

27th February, 2026



Wicklewood Weekly



Dear Families,

This Thursday, we'll celebrate World Book Day with some activities to encourage a love of reading. Your child can dress up as a favourite book character or else attend school in non-uniform with their favourite book. Mrs Crawford, our librarian will be giving every pupil a free book and voucher as part of the day. Don't forget to send in your Random Reading photo to the office if you wish to enter the competition.

Please continue to park with care and responsibility in the school car park. Please do not park on the kerb opposite the school as this blocks use of the pavement. Please do not use spaces reserved for disabled use and if there is no room, please park at the Church or Village Hall. We will always look after pupils until you are able to arrive.

Celebrating with

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**



Pupil Voice: We asked some of the pupils about their views on the clubs they attend after school:

Dungeons & Dragons-Thomas & Jasper: "It's fun. You get to use your imagination and leave the world behind to go to a different one. Sometimes people get too excited and talk over each other."

Dance-Isla: "I really like it. We get to pick the music and we learn the sequences. Miss Oakley changes them if it's not working. We can all work together in different year groups and we help the younger ones."

Choir-Clodagh: "It's good fun and we sing cheerful songs like the one from Zootropolis 2. I like singing with my friends."

Music-Isla & Clodagh: "We can be very expressive in the way we drum and we can work together in groups. Mr B listens to our ideas and changes things to respond or add to it. It can be quite chaotic but that's good to be different from school."

Coding-Seb: "You get to program all sorts of things. We programmed the turtles to draw shapes and pictures and we're going to do the Space Station next."

Arts & Crafts-Penelope: "We make all sorts of things, it's fun. My favourite was a big clay pot which I also painted and took home. Sometimes we have to make a difficult thing so it can be a challenge."

Board Games-Oscar: "I really like it because we can play together and we can use Mr Baldwin's games or ones we bring from home. Mr Baldwin is really kind. My favourite was a ghost busting game. It would be better if there were more people so we could play even more or bigger games."

STEM-Seb & Oscar: "You can make inventions and models out of all sorts of materials. It's fun. We made catapults that fired missiles and we had racing balloons as well."

Gardening-Grace: "It's fun and relaxing. Sometimes we don't even grow things, we just get things ready for the rest of the year. I just really enjoy it."

Office Email

Just a reminder, the school office email is now
office@wicklewoodschool.co.uk.

The old account is no longer monitored.

Every Day Matters



It is a statutory requirement for children to attend school every day.

**This week's winners are...
Swift Class with 99%!**

Message from the Friends of Wicklewood School

With Easter just around the corner, the Friends of Wicklewood Primary & Nursery School are busy organising our much-loved Easter Egg Trail around Wicklewood Village.

If you're new to the school, the Egg Trail is a fun, family-friendly event where children follow a map around the village to find large, beautifully decorated wooden eggs displayed outside local homes and businesses. Each egg is designed by a class at the School or Nursery and it's a fantastic way to bring our community together while raising valuable funds for the school.

Now in its 6th year, the trail often raises around £1,000, thanks to generous local sponsorship and map sales (around 300 sold each year). This year, funds will go towards the school project that is already underway to transform the grounds into an interactive educational garden that will benefit pupils for years to come.

To make this year's event a success, we're looking for 10 egg sponsors (£50 suggested donation).

Do you run or work for a business that could support us?
Sponsoring an egg is a simple but meaningful way to:

Support the school

Engage with the community

Promote your business (your logo will appear alongside your egg and on the trail maps)
I've attached a short letter with details of this year's Egg Trail and how to get involved.

If you're able to sponsor an egg, please contact Jess by Friday 6th March (details below).

Thank you so much for your support — we truly couldn't do this without you!

Best wishes,

Jess (Friends Secretary)

Friends of Wicklewood Primary School and Nursery

☎ 07926 227107

✉ wicklewoodfriends@gmail.com



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

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.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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.

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



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

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