



February 2024

Attendance and Punctuality

It is vital that children come to school on time every day. At **Pepper Hill** registration starts at **8.30am** and at **Stanton School** it begins at **8.45am**. Doors open 10 minutes before registration. More details about the school day can be found on [Stanton School](#) or [Pepper Hill School](#) websites.



Did you know **arriving 5 minutes late every day is equal to 3 days of learning missed each year.**



Every month we award 'Perfect Attendance' certificates to children who achieve 100% attendance throughout the month. In January we presented 75 certificates at Pepper Hill and 187 at Stanton. We

hope we can give out even more in February.

School Uniform

It is important that children wear the correct school uniform when they come to school. Please ensure your child is wearing a school jumper in blue and black shoes. For more details about school uniform requirements please visit [Pepper Hill School](#) or [Stanton School](#) websites. Please speak to the school office who have a stock of second hand uniform available.



Artsmark Gold

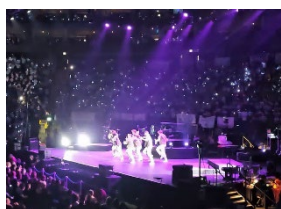


We are proud to inform you that Pepper Hill and Stanton School have again, been awarded the Artsmark Gold

Award by the Arts Council England. This is given in recognition of the opportunities for children to participate in all areas of the arts including art, music and drama.

Young Voices

Year 5 and 6 children visited the O2 Arena in London to participate in the Young Voices Concert 2024. They worked hard learning all the songs and actions. It was a fabulous atmosphere and a wonderful multi-sensory experience. The children all had an amazing time singing their hearts out with the Young Voices choir.



Parent's Evening

Our next parent's evening, for children in Reception to Year 6, will take place remotely via School Cloud on **Tuesday 13 February 3.30pm to 7pm.**



At these meetings parents will be able to discuss their child's progress in English and maths with their class teacher.

Booking details will be sent out via ParentMail.

Of course, should you have any worries or concerns in the meantime please speak to your child's class teacher.

Mental Health and Safer

Internet Week



This week the children will be taking part in **Children's Mental Health Week** which, this year, has the theme **'My Voice Matters'**. The week will

focus on empowering the children by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves. Children who feel that their voices are heard and can make a difference have a greater sense of community and self-esteem.

The **Safer Internet Day** theme is **"Together for a better internet."** The children will design posters and learn how to keep themselves safe online. With increasing numbers of children accessing a range of online platforms, and emerging concerns on how they interact with one another, this is an important life skill. We have also attached a useful guide for parents to this Newsletter.



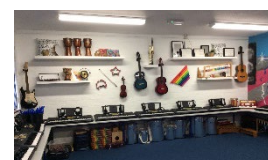
Book Fair



Thank you to everyone who purchased a book at Stanton's recent Book Fair. Over £1000 of books were sold in total, which means we raised over £500 to spend on new books for our library.

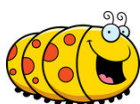
Refurbished Music Room

We are proud of our newly refurbished music room which looks amazing! The children are really enjoying using the space for their music lessons.



Half Term

We break up for half term on **Friday 16th February** and return to school on **Monday 26th February.**





What Parents & Carers Need to Know about WHATSAPP

WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service, with around two billion users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls. Its end-to-end encryption means messages can only be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp can read them. Updates to its privacy policy in 2021 (involving sharing data with parent company Facebook) caused millions to leave the app, but the new policy was widely misinterpreted – it only related to WhatsApp's business features, not to personal messages.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SCAMS

Fraudsters occasionally send WhatsApp messages pretending to offer prizes – encouraging the user to click on a link to win. Other common scams involve warning someone that their WhatsApp subscription has run out (aiming to dupe them into disclosing payment details) or impersonating a friend or relative and asking for money to be transferred to help with an emergency.

DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Users can set WhatsApp messages to disappear in 24 hours, 7 days or 90 days by default. Photos and videos can also be instructed to disappear after the recipient has viewed them. These files can't be saved or forwarded – so if your child was sent an inappropriate message, it would be difficult to prove any wrongdoing. However, the receiver can take a screenshot and save that as evidence.

ENABLING FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp has unfortunately been linked to accelerating the spread of dangerous rumours. In India in 2018, some outbreaks of mob violence appear to have been sparked by false allegations being shared on the app. WhatsApp itself took steps to prevent its users circulating hazardous theories and speculation in the early weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic.

POTENTIAL CYBERBULLYING

Group chat and video calls are great for connecting with multiple people in WhatsApp, but there is always the potential for someone's feelings to be hurt by an unkind comment or joke. The 'only admins' feature gives the admin(s) of a group control over who can send messages. They can, for example, block people from posting in a chat, which could make a child feel excluded and upset.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a WhatsApp chat, you only need the mobile number of the person you want to message (the other person also needs to have the app). WhatsApp can access the address book on someone's device and recognise which of their contacts also use the app. So if your child has ever given their phone number to someone they don't know, that person could use it to contact them via WhatsApp.

LOCATION SHARING

The 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, allowing friends to see their movements. WhatsApp describes it as a "simple and secure way to let people know where you are." It is a useful method for a young person to let loved ones know they're safe – but if they used it in a chat with people they don't know, they would be exposing their location to them, too.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CREATE A SAFE PROFILE

Even though someone would need a child's phone number to add them as a contact, it's also worth altering a young person's profile settings to restrict who can see their photo and status. The options are 'everyone', 'my contacts' and 'nobody' – choosing one of the latter two ensures that your child's profile is better protected.



EXPLAIN ABOUT BLOCKING

If your child receives spam or offensive messages, calls or files from a contact, they should block them using 'settings' in the chat. Communication from a blocked contact won't show up on their device and stays undelivered. Blocking someone does not remove them from your child's contact list – so they also need to be deleted from the address book.



REPORT POTENTIAL SCAMS

Young people shouldn't engage with any message that looks suspicious or too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they'll be given the option to report it as spam. If the sender claims to be a friend or relative, call that person on their usual number to verify it really is them, or if it's someone trying to trick your child.



LEAVE A GROUP

If your child is in a group chat that is making them feel uncomfortable, or has been added to a group that they don't want to be part of, they can use WhatsApp's group settings to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once; If they leave a second time, it is permanent.



THINK ABOUT LOCATION

If your child needs to use the 'live location' function to show you or one of their friends where they are, advise them to share their location only for as long as they need to. WhatsApp gives a range of 'live location' options, and your child should manually stop sharing their position as soon as it is no longer needed.



DELETE ACCIDENTAL MESSAGES

If your child posts a message they want to delete, WhatsApp allows the user seven minutes to erase a message. Tap and hold on the message, choose 'delete' and then 'delete for everyone.' However, it's important to remember that recipients may have seen (and taken a screenshot of) a message before it was deleted.



CHECK THE FACTS

You can now fact-check WhatsApp messages that have been forwarded at least five times, by double-tapping the magnifying glass icon to the right of the message. From there, your child can launch a Google search and decide for themselves whether the message was true or not.



Meet Our Expert

Parven Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks; a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



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#WakeUpWednesday