

# St Martin's Newsletter



AUTUMN TERM - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September

## Free School Meals & Vouchers

If your circumstances have changed and you think you may be entitled to **Free School Meals** we advise all parents to complete the online application form – If your child receives universal free school meals in KS1 you **will not** receive vouchers during the school holidays unless you have applied

<https://cyp.halton.gov.uk/Synergy/Live/SynergyWeb/Parents/default.aspx>



## Well done to everyone who got a certificate this week.

Purple Tie certificates are given for children who embody our rules of being Kind Respectful and Responsible.

**Year R – Fraser H**

**Amelia-Rose R**

**Year 1 – Jimmy O & Emmanuel I Kingsley N**

**Year 2 – Abigael M & Dougie S Elsie C**

**Year 3 – Cathryn J & Tyler R Tyler R**

**Year 4 – Ewan W & Sophia MP Ella C**

**Year 5 – Isaac H & Freya F Olivia S**

**Year 6 – Rosabella R & Jayden H Ivan W**

## Parent Governors

I am **pleased** to announce that we have four new governors joining our board this academic year.

Thank you to **Vikki Shepherd**, who remains a parent governor for another term and **Thomas Smith** who joins her as a new to role parent governor.

**Jodie Webster** is joining as a foundation governor and **Mrs Monks** is now the staff governor. I know their support will help us to continue developing our school.

## 100% Attendance Reward

**Congratulations** to YR who have achieved **100%** attendance again. They will be rewarded next week.

## Talk Halton

Halton are focussing on developing children's speech, language and communication skills across the borough and have developed a communication

[hub<https://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/EducationandFamilies/FamiliesInformationService/talkhalton/talkhalton.aspx](https://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/EducationandFamilies/FamiliesInformationService/talkhalton/talkhalton.aspx) to support parents and families in doing this.

## Inset Day

There is an **INSET day** on **FRIDAY 29th SEPTEMBER** and therefore school will be **closed** to pupils. School will be open as usual on Monday 2nd October.

## Attendance

**Year R - 100% 3 Lates**

**Year 1 - 95% 8 Lates**

**Year 2 - 87%**

**Year 3 - 92% 3 Lates**

**Year 4 - 97%**

**Year 5 - 97% 7 Lates**

**Year 6 - 96% 8 Lates**

5 classes with less than 10 lates 😊

**\*Well done to year 1, this weeks Dojo Champs\***

Anyone who comes into school after 8:50am is marked as late. Please try to be an attendance



## Competition

**Congratulations** to **Florence** in Y5 who created the winning design for **Mrs Crew's** running shirt in October. **Jessica** also in Y5 came a very close runner up. **Well done** to you both.

## Mrs Connolly

**Thank you** to you all for being so supportive this week. Your kind words and gestures have been appreciated. Some have asked regarding donations, staff are planning something and details will be sent out soon.

## Parent Survey

Just a reminder to please complete the parent survey on school spider before **Monday 25th September** if you want to share your views about the school.

## Online Safety

This week's safety advice is about WhatsApp and is below.

## MacMilan Coffee Morning

The **school council** hosted the coffee morning today in support of **MacMillan Cancer** support. Thank you to everyone who made this a success by donating cakes and coming this morning. We raised a fantastic **£159.83** so far for this worthwhile cause. We have cakes left for the staff and children to purchase this afternoon and we will update you with the total raised next week.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about WHATSAPP

**...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.

**AGE RESTRICTION**  
**16+**  
in UK and Europe; rest of the world 13+

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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 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 OSCAR...**

**NOS National Online Safety®**  
#WakeUpWednesday

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