



**Which Week?**

**This Week: Monday 11th March (Week 1)**  
*Week After: Monday 18th March (Week 2)*

# Inside Kingshurst



## World (Book Day) of Fun!

Last Thursday saw the TGAK staff fully commit to World Book Day! With the stimulus of Roald Dahl as a starting point, each faculty took a book of their choice as inspiration for their own area and to build their costumes around.

The ebb and flow of a normal day was therefore somewhat different as you bumped into Fantastic

Mr Fox in the corridor, a 'Giant Peach' at the photocopier or indeed Miss Trunchbull at Student Services!!!

As ever, the students were on great form in accepting this change to the norm, were generous in the comments to staff in letting them know how good their costumes were and for playing their own part in taking part in a reading session specially centred around World Book Day during the morning reading session.

Students will have come away with their book voucher for them to use at a book shop/retailer and staff have already started thinking about what their costumes might look like next year! Further details about World Book Day and the books that be exchanged for their voucher (and from where) can all be found via the following link: <https://www.worldbookday.com/>

### Parental Feedback Opportunity

As we move into a new month, we would like to once again, ask for your support in offering the opportunity to provide us with your valuable feedback based upon your experiences from the previous month.

**The survey is very quick and easy to complete, should take no more than 2 minutes and can be accessed via the hyperlink below:**

[\*\*CLICK TO COMPLETE THE PARENTAL SURVEY\*\*](#)

### Enhancing the Student Experience Focus Group



To all of our Parents and Carers who would like to express an interest in joining a focus group that is similarly aligned to supporting our desire to continue to enhance the student experience within the Academy please complete the following short form. [\*\*CLICK HERE TO GO TO THE FORM\*\*](#)

### Upcoming Key Date

**Year 9 Parent's Evening:**  
*Wednesday 20th March, 4-7pm*



During Tuesday afternoon last week, Mr Shaylor took our students to the regional indoor rowing event at Fordbridge Primary School. As ever, the team represented both themselves and the Academy brilliantly and demonstrated an extremely promising ability within the activity, with the Year 7 Girls being awarded the Bronze position for the event and our Year Girls going on better with the Silver!

We would like to congratulate all of the girls who took, who were: N Ashley, S Francis-Sterling, E Henn, A Thomas, A Solomon, C-M Donovan, V Nassiah, T Berry-Gates and M Onions.

### National Online Safety: WhatsApp



WhatsApp is the most widely used messaging platform on the planet, with over two billion users (forecast to become three billion by 2025), across more than 180 countries. The majority of those people (70%) open the app at least once a day – but what exactly are they seeing? Contact from strangers, fake news and convincing scams are all among the service's well-documented hazards.

According to Ofcom, WhatsApp is used by more than half of 3- to 17-year-olds in the UK (including one in three from the 8–11 bracket), despite its 16+ age restriction. If your child hops onto WhatsApp to stay in touch with friends or family, the guide on page 2 contains the key details you'll need to use this safely and provide tips such as offering to help others, share positive posts and thinking before you comment.

# 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.

## 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.

## 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.



Source: <https://blog.whatsapp.com/an-open-letter> | <https://faq.whatsapp.com/102708839582332> | [https://faq.whatsapp.com/36005896189245?helpref=hc\\_fna](https://faq.whatsapp.com/36005896189245?helpref=hc_fna) | <https://www.whatsapp.com/security> | <https://blog.whatsapp.com/chat-lock-making-your-most-intimate-conversations-even-more-private> | <https://www.aura.com/learn/whatsapp-scams>

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...

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## 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.

...HEY OSCAR...



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday