



Monday Memo Newsletter

Monday 24th February 2025

Toast Money

From Summer Term w/b 22nd April, we will be moving to a cashless system for toast. As with all other payments, this will be made available on School Money for the half term.

Unlike dinners and club bookings, the payments will close once the term starts so the kitchen can be given the register of those children having toast.



Diary Dates

Wednesday 26th February Y5 Bounce Forward	Friday 28th February French Day	Tuesday 4th March Reception Class Trip	Thursday 6th March World Book Day
Friday 7th March Year 5 Reading Breakfast 09:05am	Tuesday 11th March Key Stage 2 Dance Competition	Wednesday 12th March Reception and Year 6 Heights and Weights	Thursday 13th March Year 5 Worship 09:05am Year 5 and Year 6 Swimming Gala Let's Go Sing at Blackpool Winter Gardens
Monday 31st March Autism Awareness Week	Tuesday 1st April Parents' Evening 3:30-6:30pm	Wednesday 2nd April Parents' Evening 3:30-6:30pm	Monday 7th April End of term awards
Wednesday 9th April School Closes for Easter Half Term 2:00pm from Church			

Worship Values

Our worship value this half term is Hope.

In the weekly Celebration Assembly, we will celebrate 1 pupil from each class who has shown the term's value.

This term we will celebrate our 'Hope Hero'



Parish News & Events

Warm Space (coffee and bacon butties) Tuesdays 09:00am-11:30am

Supported by members of our Children's Chaplain from 10:00-10:30am



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 2022, 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

Calling all go-getters.

Are you ready to try something new?

scouts.org.uk/join

#SkillsForLife

Did you know 1st Farington Scout Group has been inspiring young minds for over 50 years? We're proud to celebrate this incredible milestone, but we need your help to ensure the adventure continues for future generations! Scouting is about fun, friendship, and new experiences—from building dens and campfires to learning teamwork and life skills. It's a chance for boys and girls to grow their confidence, explore the outdoors, and make memories that last a lifetime. We're actively welcoming new members from all age groups to join our local scouting family. Whether your child dreams of trying new activities, making friends, or just having a great time outside of school, 1st Farington Scout Group is the perfect place to start! Come and be part of our history keep the spirit of scouting alive in our community for another 50 years!

When

1st Farington Scout Group meet every Monday and Wednesday

Beavers (6-8yrs) meet Wednesday - 18:15 to 19:15

Cubs (8-10½yrs) meet Monday - 18:30 to 19:45

Scouts (10½-14yrs) meet Monday - 19:45 to 21:15

Where

St Paul's Church Hall, Church Lane, Farington Moss, PR26 6RD

Contact

Contact Karen Bell on karenbell60@hotmail.com



bonjour

FRENCH DAY

FRIDAY 28TH FEBRUARY

CHILDREN INVITED TO WEAR RED, WHITE
AND BLUE

OPTION OF A FRENCH THEMED LUNCH
(NORMAL LUNCHES ALSO AVAILABLE)

FRENCH BAKERY OPEN
50P CASH DONATION

