



### Achievement Assembly

Our achievement assembly celebrated children who have showed "kindness" this week. Well done to the following children:

**Reception:** Evie    **Year 1:** Holly    **Year 2:** Alex  
**Year 3:** Ben    **Year 4:** Hollie    **Year 5:** Isla    **Year 6:** Sophia

### Celebrating Attendance

Whole school attendance is currently at 95.6%

Well done to Year 2 & 3 for best attendance this week at 98%!

### Date for Diary

- February half term 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>
- Tues 4<sup>th</sup> March - Shrove Tuesday @ breakfast club - booking has closed
- Tues 4<sup>th</sup> March - Y3 DT Parent/Carer workshop 2pm to 3.25pm
- Wed 5<sup>th</sup> March - World Book Day plus special lunch (menu on website calendar)
- Wed 5<sup>th</sup> March - Reception Class - WBD Story & Snuggle with parents/carers 9 - 9.30
- Mon 24<sup>th</sup> March - Y5 Easter celebration workshop @ Birtley Methodist Church
- Mon 31<sup>st</sup> March - Reception class trip to Hall Hill Farm
- Thur 10<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Celebration special lunch (menu on website calendar)
- Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April - Break up for Easter - Returning Mon 28<sup>th</sup> April
- Thur 8<sup>th</sup> May - Reception class trip to Safetyworks
- Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> June - Inset day
- Mon 1<sup>st</sup> Sept - Inset day

### Child unwell? How long should you keep your child off for?

For Example: sickness and diarrhoea: even if there is only 1 episode of either or/both, you must keep your child off school for 48 hours after their last episode, bugs spread quickly in schools affecting both pupils and staff. We have had an outbreak of sickness in one class this week with 6 children being sent home yesterday. If your child isn't well, please keep them at home. For all other types of illnesses please check out: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

### Rights Respecting

Article 39: I have the right to help, to get better if I have been hurt or badly treated.



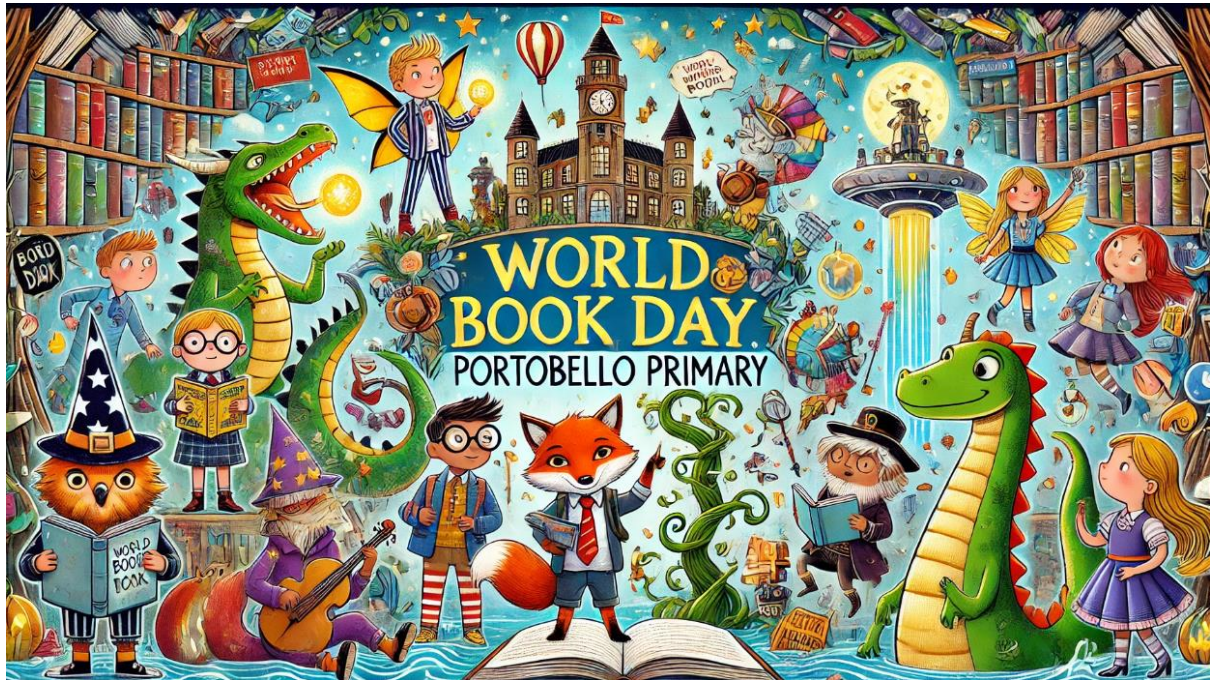
### Farewell to Miss Fielding

Today we say farewell to Miss Fielding who has been part of the Reception team since October 2022. We all wish her the very best as she takes on the next step in her career and we thank her for all the hard work and dedication she has given Portobello.

### Late to school?

Please bring your child into school via the main entrance, you will need to check in your child via the Reception iPad - Click on "Pupils" in the top left hand corner, Late Arrival, put your child's firstname then tab across to then add surname, Teacher - you can add year group ie: R for Reception, then a number for all other year groups eg: 1 for Year 1, finally add a reason for being late. The KS1 doors close at 8.50am, KS2 at 8.55am prompt.

**World Book Day 2025 - 'Read My Way' on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March**



We are excited to celebrate World Book Day this year with the theme 'Read My Way! Due to our school calendar being extremely busy, we will be holding our school World Book Day on Wednesday 5th March 2025.

At Portobello, we understand the pressures that many families are facing due to the cost of living, and we want to ensure that everyone can take part in a way that feels comfortable and enjoyable.

This year, we are embracing the theme fully — children are invited to come to school wearing whatever they feel best reading in! Whether that's fancy dress, pyjamas, casual clothes, or even their school uniform, all are welcome. The focus of the day will be on the joy of reading and celebrating books in a way that feels personal to each child.

We look forward to seeing everyone's reading outfits and sharing a wonderful day filled with stories, imagination, and fun activities!

**Happy World Book Day!**

## Easyfundraising

Thank you to everyone who is supporting us for free on #easyfundraising. Your continued support means the world to us! If you've not signed up yet, please join today and you can raise free donations for Portobello Primary School every time you shop online this year! Over 8,000 retailers like eBay, Argos, Marks and Spencer, John Lewis & Partners, Etsy, Tesco and Just Eat will donate at no extra cost to you. <https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/portobelloprisch/N7TLLL/c2s/FZ9Up2Ac/CE947/facebook/>



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](https://nationalcollege.com).

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With more than two billion active users, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. The UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging, but for the time being, this controversial feature remains.

## EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency' – plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

## CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user they want to message. Therefore, if a child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that the child might be added to a group chat or community (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people they don't know.

## FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allow news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a 'Forwarded many times' label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original – and might not be entirely factual, either.

## CHAT LOCK AND SECRET CODES

In 2023, WhatsApp introduced a feature that lets users keep their chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind their phone's passcode, fingerprint or face ID. There is an additional feature – 'Secret Code' – where users set a unique password for locked chats. Unfortunately, this creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of.

## VIEW ONCE CONTENT

The ability to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate material or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't reopen them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this disappearing content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing protection of privacy.

## VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's Live Location feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child is safe while out, for example. However, anyone in a user's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

### ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. You can give permission to My Contacts or My Contacts Except... Additionally, if a child needs to use Live Location, emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

### CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Check in with the child about how they're using WhatsApp, making sure they know you only have their safety at heart. If you spot a Locked Chats folder, you might want to talk about the sort of content they've stored in there, who they're talking to, and why they want to keep these chats hidden. Also, if children send any View Once content, it could be helpful to ask them why.

### DISCUSS GROUP CHATS

Make children aware that there could be members of a group that they don't know well and that words can be misinterpreted. Encourage them to leave a good impression, to avoid joining in if conversations turn towards bullying, and to respond to such situations in an appropriate way. Make sure they know that it's OK to leave a group chat if it makes them uncomfortable – or for any reason, in fact.

### THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content that a user posts to be shared more widely, even publicly on social media. Encourage children to consider how an impulsive message or forwarding might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

## 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.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/whatsapp2025>

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