

# Newsletter

**Friday 14th March 2025**

Hello,

As we welcome March, we're thrilled to share some fantastic highlights from our school community! World Book Day was a resounding success, with children and staff alike immersing themselves in the joy of reading. It was wonderful to see so many imaginative costumes and children sharing the love of reading.

In addition to the literary celebrations, we've had quite the adorable addition to our school: chicks! Our students have been actively engaged in learning about life cycles, and it has been delightful to witness their excitement as the chicks hatched, providing a real hands-on experience that brings our curriculum to life.

We also want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of you who attended our recent parents' evening. With a turnout of 87%, your involvement is invaluable and underscores the strong partnership between home and school. It was great to share the wonderful progress our children are making.

We want to wish Mrs Everson all the best as her maternity leave starts at the end of next week! You will be greatly missed and we can't wait for the updates.

Have a great weekend

Mrs Winston

## Class attendance this fortnight

Cygnets	90.26%	Goslings	98.05%
Hummingbirds	94.75%	Kingfishers	97.37%
Finch	91.78%	Robins	★ 98.05% ★
Magpie	97.10%	Woodpeckers	95.93%
Owl	97.68%	Osprey	97.98%
Kite	96.14%	Falcon	94.38%
Hawk	94.95%	Eagle	94.93%
<b>School Average for this fortnight</b>		<b>95.37%</b>	

Thank you to all families who manage to get their child to school on time every day – it makes such a difference. As a reminder, if your child is absent from school, please call 01904 806464 followed by option 1 to leave a voicemail, report the absence on parent mail or email [admin@woodthorpe.elc.org.uk](mailto:admin@woodthorpe.elc.org.uk) before 9am.



### 100% attendance parent winners

Last week's winner was the parent of a child in Year 1  
This week's winner was the parent of a child in Year 4  
Congratulations on winning a £10 Amazon voucher!



## Woodthorpe School Tour



We are hosting our next school tour on **Tuesday 6th May 2025 at 1:30pm.**

If you, or someone you know in our local community, are thinking of joining our school nursery, we would love to show you/them around. During the tour we will focus on our Early Years Provision as well as look around our whole school seeing learning in action. This is a fantastic way to see our school and our wonderful children!

Should you wish to book a place on our school tour, please contact our main office via the email [admin@woodthorpe.elc.org](mailto:admin@woodthorpe.elc.org) or telephone 01904 806464.

Should you have any specific queries related to the Nursery you can also contact the Nursery directly via the email [ducklings@woodthorpe.elc.org](mailto:ducklings@woodthorpe.elc.org).

## Staff Awards - Parent/Community Nomination Form

July 2025 will see the inaugural Excel Staff Awards, where we will be celebrating the exceptional contributions of staff across our Trust. One of the award categories is Excelling Through Parent or Community Recognition, therefore we are extending our nomination process for this category to parents and carers.

Complete the nomination form by following the link below and help us honour those who go above and beyond! There's no limit on the number of nominations you can submit - you just need to submit your nominee's name, the school they work at and the reason for your nomination.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfEYVltdRajjfE2fBlqP88k-GSc-3UahjnI5qrfEG-KO\\_I9HA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfEYVltdRajjfE2fBlqP88k-GSc-3UahjnI5qrfEG-KO_I9HA/viewform)



**FRIDAY 21 MARCH**

Comic Relief 2025!

For this year's Red Nose Day, we will be selling Red Noses at our School Book Fair on Wednesday 12th March, Thursday 13th March, Friday 14th March and Monday 17th March in the KS1 hall before school (8:25-8:40am) and after school (3:20-3:45pm) should you wish to purchase one. Red noses are £2 each and will be cash payments only.

On Red Nose Day, Friday 21st March, children are welcome to wear their red nose in school with their school uniform.

### **Random Acts of Kindness**

Annabelle and Charlie have been busy recently litter picking in Woodthorpe! They did a super job working together to keep our local area tidy. They showed great teamwork and generosity to look after our community. An amazing job capturing the true spirit of our Woodthorpe Character!



We would like the school community to continue to help us with this! We want to hear from families, from school staff and from children about how exceptionally kind we can be. If you would like to nominate your child at any point, please email the school office with the subject 'Random Act of Kindness', the name of your child, a description of what they did and a photo (where possible). This will then be passed on to Miss Britland. Should you be unable to email a nomination in, please contact the school office and request to speak to Miss Britland.

We are looking forward to seeing which random act of kindness will feature in our next newsletter!

# NURSERY

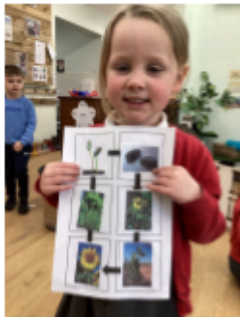
## World Book Day

Ducklings loved taking part in World Book Day. Together we enjoyed dressing up for the day, drawing our favourite characters, Year 6 children reading to us, listening to authors read stories online as well as lots and lots of books throughout the day!



## Life cycle of a chicken

Nursery have enjoyed learning all about life cycles. We have focussed on the life cycle of a plant and the life cycle of a chicken. We have loved planting our own cress and beans this week. We can't wait to see what happens next! We have also loved watching our school chicks hatch from their eggs. It has been very exciting to see life cycles in lots of places!



## Shout outs - Ducklings

A huge shout out to Georgia! Georgia we have been blown away by your amazing attitude and kind nature in nursery. You have a thirst for knowledge and love sharing your own ideas too. You have been amazing at telling us all about the life cycle of a sunflower. Great job Georgia!

## Ask us about...

Life cycles!  
We can tell you all about the life cycle of a plant or a chicken!

# RECEPTION

## Farmer Carl

Last Monday, Reception were really lucky to have a visit from Farmer Carl. We learnt all about how he looks after his animals on his farm and what he does in his job. We got to stroke Henrietta the hen, feed the lamb his special milk and had chance to give the lamb a little cuddle. Farmer Carl even let us crack an egg into a pot to see the yolk and the egg white.



## Making numbers to 10

We have been working really hard to learn our number bonds to 10. We love using Numicon to explore which two numbers add together to make 10.



## World Book Day

Reception had a wonderful time on World Book Day, dressing up in their different outfits. Throughout the day, we carried out lots of different activities and loved reading with Year 3.



## Shout outs - Gosling

**Maeve** - For making super progress with your reading and writing. You have been working really hard in phonics lessons which has been super to see and your handwriting has been amazing this week!

**Charlie** - For making a fabulous super hero in the creative area last week. I loved how creative you were and you were really proud of what you achieved. Well done Charlie!

## Shout outs - Cygnets

**Denny**- For your wonderful Maths this week, You have worked really hard on your number formation and we are really proud of you. Keep this up.

**Henry**- For trying really hard in your phonics last week. You read some words containing trigraphs and digraphs and your Phase 3 sounds are getting better each day. Well done Henry.

## Ask us about...

This week, we have been learning all about our local area. We have looked at some key buildings and places in Woodthorpe, and we can maybe show you on our next walk to school.

# Year 1

## World book day

As part of World Book Day, we had a fantastic day celebrating everything about reading! 📖🌟 We had a blast reading to Year 4 and sharing our favorite stories. We also got creative and made our own artwork inspired by the books we love. It truly was a magical day filled with imagination and fun!



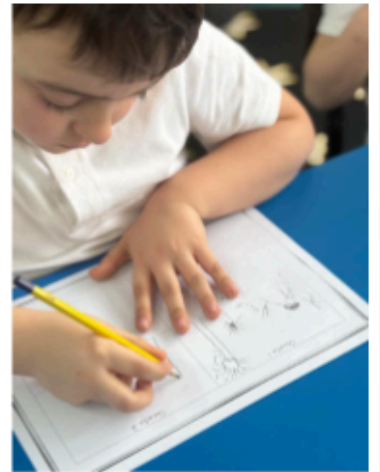
## Chicks

We are so excited that the chicks have finally arrived at school! 🐣 We have had the incredible opportunity to watch the eggs hatch and see the tiny chicks take their first steps. It's been a wonderful experience, have a look at some of our photos holding them!



## R.E - Caring for the World

In RE, year 1 have loved exploring different quotes from Jewish and Christian scripture about why it is important to care for our world. Look at the beautiful pictures we drew to represent these quotes!



## Shout outs - Hummingbird

Lily - Just a shout out to say how proud we are of the fantastic reader you are becoming. You read with such confidence and fluency, even adding expression to your reading - keep up the great work!

Kobi - You are such a kind, caring and polite member of Hummingbird class. You always look out for your friends and strive to do your best in your work. You are such a role model. Thank you Kobi - what a superstar!

## Shout outs - Kingfisher

Thomas- I just wanted to say how proud I am of your lovely manners! You always say "please" and "thank you," and it makes everyone around you smile. Keep up the great work 😊🌟

Elliot B- I absolutely love seeing your enthusiasm for reading! It's such a joy to watch you explore new stories and dive into books with excitement. Keep up the amazing work – your love for reading will take you on so many wonderful adventures! 📖🌟

## Ask us about...

As part of Geography, we have been learning all about the weather and where we are located in the UK!

Ask us:

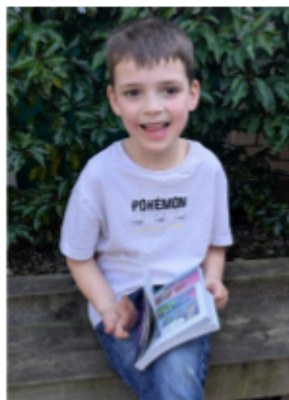
What are the four countries in the United Kingdom?

What Country do we live in?

# Year 2

## World Book Day

We had the best day ever on World Book Day! We spent the morning reading with Year 5 before spending the rest of the day completing different reading-related activities! We took part in a BBC live lesson, completed some reading-inspired artwork, and spent some time enjoying reading in the sun! It was wonderful to see everyone's incredible costumes, from Angelica Sprocket to Wednesday Addams!



## Chicks!

Year 2 had such a wonderful time visiting our newly hatched chicks! We discussed the importance of handling the chicks with care and how to look after them. We also spoke about a chick's life cycle and the different life stages the chick will go through. It has been so wonderful getting to watch the chicks grow and develop; we absolutely adore them!



## Church Visit

Robin class had the wonderful opportunity to visit our local church and meet some of the delightful volunteers and members of the local dementia group. We loved reading our favorite books and getting to know one another!



## Shout outs - Robin

Joshua - For being a super star throughout assessment week and showing all of your hard work does pay off! You used all of our knowledge and strategies from lesson time to answer questions in our assessments accurately and confidently! Well done Joshua!!

## Shout outs - Finch

Ruby - For always showing such resilience and determination when tackling challenging problems. I am always very proud of you for not giving up when faced with a difficult question; you have such a positive mindset. Keep it up!

## Ask us about...

We have started our new geography topic, 'Why is our world wonderful?' So far, we have identified and located characteristics of the UK on a map and identified human and physical features. Ask us to explain the difference between oceans and seas.

# Year 3

## World Book Day

Year 3 had a fantastic time on World Book Day! In the morning, we joined with Reception for a paired reading session. We really enjoyed sharing different stories and reading in our costumes! In the afternoon, we completed artwork focusing on the world of reading.



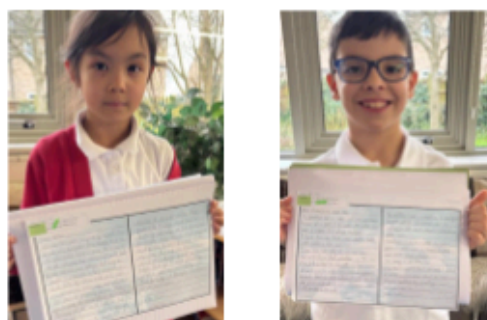
## Wonderful Writing

We have started our new writing unit where we are going to be writing an advertisement for an amazing Spaghetti Bush. We really enjoyed looking at different adverts and trying to spot the features of persuasive texts.



## Geography - Postcards from Antarctica

In Geography, we have been enjoying learning all about Antarctica! In this lesson, we learnt about scientists role in Antarctica and what their research involves. We then took on the role of a researcher and wrote a postcard home explaining our day working in Antarctica!



## Shout outs - Magpie

**Jacob** - A huge well done Jacob for your hard work in your writing! You have been thinking carefully about what to include and you have focused on your handwriting and presentation. Keep up the great work!

**Layla** - A massive well done Layla for all the effort you have been putting into our maths lessons. You have been showing great determination and perseverance. Well done!

## Shout outs - Woodpecker

**Chiesika** - For fantastic work in RE. You contributed really well in our class discussions and did some great written work in your book. Well done :)

**Caoimhe** - For fantastic fractions work in maths and working really hard to try and get onto your challenges. Great work Caoimhe.

## Ask us about...

We have been learning all about Antarctica - where it is and what it is like.  
Why not ask us about who lives there and why!



# Year 4

## World Book Day

Year 4 teamed up with Year 1 to share their favourite books. They loved having the opportunity to discuss their stories and showed lots of enthusiasm as they read to their partner.



## PE - Tennis

We practiced our skills of coordination and teamwork as we engaged in a rally with our partner.



## Pedestrian Training

We took part in Pedestrian Training and learnt how to cross the roads safely. We used the green cross code by stopping, looking and listening.



## Shout outs - Owl

**Sophie** - A huge congratulations to Sophie on her incredible grammar assessment score! She has listened intently throughout teaching and implemented everything that she has learnt in order to score 100%! I am extremely impressed with your determination and desire to challenge yourself.

## Shout outs - Osprey

**Millie** - A big shout out to Millie for being the first person in the class to reach gold on the reading chart!

**Dexter** - A big well done to Dexter for your hard work in maths this week. It has been incredible to see you becoming more confident to answer questions in lessons..

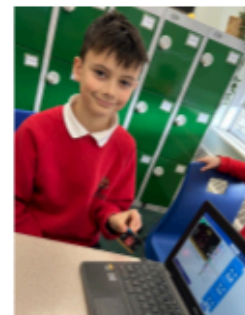
## Ask us about...

In writing, we are learning how to write a non - chronological report about the Amazon Rainforest. Why not ask us for a fact about the Amazon?

# Year 5

## Micro:bits- Programming animation

Year 5 have shown great enthusiasm towards their new computing topic where they have designed and programmed an animation on a micro:bit using Microsoft Make Code. We very were excited when we saw our animations come to life!



## Swimming

Kites are really enjoying swimming this term. This week we have been using different equipment to help us in the water; working on our back stroke and been learning to dive.



## PSHE - Emergency Aid

This week, we have been learning how to effectively respond to a range of emergency situations, including how to use the recovery position to help a casualty!



## Shout outs - Kites

**Holly**- it has been wonderful to see your mature approach to many different aspects of school life. You are a star on the football pitch and a resilient learner in the classroom- keep it up! 🌟

## Shout outs - Falcons

**Cody** - The creativity and independence that you have shown when writing your poetry this week has been absolutely phenomenal - well done! 🌟

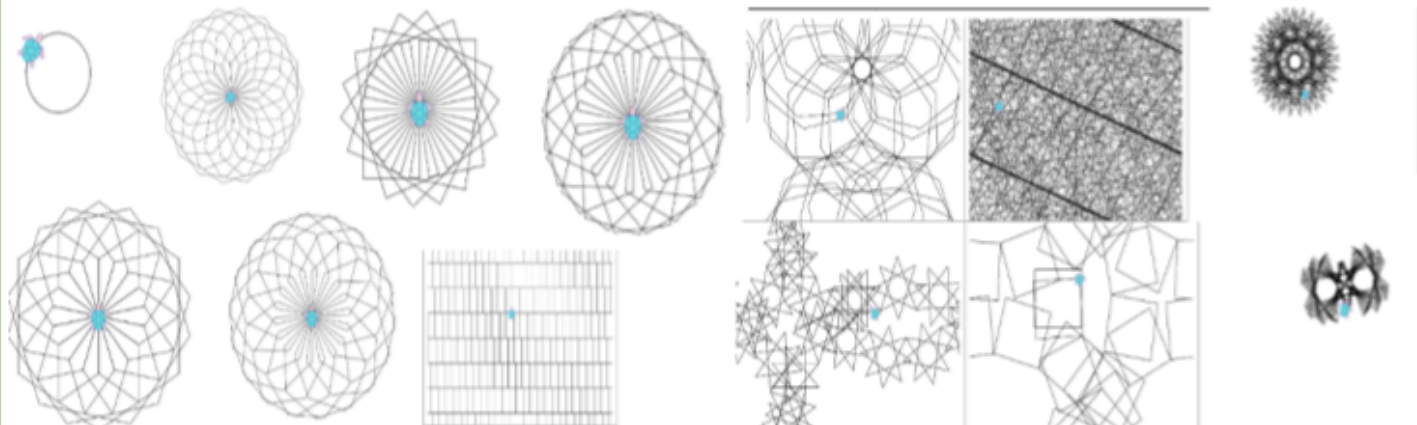
## Ask us about...

- Why are coral reefs so important?
- What effect have humans had on coral reefs?
  - What is coral bleaching?

# Year 6

## Computing- Python Coding

As part of our new Computing topic, we have been tinkering with different programming languages: Logo and Python. By thinking about nested loops and concise codes, we have been able to code indentations that result in repeated patterns.



## Tennis: Lob Shots:

In tennis this week, Year 6 have mastered the lob shot! We practiced sending the ball high over our opponents, adding a new tactical skill to our game. Watch out- we could be future Wimbledon stars in the making!



## Science: Chick Visit:

Year 6 have been besotted with Woodthorpe's new additions! Over the last few weeks, we have had the opportunity to visit the chicks and see them grow. It has been an incredible experience which the children have thoroughly enjoyed - having cuddles was a particular highlight! However, being pood on was maybe not so much of a highlight...



## Shout outs - Eagle

A huge shout out to Aniella and Amelia F! You absolutely blew us away on World Book Day with your dedication towards your costumes. You looked fantastic as Tweedle-Dee and Tweedle-Dum!

## Shout outs - Hawk

A huge shout out to Olivia this week for putting so much effort into your presentation, handwriting and spelling. You have also been so helpful and kind as always - we are very grateful for all your hard work in Hawks. Well done you!

## Ask us about...

Last week, we have been learning about Pachelbel's canon and opera in music. Did you know that opera is very similar to theatre: it is a play that is performed purely by singing. Ask us about it!

## Diary Dates

Wed 12th - 17th March	Book Fair in the KS1 Hall
Thurs 20th March	Year 4 Trip to Howsham Mill
Fri 21st March	Comic Relief Day
Thurs 27th March	Year 2 Trip to Yorkshire Air Museum
Mon 31st March	Pea Hunt Day
Fri 4th April	Last Day of Term
Tue 22nd April	Back to school

### Woodthorpe wrap-around care

We are delighted to be able to offer full wraparound support for our families. This starts from 7.50am and continues until 5:45pm daily. Our offer includes care for all of our children, from nursery to year 6. *Nursery pupils must book wraparound care sessions through the nursery as, due to the childcare funding, they receive, the charges are different.*

**Breakfast Club:** (7.50-8.50am) **£4.20/session £3.15/siblings.** Children have a wide range of breakfasts and also have the chance to play games with their friends or take part in a morning physical activity to really help wake them up.

**After School Club:** (3.15-5.45pm) **£9.00/session £7.50/sibling.** At after school club, children start the session by having a snack and completing a 'circle' activity. From this, pupils then have the option to complete activities with their friends, take part in physical activities or relax with a book or film.

**If you are interested in our wrap-around care options, please pop into the office and ask for our wraparound care administrator, Caroline Young.**

### Childminders

Within our local area there are also a number of Ofsted registered childminders, a full list of these are available via the YorOK website: <http://www.yor-ok.org.uk/families/Childcare/childcare.htm> The school also holds an up-to-date list of local childminders who are able to offer 15 and 30 hours care, please contact the school directly for this information.

### Support Via the Pupil Premium

Given the difficult times and changes to people's circumstances. If you feel that you might be eligible to claim 'Pupil Premium' for your child, we will be able to support you with items such as school uniform, breakfast club and daily school meals etc... Please email our school office [admin@woodthorpe.elt.org.uk](mailto:admin@woodthorpe.elt.org.uk) or call in person to discuss 01904 806464. **You will need to currently be in receipt of one of the following:**

- Universal Credit, (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are also not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual household gross income that does not exceed £16,190 (as assessed by HMRC)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit

A run-on of Working Tax Credit – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

### Digital Parenting

As a school, we are always keen to promote online safety and would like to share [this useful website](#) – where you can access the latest copy of the Digital Parenting magazine and many other additional resources regarding internet safety. For further information support and copies of our own Woodthorpe digital newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact our school office.

# Online safety

As your child begins to explore the world of communication, it's important to be aware of the apps they may use, including WhatsApp. While WhatsApp can be a fun and easy way to stay in touch with family and friends, it's essential to ensure your child uses it safely. Your involvement and guidance will help your child use WhatsApp responsibly and enjoy the benefits of staying connected while staying safe online.

If you wish to discuss any online safety issues or questions further, please do not hesitate in contacting Miss Bedda via the school office.

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

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.

**AGE RESTRICTION 13+**

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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 original – and might not be entirely factual, either.

#### 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.

**#WakeUpWednesday**

**The National College**

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/whatsapp/> 2023