



# Sea Mills Primary Newsletter

## 8th December 2025



Dear Families

The countdown to Christmas is truly underway! Come along to the Christmas Fayre on Wednesday at 3:30 and I strongly recommend you buy some raffle tickets as there are some great prizes. Last week, the Reception Nativity was a wonderful start to the season - a massive well done to both the children and staff team. The children spoke and sang with confidence, looked great in their costumes and everyone enjoyed the little extra impromptu dances and announcements! We are now looking forward to the Key Stage 1 show!

Last week, all of the children took part in lessons introducing them to The Leaf Trust. They came up with lots of questions for the CEO who is going to answer them personally (we will find out his favourite ice cream and colour!). We are looking forward to joining the trust properly at the start of January to continue the great work that has already been started.

Wishing you a great week, with warmest best wishes

Andrew Kinnear

## Key Dates

Calendar dates for the year ahead can be found here:

[Diary - Sea Mills Primary School](#)

|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| December | <b>10th - PTFA Xmas Fair 3:30 - 4:30pm</b><br>11th - Christmas workshops with Year 1 & 2 (with St Edyths)<br>16th - Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance 9:15am<br>16th - Christmas workshops with Key Stage 2 (with St Edyths)<br>17th - Christmas dinner - wear your Christmas jumper to school<br>17th - 2yo nursery graduation<br>18th - Year 3 trip to the Roman Baths<br>18th - Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance 2pm<br>19th - Last day of school |
| January  | 5th - INSET<br>6th - First day of school for the children<br>8th - Year 3 and 4 swimming sessions start<br>21st - Careers Day                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

# Notices

## Surgery Parking

A request from Sea Mills Surgery not to park in their car park for pick up/drop off even if you are a registered patient. It has meant there is not space for visiting patients, some of whom have significant mobility issues.

## Not the usual!

Please note that Holiday Breakfast Club is not the usual Wednesday in the holidays but Tuesday 23rd December due to how the dates fall. Come along and get a hearty breakfast and decorate a ginger bread man!

## Careers Day - an invitation!

We are having a Careers Day on 21st January where parents and the wider community are invited to come along and be a guest in the afternoon. You will be a 'career's station' in the hall with your only role to talk to inquisitive children (wielding clip boards!) about your job. Many children have quite a narrow view of what jobs look like (youtuber, footballer!) and we would like to expand that view. You don't need to prepare, just answer questions! We have so many jobs, trades and experiences across our parents so don't think this is not for you - it is! Please let the office know if you are interested or want to know a bit more.

## Book Donations

We are coordinating with other Leaf Schools to provide new books for children at Christmas. If you would like to support this, bring along a new book to the office.

## Whatsapp advice

Please see the concise and well considered advice about Whatsapp below. We continue to have regular issues with children and the way they communicate on social media and would really appreciate your support on putting appropriate boundaries in place. A reminder that the minimum age for Whatsapp use is 13. Younger children really struggle to navigate the complexities of online communication and it often goes wrong making them anxious and sad.

## Scooters and Small World Play

If you are having a clear out before Christmas and have any old but functional scooters, small world play, plastic animals or dinosaurs or construction toys then we could make great use of them at break and lunchtime. Please bring them in to the office.

## Smoking at the end of the lane

Please avoid smoking or vaping at the end of the lane on the approach to school. Whilst this is a public space it would be very much appreciated if this is smoke free so children don't need to walk through this on their way in.



SEA MILLS PRIMARY

# Christmas Fair

WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER  
3:30PM TO 5:30PM

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

RAFFLE

TOMBOLA

SANTA'S GROTTO

HOT FESTIVE DRINKS

GAMES

GLITTER PAINTING

CAKES & TREATS

MARSHMALLOW TOASTING

AND MUCH MORE!

# BREAKFAST CLUB



**Tuesday 23rd December**

*10am - 12 noon*

*at Sea Mills Primary School, Riverleaze - BS92HU*

Come grab a **free breakfast!**

For any families who want it.

A place to relax with craft activities and toys  
for children.

**Including:**

**Decorate a gingerbread man and movie to watch!**

**Bring your creativity, comfy clothes and pillows.**



# 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 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. 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®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/whatsapp-2025>