

Dear Parents and Carers,

## New Term

Welcome back to all our children and wider Rectory Farm community after a much needed break. The children have come back full of energy and hit the ground running.

On Tuesday, we welcomed the children back with the value that we are going to focus on in school this half term: **communication**. This was all about considering how we communicate with adults and our friends, especially when we are finding something difficult. We discussed tone, body language and facial expressions as other tools that can help us communicate. The children will be voting every week for someone in their class who has shown great communication skills.

Thank you to our year 4 parents who have come to their Parents' Evening this week—we appreciate your flexibility and supporting us with this. It was a positive event and Miss Badoi really enjoyed celebrating your child's learning with you.

With Remembrance Day coming up, poppies will be sold every morning and after school on the play-ground. They will also be available in the office.

## Debate Team

Eight of our children from years 4, 5 and 6 went to the University of Northampton on Tuesday as part of their school engagement programme. They have formed our first ever Rectory Farm debate team, and went along to learn all the skills needed to be great debaters. They had a go against another school and did a fantastic job.

In January, they will return to compete for the Cicero Cup so we will keep you updated on their progress. Well done to all the children for showing our value of courage, and thank you Miss Bick for taking them.



## Curriculum

**Year 4** — This week, year 4 have been looking at a story about the astronauts that are stuck in space. We have been discussing their thoughts and feelings and had a chance to show our ideas through drama. The children really enjoyed using still images and thought tracking. They also liked using props like chairs to portray the rocket moving into space!

**Year 6** — Year 6 have started their Geography topic: 'Where is Africa and what is it like?'. We had a fantastic lesson where they shared their perceptions of Africa and then found out if they were true. The children were very excited to challenge their thinking and are really looking forward to learning more about the continent!

# Online Home

**Spelling Shed** 


**1<sup>st</sup>: Beech**  Jayden – Year 5


**2<sup>nd</sup>: Sycamore**  Enessan – Year 6


**2<sup>nd</sup>: Sycamore**  Enessa – Year 3

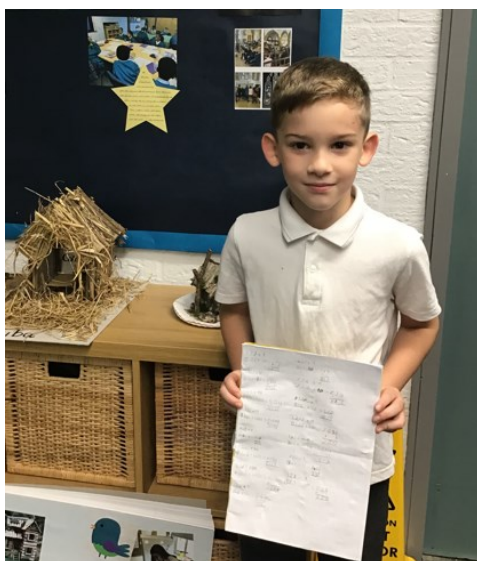
**1<sup>st</sup>: Beech**  Sharon (5) – Super Star Collector

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Maple**  Abhimanyu (1) – Most coins

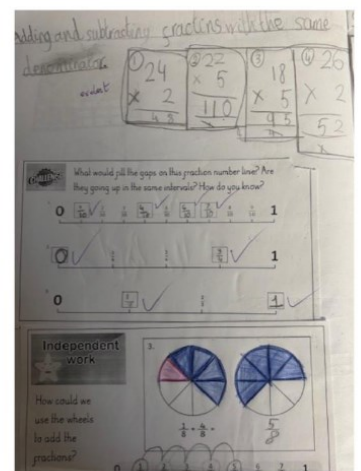
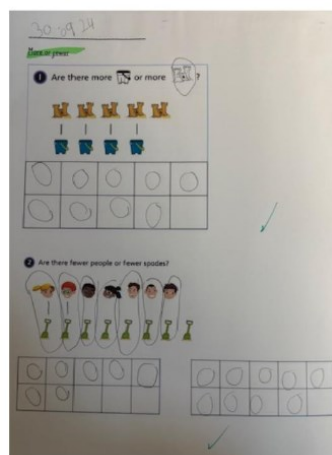
**1<sup>st</sup>: Maple**  Elliot (2) – Most minutes

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Willow**  Matas (3) – Most coins

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Willow**  Elora (2) – Most correct answers



Charlie in year 4 was so inspired by his Maths lessons, he did extra at home! They have been learning about adding and subtracting 9, 99 and 999. Charlie has done really well in recognising the pattern!



Miss Bick set year 3 challenge! They were put into groups and given scissors, glue, a box and a roll of tinfoil and we had to create our very own IRON MAN!! Whilst doing this, they were thinking about and creating expanded noun phrases to describe the Iron Man.

Year 3 have also been flexing their Maths muscles this week, with this fantastic fraction work. Miss Bick and Miss Harman are so proud of you!

## Dates for your Diary

Date	Year Group	Event
11th October 2024	6	Remembrance Assembly
13th October 2024	30 children from year 4, 5 and 6	Fun Run
14th—18th October 2024	All	Book Fayre

## Messages from Mrs Llewelyn (our Family Support Worker and DSL)



Hello parents/carers,

**Fearless** is a dedicated youth service from independent charity Crimestoppers, it provides young people with the opportunity to give information about crime 100% anonymously. Visit [crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless](https://crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless)

Many thanks, Sam

If coming into school on foot, please use the path and do not cross over the car park. This is to make sure we keep everyone safe. Thank you!



*Miss Walker-Collins —Acting Deputy Headteacher*

*Mrs. Williams—Executive Headteacher*

*Friday 8th November 2024*

School Contact details: Tel – 01604 4011820

...MSG ME...

## 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 that 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 that they don't know.

### CHAT LOCK

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 authentication. They subsequently developed an additional feature – 'Secret Code' – where users set a unique password for their locked chats. Unfortunately, this function creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of (such as age-inappropriate material).

### COMMUNITIES AND GROUPS

A community is a collection of related groups on WhatsApp. They can consist of thousands of users. Communities can often be used by scammers to target large groups, hoping someone clicks on their link or responds to their requests. In communities and groups, there are multiple ongoing conversations, which results in pressure to respond. Members – even if they are not each other's contacts – will be able to see any messages sent into the group.

### '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 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 protection of privacy.

### 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.

### 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

YPING...

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.



...HEY  
OS  
WakeUp  
Wednesday

The  
National  
College