



Ryton-on-Dunsmore Provost Williams

Church of England Academy

@RytonPWAcademy



Newsletter 25th November 2024

"Let your light shine"

Last week was UK Parliament week in schools across the country and each class took time to explore all things Parliament - including taking a democratic vote on what their new class name will be. Children, parents, staff and Governors had all been invited to vote and the winning theme was authors, but it was left to the children to make the final decision on their new names.

Early Years	Eric Carle
Year 1	Julia Donaldson
Year 2	Roald Dahl
Year 3/4	Francesca Simon
Year 4/5	Oscar Wilde
Year 6	JK Rowling

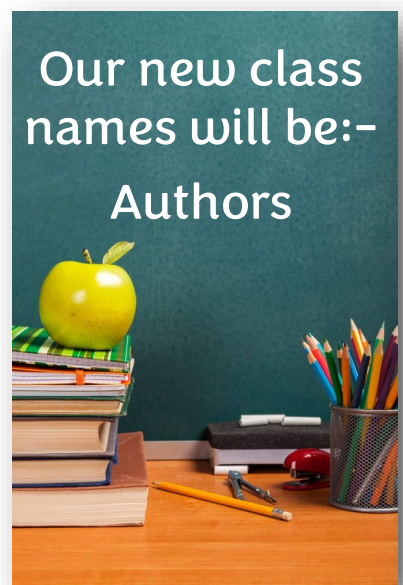
In school, Mrs Baddeley joined us for a day to carry out some further monitoring in EYFS and Topic book looks. It was great to see the progress of learning through our new curriculum. More pupils are able to speak about their learning and see how their previous learning leads into what they are learning now. On Friday, I also had an opportunity to share the success of this term with our Chair of Governors, Cate and our Vice Chair, Rachel.

Parent questionnaire:

Each year around this time, we ask that you share your views on all things school related. We have only had approximately 10% of parents complete this year's questionnaire so far. If you have time to share your thoughts on what is working well, and what areas of school life we could improve further on before we close the question, that would be great.

Governor Post:

We have a number of opportunities with our Governing Body, including a Foundation Governor and a Parent Governor. If either of these roles are of interest, please come and speak to Miss Cullen, who will be happy to talk you and provide further information.



Whatsapp:



It has been brought to our attention that a number of our pupils are using WhatsApp to communicate and in some of these groups, pupils are using inappropriate language and threatening behaviour. It may be that you are not aware that your child is part of a group. The age limit for WhatsApp to be downloaded and used is 13+ in the UK.

Miss Sherrise Cullen

Head Teacher

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

...MSG ME...

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 Codes" – 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-appropriate 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

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.

VPING...

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: <https://blog.whatsapp.com/faq-open-letter> | <https://faq.whatsapp.com/1077018839582332> | https://faq.whatsapp.com/29005898189245?helpref=hc_flow | <https://www.whatsapp.com/security> | <https://blog.whatsapp.com/chat-lock-making-your-most-ultimate-conversation-more-private> | <https://www.abc.com/learn/whatsapp-scams>

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Release date: 20.09.2023 Last reviewed: 30.05.2024

RUGBY & SURROUNDING VILLAGES

allsorts

Nov24/Jan25

for parents and children

0-12

IT'S CHRISTMAS!

Pantos & Shows | Events & Fairs
Trees, Gift Ideas... & more

IN THIS ISSUE

Young Cook Glitter Macarons

Winter Fun Outdoors

Clubs & Classes for the whole family

PLUS School Notice Board

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RGC

To see the latest Allsorts Magazine, please click this link: https://bit.ly/ALLSORTS_NOVJAN24



**Phonics and Reading Open Morning
Wednesday 27th November
Years 1,3,4,5 and 6
(Year 2 will be on another date)**

See how we teach reading and phonics

9.30-10am Join your child's class

10.00-10.30am In the hall with our literacy
lead, Mrs Gayler.





Ryton on Dunsmore Academy

Non Uniform Day
Friday 29th November

in exchange for:-

Early Years, Year 1 and 2 - Chocolate

Years 3 4 5 and 6 - Alcohol

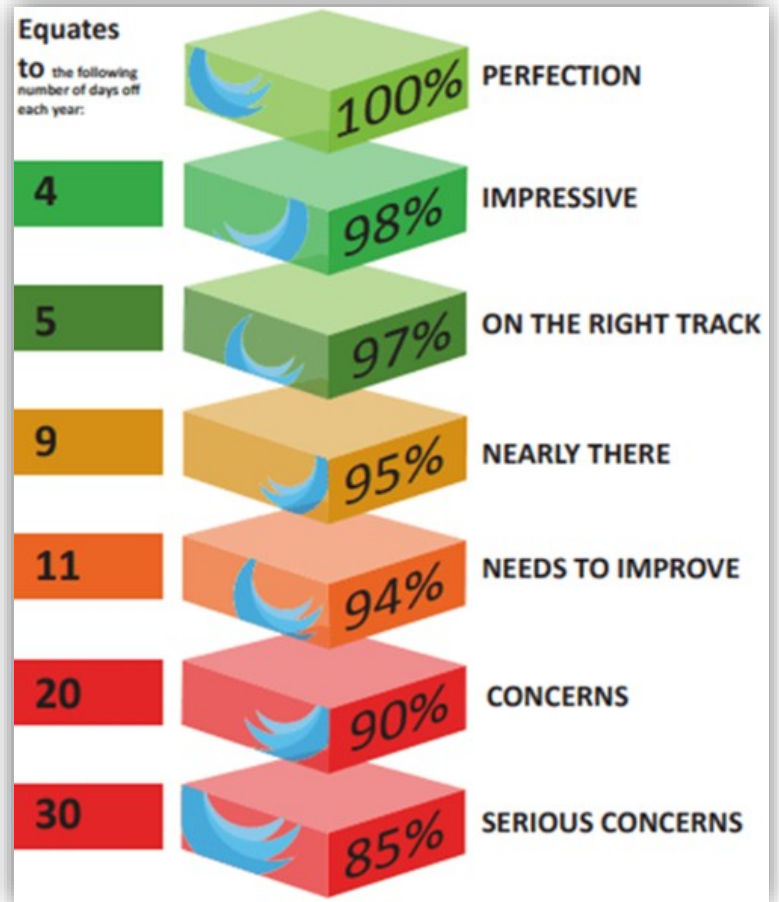
For our PTA Christmas Fair

Thank you!



Attendance Update

Attendance	
Nursery	97%
Reception	92%
Year 1	93%
Year 2	95%
Year 3	96%
Year 4	94%
Year 5	92%
Year 6	90%



The Met. office have issued a yellow warning up to 9am on 29th November, which indicates a situation where weather conditions pose a minimal risk to the general population but a greater risk to vulnerable people.

Please ensure your children are prepared for weather conditions with appropriate footwear and a coat. If we have snowfall, please send spare socks and consider wellies (with school shoes in a bag).

Please report child absences by 9am. Using the school answerphone system. Thank you.

Attendance Matters



Be In SCHOOL
Be On TIME



Wednesday 27th November 9.30am	Reading event (see separate page on this newsletter)
Friday 29th November	Non Uniform Day in exchange for Christmas Fair donations
Sunday 1st December	Parental consent for flu immunisation link closes
Monday 2nd December	Monthly Movie Monday
Wednesday 4th December	Year 4/5 Come and Learn
Wednesday 11th December	PTA Christmas Fair
Thursday 12th December	Flu vaccinations for Nursery-Year 6 for children with consent
	Open Day 11am and 3.30pm for prospective parents
Tuesday 17th December	Whole school panto trip
18th/19th December	Early Years/KS1 Nativity
Friday 20th December	Christmas Day in school (Breakfast in PJ's, a gift for each child, Christmas Dinner, games and activities)
	Break up

See all Christmas activities on the next page....

Let's celebrate together!

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

AT RYTON ON DUNSMORE ACADEMY

Monday 2nd December	Monthly Movie Monday (Christmas Film)	3.15pm to 5.00pm	Sign up on Parentpay
Wednesday 11th December	PTA Christmas Fair	3.00pm to 5.00pm	Children who travel on school transport can go in early at 3pm. Fair opens at 3.15pm after children have been collected.
Friday 13th December	Christingle Service at St Leonard's Church	10.00am to 11.00am	In the afternoon, all children will make Christingles in class.
Tuesday 17th December	Beauty and the Beast Pantomime at Royal Spa Centre	Depart school 9.15am, return approx. 12.30pm.	Payment on Parentpay please, click the "consent" button then paying.
Wednesday 18th December	Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2 performance of "Prickly Hay"	9.30am	Tickets are free. 2 tickets per child, per performance. A link will be sent to book.
	Years 3 4 5 and 6 Carol Service	10.30am	Tickets are free. 2 tickets per child, per performance. A link will be sent to book.
Thursday 19th December	Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2 performance of "Prickly Hay"	9.30am	Tickets are free. 2 tickets per child, per performance. A link will be sent to book.
	Years 3 4 5 and 6	11.00am (Years 3 and 4 will swim as normal)	Tickets are free. 2 tickets per child, per performance. A link will be sent to book.
Friday 20th December	Children can arrive in pyjamas. Open gifts by the "fire" in classrooms. Games and crafts. Christmas Lunch. Christmas Film.	Timings as normal.	Parents to send clothes in a bag for children who arrive in pyjamas. Festive clothes please (Christmas jumpers/dresses)



Miss Cullen's Recommended Reads



In the final part of this thrilling trilogy, Maggie Blue finds herself in the Dark World alone and marooned with a strange and unknown baby that refuses to be parted from her. The world has become dominated by climate disasters, wars are breaking out around them between the surviving people and the witches.

Maggie has a single quest she must fulfil, but at what cost - to her and her friends, Hoagy, the irascible talking cat, Joan and Ida, Oz and the umons, who are desperate to save her? As the portals between the Dark World and her world start to crumble one by one, Maggie faces a terrible choice - to save herself and her friends or to sacrifice everything she has for the sake of the Dark World.

Take action and learn that YOU can save Planet Earth!



Embark on a thrilling journey of discovery that will teach you about climate change and inspire you to save the Earth!

With mind-blowing facts to discover and scenes that transform with the turn of each die-cut page, there's plenty to explore and learn about climate-change and the things that are putting our planet at risk. From global warming, pollution, fossil fuels and energy to food production, farming and learning to live with less, you'll not only learn about the impact of planet-harming activities, you'll learn about the positive things that you can do, like reducing pollution, using renewable energy and sustainable living, so that you will be inspired to help save the Earth.



Christmas at Market Hall Museum, Warwick

Over the next few weeks Market Hall Museum is hosting events for families to enjoy....

Warwick's Victorian Evening, Thursday 28th November

*Visit the museum and enjoy a mulled wine and mince pie from our outside stall.

*Let the kids take part in a special 'Make and Create' session (4pm - 6.30pm), £1 to take part, no need to book, just drop in.

*Book for Storytime with Father Christmas - Father Christmas will be reading a story and spreading festive cheer to all who attend. There will also be an opportunity to have a photo with him if children want to and each paid child ticket will receive a gift.

£6 per child plus booking fee. Suitable for age 2 and above. Younger siblings welcome with a paid child ticket. If you want your under 2 to receive a gift please buy a child paying ticket. Sessions are approx. 30 minutes long. Pre booking is required as tickets are limited. Book at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/heritageboxoffice

*The cafe will be serving seasonal drinks, savouries and cakes.

*Get some Christmas shopping done and enjoy 10% off in Market Hall Shop.

FREE entry, museum closes at 9pm

Christmas at Market Hall Museum, Saturday 7th December

It's Small Business Saturday so come to Warwick for the day! Visit Market Hall Museum and enjoy...

*FREE Entry

*FREE Museum Tours at 12noon & 2pm (just turn up)

*FREE Children's Craft Activity 10am - 12noon (drop in)

*FREE 'Ask a Geologist' event 10.30am -12noon (drop in) See samples of rocks and stones of the local area and learn about them. You are welcome to bring in your own rock samples. View the rocks through a microscope to see what you have never seen before.

*10% off in the cafe

Our shop has a range of locally sourced items and something for all ages so get your Christmas shopping done. The Town Council also has lots going on in the Market Place and Court House and it is FREE parking.

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