

Walpole Cross Keys Primary School

Weekly Newsletter – 10th January 2025



Hello everyone,

Welcome back, albeit a chilly one!

Lunches/Trips etc. As you are aware we are now using a new app 'My Child at School (MCAS)'. If you haven't already done so, please use this link to activate your account - <https://www.mychildatschool.com/MCAS/MCSForgottenLogin> - and change the password.

IMPORTANT— All school lunches will need to be booked via your new MCAS account and the cut off point is midnight on a Saturday.

PTA—We are currently seeking members for our PTA. If you are interested, please speak to Mr Overton as soon as possible.

We have a special meal (with a vegetarian option) on Thursday 16th January 2025. No alternatives for this day. Any old bookings have been removed. Please book via your MCAS account. Thank you.

Could you please ensure your child comes to school suitably dressed for the elements.

PARKING OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL — Could you please ensure that you are respectful of the residents and do not park across any driveways as access is required. Please park sensibly.

As always, we would like to ensure that your **experience** at Walpole Cross Keys Primary is a **positive** one. If you have any concerns, in the first instance please telephone, email the school office or speak with the class teacher.

Best Wishes

Ms J. Borley (Executive Head Teacher)



Join the PTA!



*Please also check page 2 for future diary dates.

Attendance

Class 1: 94%

Class 2: 98%

Class 3: 90%

Congratulations to Class 2!

Whole school: 93.7%



Weekending—10.01.2025

Stars:

Gabriel (Yr1), Chase (Yr2) & Leon (Yr3)

Kindness:

Toby (Yr1), Layla (Yr2), & Nelly (Yr3)

Handwriting:

Rosie (Yr1), Brody (Yr2) & Max (Yr3)

THANK YOU card winners:

Emilie (Yr1), Isaac (Yr2) & Leon (Yr3)

Golden Broom: Class 2



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Diary Dates

Please be aware that dates are for guidance only and are subject to change

Diary dates are also located on the school website. Please note that the West Norfolk Academies Trust school calendar for 2024/25 2025/26 can be located from the school's website. School holiday dates are slightly different to NCC.

Thursday 16th January 2025 	CENSUS Day Special Lunch. Change of menu—Today only! Please book via your MCAS account.
Friday 17th January 2025	Whole School—Gymnastics Held @ Lynnsport
Friday 24th January 2025	Whole School—Gymnastics Held @ Lynnsport
Monday 27th January 2025	Year 1 & Year 2—Active Kids Festival More info to follow.
Tuesday 28th January 2025	Year 5 only—Joseph Performance at Springwood High School
Friday 31st January 2025	Whole School—Gymnastics Held @ Lynnsport
Friday 7th February 2025	Whole School—Gymnastics Held @ Lynnsport (except Yr4) Year 4 Trip to Norwich Castle—Roman Day-Payment & consent via your MCAS account.
Wednesday 12th February 2025	Young Voices Trip—Choir
Friday 14th February 2025	Whole School—Gymnastics Held @ Lynnsport Break up at usual time for half term.
Monday 24th February 2025	School opens—Prompt registration at 8.45am.
Friday 4th April 2025	School breaks up at usual time for Easter break.
Wednesday 23rd April 2025	School opens—Prompt registration at 8.45am



Jack and the Beanstalk

Written by Kei Bailey

20th & 21st February 2025 - 7:30pm

22nd February 2025 - 2:30pm & 7:30pm

Westmere Primary School, Sutton Bridge, PE12 9TB

£7.50 per person, children aged 11 and under go free
Children must be accompanied by an adult over 18

Get in touch with our Box Office to book your tickets:

Email: info@suttonbridgeplayers.co.uk

Text: 07907827108



www.SuttonBridgePlayers.co.uk



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about JUSTALK KIDS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

JusTalk Kids is a child's version of the JusTalk app – a highly popular social networking platform – designed for users up to 13 years of age, allowing them to video call, message and participate in group chats. While adults can link their own JusTalk account to their child's and make use of parental controls, it's important to understand the risks associated with the app.

SUBSCRIPTION FOR PREMIUM ACCESS

While JusTalk Kids is free, there's the option to subscribe to a kids' premium account or a premium family account. At a cost, this feature allows children to have access to more fun features such as games they can play with others in a call; exclusive stickers; a badge denoting them as a premium subscriber; and exclusive ringtones and themes.

RESISTANCE TO CONTROLS

JusTalk Kids endeavours to allow children the sense of having a chat-based app while allowing parents to set controls (within the app or from their own adult JusTalk account). The basis behind this is positive; however, some children are challenging their parents by refusing to use JusTalk Kids, preferring to use the adult version without any restrictions in place.

KNOWING THE PARENT PASSCODE

After downloading JusTalk Kids, parents can set a passcode which users must enter to add contacts. The parental controls help to manage which content can be viewed and who children can add as a contact: this then allows children to chat with friends in a controlled environment. However, prospective contacts don't have to know a specific username. In theory, someone could type in a random name and then add them as a friend.

POTENTIAL DATA LEAKS

JusTalk and JusTalk Kids claim to be secure and encrypted, going so far as to state that even the developers themselves won't access your data. However, a security lapse in 2022 highlighted that messages were not in fact encrypted – leading to concerns around the security of the app and the transparency of the development team.

CYBERBULLYING

Online chats can provide a sense of anonymity, leading some users to post things which they wouldn't normally say in person. Combined with the option of group chats, there's a risk that young people might join in with this kind of behaviour, escalating it further and potentially turning what should be a fun experience into something deeply negative.

TOO MUCH SCREEN TIME

A report by the UK Parliament Education Committee highlighted a 52% increase in children's screen time between 2020 and 2022 – as well as finding that 25% of children used their smartphones in a manner consistent with screen addiction. Introducing children to social networking apps when they're too young can lead to bad digital habits and a reliance on technology from an early age.

Advice for Parents & Educators

JUSTIFY THE CONTROLS

If parents allow their child to use JusTalk Kids, they should explain that they're putting parental controls in place to make the app safer. Make sure the child knows not to put their full name on the account and doesn't use a photo of themselves as their profile picture. This type of open discussion will help to ensure that a child is aware of the app's potential risks and knows how to reduce them.

TALK ABOUT ONLINE FRIENDSHIPS

Young children could be excited to use this app. However, highlight that they must do so in a positive, respectful and responsible manner. While it can be easy to get caught up in a group chat, it's important to talk to others politely and call out any unpleasant behaviour. Discuss the importance of limiting their contacts to people they know in real life and use parental controls to enforce this.

DOS AND DON'TS OF SHARING

Some children might not understand the potential dangers of oversharing online. Set clear guidelines around what is and isn't safe to share on the internet, and discuss the concept of a digital footprint. Children need to understand that the things they say and share online can never be completely erased. Even if they delete it themselves, it can be saved and distributed by others.

ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Apps like JusTalk can sometimes lend themselves to bullying behaviours. Parents should monitor what their child is sending and receiving, check in with them regularly and encourage them to share their feelings (both positive and negative) at home. Remind them that they can block a contact if someone is treating them disrespectfully.

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/justalk-kids>



Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 08.01.2025

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding children is the action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Every single person who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play. At our school we have a designated safeguarding team who are trained professionals in safeguarding, however all our staff are trained in safeguarding if you want to discuss any concerns with them.

The Safeguarding team.

If you have any concerns about a child's welfare or safety, please speak to a member of the schools safeguarding team.



Mrs Maddison



Mr Overton



Miss Calaby



Mrs Jones



Mrs Preston