

Friday 13th October 2023



Newsletter

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Message from Mr McCoy

Wow! What an amazing week at Bleak Hill! We started the week with two amazing Year 5 class assemblies, the children and staff worked so hard to produce amazing performances. It was brilliant to see the children share how much they have learned through acting, singing and dancing.

On Tuesday, we celebrated World Mental Health Day in a range of different ways. A number of parents mentioned how nice it was to pass the playgrounds and see a sea of yellow. The School Council carried out their first duty of the year by creating biscuits for every member of our school community, thank you for your generous donations, we raised over £240. We also collected food for Teardrops to help others in our local area, thank you to our newly appointed House Captains for taking the time to collect and organise all of the food.

Year 1 had the opportunity to visit Acorn Farm this week as part of our Road Trip to Knowledge. They loved every minute of their trip and were great ambassadors for Bleak Hill. A number of Year 4 and 5 children have also had the opportunity to represent school at Dodgeball, Football and Rugby events this week. It is amazing to see our children competing with other schools, with smiles on their faces. Have a great weekend!

Merit Award - Children who are enthusiastic readers

	R.O.T.W	W.O.T.W	M.O.T.W	Bronze	Silver	Gold
RHE	Harriet B	Imogen L	Teddy S	Jackson K	Henry P	Emilia McD-J
RHU	Eliot D	Ava D	Mila C	Teddy E	Noah R	Kara S
RR	Sky K	Daniel C	Dougie C	Ella D	Aurelia L	Harvey B
1A	Kayden W	Freddy R	Roman T	Zara A	Emma H	Stanley K
1CS	Leo R	Dexter C	Jayson B	Haydn R	Bobby H	Alex M
1M	Alannah P	Carter K	Albie P-S	Ben M	Ella C	Harper I
2G	Lincoln H	Pippa I	Harry J	Lucas McM	Annabelle B	Isaac E
2J	Harry C	Millie H	Charlotte J	Jude D	Lucy P	Thea H
2W	Hallie W	Megan H	Edie F	Beatrice P	Alex D	Thomas B
3D	Daniel F	Theo B	Nicole M	Charlotte L	Gerard C	Nancy A
3H	Regan T	Louie R	Ava B	Ivy P	Pippa B	Olivia C
3M	Jamie O'B	Nancie J	Billy B	Lucy R	Fifi N-W	Harry Z
4C	Sophie C	Anthony W	Amelia B	Elise S	Adam B	Darcey T
4MC	Joseph S	Natalie S	Edith K-G	Camron F	Max B	Bethany H
4MO	James E	Frankie M	Oliver F	Penny O	Teddy R-G	Olivia S
5B	Ethan C	Charlotte T	Oscar C	Flynn O'B	Georgia W	Peyton R
5W	Emily D	Henry C	Thomas B	Jessica S	Emily O	Scarlett P
6D	Isaac J	Isla B	Theo F	Theo C	Jessica F	Poppy F
6W	Max N	Mason H-B	Sam P	Isla C	Diya S	Sam B

What's on next week

16.10.2023	Before School	During School	After School
Monday		Y2 & Y6 PE Y5 Bikeability Y6 Handball Competition	Judo Y3, 4, 5 & 6 - (external provider) 4 of 5 Exit via main reception at 4.10pm
Tuesday	Football Y3 & 4 - Ian McMinn (external provider) 5 of 5 Enter via Junior Library corridor (KS2 playground)	YR, Y4 & Y5 PE Y5 Bikeability Y3 Football Competition	Young Voices Y5 & 6 - Mrs Burrows 5 of 5 for T1A Exit via main reception at 4.15pm
Wednesday	Dance Y2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 Karen Elliott (external provider) 5 of 5 Enter via Junior Library corridor (KS2 playground)	Y1, Y3 & Y6 PE Y5 Bikeability	Gymnastics Y1 & 2 - Future Gym (external provider) 5 of 5 Exit via main reception at 4.15pm
Thursday	Football Y1 & 2 - Ian McMinn (external provider) 5 of 5 Enter via Junior Library corridor (KS2 playground)	Y1, Y2 & Y5 PE Y5 Bikeability	Athletics Y3, 4, 5 & 6 - Future Gym (external provider) 5 of 5 Exit via main reception at 4.20pm Intake 2024 Open Evening 4.30-6pm
Friday	Gymnastics Y3, 4, 5 & 6 - Future Gym (external provider) 5 of 5 Enter via Junior Library corridor (KS2 playground)	YR, Y3 & Y4 PE Y5 Bikeability 6D Swimming	

Friends of Bleak Hill

Friends of Bleak Hill Movie Night

Wednesday 25th October - EYFS & KS1

Thursday 26th October - KS2

The movie night will be an opportunity for your child to spend time in their class watching a movie chosen by their class. The movie night will run from the end of the school day up to 5.15pm.

Tickets for the Movie Night are £5.00 per child. Children will receive a drink and popcorn. Tickets are available via SchoolMoney until Friday 20th October.



300 Club

The 300 Club is your chance to win ££. For just £10 per year, you have multiple chances to win all year round!

Monthly Draw £40

Christmas Draw £100 & £50

Summer Draw £100 & £50

The draw takes place the first Friday of the month and the winner will be published in our newsletter. **The 1st draw is Friday 10th November.** To enter, please go to SchoolMoney and purchase your tickets in the 'Shop' section. Entries are not limited, so you can purchase on behalf of your family and friends!

The 300 Club is a valuable source of income for the school and by entering, you are helping raise much needed funds to help the school purchase vital equipment which otherwise might not be available.

All Day. Every Day.



Attendance Matters



Attendance	
Whole School	97.3%
Reception	97.4%
Year 1	97.8%
Year 2	98.1%
Year 3	96.7%
Year 4	97.1%
Year 5	99.5%
Year 6	94.2%



Attendance Update

We need to try really hard each and every week to make sure every year group is beating our **96% target** this will help us to succeed!

Our attendance for 2—6 Oct was:

97.3%

Our attendance for the year so far

is: 97.5%

Late gates will be in place next week with a staff member available at the main reception if any support is required.

All children should be arriving at school between 8.40-9.00am. Doors to classrooms close promptly on the school bell at 9.00am and any children arriving after this time must be escorted to the office by an adult and booked in on the screen in the main reception area.

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.



Hygiene Poverty:

Many people are finding themselves in times of crisis and have limited options, leaving them caught between being able to heat their home, pay their rent, buy food or keep clean. Hygiene poverty can be shaming, humiliating and can result in social isolation. It can affect people health and mental well-being which can impact early childhood development, learning, employability and social interaction.

EVERYONE DESERVES TO FEEL CLEAN: If you would like to donate new items & support this cause we are collecting items at our school. There is no time limit this will be ongoing in order to support people within our local community who are in need. **(Please note they cannot accept used or opened products and need to be in date).** We will place a donation box in the main reception so that items can be dropped off at people's convenience and each time it is full we will have it collected by the local hygiene bank.

[The Hygiene Bank](https://thehygienebank.com/)

<https://thehygienebank.com/>

What products do you collect?

The Hygiene Bank collects new, unused, in-date personal care and household cleaning essentials. The lists below are not exhaustive; our rule of thumb is, if you need them and use them, then it is likely someone else needs and uses them too. If you can't get to a convenient drop off location, you can buy on-line direct from our Common Good Community Wishlists.

For product queries, please read our FAQs listed below. For health and safety reasons, we cannot accept half used, old products. Please only donate what you would consider happily gifting a friend.



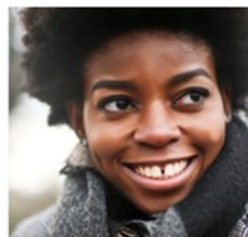
Baby / Child

Nappies & pull ups, night time pants for older children, baby wipes, barrier cream, toothpaste & toothbrush, baby wash, baby & kids shampoo, nit comb & nit shampoo, soft sponge, bath bubbles.



Teen

Shampoo & conditioner, period products, skincare, body wipes, haircare, shower gel, bubble bath, deodorant, body spray, disposable razors & shaving products, toothpaste & toothbrush, hair styling products, nail clippers, grooming products, makeup.



Adult

Period products, shampoo & conditioner, hair styling products, face wash, cleanser & creams, body wash, body lotion, deodorant, toothpaste & toothbrush, disposable razors and shaving items, nail care, make-up, perfume, gift sets, grooming products.



Household

Laundry detergent, sponges and cloths, household cleaning items, loo roll, tissues, cleaning wipes, dish tabs, washing up liquid, toilet cleaner, polish and sprays.

Teardrops—Donations for the Homeless



Key Information To Note:

- Please can parents / carers ensure that children do not use the bikes or other play equipment at the start or end of the school day. Please pass this message onto any other friends/relatives who may pick up or drop off your children. Thank you for your understanding.
- Any children that ride a bike or scooter to school and leave it on the premises during the school day need to read and agree to our School Cycle Policy, in partnership with school. Copies of this are available at the school office.
- We have had reports of anti-social behaviour in relation to parking / driving in the vicinity of school. Please can we ask that at all times you are considerate of other road users and the highway code. Again, can we ask that this message is reiterated to other people who may pick up or drop off your children.

School Council—World Mental Health Day—Biscuit 'Sale'



The School Council decorated biscuits and set up stalls around school. We asked for donations towards Young Minds.

**YOUNG
MiNDS**

We raised over £240
Thank you!!

**YOUNG
MiNDS**



Light Night @ St Andrews

5.30-7pm Tuesday 31st October



**Step out of the cold and dark of
this October night to enjoy
Games, Lego, Crafts, Hot Dogs,
Cake and Hot Chocolate!**

**Find out about all our events coming
up over Advent and Christmas...**