



# The Edisford Newsletter



Confidence. Persistence. Getting Along. Organisation. Resilience.

February 2025, Spring Term 2



Welcome back to a new half term! We trust you have all had a lovely half term break and are ready for Spring 2! It's lovely to have some sunny weather this week and to see spring flowers beginning to appear.

## Snapshots

Last half term finished with a bang with our fantastic Dance-A-Thon! A huge thank you to Miss Knight for organising the event and to all of you for sponsoring your children to dance, dance, dance!



As part of their geography topic, 'There's No Place Like Home,' Year 6 have conducted two fieldwork trips into Clitheroe town centre. For the first trip, pupils noticed various types of land use and made a note of the different buildings they could see in town e.g. commercial. For the second trip, they conducted a land-use survey interviewing members of the public and asking their opinions on Clitheroe.

## Notices

### Tuck Shop

Our tuck shop is having a huge success! Many thanks to Mrs Colvin and her Endeavour People Skills group for organising this every week. It's becoming a firm favourite with everyone in school! Next tuck shop is on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February for Years 2 to 6.





Year 1 recently had a taste of what school would have been like in Victorian times. When they arrived at school one Monday morning, their classroom had been transformed by Miss Blockeel: single tables, girl/boy separation and chalk/chalkboards... Miss Blockeel and Mrs Halstead looked quite different as Victorian teachers too! Children looked absolutely amazing in their Victorian attire and really embraced this very different way of teaching and learning! They enjoyed exploring a variety of different Victorian toys and games and sorting toys into 'past' and 'present'.

## Out of School Achievements

We recently asked you if you would like to share any achievements and experiences children have had out of school. If you would like to share any out of school news or achievements, please forward these to Mrs Callus for inclusion on our next newsletter. In the meantime, we are thrilled to share these...

Harrison from Year 2 was recently a mascot for Burnley at the Burnley vs Oxford Utd match where Burnley won 1-0 – you certainly were a lucky mascot, Harrison! Well done!



Following her performance on stage at The Grand to a full capacity audience in January, Martha was awarded the superstar performer of 2024 for her discipline of contemporary dance at ReAct Academy. We are so proud of you, Martha!



In November, after 5 years of hard work and commitment, Beau endured a gruelling weekend-long grading to earn his Black Belt in mixed martial arts. Wow! This is amazing, Beau! Well done! We are so proud of you!

Joshua recently joined us and has had a great first week. He can't wait to continue his next chapter with our school. Joshua and his family want to say a massive thank you to everyone for making him feel welcome, especially Zak and Freddie for including him at play times. This is so lovely – welcome to Edisford, Joshua – we are so pleased to have you with us.



Congratulations to Holly, who passed her Primary Grade Contemporary Jazz exam just before half term. This is a wonderful achievement, Holly! We are so proud of you!



### Safer Internet Day

We marked Safer Internet Day on 11<sup>th</sup> February as a whole school. Children in infants learned about keeping themselves safe online with Techosaurus from the NSPCC and children in juniors participated in the BBC Live Teach national internet safety lesson.

We are attaching a Parents Guide to Whatsapp for your information.



## Dates for Your Diary



| Event/Notice                            | When   | Action                                   |
|---|--|--|
| Year 3 World War II Workshop            | Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March                                 | Interactive workshop in the school hall. |
| Year 2 Great Fire of London workshop    | Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March am                             | Interactive workshop in the school hall. |
| World Book Day 2025                     | Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March                               | Information to follow.                   |
| Red Nose Day                            | Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> March                                | Non-uniform day for Comic Relief.        |
| Ribble Valley Swimming Gala             | Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> March                                | At Ribblesdale Pool                      |
| Scholastic Book Fair                    | Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March                             | More details soon.                       |
| Break up for Easter holiday             | Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April at 2pm                          | No After School Club on 4/4/25.          |
| Back to school for Summer 1             | Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April                               |  |
| KS2 SATs Week                           | Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> May to Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> May |  |
| Year 4 Multiplication Times Table Check | Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June to Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> June  |  |
| Year 1 Phonics Screening Week           | Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> June to Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> June  |  |

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION  
13+

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With more than two billion active users, 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. The UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging, but for the time being, this controversial feature remains.

## 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 they want to message. Therefore, if a 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 the child might be added to a group chat or community (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people they don't know.

## FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allow 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.

## CHAT LOCK AND SECRET CODES

In 2023, WhatsApp introduced a feature that lets users keep their chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind their phone's passcode, fingerprint or face ID. There is an additional feature – 'Secret Code' – where users set a unique password for locked chats. Unfortunately, this creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of.

## VIEW ONCE CONTENT

The ability to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate material or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't reopen 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 protection of privacy.

## 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 is safe while out, for example. However, anyone in a user'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 & Educators

### EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider whether it 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 a child's WhatsApp settings 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 a 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.

### CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Check in with the child about how they're using WhatsApp, making sure they know you only have their safety at heart. If you spot a Locked Chats folder, you might want to talk about the sort of content they've stored in there, who they're talking to, and why they want to keep these chats hidden. Also, if children send any View Once content, it could be helpful to ask them why.

### DISCUSS GROUP CHATS

Make children aware that there could be members of a group that they don't know well and that words can be misinterpreted. Encourage them to leave a good impression, to avoid joining in if conversations turn towards bullying, and to respond to such situations in an appropriate way. Make sure they know that it's OK to leave a group chat if it makes them uncomfortable – or for any reason, in fact.

### THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children 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 that a user posts to be shared more widely, even publicly on social media. Encourage children to consider how an impulsive message or forwarding might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

## 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.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College