



Important Dates:

4th –18th April

Easter Holidays

19th April

School Re-opens

&

Year 5/6 Boys Football Match

25th April

PTA Meeting 10.30am

26th April

5/6 girls football match
(boys football cancelled)

29th April

Rainbow Friday

2nd May

Bank Holiday
(school closed)

3rd May

5/6 boys football match

24th May

5/6 boys football match

30th May-3rd June

Half Term

6th June

INSET Day
(school closed)

Easter Holidays

The children had an amazing day today, starting with wearing non-uniform to raise money for the PTA, enjoying their end of term Rainbow treat and then experiencing all the seasons whilst playing outside at lunchtime!



The Easter poster winners were Thomas Tyler 4TS and Benjamin Tyler BB. After the holidays, children will enjoy a special Easter lunch and a Spring scavenger hunt on Friday 22nd April.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the midday assistants for making every lunchtime successful and fun for our children, and the kitchen staff for preparing delicious dinners every day as well as our monthly specials.



A special thank you also to our PTA for all their efforts making our first fundraiser a huge success.

From all the staff at WPS, we wish you a lovely Easter holiday and look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 19th April.

Mrs Ramet

Leavers

We said goodbye today to the following members of staff:

Mrs Etty has been a midday assistant for 2 and a half years and **Miss Williamson** has been a midday assistant for 2 and a half years and more recently an LSA. We wish them good luck as they move to pastures new.

Miss Aarons has been unwell and absent from school for a year so made the decision to retire a little early. She visited today to say goodbye to everyone in person. We wish her well.

Miss Feagan joined our school initially as a parent helper 10 years ago, then an LSA and became a teacher during the pandemic. She is taking a break from teaching for personal reasons but we hope she will be able to return sometime soon. We wish her all the best.



Welcome

Miss Farmer and **Mrs Poulton** have joined our midday team and **Miss Jeffery** will be joining after Easter.

Miss Jackson will be returning from maternity leave and will be teaching 3YF for the rest of the year.



For week ending 25.3.22

FS: Jacob Baronti, Rosie Douse

Year 1: Logan Williams,
Alexander Kerans

Year 2: Daisy Dawson, Millie Pearce

Year 3: Ruby Masterson-Bain, Charlie Hopkins,
Rowan Jackman

Year 4: Lyla Fox, Thomas Tyler, Max Shelley

Year 5: Mollie Martin, Ethan Turner, Ronnie
Jupp, Phoebe Aplin, Ethan Turner

Year 6: Phoebe Aplin, Poppy Bragg-Osborne, Isla-
Rose Fulcher, Hayden Neave, Erin Ings



Swimming

Years 4 and 5 will be swimming after half term.
Please pay for the lessons via Schoolmoney.

Lost Property

We will be emptying the lost property boxes again
this weekend. There is an abundance of good
quality clothing, including coats. If you would like
any, please contact the school office and this can
be provided free of charge.

Outside Achievements

BillyBlue 1SS— won player of the week for his football club.

Lily Searl 1SS— has gone up to yellow hats in swimming and has
passed her Rainbow distance of 5 metres.

Sky Smith and Summer Blackburn 6ER—completed their Level 4 in
trampolining.

Angelina Schito 4SR—completed Stage 4 swimming and received
her 20m badge.

Paige Wilkins 1RV—swam 20 metres and has moved up to Stage 5.

Zoe Biggs 5KH— had her hair cut and is donating the hair to the
Little Princess Trust.

Henry Blackham 3LG— passed his Kung fu grading and now moved
up to bronze sash at Meridian and also received his Blue Peter
badge.

Seren Green 4TS—has moved up to silver hat in swimming.

Lexie Draper 6ER—achieved Level 4 Trampolining



Polite Reminder

Please check that your child has the correct uniform, sports kit and equipment at the beginning of
the day. After Easter we will no longer be calling home with reminders to bring items to school as we
cannot afford the time it is taking.

Being organised is not only an important life skill but also part of our vision for children to become
independent learners and responsible citizens.



Dinner Menu

Our new summer
menu starts after the
holiday.

Please discuss the
[food choices](#) with
your children to avoid
any confusion on the
first day back.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option One	Pizza Whirls (v)	Kickin' Chicken	All Day Breakfast (P) (Chipolata, Bacon and Scrambled Egg)	Pasta Bolognese	Omega 3 Fish Fingers
Option Two	Jacket Potato with a choice of fillings	Summer Bean Ragu (ve)	All Day Breakfast (v) (Sausage and Scrambled Egg)	Macaroni Cheese (v)	Vegetable Frittata (v)
On the Side	Homemade Coleslaw Potato Salad Sweetcorn	Couscous Green Beans	Hash Browns Baked Beans Mushrooms Tomatoes	Homemade Garlic Bread Broccoli	Chips Peas and Sweetcorn
Lighter Bite	Tuna Pasta Salad	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans	Hot Bacon Roll	Jacket Potato with Cheese and/or Bolognese	Egg Mayo Roll
	Mixed Salad	Mixed Salad	Mixed Salad	Mixed Salad	Mixed Salad
For Dessert	Healthy Fruit Day	Chocolate Cake and Chocolate Custard	Healthy Fruit Day	Ice Cream	Scone, Jam and Cream

Football Match

The Y5/6 team played away against Glebe Primary School this week and won 3-2.

Very well played boys!

There are lots more matches planned for next term.



Whole School Attendance

94%

Weekly Winning Class

4TS 95 %

(w/e 25/3/22)

PTA Fundraising update

Thank you to all children, parents and carers that supported our Spring Celebration activities. We are thrilled to announce that **£578** was raised from the raffle, non-uniform day today and sale of the Activity Packs.

Congratulations to our raffle winners— enjoy your prizes!



The next PTA meeting is scheduled for **Monday 25th April, 10.30am via Zoom**. You are welcome to attend to just listen, learn and meet the committee, or take a more active role if you want to. Please email pta@wickford-pri.essex.sch.uk to receive the Zoom link.

Easyfundraising – thousands of retailers will donate to WPS for free!

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be raising free donations for Wickford Primary School PTA with easyfundraising [<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/wickfordpta/>]? The PTA have not long set up a WPS fundraising page – and we already have 11 supporters and £7 donated. There are no catches or hidden charges and WPS PTA will be really grateful for your donations.

There are over 4,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation – including eBay, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com and M&S – and it won't cost you a penny extra to help us raise funds.

Please visit the PTA webpage [<https://wickfordprimary.uk/pta/>] for the three simple steps to follow to start to fundraising today!

Let us know what YOU want the PTA to offer

The PTA have been busy running our first fundraisers these past few weeks, and are now starting to plan activities for the Summer term. We would love to hear from you to ensure that we are offering events and opportunities that you want for the children of WPS. Please spare a couple of minutes to answer 9 multiple-choice questions [<https://my.forms.app/form/6239dc2217a64c6caea2a16a>] – we promise it won't take long! We will use your feedback to help shape our plans which we will be presenting to Mrs Ramet and Mrs Randall at the PTA meeting on 25 April.



Please complete the online survey

[<https://my.forms.app/form/6239dc2217a64c6caea2a16a>] by **Monday 18th April**.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about FACEBOOK

AGE RATING
13+

With 2.9 billion users, Facebook, owned by the recently rebranded Meta, is the world's most popular social media platform. It encourages interaction with other people by (among other things) adding them as friends, reacting to or commenting on their content, sharing images and videos, posting status updates, joining groups and playing games. Facebook is free, and anyone over 13 can join – but with no age verification, younger children can easily create an account: it's likely your child is already familiar with the platform, even if they don't yet use it themselves.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Facebook's quick reward cycle of likes and comments on shared posts can be hugely addictive. It encourages users to keep returning to post things and increases FOMO (the Fear Of Missing Out), which leads to people checking the app even more frequently and finding themselves endlessly scrolling through content.

CYBERBULLYING

A 2021 Ofcom report found that around one in four UK 12-15-year-olds had been cyberbullied or trolled (intentionally antagonised online). On Facebook, this can happen through private messages (on Facebook Messenger); hurtful comments on their profiles and posts; pages or groups set up purposely to torment a victim; or exclusion from pages or groups.

FUTURE IMPACT

Like most social media platforms, anything posted on Facebook leaves a permanent 'digital footprint'. This can have future consequences for young people: many universities and employers, for example, now review someone's Facebook timeline during the application process.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Just like in the offline world, there are people on Facebook with malicious intentions. Ofcom reports, for instance, that 30% of 12-15-year-olds have received a friend request from a stranger. This, sadly, can include individuals seeking to take advantage of impressionable youngsters.

OVERSHARING

Facebook encourages you to post "what's on your mind", but children should be wary of revealing too much about themselves online. Users can give away their location by checking in or using Facebook Live, for example, while some photos can also be traced using file data.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Facebook monitors and removes material like hate speech or extreme political views, while adverts on the platform are now forbidden from targeting under-18s based on their interests. Offensive content isn't always taken down instantly, however, so there's still a risk of children encountering it.

VIDEOS AND STREAMING

Facebook Live lets users stream video live to their friends or watch others' broadcasts. Viewers can comment in real time, which is problematic to moderate. Short, user-created clips called Reels can now also be displayed on profiles and feeds. These video features could contain unsuitable material or allow children to be coaxed into doing something on camera that they wouldn't normally do.

Advice for Parents & Carers

KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

In the settings area, you can choose whether a Facebook profile is public or private. By far the safest option is to switch your child's to private, so they can only interact with people who they are friends with on the platform. Facebook's settings can also prevent your child's personal information (such as contact details, school name or date of birth) from appearing publicly.

SAVVY SHARING

Make sure your child realises that what they share online with friends can end up being shared again by others. It's important that they think about what they share online and who they share it with. Facebook's 'Audience Selector' gives users the option to filter who sees what they are sharing, whenever a status is updated, photos are uploaded or anything is posted.

ENCOURAGE SAFE FRIENDING

Facebook can help your child to stay connected with the people and the things that they care about. However, it's important for them to understand that they should only accept friend requests from people who they know. The key questions to consider are "has your child met them in person?" and "do they know and trust them enough to feel comfortable accepting them as a Facebook friend?"

RESPECT BOUNDARIES

Once you've talked about Facebook safety with your child, give them some space and trust them to make smart choices. Make it clear, however, that you're always open to discussing social media if they need to. In the early stages, you could occasionally review your child's social media activity with them to put your mind at rest – but take care not to become reliant on checking it every night.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your child watch you using Facebook – this will demonstrate how it can be used safely and appropriately, reducing the risk of them encountering harmful content themselves. Teach them the habit of thinking before sharing anything online and try to follow the same rules that you set for them – so if you agree time limits on your child's Facebook use, then you should stick to them, too.

BLOCK AND REPORT

On Facebook, you're able to report harmful content and block particular people or groups so they can't contact your child or view their profile. Before they start spending serious time on the platform, show your child how these features work and explain why they might need to be used. Facebook's Bullying Prevention Hub offers advice on dealing with harassment on the platform.

Meet Our Expert

Alex Wright is a former Facebook employee and social media expert with more than 15 years' experience in digital media. He has worked with some of the biggest organisations on the planet and has a vast understanding of how social media platforms work and how they engage their audience.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: www.facebook.com/safetybullying



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



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