

Leadgate Primary School – Friday Newsletter

Caring, Sharing, Learning Together

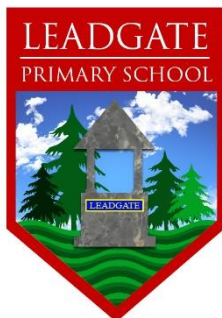
Friday 13th January 2023

On this day in history:

1778 British explorer James Cook landed, on Kauai island, becoming the first European to visit Hawaii.

1936 Edward VIII succeeds British King George V

2009 Barack Obama was sworn in as the 44th president of the United States, becoming the first African American to hold the office.



**Whole School Attendance
Weekly Attendance figures**

Reception = 89.2 %

Year 1 = 90.7 %

★ Year 2 = 93.1 % ★

Year 3 = 91.8 %

Year 4 = 93.9 %

★ Year 5 = 94.3 % ★

Year 6 = 93.1 %



Congratulations

Well Done Year 2 for the best attendance in Lower School and Year 5 for the best attendance in Upper School across the whole week.

NEU STRIKE ACTION

As parents and carers will no doubt be aware members of the National Education Union will be undertaking strike action on 4 days across this term in a dispute over pay. We are currently completing risk assessments to assess the impact of the extend to school closure across these dates and will have a final outcome on Monday. All parents should plan for alternate childcare arrangements on these dates to ensure that have sufficient plans in place.

Confirmed Strike dates are :

Wednesday 1st February

Tuesday 28th February

Wednesday 15th March

Thursday 16th March

Spring First Half Term Sports and Music Timetable

Below is a timetable of sports and music provision covering all classes from EYFS to Year 6 for this Half Term – any additional PE slots will have been shared by the class teacher on Class Dojo.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Adam – Dance Year 2 and EYFS	SEND Sports Intervention		Swimming Year 6	
Forest Schools Year 3 and Year 5	Adam – Dance Year 4 and Year 6		Little Kickers Year 1 and Year 2	
Music EYFS and Year 2	Little Kickers EYFS		Changed to : Taekwondo Year 4 and Year 6	

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School Dates

School Holiday Dates

The next school Holiday is February Half Term and the School closes on Friday 17th February and reopens on Monday 27th February.

School dates confirmed so far :

27th Jan – Year 4 Outreach Vikings Visit in school
27th Jan – Author Kylie Dixon – returns to judge competition
6th Feb – Year 4 Captain Chemistry
8th Feb – Year 5 First Aid training
14th Feb – Lower School Non Curriculum Day – Aboriginal Creative Day
17th Feb – Upper School Non Curriculum Day - 'Adventure along the Equator'
With : Japan – Japanese Artist
Australia - Hula Activities
India - Yoga / Meditation
South America -Animal encounter - Rainforest
17th Feb – School closes for Half Term Holiday
2nd March – Word Book Day
15th March – Golf Day sessions – EYFS and Keystage 1
17th March – Golf Day Sessions – Keystage 2
27th and 28th March – Parents evenings
28th March – Dragon visit to Lower School!
31st March – School closes for Easter Holiday
More dates will be added once confirmed

New Behaviour Policy

We have updated our school behaviour policy and have placed this on the school website for parents to access.
Should you have any questions please contact the class teacher and Miss Pedro our behaviour coordinator.



SEND Coffee Afternoon

Come and Join Us
Wednesday 8th March
2pm – 3pm



A friendly Chat with a Cuppa at Lower School

Does your child have special education Needs?
Would you like support?
Could you offer support to others?
Share with others in similar situations in a friendly, supportive environment.
All welcome

Leadgate Primary School
Parent and Toddler Playgroup

Sharing
Caring
Learning together

Lot of games, toys, stories, music, soft play, activities and fun!
Come for a play and a chat!

West Street, Leadgate, DH8 7PN
Every Friday (term time only)
1.30pm – 2.30pm
(to vacate by 2.45pm ready for school pick ups)
Tea & coffee available
£1 admission

E-Safety Update / Information

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about TWITTER

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Twitter is a social media network which allows users to post short messages (tweets) of up to 280 characters. Tweets can consist of text, photos, videos, audio, links, polls and GIFs – often linked by hashtags if they share a common theme or message. Hashtags receiving high levels of interest are said to be 'trending'. Twitter users can engage with other people's posts by liking, retweeting (sharing) or tweeting back (commenting on). Since the entrepreneur Elon Musk acquired Twitter in October 2022 for \$44 billion, he has implemented several major changes to the platform.

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

INTERACTION WITH STRANGERS

Tweets are public by default, meaning that anyone can view and interact with posts, follow someone and send direct messages. The concern here is that young people may therefore connect and communicate with strangers. Some individuals may follow a young person's Twitter account simply because they have similar interests; however, others may turn out to have more sinister intentions.

FIXATION ON VIEW COUNT

Twitter has recently introduced a 'view count' feature – telling users how many people have seen their tweet (even if they haven't reacted to it). Previous research has found that unfavourable comparisons with other social media users can cause young people to experience feelings of insecurity, jealousy and low self-esteem – leading to an obsession with increasing their numbers.

TROLLS AND BULLYING

The anonymity offered by fake profiles encourages some users to send tweets designed to provoke a reaction; to disrupt conversations; to spark an argument; or to harass the recipient. Such trolling and bullying can impact the mental wellbeing of both the target and anyone who witnesses it. Encourage your child to come to you if they experience such behaviour on Twitter, or if they see it taking place.

PAID-FOR VERIFICATION

Previously, if a Twitter profile displayed a blue tick icon, it meant that the owner – usually a celebrity or a major organisation – had been verified as genuine. Now, however, anyone can pay for a Twitter Blue subscription to receive the tick, with the platform carrying out limited checks on the account's authenticity. This could easily lead to more fake accounts impersonating real people or companies.

CONTENT MODERATION CHANGES

In late 2022, Twitter stated that their 'policy enforcement will rely more heavily on de-amplification of violative content: freedom of speech, but not freedom of reach'. No policies have changed yet, but this wording suggests they may limit who can see posts rather than removing them. While supporting free speech, this could encourage an environment where some toxic content remains online.

HJACKED HASHTAGS

The hashtag (#) is one of Twitter's most recognisable facets, allowing users to find specific trends or topics. But the sheer volume of tweets each hour can rapidly distort a hashtag's meaning: an initially innocent search term can quickly end up returning inappropriate results. This is common with 'trending' hashtags, as people know that using them get their tweet seen by a larger audience.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SET ACCOUNTS TO PRIVATE

To reduce some of the fear of your child's tweets being seen and shared by anyone, you can always make their account protected. This means that your child has to give approval for another user to view their posts. You can change Twitter's privacy settings so that your child can't be messaged directly by other people on the platform and their geographical location won't be shared.

FOSTER CRITICAL THINKING

It can be difficult for anyone to ascertain if something online is real or false, but particularly for young people. Encourage your child to check several reputable sources to determine if a story they've seen is true; remind them to watch out for scams and think about the message's possible motive. Emphasise that it's not a good idea to retweet something if they aren't sure it's correct.

ENGAGE SAFETY MODE

When Safety Mode is activated, Twitter checks for abusive or spammy behaviour such as hurtful language or repeated negative replies. The platform then flags these suspect accounts and blocks them from responding to your child's tweets. The autoblock function then prevents these accounts from interacting with your child's again for seven days.

EXPLORE THE NEW SETTINGS

Previously, any user could reply to anyone else's tweets. However, the new conversation settings let your child determine who can reply to their posts – either by selecting everyone (the default option), people they follow or only people they mention (using the @ symbol). This improvement has given users extra control, providing them with more protection from trolls and online abuse.

PAUSE BEFORE POSTING

It's important that young people think about what they're about to post and whether they might regret it later. Twitter has developed 'nudges': little prompts which appear if someone is about to tweet using harmful or offensive language. These nudges promote more positive online behaviour by giving users an opportunity to pause and consider their words before they post something.

BLOCK, REPORT OR MUTE

If someone is upsetting your child on Twitter, you can block and report them. Blocking stops them from messaging or following your child, while reporting an account alerts Twitter to investigate possible misuse. The 'mute' feature, meanwhile, keeps tweets from a specific account (or which include certain words) out of your child's timeline. The other user won't know that they've been muted.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



NOS
National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

BE CAREFUL WHO TO FOLLOW

As accounts are no longer being as rigorously verified under the 'blue tick' system, it's essential that young Twitter users understand what this means, in terms of people not necessarily being who they claim. Anyone who your child only knows online is still a stranger, regardless of how long they've been communicating for. Remind your child never to disclose personal information on social media.

Source: <https://blog.twitter.com/common-thread/en/topics/stories/2022/how-twitter-is-nudging-users-healthier-conversations> | https://blog.twitter.com/en_us/topics/product/2022/twitter-blue-update
https://blog.twitter.com/en_us/topics/company/2022/twitter-2-0-our-continued-commitment-to-the-public-conversation | <https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2131&context=etd>



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



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