

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted that this week we have launched 'Boom Reader' to support you reading with your child at home and to streamline our communications about this. It is a new system for all of us so please stick with it if there are any teething problems. Supporting your child/ren to read at home everyday is the most important thing you can do to support their learning and we are continuing to develop the children's self-identities of "We are Readers".

There are two important reminders I would like to share this week:

- The school is continuing to work extremely hard to ensure our overall school attendance improves and that as long as children are not sick, they are in school—on time—everyday. Linked to this, as per Government guidance, the school will not authorise any holidays, during term time, for any reason.
- The school receives additional funding—called Pupil Premium Funding—to support children who come from families where the household income is quite low. This money is then spent on things like extra staff to support with learning, additional resources like new Ipads and to subsidise trips so that everyone can attend. If your household income changes for any reason (even if just for a week), we ask that you complete the Free School Meals form as we may then be able to claim this extra money for the school.

Regards, Ms Alison Helm: Headteacher



Dates for the Diary

March

- ♦ **Weds 13th March:** Class photo day: please send children in with full uniform on.
- ♦ **Friday 15th March:** We Are Ellacombe Scientists— Parents invited in.

EYFS -> Yr 3 9.00—9.45 and Yrs 4-> 6, 2.00—2.45

W.c 18th March: Last week of After School Club Programme for Spring Term

- ♦ *Tues 26th March/Weds 27th March:* Parents' evenings. Please 'save the date' so that all children can have an adult come in and see their learning.

Thurs 28th March: EYFS -> Year 2 Easter Bonnet Parade (9.00—9.45am) **Parents welcome to join us in the playground.**

Years 3—> 6, 1.45—2.30pm Easter Service at St Mags. **Parents welcome to join us in the church for this service.**

- ♦ **Thurs 28th March, 3pm: Finish for Easter**

After School Club and Breakfast Club

We have some spaces in our daily breakfast club (from 8am) and our after school club (until 6pm). These provisions are in place to support parents who are working or to ensure all children are in school, on time, every morning. Please contact the school office if you would like your child to start attending. Please note, they do not have to attend every day although we do need parents to have booked places in advance to ensure we have enough staff available to supervise.



We are Scientists: Friday 15th March

Please come and join us next Friday for the end of our We are Ellacombe Scientists week. We are planning on spending all afternoons of next week undertaking different science experiments and we would love to be able to share our learning with you.

The timings for parents are:

EYFS -> Year 3 9.00am—9.45am

(Entrance through the Cloud gate for EYFS and through the main office for Years 1-3).

Years 4 - 6 2.00—2.45pm

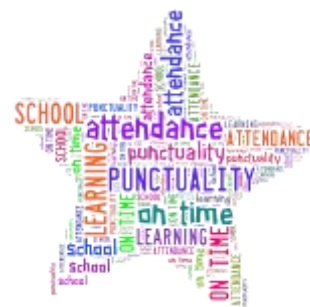
(Entrance through the hall for Years 4 and the main gate for Years 5 and 6).

Please note, children will still have their PE/ swimming lessons next week.

Attendance Awards

We are working really hard to make sure all our pupils are in school, every day and on time. Obviously we all get sick, every now and then, but if we are well, we need to be in school!

Well done to
**Dolphins, Little
Horses and Hunters**
classes for excellent
attendance this
week.



CLASS ATTENDANCE	HOUSE ATTENDANCE
ATTENDANCE	ATTENDANCE
Little Bears: 88.65%	Christie House 93.48%
Little Lions: 88.6%	ATTENDANCE
Little Foxes: 90.73%	Darwin House 91.47%
Little Tigers: 94.8%	ATTENDANCE
Unicorns: 90.38%	Kinglsey House 94.86%
Dolphins: 98.67%	ATTENDANCE
Little Horses: 98.33%	Singer House 92.97%
Eagles: 93.91%	
Swans: 84.65%	
Herdsmen: 90.45%	
Heroes: 95.83%	
Hunters: 97.14%	
Warriors: 96.43%	
The winner is ... DOLPHINS!	The winners are ... KINGSLEY

Stars of the Week

Little Stars: Florence she is always smiling and happy to help her friends when asked.

Little Bears: Lola for fantastic talking and using new words during morning group!

Little Lions: Charlie for trying in phonics.

Little Foxes: Bonnie- for being an absolute superstar within all subjects, but this week we have really noticed your improved confidence. Keep it up!

Unicorns: Lillian - for her amazing attitude towards her learning

Little Tigers: Kaiden- for always working incredibly hard in lessons and demonstrating the Ellacombe values around the school.

Dolphins: Zaayan for his independent work in maths ordering fractions.

Little Horses: Isabella- for her focus and determination in all her learning!

Eagles: Alivia for independently extending her work and always pushing herself to exceed expectations

Swans: Tiarna for excellent effort in class and behaviour around the school

Heroes: Luca W for his perseverance in his swimming lessons.

Herdsmen: Lorenz- for always working hard in lessons and persevering with his learning!

Hunters: Gabby for being a fantastic friend and for always giving things a go even when they are challenging.

Warriors: Ollie for working incredibly hard!

Year 4 Residential at Heatree

Some of our Year 4 children were lucky enough to attend their residential last week, along with our partner school, All Saints March, up on Dartmoor. They had a great time exploring the outdoors and undertook lots of exciting activities along with becoming more independent by leaving away from home for a couple of days. We are aware that these trips are quite expensive and we are thinking about creative ways to ensure that all children are able to experience outdoors and adventurous activities during their time at Ellacombe.





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 for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WHATSAPP

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+

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 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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