



Slaley First School



Friday 29th September 2023

Dear Parents,

Thank you to everyone who was able to come along to our Macmillan Coffee Morning today. We had a lovely time and raised £195 for Macmillan Cancer support! Thank you also to everyone who donated cakes, we are very grateful as always. We have had a lovely week including celebrating European Day of Languages on Tuesday with our German themed lunch and Larch Class had a great time at the church this afternoon, finding out all about Christian Baptisms.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs Hayward




OPEN EVENING
FOR PARENTS/CARERS AND CHILDREN
Thursday 5 October 6pm

- A presentation from Mr Atkins (Executive Headteacher) and Mr Watters (Head of School).
- An opportunity to explore our wonderful school and to learn more about life at HMS.
- A chance to speak to school staff and pupils.

No need to book - please just come along. We are looking forward to welcoming you to our school.

OPEN DAY TOURS
Friday 6 October 9.30am and 1.30pm
Please book tours using the online form on our website.

What is happening in the weeks to come?

Monday 2nd October - Children to visit St Mary's Church for a Harvest Festival practise.

Monday 2nd October - (PM) Miss Parr to attend an initial meeting re PSQM (Money raised by parents and children from our Sponsored walk last academic year.)

Wednesday 4th October - 9.30am - Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church - All welcome

Thursday 5th October - Hexham Middle School Open Evening (see details)

Friday 6th October - Rev Savage will be coming along to school to deliver an assembly to the children

Wednesday 11th October - Visit by Students from Sunderland University to deliver a session entitled 'Inside the Doctor's bag' for Larch Class and a 'Skills builder focusing on teamwork, leadership, creativity and leadership skills for Pine and Spruce.

Thursday 19th October - Bikeability (Pine Class) - More details to follow

Friday 20th October - Tropic Skincare fundraising event - Facials, make up demonstrations, product testing. Purchase your ticket here -

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/slaleyfirstschooltropicparty23>

Tuesday 24th October - 3.15pm Pine Class Curriculum Meeting - Come along and find out more about the KS 2 curriculum

Wednesday 25th October - Halloween Buffet

Wednesday 25th October - Halloween Disco (more details to follow)

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Wednesday 6th December - Cake Decorating Evening

Friday 8th December 7pm - Christmas Shopping Night & raffle

Wednesday 13th December (AM) - Christmas Performance

Thursday 14th December (PM) - Christmas Performance

Attendance

Larch Class- 100%

Spruce Class- 100%

Pine Class- 98.8%

Our Menu

Our 'anything goes' menu is beginning to prove a big hit - It is allowing children to try food that they wouldn't otherwise!

Don't Forget it is our Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church on Wednesday. All Parents are welcome. We will begin at 9.30am so please can everyone be seated by then. We will also be taking all of the children up to the church on Monday morning to practise.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
16+

In UK and Europe,
rest of the world 13+

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.

...MSG ME...

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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 safely 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 several 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/faq-open-letter> | <https://faq.whatsapp.com/10101883962332> | https://faq.whatsapp.com/361091898189245?helpref=faq_faq | <https://www.whatsapp.com/security> | <https://blog.whatsapp.com/chat-lock-making-your-most-private-conversations-private> | <https://www.csa.gov.au/learn/whatsapp-scams>



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