

BOORLEY PARK NEWSLETTER 35

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

We had a wonderful Transition Day on Wednesday this week where there was a fantastic buzz around the school as everyone moved into their new classes and met their new teachers. This forms part of our robust transition process and we look forward to continuing to support the children as they prepare for the next academic year.

It's been a busy and incredibly rewarding week at school. We were thrilled to host students from Deer Park as we begin our journey to achieve the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award. We will be working closely with them again next academic year and as a school that has already achieved this award, we look forward to their support on our journey to this.

I would like to congratulate our Eco-Councillors and Mrs Talbot for their hard work which has resulted in the school being awarded the Eco-Schools Green Flag award.

Finally, last Friday, all staff were part of an insightful Inset Day led by Kit Messenger, the creator of The Empowerment Approach for behaviour management. We're currently updating our behaviour policy to reflect this and look forward to sharing it with you, alongside some parent workshop opportunities in the new academic year.



INSPIRING MINDS

Children in Year 2 have been inspired to observe and record the growth of the plants at the front of the school. They have thoroughly enjoyed watering them each day and discussing how we can care for plants in our environment. Using rulers, the children carefully measured the height of the plants and are excited to continue this over the term to monitor growth. This hands-on experience has sparked great enthusiasm, with many children choosing to plant their own seeds at home. They are now keeping their own records and observations, eager to see how their plants change and grow. Well done Year 2!



NURTURING FUTURES

Thank you to those of you who have given us vegetable plants for our garden and offered resources to us. Thank you to Hillier's in Botley who have given us thyme, chives, rosemary, some tomato plants and two lovely pretty perennials. Amy has been able to use the chives in our salads at lunchtime this week! We are so grateful to you all for your support with our community garden. Here is a photo of the plants given to us from Hilliers Garden Centre in Botley. The children will be able to use this space at breaktimes and lunchtimes as the quiet Wellbeing space from Monday next week.



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY



On Thursday, we held our second Diversity and Inclusion Steering Group meeting. We looked at the self evaluation tool for Equality and Diversity and reflected on what is already going well at Boorley along with potential areas of improvement. There was positive feedback around how welcoming and passionate our staff are, making children feel heard, and about events that allow the whole community to be involved. Some really useful food for thought was also discussed, such as how we could explore making play equipment more accessible, along with finding the balance between weaving areas of inclusion and diversity into every day life and highlighting specific celebrations such as Eid and Pride Month. If you would like to get involved in our group, please contact Mr Cannons via the office - we would love to hear from you!

Please see the dates below for details of the final parent workshops of the year. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible!

SAFEGUARDING NOTICES

In our ongoing commitment to safeguarding, we want to draw your attention to the popular messaging app, WhatsApp. It's important for parents to be aware that the official age restriction for using WhatsApp in the UK is 13.

One of the main challenges WhatsApp can present is the use of group chats. While these can be useful for communication, they can also expose children to content they might not be ready for, lead to feelings of exclusion or bullying, and involve interactions with individuals they don't know well. In larger group chats, it's easier for unkind comments, inappropriate images, or even adult-themed content to be shared, which can be distressing for young users.

To support your child with upsetting content, encourage open communication. Reassure them they can talk to you about anything that makes them uncomfortable. Listen, help them understand, and discuss strategies like blocking users or leaving problematic group chats. Regular chats about online safety are key.



KEY DATES



July 2025

Wednesday 2nd July 2:15-3pm - Rocksteady Concert to parents of Rocksteady children
Tuesday 8th July 2:45-3:15pm Parent Workshop - The Big Fat Quiz of Year 4 - In the Hall
Wednesday 9th July 9.15am Year 2 End of Year Celebration Assembly - In the Hall
Wednesday 9th July 1:30-1:50pm Owl Class Violin Concert in the Hall
Wednesday 9th July 2:45 pm Year 1 Parent Workshop - Fruit Kebabs - classrooms
Friday 11th July 3:30-7pm PTA Summer Festival
Monday 14th July 3:50pm Choir Performance to parents
Thursday 17th July 2:45-3pm Year 3 Parent Workshop - Summer Picnic- On the field/Hall
Tuesday 22nd July - Last Day of Term

Wednesday 23rd July – Friday 29th August Summer Holidays



Boorley Park Term Dates 2025/26

RAISE
EDUCATION TRUST

September 2025

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October 2025

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November 2025

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2025

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January 2026

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2026

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2026

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April 2026

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May 2026

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2026

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July 2026

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 2026

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

School Holiday

INSET Day – school closed to pupils

Bank Holiday



PTA CORNER

We want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who joined us for Revels on the Rec last week. Your support, enthusiasm, and generosity helped make it a truly special day for our school community.

Frozen Friday Reminder!

Don't forget – today is Frozen Friday!
We'll be selling ice creams at the gated playground after school, with prices starting from just 50p. It's the perfect way to end the week with a little treat!

Thank you once again for being such a wonderful part of our school community.

Thank you
Jade
Co-Chair

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

WhatsApp is a free messaging service owned by Meta which allows users to send text and voice messages, make video calls, share multimedia – such as images, videos, documents and polls – and have group chats. WhatsApp messages are encrypted, meaning only the sender and the recipient can view what is sent. While this privacy may sound attractive on paper, this app comes with several associated risks that must be considered – especially for younger users.

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GROUP CHATS

Group chats let friends talk together but can pose problems for young users. They might feel excluded – like discovering events they weren't invited to. Hurtful comments can also escalate quickly, as more people join in, amplifying the impact through a wider audience.

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it attractive to scammers. Tactics include impersonating a child in an 'emergency' to request money, or triggering a login code, then pretending to be WhatsApp and asking for it – giving them access to private messages and personal data.

CHANNELS

'Channels' let users follow topics anonymously, interacting only through polls or emoji reactions. However, fake channels can mimic real ones, spreading misinformation, hate speech, or phishing for personal data. WhatsApp may also collect and share channel-following info with third parties, raising privacy issues.

DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Disappearing messages help share sensitive info, but young people may wrongly assume they're fully private. Senders can opt for their message to vanish after 24 hours, 7 days, or 90 days – or for media, after one view. However, recipients can still save them by bookmarking or taking screenshots, reducing their privacy.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's simplicity makes sharing news quick – accurate or not. To help curb misinformation, messages forwarded over five times now show a 'Forwarded many times' label with a double arrow. This alerts users that the message isn't original and may be unreliable.

CHAT LOCK

The new 'Chat lock' feature lets users store specific messages in a separate passcode- or biometrically-protected folder. While useful for privacy, it could be misused by younger users to hide conversations or content they know parents and educators might find inappropriate, including age-restricted material.

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature helps friends meet up or parents check a child's route home. However, anyone in a child's group chats can track their location, potentially revealing their home address or regular travel patterns to strangers.

AI INTEGRATION

Meta AI on WhatsApp poses risks to children, including exposure to misinformation, inappropriate content, and data privacy issues. AI responses may be inaccurate, and kids might share personal information unknowingly. It can also hinder critical thinking by offering ready-made answers.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution. Get them to consider, for example, 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.

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 sent to one user to then be shared more widely, and even publicly on social media. Encourage them to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

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. To do this, go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups'. You can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...'. Additionally, if the 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

Have a conversation with youngsters about how they're using WhatsApp, emphasising that it's for their own safety. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of messages that are in there, who they're with and why they have been hidden. Also, if a young user has sent any 'view once' content, discuss their reasons for using this feature.

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-2025>

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EMOJIS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION

An emoji like 👍 (thumbs up emoji) might seem friendly to adults, but teens often interpret it as sarcastic or passive-aggressive. These differing interpretations can create confusion or unintended tension in cross-generational conversations.

SHIELDING BULLYING OR PEER PRESSURE

When embedded in emojis, mean-spirited jokes or exclusionary language can fly under the radar. Terms like 'mid' or 'delulu' may seem harmless, but they can be used to undermine peers in subtle ways.

RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS

Emoji meanings can change overnight. A person standing emoji (👤) once signified awkwardness but might now be repurposed for something entirely different. This ever-changing lexicon can leave adults in the dark and young people vulnerable to misunderstanding or misuse.

MASKING DISTRESS OR HARM

Some emojis are used to discreetly signal troubling behaviours. For instance, 🍂 (falling leaves emoji) or 💊 (pill emoji) might suggest drug use, while 🌵 (wilted flower emoji) could hint at emotional struggles. Such usage can obscure serious issues, making them harder for trusted adults to detect.

NORMALISING RISKY BEHAVIOURS

Emojis can make harmful actions seem light-hearted or fashionable. Strings like 🍷👤 (fire + 'woozy' face + pill emojis) may appear humorous but can reference partying, intoxication or dangerous challenges, which might otherwise raise red flags.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LEARN THE LINGO

Stay updated with emoji trends and definitions using resources like emojipedia.org or Urban Dictionary. Knowing current meanings builds confidence when engaging with young people and helps spot potential concerns early.

ASK, DON'T ASSUME

Approach unfamiliar emojis with curiosity rather than suspicion. A light-hearted "What does 🍷 (juice box emoji) mean these days?" can open conversation and show that you respect their knowledge.

CREATE SAFE SPACES FOR DISCUSSION

Encourage casual chats about emojis, online slang, memes, or social media trends. Showing interest without judgement reassures young people that they can talk about their digital world openly and safely.

PRIORITISE TRUST OVER SURVEILLANCE

While parental controls and monitoring tools can be useful, emotional safety matters most. Be someone children and young people feel they can come to – not just someone who's watching them.

EMOJI CHEAT SHEET -

The following slang terms and emojis are some common examples – please be aware this isn't an exhaustive list.

COMMON EMOJIS:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 🤡 (Clown face) Foolishness or clowning around | 🥰 (Pleading face) Over-affectionate or 'simping' |
| 😎 (Cool face) Cool, stylish or ruthless | 👁️ (Eyes) Watching drama unfold |
| 😍 (Hot face) Intense attraction or excitement | 🐐 (Goat) Greatest of all time (G.O.A.T.) |
| 😐 (Moi) Stone-faced, unbothered | 💅 (Nails) Confidence, sassiness, or indifference |
| 👑 (Crown) 'Slaying'; as in doing great | 🚩 (Triangular flag) Red flag; a warning sign about someone's behaviour |

POTENTIALLY CONCERNING EMOJIS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 👂 (Ear of corn) Slang for pornography (avoids censorship algorithms) | 🌵 (Wilted flower) Often used to convey emotional struggle or sadness |
| ❄️ (Snowflake, snowman, snow cloud) Can symbolise cocaine | 🐍 (Snake) Can represent betrayal or being 'two-faced' |
| 🔑 (Key, lying face) Related to cocaine use | 🔫 (Water pistol) Sometimes used to reference violence or self-harm |
| 🍂 (Falling leaves, herb, maple leaf) Can symbolise cannabis | ⚠️ (Warning) Used to emphasise drama, threats or emotional turmoil |
| 💊 (Pill) May reference drug use or prescription misuse | 🍜 (Steaming bowl) Refers to nudes ('noods' is an abbreviation of noodles) |

Meet Our Expert

Keith Broni is a globally renowned emoji expert and the Editor in Chief of emojipedia.org, the world's number one emoji resource. He has an MSc in Business Psychology from University College London and an MBA from Quantic School of Business and Technology.



The National College®