



# NEWSLETTER W/E 17th April 2026

Dear Families,

What a difference sunshine makes! The school is wonderful on most days but with plants and the garden growing so rapidly, it is an oasis of calmness.

Our children have come back happy and ready for the Summer term. Children across the school are preparing for different assessments throughout the term; Year 6 SATs, Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check, Year 1 Phonics screening and EYFS baseline. To echo the Church of England's vision " I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." —John 10:10 we have had another busy week of learning opportunities for the children. From challenging and engaging lessons in Maths and English, awe and wonder lessons in Science and History, to exciting and creative lessons in DT and Art, the opportunities have been taken with glee. The beautiful sounds of hymns filled the air this week as our singing lessons with St Paul's Cathedral commenced after the Easter break, and the expertise of the coaching from West Ham football club has again brought a wonderful amount of technique and fun to our PE lessons.

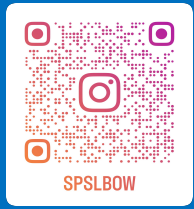


Have a restful weekend!

*Mrs Smith & Mr Hall*



## DIARY DATES



- Wednesday 22nd April - LDBS Mass Choir rehearsal trip - Yr 4
- Wednesday 29th April - LDBS Mass Choir trip Yr 4
- Monday 4th May - May Bank Holiday
- Thursday 7th May - Closed for Polling
- Monday 11th- Thursday 14th May- SATs Week

## SCHOOL NOTICE BOARD

	Pupil of the week	Kindness leaves	Value of the week
Nursery	Eliza Ezra		Niyyah Mia
Reception	Jesmeen Arisha M		Naima Lawe
Year 1	Aiden Amira	Ela Musa	Ela Musa
Year 2	Fabeha Amina	Aliysha Peggy	Daniyal Khadijah
Year 3	Hayden Ehsan	Zaiba Mohamoud	Zaiba Layla
Year 4	Sharleez Moriem	Da'ud Brooklyn	Simra Sharleez
Year 5	Damilee Ariya	Mehajabin Eman	Tagim Alivia
Year 6	Casey Sonny		Janelle Aliya



### WORSHIP FOCUS

#### John 20: 19-31

The risen Jesus appears to His frightened disciples and later meets Thomas in his doubts, inviting him to see and believe. Jesus blesses those who have not seen Him yet still believe.

*Happy Birthday to:*

Albert



I wonder how the apostles felt when they saw the scars on Jesus' hands, side and feet?

## SCHOOL NOTICE BOARD

# Swimming

Polite reminder that all children should attend swimming lessons. These are a compulsory part of the national curriculum for physical education and form an important element of your child's learning experience. These lessons are not optional and are designed to ensure that all children are able to meet national swimming expectations by the end of primary school.

As such, if your child is well enough to be in school, they are expected to take part in swimming sessions. If you consider your child has a medical condition that prevents them from swimming, please provide written evidence from your GP. However, in the absence of such a reason, all pupils will be expected to attend and take part in each lesson.

What to bring:

- Swimwear (trunks or swimming costume)
- Towel
- Swimming cap
- Goggles

Also reminder no earrings, please ensure these are taken out the night before.


Thank you for your support in helping us provide all pupils with the skills and confidence they need to stay safe in and around water. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school.

## SCHOOL NOTICE BOARD



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### **School Admissions Service – Drop-in sessions for parents and carers**

 **Every Friday (term-time only)**

 **10:00 AM – 12:30 PM**

 **Residents Hub, Tower Hamlets Town Hall, 160 Whitechapel Road, London, E1 1BJ**

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### **Are you a parent or carer with questions about admissions?**

You may find the answers online:

Visit us at [towerhamlets.gov.uk/schooladmissions](https://towerhamlets.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

### **If you need more support, we're here to help!**

No appointment needed - sign up for a 10-minute slot on the day

Friendly, knowledgeable staff

Quick answers to your questions

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### **Let's make admissions easier — together!**

For more information, email [school.admissions@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:school.admissions@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

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## SCHOOL NOTICE BOARD

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](http://nationalcollege.com).

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

WhatsApp is a free messaging app owned by Meta, allowing users to send text and voice messages, share multimedia, make video calls, and chat in groups. With end-to-end encryption, only the sender and receiver can view messages. This may offer privacy, but it also comes with risks that parents and educators need to be aware of.

### GROUP CHAT PRESSURES

Group chats enable multiple users to message in the same space, but this can also make it easier for young people to feel excluded or overwhelmed. Negative comments can escalate quickly, and young people may feel pressure to respond or stay engaged even when the conversation is uncomfortable or upsetting.

### SCAMS TARGETING YOUNG USERS

Scammers are increasingly using WhatsApp to trick users into sharing personal information. Common scams include fraudsters posing as family members in an emergency or tricking users into revealing security codes. These can lead to identity theft or access to private conversations.

### DISAPPEARING AND HIDDEN MESSAGES

WhatsApp offers features like disappearing messages and 'Chat Lock', which can give users a false sense of security. While intended to protect privacy, they can be used by young users to hide inappropriate conversations or content, making it harder for adults to spot potential issues.

### EXPOSURE THROUGH CHANNELS

'Channels' are an optional feature that allows users to follow updates from public figures or organisations; however, there is no way to block this feature or filter its content by age. Young users may encounter adult or distressing content, including misinformation and harmful ideologies.

### UNWANTED CONTACT AND LOCATION SHARING

WhatsApp users can share their live location, and if not managed carefully, this can allow others – even those in mutual groups – to track someone's whereabouts. Also, without the right privacy settings, young users may be contacted by strangers.

### COMMERCIAL AND AI CONTENT

WhatsApp now includes ads in the 'Updates' feed and has introduced an AI assistant – Meta AI – across the app, which cannot be removed. These additions raise concerns about targeting, privacy, AI use, and the type of content children and young people might interact with.

...ONLINE...

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Help young users check who can see their profile photo, status, and location. Activate the 'Silence Unknown Callers' setting and set group chat invitations to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...' for added safety.

### TEACH HOW TO SPOT SCAMS

Encourage caution around unusual and unexpected messages, especially if they involve money or codes. Help young users understand the signs of scams and what to do if they receive a suspicious message. Enable two-step verification to add an extra layer of protection.

### BE OPEN ABOUT HIDDEN CHATS

Discuss why children and young people might use features like disappearing messages or 'Chat Lock'. Encourage them to share if something made them uncomfortable, even if the messages are gone. Let them know that privacy should not mean secrecy.

### TALK ABOUT ADVERTISING AND AI

Explain that WhatsApp now includes ads and AI tools. Discuss the difference between genuine and sponsored content, and the potential for AI to share inaccurate or age-inappropriate responses. Encourage young users to think critically before trusting or interacting with these features.

### 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 setting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College

## SCHOOL NOTICE BOARD

95%	=	<b>47 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR</b> 8 days in total or 1 week and 3 days
90%	=	<b>95 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR</b> 16 days in total or 3 weeks and 1 day
85%	=	<b>142 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR</b> 24 days in total or 4 weeks and 4 days
80%	=	<b>190 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR</b> 32 days in total or 6 weeks and 2 days

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

WHAT DO YOUR ATTENDANCE FIGURES ACTUALLY MEAN?

**BE SMART BE THERE!**

Percentages based on 190 academic days

### Polite reminder:

Children need to be in school on time.

Gates open at 8:45 and close at 8:55.

Early morning learning at this time sets the children up for the day.

Every day matters.  
Every minute counts.

Attending primary school regularly provides a wealth of social, health and academic benefits for children.

"Going to school helps me achieve my very best."

For a 2020 - 2021 copy of the Primary School Attendance Booklet, please contact the school office.

Our Attendance Welfare Officer (AWA), Lina Rahman, attends school every Tuesday morning. Lina checks our school registers regularly and will contact parents & guardians by letter or telephone. Meetings and home visits will be completed if there is a cause for concern.

Formal referrals of pupils with persistent absence or below 90% attendance will be made. Children need to be in school every day. Parents should be aware that they can ultimately be prosecuted for non-attendance offences. Holidays should also be taken in school holidays and not in term time.

We know that sometimes- even with children at school 190 out of 365 days in the year- they may fall ill. This can be worrying so please see advice from our local teams on [https://www.towerhamlets-together.com/files/Care\\_Confident\\_Booklet\\_A5\\_InteractiveBooklet2.pdf](https://www.towerhamlets-together.com/files/Care_Confident_Booklet_A5_InteractiveBooklet2.pdf) on common illnesses and when to seek support. Additional sports, including swimming, benefit children to be healthier and smarter. Please ensure children take full advantage of this by wearing appropriate kit and making sure they bring it with them each week!