

HAWBUSH NEWS

Diary Dates

February

- 10th Chinese New Year Lunch menu
- 13th Transition Road safety training Year 6
- 16th Half term
- 23rd children return to school
- 25th Parents Evening

March

- 6th Sparks Workshop Year 4
- 12th Professor McGinty Year 3
- 16th Class Photos
- 16th Book fair arrives
- 24th Think Tank Year 5
- 30th Easter Holidays



Jewellery & watches



The school policy does not allow pupils to wear jewellery to school, with the exception of one pair of stud earrings and a watch.

Although pupils are allowed to wear stud earrings, they can be dangerous in a school situation and the school will not be held responsible for any injury caused as a direct result of a child wearing them or for the loss of the jewellery.

For days when children have PE or swimming they should not have their earrings in, so can they please be removed.

If children come to school with their earrings in, then its up to them to remove them.





Congratulations To Mrs Young

Mrs Young our school catering
manager got 5 star results
from EHO for the school
kitchen.

Well done!



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

On messaging apps, social media and online games, group chats are one of the most popular ways that children connect. Group chats allow messages, images and videos to be shared in one place and help friendships flourish; however, they also come with a number of risks.

TEASING AND BULLYING

Children of all ages are keen to fit in socially, and group chats can sometimes complicate that process. While group chats can foster connection, they can also give way to mean comments or jokes at someone's expense, especially when others join in for laughs. When bullying happens publicly, in front of friends and classmates, it can intensify the emotional impact – adding to embarrassment, anxiety and feelings of isolation for the child being targeted.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Children often can't control who is added to a group, which can lead to privacy concerns. Sharing personal details in group chats can be dangerous, and children have no control over what others do with the material they send. Some members of the chat might even decide to use such information maliciously.

PEER PRESSURE

Children may feel they have to constantly stay engaged just to be included and keep up with the conversation. In some cases, they might partake in inappropriate behaviours – like sharing explicit photos, jokes or teasing – just to fit in. Group settings can also encourage children to act in ways they normally wouldn't, or stay silent when they know something is wrong, out of fear of being excluded. Some children may find it difficult to leave toxic group chats.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some group chats may include inappropriate language or imagery. Even if a child isn't actively participating in the conversation, they may still be exposed to this content simply by being part of the group. Some apps have disappearing messaging features, where content is only available once or for a few seconds, which makes it harder for children to report something they've seen.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

Exclusion in group chats is common and can take several forms. Sometimes a new group is created specifically to leave one child out on purpose. In other cases, the chat may happen on an app that a child doesn't have access to, making it impossible for them to join in. This can cause feelings of being left out – even unintentionally.

VIDEO AND LIVE CHATS

Many popular apps allow children to engage in live streaming with interactive chats or have group video chats. Anyone can be added to these streams, and often children tag peers in the comments and have conversations which are unmoderated. There's a risk of being exposed to inappropriate or violent content and offensive language, either in the group videos or via the group chats.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats can become an arena for children to compete for social status. Help children consider how people might feel if they behave unkindly. If a child does upset someone, encourage them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Group chats are an excellent way for children to connect and feel like they belong. However, remind them that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded. Instead of responding to the person who's upset them, validate their feelings and empower them by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. You can also encourage children to speak up if they witness others being bullied.

SET SOME GROUP CHAT RULES

Discuss safe group chat practices, such as asking a peer for consent before adding them to a group chat, or leaving a group chat if a stranger is added. Tell children that if they're added to a group they didn't agree to beforehand, it's OK for them to leave immediately.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

It's vital for children to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Ensure they understand the importance of not revealing personal details – like their address, their school, or photos they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they can't be certain where it might end up or how it might be used.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If a child encounters inappropriate content or feels uncomfortable in a group chat, encourage them to block and report the sender and leave the group. Make sure children know it's OK to leave a group chat if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Being bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be an irritating distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to children that they can still be part of a group chat while disabling notifications. In fact, it would be healthier for them to do so, helping them avoid the pressure to respond immediately.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BCyberAware, who has developed anti-bullying and cyber-safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government, comparing the internet use and online behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

WhatsApp is a free messaging service owned by Meta which allows users to send text and voice messages, make video calls, share multimedia – such as images, videos, documents and polls – and have group chats. WhatsApp messages are encrypted, meaning only the sender and the recipient can view what is sent. While this privacy may sound attractive on paper, this app comes with several associated risks that must be considered – especially for younger users.

GROUP CHATS

Group chats let friends talk together but can pose problems for young users. They might feel excluded – like discovering events they weren't invited to. Hurtful comments can also escalate quickly, as more people join in, amplifying the impact through a wider audience.

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it attractive to scammers. Tactics include impersonating a child in an 'emergency' to request money, or triggering a login code, then pretending to be WhatsApp and asking for it – giving them access to private messages and personal data.

CHANNELS

'Channels' let users follow topics anonymously, interacting only through polls or emoji reactions. However, fake channels can mimic real ones, spreading misinformation, hate speech, or phishing for personal data. WhatsApp may also collect and share channel-following info with third parties, raising privacy issues.

DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Disappearing messages help share sensitive info, but young people may wrongly assume they're fully private. Senders can opt for their message to vanish after 24 hours, 7 days, or 90 days – or for media, after one view. However, recipients can still save them by bookmarking or taking screenshots, reducing their privacy.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's simplicity makes sharing news quick – accurate or not. To help curb misinformation, messages forwarded over five times now show a 'forwarded many times' label with a double arrow. This alerts users that the message isn't original and may be unreliable.

CHAT LOCK

The new 'Chat lock' feature lets users store specific messages in a separate passcode- or biometrically-protected folder. While useful for privacy, it could be misused by younger users to hide conversations or content they know parents and educators might find inappropriate, including age-restricted material.

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature helps friends meet up or parents check a child's route home. However, anyone in a child's group chats can track their location, potentially revealing their home address or regular travel patterns to strangers.

AI INTEGRATION

Meta AI on WhatsApp poses risks to children, including exposure to misinformation, inappropriate content, and data privacy issues. AI responses may be inaccurate, and kids might share personal information unknowingly. It can also hinder critical thinking by offering ready-made answers.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution. Get them to consider, for example, 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. To do this, go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups'. You can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...'. Additionally, if the 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.



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 sent to one user to then be shared more widely, and even publicly on social media. Encourage them 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

Have a conversation with youngsters about how they're using WhatsApp, emphasising that it's for their own safety. If you spot a 'locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of messages that are in there, who they're with and why they have been hidden. Also, if a young user has sent any 'view once' content, discuss their reasons for using this feature.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



The Goodwill Revolution Be the Change

A brand new community organisation set up to help those who 'fall through the cracks' in the Black Country.



louise@thegoodwillrevolution.co.uk



www.thegoodwillrevolution.co.uk

WHO WE ARE

- ✓ A volunteer-led organisation that has set up to pay kindness forward. We're from the Black Country, for the Black Country.
- ✓ We want to give something back to our local community and help those facing a time of crisis, adversity or hardship through no fault of their own.
- ✓ Only accept referrals from trusted sources: those who work closely with members of our community.
- ✓ We ask donors to donate just £1 a week in our mission to create a community of collective kindness.

WHAT WE DO

- ✓ We receive referrals through from trusted sources, who are aware that an individual/family is facing a really tough time.
- ✓ The referring agencies may have tried other sources of support and been unsuccessful so we aim to help those who really need it.
- ✓ Our support is bespoke to each individual case and is dependent on funds available. See some examples here:

Follow us on:



EXAMPLES OF INDIVIDUALS/FAMILIES WE MAY SUPPORT:

-  Supporting families/individuals who have escaped domestic violence (e.g. if they are in need of essential furniture/appliances once they have relocated)
-  Supporting families who have suffered a sudden bereavement (perhaps with counselling sessions/support with household budget such as supermarket vouchers/childcare costs etc.)
-  Supporting families/individuals who have lost everything following a fire at home, which the insurance doesn't cover.
-  Supporting individuals/families following the diagnosis of an ongoing health condition which renders them unable to work

Sandwell Deaf Community Association

What's on in February.



= Happy =
Pancake
Day!



11th & 25th

10am - 12 noon

**Hard of Hearing
Group**

West Bromwich
Community Centre

25th

5pm - 7pm

**Cochlear Implant
group - Adult 18+**

West Bromwich
Community Centre

5th, 12th,

19th, & 26th

**10am - 1.30pm
Social Club
(Bingo)**

West Bromwich
Community Centre

6th & 20th

5pm - 7pm

Deaf71

6th - West Bromwich
Community Centre

20th - Venue to be
confirmed.

4th

10am - 12 noon

**Coffee
Morning**

Unity Brew Community
Cafe, Tipton.

11th

2pm to 4pm

Health Group

West Bromwich
Community Centre

19th

5pm - 7pm

**Cochlear Implant
group -**

Children 8-11 years

Remotely - TBC further
information will be
provided in due course

18th

1pm to 3pm

**Deafblind
group**

West Bromwich
Community Centre

2nd, 9th &

23rd

5pm to 7pm

Youth Club

Dorothy Parkes Centre,
Smethwick.

@deaf.sandwell

@sandwelldeafcom

sandwelldeafcommunity

SDCA Wellbeing
Service Channel



For more information, please email
craig_pothecary@sdca.co.uk
or Text / WhatsApp / FaceTime:
07791 921011

HEALTH
SANDWELL

SANDWELL BETTER
MENTAL HEALTH
See us on health for all



February Half Term at DZC

14th - 22nd February

We've got your visit covered this half term with our kids go free offer!*

[Pre- book tickets now](#)

**Up to two children (aged 3 - 15) can gain free admission with every full-paying adult. Only valid on pre-booked tickets from our website. Apart from the free return for the full-paying adult only, this promotion is not valid in conjunction with any other offer, promotion or voucher.*

What's on...

Join us as we celebrate perfect animal pairs.

Learn all about the animal couples we have here at DZC and discover how we play "match-maker" through international breeding programmes to support wildlife conservation.



Perfect pairs

You could win a special one-off adoption of Asiatic lions, Kirana and Keshari, by matching some of our iconic couples around the 40-acre site.

Make sure you pick up a trail sheet at the entrance to take part.

Match-maker lab

Come and discover how we find the perfect match for the animals here at DZC.

Head to the Discovery Centre between 11am-2pm and step in to the shoes of scientists to discover how breeding programmes work and the genetic science behind it by taking part in hands-on activities.



Animal talks

Learn more about some of our amazing animal couples and hear how they've been perfectly matched in a breeding programme during our Presenter-led daily talks.



Share the love this Valentine's Weekend

Bring a loved one for free on Saturday 14th February and Sunday 15th February*.

**Tickets must be pre-booked in advance on our website, with the special entry ticket at the bottom of the option list. This ticket offer is not valid in conjunction with any other offer or promotion currently running.*

Book your tickets now!



Funds for Flamingos

We're incredibly grateful for all the love you've shown us as we revealed the damage Storm Goretta left in its wake, particularly with the destruction to Flamingo Falls, which will need completely re-building. We've launched a Justgiving page for anyone who can help. Thank you in advance for your support.

[Find our Justgiving page here](#)



Grab your very own Flamingo soft toy

Throughout half term, we're donating all profits from the sales of flamingo soft toys purchased from the Safari Shop to our Flamingo Falls rebuild.

Why not check out our pretty pink display and choose a new friend to take home!

Thank you for support

Your support helps us care for the animals at DZC. It also helps to aid conservation projects here at the zoo and around the world.

[Discover more](#)





**HAVE A
FABULOUS
HALF TERM
HOLIDAY!**

