



Newsletter

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Message from Mr McCoy

Welcome back to everyone and a special welcome to the children that are new to Bleak Hill this year. The children have all settled into their new classes over this week and they have already been very busy. As we have walked around school it has been a pleasure to see all of the work happening in each of the classrooms.

We have extra-curricular clubs starting on the week commencing 18th September with a variety of activities on offer for the children to enjoy.

We will be sending a yearly overview out of school events, so please watch out for this as it contains the dates for many exciting events occurring over the school year. We felt it would be beneficial for parents to have this information in advance again.

Enjoy the nice weather over the weekend and we will see you back in school on Monday.

Merit Award - Children who make others feel welcome

	R.O.T.W	W.O.T.W	M.O.T.W	Bronze	Silver	Gold
1A	Pippa B	Amiyah M	Emmie H	Stan K	Thomas Q-A	Theo C
1CS	Matilda N-C	Alfie U	Billy Mc	Zain T	Isla M	Caleb W
1M	Harper I	Louis J	Hadassah B	Alannah P	Leo B	Ella C
2G	Seren A	Luke R	Amelia G	Alex E	Harry C	Molly H
2J	Charlotte J	Ellie R	George Mc	Ethan D	Millie H	Harry C
2W	Beatrice P	Ellie H	Finley W	Megan H	Bobby G	Ella W
3D	Jude H	Daniel F	Charlotte L	Oliver T	Jacob R	Frankie C
3H	Ivy P	Spencer D	Matthew Mc	Katie H	Jude N	Kaleem T
3M	Nancie J	George M	Corey R	Harry W	Milo G	Isla Mc
4C	Lilly I	Michael O	Hattie H	Alfie W	Sophie C	Nancy W
4MC	Bethany H	Jude W	Charlie B	Finley C	Evie S	Natalie S
4MO	David U	Marcie L	Zac G	Grace L-G	Thea C	Frankie M
5B	Niamh P	Evie N	Maisey T	Sonny T	Jaxen H-B	Freddie P
5W	Scarlett P	Dylan R	Henry M	Niamh B	Skyler A	Amber H
6D	Toby K	Evie C	Joseph B	Marley D	Theo C	Sophia J
6W	Aubree H	Sam B	Evei B	Mason H-B	Isla C	Abigail J

What's on next week

11.09.2023	Before School	During School	After School
Monday		Y6 - Bikeability (groups confirmed via school spider)	
Tuesday		Y6 - Bikeability (groups confirmed via school spider)	
Wednesday		Y6 - Bikeability (groups confirmed via school spider)	
Thursday		Y6 - Bikeability (groups confirmed via school spider)	
Friday		Y6 - Bikeability (groups confirmed via school spider) 6D Swimming	

Friends of Bleak Hill



EasyFundraising

Sign up to support Friends of Bleak Hill - St Helens on #easyfundraising, they will give you a £5 shopping voucher once you have raised your first £5 - PLUS we will get a bonus £5 donation, it's win, win! It's simple to join and you can raise FREE donations whenever you shop online with over 5,200 retailers.

Sign up here: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friends-of-bleak-hill-st-helens/?invite=7NZFK9&referral-campaign=c2s&utm_source=ew5sharebox



Amazon Wishlist

FOBH currently organise a wishlist on Amazon. The items on the list are useful to school and if anyone would like to purchase these items, we know they would be appreciated.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2AX8U3RM4NGZD?ref_wl_share

St Helens Council Vacancies

St Helens Council would like us to advertise that they currently have a variety of kitchen and school roles across the borough.

If you are interested in applying for a role please see the adverts on <https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/article/3101/See-job-vacancies>

Out of School Club – September 2023 onwards

The Governing Body have agreed that from the 5th September 2023 all out of school club bookings must be paid in advance of the place being taken. There will be no option to reserve and pay later. This is in line with many other schools across the borough.

What this means for you:

Debit/Credit Card Payments: On booking a session you will be required to make payment via your debit/credit card at the time of booking. Alternatively, parents may choose to add credit via the club top up on their child (ren) account. You will then be able to use this credit when making bookings.

Childcare Vouchers: In order to book sessions, parents will need to ensure that their child(ren) account is in credit. In order to do this we are asking parents to send additional voucher payments to ensure your child(ren) is in credit for September 2023. This will mean your child(ren) account will be in credit when returning in September. We must stress that your child(ren) account will need to be in credit to book places using childcare vouchers and if this is not the case you will be required to pay by debit/credit card at the time of booking.

The image displays two screenshots of the schoolmoney app interface. The left screenshot shows the 'Basket' screen with a 'Club Top Up' button set to £50.00. A callout box explains that the amount can be overwritten. Below this is a summary box showing 'Dinner Credit: £0.00', 'Club Credit: £0.00', and 'Total To Pay: £50.00' with a 'Make Payment' button and logos for VISA, Mastercard, and TRU//ST. The right screenshot shows the 'Club Bookings' screen with a 'Club Top Up' button set to £10.00. A callout box explains that the credit balance will look like £4.50. Below this is another 'Club Top Up' button set to £50.00 with a callout box explaining that the credit balance will look like £41.00. The bookings list includes 'Afterschool Club - WC: Mon 22 May 2023' and 'Breakfast Club - WC: Mon 22 May 2023'.

Emergency On the Day Bookings: Parents will need to contact the school office to book emergency childcare places. If your child(ren) account is not in credit, the office will process payment via the phone to secure your child(ren) booking, subject to a place being available.

Please note:

- If you choose to collect to your child(ren) early from club the full cost of the session booked will still stand.
- If you collect your child(ren) later than the session booked, the additional charge will be processed by Out of School Club Supervisor on collection.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WHATSAPP



WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service, with around two billion users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls. Its end-to-end encryption means messages can only be viewed by the sender and any recipients; not even WhatsApp can read them. Updates to its privacy policy in 2021 (involving sharing data with parent company Facebook) caused millions to leave the app, but the new policy was widely misinterpreted – it only related to WhatsApp's business features, not to personal messages.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SCAMS

Fraudsters occasionally send WhatsApp messages pretending to offer prizes – encouraging the user to click on a link to win. Other common scams involve warning someone that their WhatsApp subscription has run out (aiming to dupe them into disclosing payment details) or impersonating a friend or relative and asking for money to be transferred to help with an emergency.

DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Users can set WhatsApp messages to disappear in 24 hours, 7 days or 90 days by default. Photos and videos can also be instructed to disappear after the recipient has viewed them. These files can't be saved or forwarded – so if your child was sent an inappropriate message, it would be difficult to prove any wrongdoing. However, the receiver can take a screenshot and save that as evidence.

ENABLING FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp has unfortunately been linked to accelerating the spread of dangerous rumours. In India in 2018, some outbreaks of mob violence appear to have been sparked by false allegations being shared on the app. WhatsApp itself took steps to prevent its users circulating hazardous theories and speculation in the early weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic.

POTENTIAL CYBERBULLYING

Group chat and video calls are great for connecting with multiple people in WhatsApp, but there is always the potential for someone's feelings to be hurt by an unkind comment or joke. The 'only admins' feature gives the admin(s) of a group control over who can send messages. They can, for example, block people from posting in a chat, which could make a child feel excluded and upset.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a WhatsApp chat, you only need the mobile number of the person you want to message (the other person also needs to have the app). WhatsApp can access the address book on someone's device and recognise which of their contacts also use the app. So if your child has ever given their phone number to someone they don't know, that person could use it to contact them via WhatsApp.

LOCATION SHARING

The 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, allowing friends to see their movements. WhatsApp describes it as a "simple and secure way to let people know where you are." It is a useful method for a young person to let loved ones know they're safe – but if they used it in a chat with people they don't know, they would be exposing their location to them, too.

Advice for Parents & Carers



CREATE A SAFE PROFILE

Even though someone would need a child's phone number to add them as a contact, it's also worth altering a young person's profile settings to restrict who can see their photo and status. The options are 'everyone', 'my contacts' and 'nobody' – choosing one of the latter two ensures that your child's profile is better protected.



EXPLAIN ABOUT BLOCKING

If your child receives spam or offensive messages, calls or files from a contact, they should block them using 'settings' in the chat. Communication from a blocked contact won't show up on their device and stays undelivered. Blocking someone does not remove them from your child's contact list – so they also need to be deleted from the address book.



REPORT POTENTIAL SCAMS

Young people shouldn't engage with any message that looks suspicious or too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they'll be given the option to report it as spam. If the sender claims to be a friend or relative, call that person on their usual number to verify it really is them, or if it's someone trying to trick your child.



LEAVE A GROUP

If your child is in a group chat that is making them feel uncomfortable, or has been added to a group that they don't want to be part of, they can use WhatsApp's group settings to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once; if they leave a second time, it is permanent.



THINK ABOUT LOCATION

If your child needs to use the 'live location' function to show you or one of their friends where they are, advise them to share their location only for as long as they need to. WhatsApp gives a range of 'live location' options, and your child should manually stop sharing their position as soon as it is no longer needed.



DELETE ACCIDENTAL MESSAGES

If your child posts a message they want to delete, WhatsApp allows the user seven minutes to erase a message. Tap and hold on the message, choose 'delete' and then 'delete for everyone.' However, it's important to remember that recipients may have seen (and taken a screenshot of) a message before it was deleted.



CHECK THE FACTS

You can now fact-check WhatsApp messages that have been forwarded at least five times, by double-tapping the magnifying glass icon to the right of the message. From there, your child can launch a Google search and decide for themselves whether the message was true or not.



Meet Our Expert

Parveen Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday