



Featherstone Academy's Newsletter - Week Ending 20/01/2023

A Message from the Headteacher

It has been a cold and snowy week at Featherstone Academy! This has not stopped school from moving forward and has not detracted from what we offer our children. This week we have had the start of Balanceability in EYFS, 2 more Books and Biscuits, a phonics workshop, a further improved after school offer with more academic opportunities added to the calendar. The 2 weeks after Christmas has also seen the school's best attendance since pre COVID, which is amazing. Thank you all for your support with the above.

Key Dates

Upcoming dates for your diary

24th January – **Nursery** Open Morning. 10.00 - 11.30am

25th January - **Year 2** Books & Biscuits - 2:30pm

25th January – **Year 5** trip to Tudor World

26th January - **Year 3** Books & Biscuits - 2:30pm

1st February - **Year 4** Books & Biscuits - 2:30pm

2nd February - **Year 5** Books & Biscuits - 2:30pm

7th February – Safer Internet Week - **Whole School**

8th February - **Year 2** Arctic Explorers Day (see below)

9th February - **Year 6** Books & Biscuits - 2:30pm

9th February – **SEND** coffee morning - 9am

10th February – Children’s Mental Health Day - **Whole School**

13th February - **Year 2 SATS** Meeting 3:30pm

13th February – Parents Forum 5pm- details to follow

2nd March – World Book Day - **Whole School**

6/7th March – Parents Evening **Reception to Year 6**. 3.30pm – 5.30pm

7th March – Parents Evening **Little Learners & Nursery** 3.30pm - 4.30pm

17th March – Comic Relief - **Whole School**

13th March – British Science Week - **Whole School**

20th – 24th March – Parents ‘Look into Learning’ Week (info to follow).

21st March – World Down Syndrome Day – ‘Rock Your Socks’ - **Whole School**

29th March – Easter Bonnet Parade – **Little Learners and Nursery** 9.30am

30th March – Easter Celebration led by Year 3 and 4 – 9.30am - (Year 3/4 parents welcome to attend)

Year 2 SATS Meeting

As I am sure that you are aware, the Key Stage 1 SATs (Year 2) are fast approaching, taking place during the middle of May.

To ensure that you and your child are fully prepared for the content of these assessments and how they will run, I am holding a Year 2, parent/carers SATs workshop at, 3.30pm, on Monday 13th February in school.

During the workshop, we will discuss the following:

- An overview of the assessments detailing the tests that will take place
- How the tests will be administered in KS1
- What you can do at home to support your child in the weeks leading up to SATS.

Nursery Open Day

On Tuesday 24th January, Nursery are having an open morning for parents looking for a Nursery place for this September. Parents are welcome to visit Nursery between 10:00am and 11:30am. Please call 01902 734167 for further details.

Nursery September 2023 places are available for children who turn 3 between 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023.

Our Nursery is split across AM and PM sessions:

Morning 9:00am – 12:00 midday

Afternoon 12:00pm - 3:00pm

The online application process is now open. Click on the link below to submit your child's application. Please contact the school office if you wish to arrange a visit to view the school.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ShareFormPage.aspx?id=VHvDRIFT3kC5gtFgj34GCKPigicSmuNChIAJcX8Mhj9URUZIOVlwNk9ORzFIOVZWmk9OSkhIT1hSUS4u&sharetoken=BtxAhZ3vgF1peJCGmo7G>



Balance-ability Bike Course

On Monday, a group of children from Reception and Nursery took part in their very first Balanceability lesson with Emily from Progressive Sports. The children really enjoyed the session and all made great progress.







Morning Snack Purchases - Year 3, 4, 5 and 6

Thank you to KS2 parents that pay for their child's snack weekly. Could we ask that all parents keep up to date with outstanding snack payments on MCAS, as we want to avoid outstanding payments building up.

If you do not wish for your child to have snack at break time, please let the office know and we will make sure snack will stop getting ordered for your child. If anyone has any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. Thank you.

Books & Biscuits

Upcoming Books and Biscuits dates:-

25th January- **Year 2** 2:30pm

26th January- **Year 3** 2:30pm

1st February- **Year 4** 2:30pm

2nd February-**Year 5** 2:30pm

9th February-**Year 6** 2:30pm

The Books and Biscuit sessions are a great hit!. Thank you to Little Learners, Nursery and Year 1 parents, carers and grandparents for attending, it has been lovely to see so many visitors in school. We hope you and your children enjoyed this special time together in school. Next week it will be the turn of Year 2 and 3.













Phonics Workshop



Thank you to the parents that attended our phonics workshop. It gave an insight into how phonics is taught in school and we will be arranging a further parent workshop for Year 1 parents who were unable to attend. Childcare will be available to enable you to be fully engaged in the session with your child's teacher.





Chinese New Year Celebrations

Today we celebrated Chinese New Year in school. Little learners, Nursery and Reception participated in a variety of activities such as making Chinese decorations, food tasting and decorating Chinese numbers.

Our school kitchen also provided the whole school with a delicious Chinese feast that included; Sweet and sour chicken, vegetable spring rolls with curry sauce, Chinese noodles with oriental vegetables and prawn crackers. It was delicious!













Keeping Children Safe Online

With online safety day coming up soon (7th February), it is vitally important that we make sure we know how to keep our children safe online. This year's theme is "**Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online**". The idea is to promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital

technology for children and young people. Take time to listen to your children about their experiences online and let's make a positive change together. Visit this website for more information and some ideas on questions that you can ask them: [Safer Internet Day 2023 - UK Safer Internet Centre](https://www.nationalonslinesafety.com/parents/guides/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-twitter)

Also. Please read through the linked documents for more important information on how to keep your children safe and support them. If you would like anymore support with online safety please ask for Mr Williams at the office. There is also information and guidance on the school website. [Featherstone Academy](https://www.featherstoneacademy.co.uk/)

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about **TWITTER**

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 and GIFs. When used by teenagers, it may feature a comment feature, messaging facilities, a video, high level of interest, can be shared, retweeted, liked, and users can engage with other people's posts by liking, retweeting, or sharing. Twitter has over 450 million users, and has implemented several major changes to the platform.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INTERACTION WITH STRANGERS

Users are able to interact with people they don't know, which can lead to unwanted contact and harassment. Young people may be targeted by strangers, who may attempt to groom them or engage in inappropriate behaviour. This can lead to emotional and psychological harm.

FIXATION ON VIEW COUNT

Twitter has recently introduced a new feature called 'Retweets' which allows users to share content with their followers. This can lead to a fixation on view counts, which may cause young people to feel pressure to post content that they are not comfortable with.

TROLLS AND BULLYING

The anonymity offered by Twitter can encourage trolls and bullies to engage in harmful behaviour. This can lead to cyberbullying, which can have serious effects on young people's mental health.

PAID-FOR VERIFICATION

Previously, a Twitter profile was verified if it was associated with a notable entity. However, Twitter has introduced a new system where users can pay for verification. This can lead to a loss of trust in the platform.

CONTENT MODERATION CHANGES

In June 2022, Twitter announced that it was introducing a new system for content moderation. This system will use artificial intelligence to identify and remove harmful content. This can lead to a loss of freedom of expression.

HACKED HASHTAGS

The hashtag (#) is one of Twitter's most popular features. However, it can be used to spread misinformation and hate speech. This can lead to a loss of trust in the platform.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SET ACCOUNTS TO PRIVATE

To reduce some of the risk of your child's account being seen and shared by anyone, you can set their account to private. This means that only people you approve can see their posts. This can help to protect your child's privacy.

FOSTER CRITICAL THINKING

It can be difficult for anyone to determine if something is real or fake. Help your child to think critically about the content they see on Twitter. Encourage them to ask questions and to check the source of the information.

ENGAGE SAFETY MODE

When Safety Mode is activated, Twitter will filter out content that is likely to be harmful or offensive. This can help to create a safer environment for your child.

EXPLORE THE NEW SETTINGS

Previously, any user could reply to anyone. However, Twitter has introduced a new feature called 'Reply Controls'. This allows users to choose who can reply to their posts. This can help to reduce the risk of cyberbullying.

PAUSE BEFORE POSTING

It's important that young people think about what they are about to post and whether they are comfortable with it. Encourage them to pause before posting and to think about the potential consequences.

BLOCK, REPORT OR MUTE

If someone is bothering your child on Twitter, you can block, report or mute them. This can help to protect your child from harassment.

BE CAREFUL WHO TO FOLLOW

As accounts are no longer being verified, it's important that young people are careful about who they follow. Encourage them to only follow people they know and trust.

Meet Our Expert

NOS National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.nationalonslinesafety.com/parents/guides/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-twitter>

www.nationalonslinesafety.com @nationalonsafety NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonslinesafety

State of this guide as of the date of publication. National Online Safety. Current as of the date of revision: 15.10.2022

As National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and young people with the information to make an informed decision about what safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide is one of many that we offer to help you to do this. It is not a substitute for professional advice, and it is not a guarantee of safety. It is a guide to help you to make informed decisions about what safety with their children, should they feel it is needed.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SOCIAL MEDIA & MENTAL HEALTH

An estimated one-third of children have a social media account, so it's important that trusted adults know what content young people are consuming, what they're posting and the interactions they're having. 'Social media' can be easy to go down 'rabbit holes', that aren't beneficial to our wellbeing as platforms grapple with managing such 'legal but harmful' content. Lives are being impacted, sometimes so tragically, we might be blinded by the scale of the tech giants and their content which entertains young people, but we can still help children to be aware of their mental wellbeing, recognising when something isn't OK, and knowing what to do about content that upsets them.

1. UNDERSTAND THE ALGORITHM

Algorithms make content by user interest, someone who regularly scrolls with specific topics, they will feed to them. It's the top of their feed, and it's the bottom of their feed. What is recommended to them is what they're interested in. Someone who's not interested in a topic will not see it. It's not that they're not interested in the topic, it's that they're not interested in the topic. It's not that they're not interested in the topic, it's that they're not interested in the topic.

2. AVOID THE MAIN FEEDS

Avoiding the main feeds on social media platforms (like the main feed on Instagram) can help to avoid the main feeds. It's not that they're not interested in the topic, it's that they're not interested in the topic. It's not that they're not interested in the topic, it's that they're not interested in the topic.

3. DISCUSS WHAT THEY'VE SEEN

Chatting about what your child has seen online helps you to see if the content they're seeing is safe. It's not that they're not interested in the topic, it's that they're not interested in the topic. It's not that they're not interested in the topic, it's that they're not interested in the topic.

4. LEARN HOW TO HIDE CONTENT

If your child shares content online, there's a risk that they will see content that they don't want to see. It's not that they're not interested in the topic, it's that they're not interested in the topic. It's not that they're not interested in the topic, it's that they're not interested in the topic.

5. SET DAILY LIMITS

Phones and smart apps can tell you how much they're being used. It's not that they're not interested in the topic, it's that they're not interested in the topic. It's not that they're not interested in the topic, it's that they're not interested in the topic.

6. MONITOR THEIR ACTIVITY

Keeping a discreet eye on how your child is using social media can help to ensure they're not seeing anything dangerous. It's not that they're not interested in the topic, it's that they're not interested in the topic. It's not that they're not interested in the topic, it's that they're not interested in the topic.

7. TURN OFF PUSH NOTIFICATIONS

Even for adults, it's tempting to check on social media or receive push notifications. It's not that they're not interested in the topic, it's that they're not interested in the topic. It's not that they're not interested in the topic, it's that they're not interested in the topic.

8. USE DEVICES TOGETHER

Using children's internet-enabled devices and connecting them to the internet can help to ensure they're not seeing anything dangerous. It's not that they're not interested in the topic, it's that they're not interested in the topic. It's not that they're not interested in the topic, it's that they're not interested in the topic.

9. ENCOURAGE OTHER ACTIVITIES

Mental health professionals often highlight the importance of having a variety of interests and activities. It's not that they're not interested in the topic, it's that they're not interested in the topic. It's not that they're not interested in the topic, it's that they're not interested in the topic.

10. TALK ABOUT PEER PRESSURE

Most platforms default children's accounts to private, so it's not that they're not interested in the topic, it's that they're not interested in the topic. It's not that they're not interested in the topic, it's that they're not interested in the topic.

Meet Our Expert

Shirley Ward-John is executive headteacher at a specialist primary school and an experienced therapy coach, working with children to help them to manage their emotions and feelings. She is a member of the Chartered College of Teaching and the author of 'The Emotional Wellbeing of Children' (2018) and 'The Emotional Wellbeing of Children' (2019).



National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

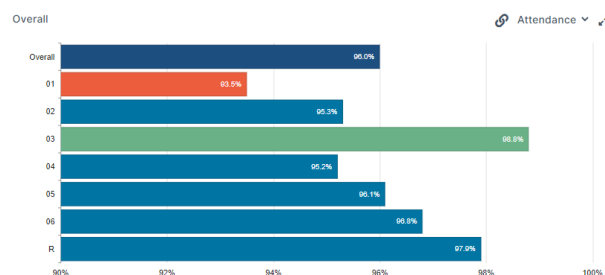
www.nationonlineofsafety.com @nationonlineofsafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationonlineofsafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. Nationality is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 10.10.2023



ATTENDANCE

Since returning in January, we are pleased with the overall improvement of attendance. Thank you to everyone for your effort in achieving this and we hope this trend will continue.



1 - Attendance 4/1/2023 to 19/01/2023

Facebook Page

We hope you are finding this weekly newsletter useful and informative. Please head over to our Facebook Page for additional reminders, updates and a showcase of the great learning going on every day.

Year 5 Science

We made the most of the snow in Year 5 this afternoon! ❄️ During Science, we took our learning outside to create models of our "Snowlar system". 🌍 Pupils made sure that their planets were scaled correctly to show the different sizes, rings were added for Saturn, and we discuss the elliptical shape in which the planets orbit the sun. Great work Year 5! Mrs Steatham.







Golden Book this week

A big well done to;

Harry - Little Learners

Natalie - Nursery

Eleanor - Reception

Ella - Class 1

Bobbi - Class 2

Ellie- Class 3

Blake- Class 4

Khian - Class 5

Noah - Class 6



Contact Us

Featherstone Academy

The Avenue

Featherstone

Wolverhampton

West Midlands

WV10 7AS

01902 734167

information@featherstone.uwmat.co.uk