



Newsletter

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Message from Mr McCoy

It has been another busy week in school despite the freezing weather. This week saw us having our first Rock Steady Concert. The bands who performed were absolutely brilliant and they were so confident in front of their first-ever audience; I can't wait for the next one.

We had a Friends of Bleak Hill (FOBH) meeting on Tuesday evening and discussed future events, which will include: Mothers' Day Shop on Friday 8th March, Bags 2 School event on Monday 18th March and an Easter Bingo on Wednesday 27th March.

This week's School Merit is based on 'Children who stay positive and motivated (in class)', and having spent some time with pupils this week I know that they are very positive about their learning and they spoke very positively about lessons, which was lovely to hear. Thank you, as always, for your support and have a great weekend.

Merit Award - Children who stay positive and motivated

	R.O.T.W	W.O.T.W	M.O.T.W	Bronze	Silver	Gold
RHE	Imogen L	Harriet B	Henry P	Emilia McD-J	Xander P	Harry A
RHU	Zak P	Louie S	Jessica Cr	Eliot D	Brody T	Cassidy M-S
RR	Matilda C	Lucy J	Harvey B	Olivia H	Ella U	Daniel C
1A	Finley McC	Pippa B	Thomas Q-A	Emma H	Felicity B	Finn T
1CS	Elara J	Caleb W	Nancy S	Harriet L	Zain T	Hannah C
1M	Max H	Miya L	Carter K	Luna R	Louis J	Josh M
2G	Sienna B	Florence S	Sophie F	Harry J	Harrison B	Harry C
2J	Jude D	George McE	Aria B	Annie M	Sebastian B-K	Laura B
2W	Joseph U	Isobel R	Sienna C	Ellen H	Finley W	Joe T
3D	Charlotte L	Emily A	Harriet B	Hugo T	Evie F	Oliver T
3H	Joel D	Regan T	Jude N	Spencer D	Cohan W	Ted R
3M	Riley W	Lucy R	Lacey J-M	Corey R	Maddison G	Molly F
4C	Rhea J	Amelia B	Luke B	Hattie H	Elise S	Oliver W
4MC	Millie M	Lydia C	Joseph S	Max R	Sky W	Eleanor C
4MO	Thea C	Bella S	Penny O	Zac G	Hawley A	Alex B
5B	Molly R	Max R	Jacob B	Thomas O'B	Evie N	Emma B
5W	Andrew S	Emily D	Finley D	Freya B	Thomas B	Elsa C
6D	Riley L	Finn F	Athelia R	Sophia J	Toby K	Zak N
6W	Isla C	Thomas S	Frankie W	Lillia F	Aubree H	Mason H-B

What's on w/c 22.01.24			
22.01.2024	Before School	During School	After School
Monday		Y2 & Y6 PE <i>Bikeability L3 Y6</i>	Book Club Y4 - Miss K Williams 3 of 4 Exit via main reception at 4.15pm
Tuesday	Dodgeball Y5 & 6 - Mr Dagnall 3 of 4 Enter via Junior Library corridor (KS2 playground)	YR, Y4 & Y5 PE <i>Bikeability L3 Y6</i> <i>Y6 Boys Football Competition</i>	Young Voices Y5 & 6 - Mrs Burrows 3 of 4 for T2A Exit via main reception at 4.30pm
Wednesday	Dance Y1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 Karen Elliott (external provider) 3 of 4 Enter via Junior Library corridor (KS2 playground)	Y1 & Y3 PE <i>Bikeability L3 Y6</i>	Gymnastics Y3, 4, 5 & 6 - Future Gym (external provider) 3 of 4 Exit via main reception at 4.20pm
Thursday	Futsal Y3 & 4 - Future Gym (external provider) 3 of 4 Enter via Junior Library corridor (KS2 playground)	Y1, Y2, Y3 & Y5 PE <i>Bikeability L3 Y6</i>	Gymnastics YR, 1 & 2 - Future Gym (external provider) 3 of 4 Exit via main reception at 4.15pm
Friday	Athletics YR, 1 & 2 - Future Gym (external provider) 3 of 4 Enter via Junior Library corridor (KS2 playground)	YR, Y4 & Y6 PE <i>MHST Parent Mental Health Day</i>	

Friends of Bleak Hill

Dates for Your Diaries

Mothers' Day Shop 08.03.24

Bags 2 School 18.03.24

Easter Bingo 27.03.24

Easter Raffle 28.03.24

Own Clothes Day Bring a Bottle for Gala 28.03.24



Can you help ?

We would welcome donations of school trousers and school joggers in small sizes suitable for Reception and Y1 children. If you have any good condition spares that have been grown out of please pass them to school via the office. Thank you.



Get your **SPARK** back



this

Parent Mental Health Day

27th January 2024

Every parent needs help sometimes – it can be the hardest job in the world.

S

top to appreciate just how much you do for your children

P

lan some healthy happy experiences in, just for you

A

cccept the things you cannot change

R

eceive help when it's offered - ask if you need more

K

eeep going - you're doing your best!

If you have really lost all your 'spark', there is *always* someone who can help.

Here's 3 places you could start:

EMAIL: Bleak Hill Pastoral Team
Debbie Aspinall-Wood and
Lee Cotterill

SELF-HELP: short vids and more,
from local organisation
Maximum Edge CIC

ONLINE: free support for adults in
the UK



Scan with
your phone's
camera for
direct access
(or click)



All Day. Every Day.



Attendance Matters



Attendance

Whole School	96.5%
Reception	95.0%
Year 1	98.0%
Year 2	95.3%
Year 3	96.3%
Year 4	97.7%
Year 5	97.9%
Year 6	95.5%

Equates to:



Useful website

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

There is a national campaign from the DFE where parents are being encouraged to look at children's attendance at school being a real priority. Please remember we are always here to help.

In 2018/19, just 40% of persistently absent (PA) children in KS2 achieved expected KS2 standards, compared with 84% of pupils who were regular attenders.

Regular school attendance can facilitate positive peer relationships, which is a protective factor for mental health and wellbeing.



**“THIS MORNING,
HE HAD A
RUNNY NOSE...
BUT LOOK AT
HIM NOW!”**

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



HM Government

Search NHS school illness guidance to find out more.

NHS



**“THIS MORNING,
HE WAS WORRIED
ABOUT SCHOOL...
BUT LOOK AT HIM
NOW!”**

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



HM Government

Search the Education Hub to find out more

NHS

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about



AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

In October 2022, the enormously popular social media network Twitter was purchased by tech tycoon Elon Musk. That sparked a host of changes to the platform – not all which have been received positively by its fans. The alterations have continued with each passing month, many of them raising online safety concerns among the 530 million users of Twitter (now rebranded as simply X). With further adjustments reportedly in the pipeline, X has attracted more than its usual share of controversy and caution in recent times.

A BLOCK ON BLOCKING

X has announced plans to remove its blocking feature. Previously, this stopped other users from viewing your profile or sending you direct messages, while also hiding their posts from your feed. Only this latter function will now remain. The decision has been criticised by some members, who feel that blocking (in its current form) protects them from X users who promote denial and hatred.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Many of X's less age-appropriate posts can feature anything from extreme political views to pornography. While accounts marked as 18+ are restricted from non-members, it's still fairly easy to stumble across this material accidentally. X's new 'For You' page also shows content from accounts that a user doesn't already follow – meaning that almost anything could end up on a child's feed.

LIMITED REPORTING FEATURES

X offers a premium membership, with some functionality (such as controlling who can view and reply to your posts) increasingly being made exclusive to those who pay the subscription fee. Several commentators have speculated that X could one day become an exclusively paid-for service, with access to accounts being revoked for anyone unwilling or unable to take out a subscription.

VERIFICATION FOR SALE

Historically, Twitter's moderators granted account verification, certifying someone as authentic by placing a blue tick next to their username. One of X's earliest changes was to place verification behind a paywall: this caused the number of celebrity impersonators to rise and left no way to distinguish, say, a legitimate influencer from a copycat fake account seeking to exploit other users.

BLUE TICK SALE

Advice for Parents & Carers

PROTECT PRIVACY

Unsavory characters may try to gain access to a young person's X account – either to view their posts and gather information on them, or to completely take control of it. To minimise risk, ensure the account has a strong password and enable the 'Protect Your Posts' feature (via the account settings), so that strangers can't view your child's posts without first being approved as a follower.

DON'T RISE TO THE BAIT

To gain more views and followers, some X users post deliberately inflammatory comments on sensitive topics such as race, sexual orientation and gender issues. Many young people could find this upsetting. Emphasise that, if your child encounters someone spreading hate on X, it's best not to give that person what they want: an argument. Ignore them, mute their account and move on.

STAY ALERT FOR IMPOSTERS

Make sure your child understands that X's blue ticks no longer guarantee the identity of anyone on the platform. While it might be exciting if a celebrity liked your child's post, it could just as easily be an imposter with malicious intentions. If your child's not 100% sure that an X user actually is who they claim to be, advise them to err on the side of caution and avoid interacting with that account.

ONLY FOLLOW TRUSTED ACCOUNTS

Using the 'Following' tab on X helps to ensure that the only content your child sees has come from accounts they've chosen to follow: this should reduce the chance of them inadvertently being exposed to harmful, violent or explicit content. Show your child how to report another user's account if, say, they're behaving inappropriately by spreading misinformation or offensive opinions.

BE READY TO TAKE ACTION

If your child suffers harassment on the platform or becomes the target of a hack, you could consider deactivating their account entirely. Recently, X's safety features have been criticised for allegedly failing to protect users' wellbeing – so if your child is being subjected to abusive messages or similar mistreatment on the platform, it might be prudent to remove them from X altogether.

Meet Our Expert

Usyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGWise and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. Always eager to test out the latest apps, games and online trends, he's also a parent who understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

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[@national_online_safety](https://tiktok.com/@national_online_safety)

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