



## Important Dates:

**8th February**  
Yr 5/6 Football Team Match

**8th February**  
Safer Internet Day

**8th February**  
Parent Forum  
1.00pm & 5.00pm

**10th February**  
Yr 5 Braintree Museum

**11th February**  
Y6 Visit to Memorial Park

**11th February**  
**Valentine's Lunch & Denim for Dementia Day**  
(wear something denim & bring £1 donation)

**17th February**  
Federation Consultation  
Deadline

**14th - 18th February**  
Half Term

**22nd February**  
Yr 6 African Drumming & Dance Workshop

**w/b 21st February**  
Y6 Parent Consultations

**25th February**  
**Rainbow Friday**

**w/b 21st March**  
FS Parent Consultations

**w/b 28th March**  
Y1-5 Parent Consultations

## Staffing

We have had more staff absent this week than at any other time throughout the pandemic. Thankfully children's learning has not been disrupted so I would like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated staff team for making this possible.

Enjoy your weekend. **Mrs Ramet**

## Children's Mental Health week

This year's theme is 'Growing Together'. Next week in assemblies and talk times, we will be encouraging children to consider how they have grown, and how they can help others to grow. Please click on the link above for free resources and ideas to talk to your children about.



## Parent Forum

Our next parent forum is taking place on **Tuesday 8th February**. This is an opportunity to provide constructive feedback so that we can continue to improve school life for your child. In addition, every year, policies are reviewed and we are now in the process of reviewing our Behaviour and Uniform Policies. If you would like to contribute to this process, please email any comments to your child's class teacher or share them at the parent forum.

If you would like to attend the parent forum, please indicate your preferred time [here](#).

Click on the links to read our current [Behaviour Policy](#) and our [Uniform Guidelines](#).



## Valentine's Poster Competition

Congratulations to **Mila-Ruby Wall 3YF and Harley Baigent 1SS** for winning the poster competition. Look



out for their posters around school and join in our special Valentine's lunch next Friday.

## Window Replacement Update

The windows along the back are now complete so the remaining Y3 & Y4 classes will start next week. Children in year 5 can now enter and leave via their rear fire doors. 3AY will continue to use the Y3 door and 4SR will continue to use the Y4 door.

The staff car park is still out of use as an entrance, so please come around the swimming pool side.

## Safer Internet Day

On **Tuesday 8th February**, we will be focusing on teaching children about the safe and positive use of digital technology. This year's theme is 'All fun and games?' Exploring respect and relationships online.

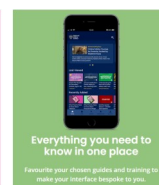
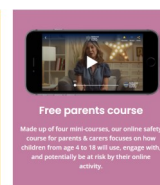
There is information about keeping children safe when using You Tube on the last page of this week's newsletter.

For further information, click [here](#).



## Online Safety for Parents & Carers

A brand new, FREE online safety APP is available [here](#) for parents and carers. Click the link for further information about the APP and to download to your device via App Store or Google Play.



## PTA

Following the amazing level of fundraising and support for the school Christmas trees and decorations, we are excited to announce that the Wickford Primary School Parent Teacher Association (WPS PTA) has now formed to continue this excellent school community spirit!

Lisa Tyler (Chair; children in year 4 and FS), Lindsey O'Shea (Vice Chair; children in years 5, 2 and FS), Danielle Baronti (Treasurer; children in years 3 and FS), Laura Seaton (Secretary; child in FS), and Sarah Beal (Publicity Officer; children in years 2 and FS) were voted as committee members. We are now starting to plan events and activities to bring together parents/carers, teachers and children to raise funds, strengthen the school community and improve the school experience for our children. Money raised will be spent on things that the school budget does not usually cover.

If you have any fundraising ideas, or would like to join the PTA (any amount of time you can give will be greatly received), please email us on [pta@wickford-pri.essex.sch.uk](mailto:pta@wickford-pri.essex.sch.uk). Also, see our dedicated [PTA page](#) on the school website to learn more about the PTA. Future events will be advertised here too, so watch this space!!



## Covid PCR Tests & Isolation

Reminder: asymptomatic children who test positive on a lateral flow device (LFD) do not need to take a confirmatory PCR test but must immediately [isolate](#). The result should be reported to [NHS Test and Trace](#) and school.

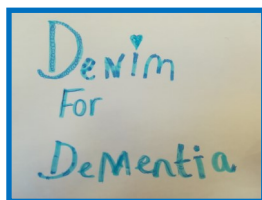
On day 5 and 6, they should take an LFD test. If both of these are negative, children can immediately return to school. If the test is positive, they should continue isolating and daily testing. As soon as two negative tests are achieved, isolation can end. After day 10, isolation can end and children can return to school, even if the LFD test is still positive.

**Note:** The day you test positive is day zero and the following day is day 1. If your child has symptoms, then a PCR test is still necessary.

We have had confirmed cases this week in the following classes: **Bumblebees, 2LQ, 2AB, 4SR, 4AH, 5KH, 6DB**. Children from these classes should carry out daily LFD tests for 7 days after receiving the letter from school.

## Denim for Dementia 11th February

**Zoe in 5KH** is working towards her Charity Brownie badge so is organising a fundraising event in school. Next Friday will be a non-uniform day to raise money for the [Alzheimer's Society](#). She told us, "Dementia affects your memory and makes you forget things. It makes you feel like things that happened in the past, happened just now. It affects short-term memory, so people with Dementia can often repeat themselves. Over 40,000 people under 65 years are affected in the UK."



Help Zoe to achieve this badge by wearing denim next week and making a £1 donation via SchoolMoney or cash.

## ActiveAte

For half term activities, which are free for Pupil Premium pupils and chargeable for others, click the link above.

Or click [here](#) for Crafty Katie and [here](#) for Jack of Allsports.



## Outside Achievements

**Grace Stoddart (5KH)** has moved up to black hats in swimming.

**Sophie Hammond (LB)** - was awarded her 5m swimming badge.

**Dinara Fayzieva (2AB)** - achieved South Essex Gymnastics Level 1.

**Angelina Schito (4SR)** - was awarded student of the week at Shinfodo Jujitsu.



**FS:** Jenna Perry, Zara Hanlon-King

**Year 1:** Kiera Went, Ronnie Shingler

**Year 2:** Abigail Matthews, Rosie Hill

**Year 3:** Sebastian Das, George Tilson

**Year 4:** William Gibson, Olly Ford

**Year 5:** George Ling, Rebecca Spears, Jack Smitheman

**Year 6:** Lydia Divine



## PE Days

There are 2 PE lessons each week.

<b>Monday</b>	Y2, 4AH, 4TS
<b>Tuesday</b>	Y2, Y4
	Y5, Y6 Swimming
<b>Wednesday</b>	FS, Y1, Y3
<b>Thursday</b>	Y3, Y6, 4SR
<b>Friday</b>	Y1, Y5



## Week 1

### Whole School Attendance

94%

### Weekly Winning Class

1SS 100%

(w/e 28/1/22)



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# YOUTUBE

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

## INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate material. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

## CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as messaging other users directly. Connecting with strangers online, of course, can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, to cyberbullying and even to encountering online predators.

## SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but can also lead to binge-watching and the risk of screen addiction, especially if 'auto-play' is activated. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

## HIGH VISIBILITY

Content creators can also be put at risk – especially young ones who try to make their online presence as visible as possible. Creating and uploading content exposes children to potential harassment and toxicity from the comments section, along with the possibility of direct messaging from strangers. Videos posted publicly can be watched by anyone in the world.

## TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends, challenges and memes that are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may harm children through either watching or copying. The painful 'salt and ice challenge', which can cause injuries very quickly, is just one of many such examples.

## SNEAKY SCAMMERS

Popular YouTube channels regularly have scammers posing as a well-known influencer in the comments section, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and sometimes offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users are not who they claim to be.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate content (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence and sexual situations) to underage viewers. To prevent your child from chancing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that your child uses to access YouTube.

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CENSORED

### TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows you to monitor what your child is watching, uploading and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives you an oversight of how your child is using sites like YouTube and helps you ensure they are only accessing appropriate content.

### CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that your child is subscribed to can be hidden. If your child is only uploading videos that are protected as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

### CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS

Influential content creators usually have other social media accounts which they encourage their fans to follow. Having an open discussion about this with your child makes it easier to find out how else they might be following a particular creator online. It also opens up avenues for you to check out that creator's other channels to see what type of content your child is being exposed to.

### MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them children. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course, and react to content differently. You may want to keep an eye on how your child interacts with content on YouTube – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand the types of videos they are interested in.

### LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases: users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch, for example. If you're not comfortable with your child purchasing content online, limit their access to your bank cards and online payment methods. Many parents have discovered to their cost that a child happily devouring a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

## Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



**National Online Safety**

#WakeUpWednesday



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