everyone!





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## UPCOMING WHOLE SCHOOL EVENTS

31st October - Parents Evening

2nd November - Parents Evening

31st October - 2nd November:  
Bags2School Collection

15th November - Disco

## TERM DATES

4th September - 20th December

Half Term:

23rd October - 27th October

**INSET Day: 30th October**

## FOLLOW US



Loseley Fields  
Primary School



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## MEET THE LEADER: PHILIPPA LEAH

I am Philippa Leah and I am the Reading Leader here at Loseley Fields. One of the projects I have been working on over the last year is spelling –this is often the aspect of writing that children find trickiest. We were keen to build on that in Key Stage 2 and link our spelling teaching to the children's understanding of phonics.

Extensive research shows that children may learn spellings for a weekly test and score well, but they do not apply those spellings in their independent writing. The Sounds & Syllables programme gives the children a strategy for breaking down words into separate syllables at the point of writing, which we knew could overcome this issue.

We introduced the Sounds & Syllables scheme in Key Stage 2 in September this year, after extensive staff training. As always, we would really value your support with this. You can help at home by breaking down the spellings with the children and helping them to recognise the syllables within words. We will post the lists of Common Exception Words on Seesaw so that you can practise these at home too.

There will also be spelling tasks set on the home learning grids, revising those rules that the children have already been taught but are not yet applying in their own writing. I am going to be looking at more ways to raise the profile of spelling within the school over the course of this year, so watch this space for ways you can get involved!

sounds & syllables  
BOOKMARK



say the word clearly in  
your spelling voice



snip into syllables  
draw syllable lines



isolate syllables  
draw sound lines  
write spellings



check spellings  
target tricky parts

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OCTOBER 2023

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, hints and tips for adults.

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION

16+

In UK and Europe,  
rest of the world 13+

...MSG ME...

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With more than two billion active users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. This privacy issue has been in the spotlight recently, as the UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging. WhatsApp is unwilling to do so and has reportedly considered withdrawing its service in the UK should this legislation go ahead.

### EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency'. Plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

### CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user that they want to message. If your child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that your child might be added to a group chat (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people that they don't know.

### FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allows news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a 'Forwarded many times' label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original – and might not be entirely factual, either.

## ONLINE

### 'VIEW ONCE' CONTENT

The facility to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate images or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't re-open them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this 'disappearing' content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing increased privacy.

### CHAT LOCK

Another new option allows users to store certain messages or chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind a passcode, fingerprint or face ID authentication. The risk here is that this function creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content that they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of (such as age-inappropriate material).

### VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child's safety on the way home, for example. However, anyone in your child's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

## Advice for Parents & Carers ...TYPING...

### EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage your child to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider, for example, whether the message sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

### ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change your child's WhatsApp settings (go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups') to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval: you can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...'. Additionally, if your child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

### THINKING BEFORE SHARING

Help your child to understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content to then be shared more widely (even publicly on social media). Encourage your child to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

### CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Some parents like to check in with their child about how they're using WhatsApp, explaining that it will help to keep them safe. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of chats that are in there, who they're with and why your child wants to keep them hidden. Also, if your child has sent any 'view once' content, you could discuss their reasons for using this feature.

### 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.



...HEY OSCAR...



National  
Online  
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://blog.whatsapp.com/on-open-letter> | <https://blog.whatsapp.com/0002883562332> | [https://faq.whatsapp.com/3600968688245/helprefrha\\_faq](https://faq.whatsapp.com/3600968688245/helprefrha_faq) | <https://www.whatsapp.com/security> | <https://blog.whatsapp.com/chat-lock-making-your-most-private-conversations-more-private> | <https://www.ausa.com/learn/whatsapp-scams>



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