



Blewbury Endowed C of E Primary School

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Friday 4th February 2022

Dear parents and carers,

This week we have been learning about and celebrating the Lunar New Year.

We watched a video about the Chinese New Year. The Emperor organised an animal race across the river – the first animal to cross would have the year named after them. The rat won. We have been wearing masks this week and pretending to make our own movie. I was the rabbit and I loved it. Niamh, DaVinci Class.



I made a red pocket. As part of the celebrations, family members put money in envelopes as a gift for the children. They are red because the colour represents luck. Saskia, Banksy class.



Road Safety

We have had a few incidences of pupils riding their scooters dangerously when on the way to school. These have been reported to us by parents, members of the public and on one occasion, witnessed by school staff.

We kindly ask that pupils and parents/carer dismount from bikes or scooters when they reach the bottom car park gate and walk up the pathway. Please remind your child(ren) to wear their helmets when on a bike or scooter.

Covid Safety

We currently have 15 confirmed cases of Covid-19 across 4 classes. This is a fall in case numbers since the beginning of the week.

We are still operating our contingency plan, with pupils working and playing in bubbles. Staff are continuing to test regularly and wear masks when moving around the school or when in close proximity to others.

Please continue to support us by limiting your visits to the office, wearing a mask when anywhere on the site and conducting twice weekly LFD tests if you have access to them.

Communication

If you need to make contact with class teachers, please email the office FAO [teachers Name]. Teachers aim to respond within 48 hours. If teachers are absent when you email, it will be redirected to the most appropriate person to manage your request, so there is not a delay in getting back to you. If your request is urgent, please call the school office on 01235850411.

For payment, admin or general queries, please email Mrs Bealey at office.3248@blewbury.oxon.sch.uk

For SEND queries, please email senco@blewbury.oxon.sch.uk

If you need to email me directly, please use head.3248@blewbury.oxon.sch.uk.

Celebrations

Congratulations to the following children who received a Star of the Week certificate in our celebration assembly:

Sophie, Rory, Ida-Rose and Millie - Da Vinci class, AJ and Luna – Goldsworthy class, Carys and Georgina - Picasso class, Evie, Fae and Tilley-Mae – Klimt class, and Lewis and Alfie – Banksy class.

A huge well done to the following children who received BRONZE awards for getting 50 house points: Kitty and Monty – Goldsworthy class, Amos, Toby, Thomas. M, Georgina, Ella – Picasso Class; Beatrix, Ben. D, Patrick, Jack, Jacob and Kie – Banksy class.

Congratulations to the following children who received SILVER awards for getting 100 house points: Kaya, Elliott, Elsie and Jordana – Picasso class.

Wellbeing Week



Children's Mental Health Week is taking place on **7-13 February 2022**. This year's theme is **Growing Together**.



We will be encouraging children (and adults) to consider how they have grown, and how they can help others to grow. In preparations for this, we have been looking at wellbeing wheels this week. *The wheel gives you ways of being calm, like creating something, connecting with others or taking deep breaths. You can use it all the time. Matilda and Faith, Goldsworthy class.*

As part of wellbeing week, we will also be taking part in **Safer Internet Day** on Tuesday 8th February. The theme is All Fun and Games? We will be exploring respect and relationships online. This is a great opportunity for you to talk to your child(ren) about how they keep safe when online.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Reeder
Headteacher

Diary Dates	
Monday 7 th February – Friday 11 th February	Children's Mental Health Week.
Tuesday 8 th February	Safer Internet Day
Thursday 10 th February	Oxfordshire County Football Finals (participating pupils have been informed)
Monday 21st February – Friday 25th February	Half Term
Wednesday 9 th March	Trip to Didcot Railway Centre (Banksy, Klimt, Picasso)
Friday 8 th April	End of Spring Term - School ends 1.30pm

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Snapchat is a photo- and video-sharing app which also allows users to chat with friends via text or audio. Users can share images and videos with specific friends, or through a 'story' (documenting the previous 24 hours) visible to their entire friend list. Snapchat usage rose during the pandemic, with many young people utilising it to connect with their peers. The app continues to develop features to engage an even larger audience and emulate current trends, rivaling platforms such as TikTok and Instagram.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects on the app with people they know, they may still receive friend requests from strangers. Snapchat's links with apps such as Wink and Hoop have increased this possibility. Accepting a request means that children are then disclosing personal information through the Story, Snapmap and Spotlight features. This could allow predators to gain their trust for sinister purposes.

EXCESSIVE USE

There are many features that are attractive to users and keep them excited about the app. Snap streaks encourage users to send snaps daily. Spotlight Challenges give users the chance to obtain money and online fame, and the Spotlight feature's scroll of videos makes it easy for children to spend hours watching content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat are not suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's Discover function lets users swipe through snippets of news stories and trending articles that often include adult content. There is currently no way to turn off this feature.

SEXTING

Sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature makes it easy for young people (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse. While these pictures do disappear – and the sender is notified if it has been screenshot first – users have found alternative methods to save images, such as taking pictures with a separate device.

DAMAGE TO CONFIDENCE

Snapchat's filters and lenses are a popular way for users to enhance their 'selfie game'. Although many are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beauty' filters on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations and create feelings of inadequacy. Comparing themselves unfavourably against other Snapchat users could threaten a child's confidence or sense of self-worth.

VISIBLE LOCATION

My Places lets users check in and search for popular spots nearby – such as restaurants, parks or shopping centres – and recommend them to their friends. The potential issue with a young person consistently checking into locations on Snapchat is that it allows other users in their friends list (even people they have only ever met online) to see where they currently are and where they regularly go.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add function helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this feature could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).

CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

Talk to your child about what is and isn't wise to share on Snapchat (e.g. don't post explicit images or videos, or display identifiable details like their school uniform). Remind them that once something is online, the creator loses control over where it might end up – and who with. Additionally, Snapchat's 'Spotlight' feature has a #challenge like TikTok: it's vital that your child understands the potentially harmful consequences of taking part in these challenges.

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.

CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

Snapchat has recently announced that it is rolling out a new safety feature: users will receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check Up' encourages users to delete connections with users they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.

KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Your child can send Snaps directly to friends, but Stories are visible to everyone they have added, unless they change the settings. If they use Snapmaps, their location is visible unless 'Ghost Mode' is enabled (again via settings). It's prudent to emphasise the importance of not adding people they don't know in real life. This is particularly important with the addition of My Places, which allows other snapchatters to see the places your child regularly visits and checks in: strangers, bullies and groomers could use this information to engage in conversation and arrange to meet in person.

TALK ABOUT SEXTING

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it is important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sending, receiving or sharing explicit images, as well as the possible emotional impact. Emphasise that your child should never feel pressured into sexting – and that if they receive unwanted explicit images, they should tell a trusted adult straight away.

BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending explicit images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and choose report or block. There are options to state why they are reporting that user (annoying or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).

www.nationalonlinesafety.com

[@natoronlinesafety](https://www.instagram.com/natoronlinesafety)

[/NationalOnlineSafety](https://www.facebook.com/NationalOnlineSafety)

[@nationalonlinesafety](https://www.tiktok.com/@nationalonlinesafety)

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NOS
National
Online
Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Community News

Some Blewbury pupils are members of the local dance school Angels Performing Arts. The groups' main goals, aside from developing their students dance abilities, is to develop confident, passionate and empowered children. Angels is completely inclusive and strongly believes that every child, no matter their background, ability, or financial situation, should have the opportunity to shine and to find that magical "spark" of joy.

This summer, they have been given the opportunity to take the children to Her Majesty's Theatre in London's Westend to take part in a series of workshops that will culminate in them giving a performance on the actual stage. To perform on a Westend stage is the sort of experience that most children could only dream about. As with all things "dance" there is an ever increasing cost involved. The children are determined that EVERY child should be able to go, and that no one should be left behind because of the fees.

They have set up a GoFund me page, and would really appreciate your support.
<https://gofund.me/209e6040>



First 2 trial sessions Free

Experienced coaches
(National level / Goalkeeping)

Training Sundays Tilsley Park
School Year 1 - 4 (9.30-10.30am)



Come join us to learn to play hockey!

We are already looking to next season and have spaces for children from Year 1 + to join.

More details here:

<http://abingdonhockey.org.uk/avengers/>

www.abingdonhockey.org.uk

Email AbingdonAvengers@gmail.com