



AUTUMN TERM 1 – WEEK 2

Parents/Carers on site

We are always keen to hear from our Parent/Carer community if there is anything we can do to support your learners, or if there is anything specific you would like to discuss. For safeguarding reasons, we cannot have Parents/Carers unaccompanied on site. Therefore, if you would like to speak to a member of staff please email your class teacher. If you would like speak to Mel on reception, then please ring the visitor buzzer or call the office. We would ask that Parents/Carers do not use the learner gate to enter the premises during drop off or pick up.

Phones

In order to keep phones securely, from **Monday** morning, class teachers will be collecting phones on the gate in the morning and storing them securely in boxes in the office. At the end of the day, teachers will collect the boxes and redistribute the phones as the learners are collected. Post 16 learners will be able to use their phones in the common room during lunchtime, as usual.

George's joke of the week!

Our weekly assembly always ends with a joke from George. This week, we thought we'd share it with our readers!

Q: Why couldn't the sailor do the alphabet?

A: He kept getting lost at sea!

Headteacher's Award



This week's Headteacher's Award is given to Charlotte, for a great start to the term and for helping Grace and Jason on the gate in the morning.

Stars of the Week!



Oak - Henry, Benji & Ashley
Larch - Everyone!
Beech - Charlotte & Mala-Ann
Holly - Thomas
Elm - Seth
Hazel - George
Ash - Mae
Lime (Post 16 & Y11) - James

Food Tech

This term our curriculum in Food Tech is focusing on breakfast and brunches. This week, learners in Hazel & Ash made two way breakfast burritos, either grated courgette which was fried in butter then egg and cheese added to make a thin omelette and the other was garlicky tomato scrambled egg, wrapped up in a wrap with sour cream and fresh avocado.

Larch & Oak classes had their first lessons of the term and induction to the Food Tech room and practiced making dippy eggs with toast soldiers. Year 11 learners made home made granola, combined with a combination of nuts and dried fruits. Post 16 learners made smoked salmon scrambled eggs and then went onto practicing their fried and dippy eggs. Classes Elm & Holly made oat crumbed baked fruit, in this recipe learners practiced cutting nectarines and plums into quarters to remove the stones before baking with ground cinnamon, sugar and a sprinkle of oats. Beech class have made a classic egg bread, with a egg and milk mixture that is soaked up with some white tiger loaf and pan fried, served up with fruit, yogurt and runny honey.

Next week Oak and Larch are making breakfast muffins. Beech class are making bacon and egg rolls. Elm & Holly are making variations of porridge. Ash & Hazel are making baked fruit and dippy eggs. Year 11 are making smoked salmon scrambled eggs and Post 16 will be making breakfast pinwheels.



A big well done!

Whilst the majority of us were enjoying an ice cream or some nice air conditioning last weekend, Mae and Jasmine were completing their bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition! This consisted of two days walking and camping overnight. Mae and Jasmine should be very proud of their achievement - we are certainly very proud of them!



School Collection

In order to ensure safe and speedy collection at the end of the day, we would ask that Parents/Carers do not encourage siblings and friends to talk through the railings to the learners. We appreciate your support with this.

A message from Jeremy Bushrod

Congratulations to our brave and hard-working older students!

Many of our students are highly anxious and for this reason (where appropriate), we try to introduce them to GCSE examinations before their final year at School. This gives the youngsters chance to practice the rigours of revision and begin to cope with the worry involved in dealing with the examination room environment at least twelve months before matters become urgent at the end of their School career. Generally, we enter one or two GCSEs to begin with. This year it was Maths and Statistics.

Every child entered dealt with their misgivings and anxieties, not only making it to the exam room but also gaining a grade to give them a first taste of GCSE success. We are extremely proud of them and hope that next year, examinations will seem less traumatic and allow them to build on the grades already achieved. In all, when the results were released in August, 16 pupils had achieved GCSE success in Maths (50% at Grade 4 and above) and 12 students a GCSE in Statistics. Not bad for a small Special School!

Getting

know

to

you!

Let's get to know our
new Deputy
Headteacher Adele!



What's your favourite dinosaur?

asked by Isabel P

Diplodocus

Where have you worked before?

asked by Joe

I came from Orchard Manor School in Dawlish and worked there for 13 years. Before that I worked in mainstream.

Where are you from?

asked by Izak

Brixham in Torbay

What interests do you have?

asked by George

I have a family of two children and a cat and they keep me busy.

What's your favourite type of food?

asked by Joseph

Chinese Takeaway

Where is your dream holiday spot?

asked by Theo

On my bucket list I would love to go to Tokyo to see the cherry blossom, the shopping and food. I would love to travel on the Tokyo Bullet train and see Mount Fuji and go to studio Ghibli.

What's your middle name?

asked by Hannah

That would be telling!

Is there anything else you would like us to know?

I would like to say a massive thank you to all the learners and staff who have made me feel welcome this week. I look forward to getting to know families and the wider community.

Next Week

Please find the schedule for Week 3, including some exciting Outdoor Education trips! This schedule is also available on the website and on the school social media.

AUTUMN 1 - WEEK 3

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Outdoor Ed Oak & Larch (Ness Cove)	Outdoor Ed Holly & Elm (Ness Cove)	Outdoor Ed Beech (Ness Cove)
Food Hazel (Oat crumbed Baked fruit)	Food Year 11/Post 16 (Scrambled Eggs with smoked salmon) Larch (Breakfast Muffins)	Food: Elm (Porridge, date & apple) Ash (Oat crumbed Baked fruit) Oak (Breakfast Muffins)
THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
Outdoor Ed Ash & Hazel (Ness Cove)	Outdoor Ed Year 11 & Post 16 (Ness Cove)	
Food Holly (Porridge, date & apple) Post 16 (Sweet breakfast pinwheels)	Food Beech (Bacon and egg roll)	

Safeguarding

This week, our safeguarding focus is Whatsapp - an app that is increasingly being spoken about in school. We have had multiple discussions with learners this week about whatsapp groups that are featuring inappropriate content. Over the weekend, we would ask all our Parents/Carers to discuss this with their learner and potentially leave any groups that are found to be inappropriate.

If this is something you would like support with then please get in touch with Jane, our Safeguarding Officer.

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 for further guides, hints 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.



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



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 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.

