



NEWSLETTER – Friday 15th September 2023

Dear parents,

As we reach the end of our first full week back in school, I want to share how proud I am of each and every child in our school. The children have returned to school and settled straight back into their new year group. They have been keen to show their work and talk about their learning. The best part of my week has been when the whole school has come together during assembly times and being outside with the children at playtimes and lunchtimes. Our children are fantastic!

Thank you to all parents who managed to attend our welcome meetings this week. If you were unable to attend, the PowerPoints can be found on our school website under each year group linked Year Groups – George White Junior School If you have any further questions about the year ahead, please speak to your child's class teacher.

I wish those children in Year 6 heading to Bawdsey Manor this afternoon a lovely weekend filled with exciting activities and opportunities. I will be visiting the children and staff on Sunday and I look forward to hearing about all the things they have been doing. Thank you to Mrs Fisher, Miss Butterfant, Mr Cordeaux and Mr Michell who are with the children this weekend.

New Values Competition

The closing date for our new values logo competition is Friday 22nd September and you can enter as many designs as you want. Also, do not forget to add your name and class to all entries before handing them in to Mrs Waller in Year 5.



MSA Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a lunchtime supervisor for 5 hours per week supporting our children for 1 hour per day at lunchtimes. If you would like more information or if you are interested in applying for the position, please speak to Mrs Chester or Mrs Watts in the school office.

Aspirations Week

We are excited to be running our second annual whole school Aspirations Week starting on **Monday 16th October**. This proved to be hugely successful week last year, leaving the children feeling inspired about possible future jobs and career paths. We are once again asking our parents and school community for support by offering a short amount of time to come into school to talk to either a class, year group or the whole school about their job. We are looking for as many parents and visitors as possible to support all our pupils with their aspirations.

If you are able to offer your help, know someone who is able to offer help or if you would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Chester in the office.

Beyond School Pupil Information Record

Thank you to those parents who have already completed and returned the Beyond School Pupil Information form for your child. We ask for these forms to be returned to school as soon as possible so we can celebrate and recognise what your child does beyond school. This information will support us to ensure we know as much as possible about your child when they are not with us in school.



OUR LEARNING THIS WEEK

YEAR 3

This week in English we have been learning to write effective sentences for our story 'Little Red Reading Hood'. In order to do this, we went for an experience walk in the garden to help build alliterative phrases. There were some brilliant phrases the children came up with, such as 'chipped chestnuts' and 'whistling wind'. We also learnt about commands and statements forming a conscience alley to experience being Red walking through the woods and saying what possible thoughts would be going through her mind.

In Maths we have begun our Place Value unit and have used Base 10 to help understand what 2-digit numbers it can represent and how many ways a number can be partitioned.

Science has involved learning the names of human bones and exploring the importance of a skeleton, comparing it to different animal skeletons.

In Geography we have discussed the county that we live in and used an atlas to find Norfolk and then Norwich. We then looked at surrounding counties and what direction they were to Norfolk.

French has involved learning different greetings, focusing on the pronunciation and then writing some. I wonder if they can tell you any they remember?

We have been so impressed with how YR3 have settled into the daily routine of George White Junior school - a huge well done to all of you! Have a lovely restful weekend.



YEAR 4

Year 4 have made a great start back to the Autumn.

In Maths, we have been playing place value games and practising our times tables.

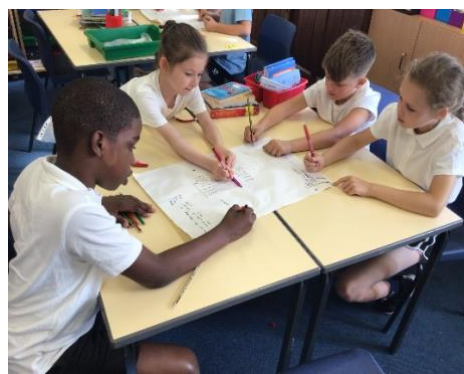
In English, we have started 'Bike Boy' - a narrative story and had a lovely Experience day making kennings about the ocean, garden life and schools.

In Science we are learning about teeth (making models) and the digestive system.

In Geography, it's Route 66 and seeing what lies along this American highway.

In PE we are doing basketball and ball skills.

It was great to see so many parents at our Year 4 meeting on Tuesday. We would like to remind you to sign your child up to the residential trip to Eaton Vale - 15 mins out of Norwich. This will take place on the 28th February for 2 nights.



YEAR 5

Wow!! What an amazing start to year 5! In our maths work, we have been looking at place value. We have learnt all about numbers up to 1,000,000 and what each digit means. We have learnt about place holders and also spent some time learning Roman numerals up to 1000.

In English, we have used the book 'Gorilla' by Anthony Browne and have written amazing sentences using relative clauses, brackets, similes and more.

During the afternoons we have written our class charter, using the UN children's rights. We have also begun to learn all about Ancient Greece and in Science have carried out an experiment to find which surface in the school has the most friction.

On top of all this, 5 Ho-Yen and 5 Almond have been to the swimming pool for the first time!



YEAR 6

It has been a super busy first week back! We created our class charters and created beautiful displays of these in our classrooms. In English, we have started our first narrative unit. This writing is inspired by the horror story 'Thornhill' and the children thought of some very spooky sentences! We are focusing on place value at the moment in math's with numbers reaching 10,000,000! We started a physics unit in science where we are looking at light and shadows. Check out the photos below of some of the shadows we created! In PSHE, we discussed what makes up a person's personal identity and discussed what makes up our own personal identity. Climate change is our topic for geography, and we began looking at what climate change is and what is causing it. 6 Morpurgo have started planning a three-course meal in DT whilst 6 Palacio have begun looking at coding and Bletchley Park in computing. 6 Ness, on the other hand, have started graphic design in art! Those children who are going to Bawdsey Manor are super excited to be visiting and completing all the different activities and those children who are remaining at George White are looking forward to some fun learning with Mrs Eaglen.



Blake Class

The newly named Blake Class have been reading their class book this week, The Green Ship by Quentin Blake. We have been making predictions about the story ready to write a setting description using our senses. Our new children have settled in well and we have been recapping our learning of phonics and maths after the summer holiday, as well as working on our fine and gross motor skills. In maths, we started looking at place value to 10,000 and challenged a partner to show us a number using Base 10. We chose our new school council members and reminded ourselves of all our class routines and expectations. We are very proud of how all the children have settled in to class and we look forward to a fun and productive term ahead.



Our school attendance target is 95%

Attendance Matters

Our attendance certificate for the highest class attendance this week goes to

6 Palacio With **100 %** Well done



What's On

September 2023	
Friday 15 th September	Year 6 residential trip to Bawdsey Manor departs PM
Monday 18 th September	Year 6 residential trip to Bawdsey Manor returns to school PM
Monday 25 th September	Annual RSHE consultation sent out to all parents
Friday 29 th September	Open classrooms for all year groups from 3:15pm
October 2023	
Tuesday 3 rd October	Parent morning read in classrooms for all year groups from 8:40-9:00am
Wednesday 4 th October	Parents forum meeting with senior leers – 2:30pm in the school hall
Monday 16 th October	Aspirations Week – whole school event
Friday 20 th October	Open classrooms for all year groups from 3:15pm
21 st – 29 th October	Half Term
Monday 30 th October	Parents evening – 3:30pm – 5:30pm
November 2023	
Wednesday 1 st November	Parents evening – 3:30pm – 7pm
Friday 10 th November	Open classrooms for all year groups from 3:15pm
Tuesday 14 th November	Parent morning read in classrooms for all year groups from 8:40-9:00am
Wednesday 15 th November	Parents forum meeting with senior leaders – 2:30pm in the school hall
Friday 17 th November	Children in Need
Monday 20 th November	Year 3 sing assembly to parents – 2:45pm in the school hall
Tuesday 21 st November	Year 6 sing assembly to parents – 2:45pm in the school hall
Monday 27 th November	Year 4 sing assembly to parents – 2:45pm in the school hall
Tuesday 28 th November	Year 5 sing assembly to parents – 2:45pm in the school hall
December 2023	
Thursday 7 th December	Christmas jumper day
Tuesday 12 th December	Year 3 and 4 Christmas school disco – 3:20-4:30pm
Wednesday 13 th December	Year 5 and 6 Christmas school disco – 3:20-4:30pm
Thursday 14 th December	School Christmas Fair – 3:20pm
Wednesday 20 th December	End of term 3:20pm
Thursday 4 th January	Children return to school 8:30am

No Smoking On the School Site

Please can we remind all parents and carers that smoking is not permitted in any part of the school at any time. This includes all school buildings and the outside areas of the school including playgrounds, sports field or car parks.

Silver Road Community Centre

Large Collection of School uniform & Food bank - Open: Thursdays 10.30 - 12.15

Community Fridge Saturdays & Food Bank Fresh food & bakery - Saturdays 11.00 - 12.15. To Book an Appointment Please call [07786694325](tel:07786694325)

Healthy Snacks

Please can we remind all parents and carers that children are to have only healthy snacks for playtimes. Items such as fruit, rice cakes, bread sticks and cereal bars are great but no crisps or chocolate thank you, these should be kept for lunchboxes.

SAFEGUARDING

Mrs Derer is on our school playground every Thursday and Friday morning from 8:45am. Mrs Derer is our school Parent Support Advisor, and you may already recognise her as she works at Mousehold every Monday and Tuesday. Mrs Derer is always happy to talk to you about any worries or concerns relating to your child at home or any further support we may be able to offer or signpost you to.

Our school Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

Mrs Petchey, Mrs Stolworthy, Mrs Eaglen, Miss Alderton, Ms Connor, Mrs Derer and Mrs Burman

Please speak to one of these members of staff if you are worried or concerned about the safety of a child at school.

If you have a safeguarding concern about a child out of school hours,
the number to ring is:

CADS – Children’s Advice and Duty Service – 0344 800 8020



ONLINE SAFETY



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be "pinged" with an alert; potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police, emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

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 seeing behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

