



Newsletter

<http://www.oldparkprimary.co.uk>

Newsletter 27: 29th April 2024

Message from the headteacher

I hope that everyone had a good weekend. Firstly a reminder that next weekend is bank holiday weekend so the school is closed on Monday 6th May. I hope that everyone has an enjoyable long weekend when it arrives and that we get to see the sun. Our Year 6 pupils are continuing to work hard with their teachers to prepare for their SATs, and it is hard to believe they only have 9 school days left till their first examination. As always it was great to go around the school last week to have a look at all the great things the pupils were doing ranging from activities in the meadow, playing in the orchestra, taking part in cricket coaching and producing some amazing pieces of writing in their literacy. Year 5 have also loved speaking to me about the progress they are making with their swimming each Monday and despite some nerves on the first session they are really enjoying it. I hope that you all have a great week and I look forward to seeing you at the beginning and end of the day.

Value of the half term



Changes to holiday in term time fines

As I have started to receive some requests recently to take holiday during term time next academic year I wanted to make you all aware of the governments changes that start from 1st September 2024.

The updated guidance from the government is centred around the continuing drive to improve attendance nationally to pre-covid levels.

The fine issued for taking a holiday during term time will be increasing from £60 per parent per child to £80. It is worth noting that this includes step-parents and can include parents that don't live at the same address.

If a parent then receives a second fine for the same child within a three-year rolling period this will be charged at the higher rate of £160 per parent per child. This means a couple with two children will receive a fine of £640 and a couple with three children being fined £960.

ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE

Congratulations to the following classes for beating Mr Foster's 96% attendance challenge that he set last week:

FB, FG, 3FP, 4H, 4W, 5C, 5F and 5W.

A special well done to 5F who had the highest attendance last week.





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Diary Dates

Summer 1

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Monday 6th May | Bank holiday (pupils not in school) |
| Monday 13th—Thursday 16th May | Year 6 SATS week |
| Friday 17th May | Year 6 reward trip (Town park and Sky reach) |
| Tuesday 21st May | Year 2 Great Fire of London workshop in school |
| Thursday 23rd May | Year 5 and 6 boys School Games County Finals |
| Friday 24th May | Last day of half term |
| Monday 27th—Friday 31st May | Half term |

Term dates 2023-2024

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|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 8th April 2024 | Summer term starts |
| 27th - 31st May 2024 | Half term |
| 3rd June 2024 | Staff PD day |
| Friday 19th July 2024 | Last day of term |
| Monday 22nd July 2024 | Staff PD day |





Newsletter



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough



Telford and Wrekin
FAMILY HUBS

SOUTHWATER DROP IN



Every Wednesday 9.30am - 12:30pm
Southwater Library – children's section

- Advice and signposting
- Information on parenting/ courses
- Support and guidance around accessing local community activities
- Family hubs information



Provided by
Strengthening Families
and Dandelion Peer
Parent support



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about



AGE RESTRICTION
13+

In October 2022, the enormously popular social media network Twitter was purchased by tech tycoon Elon Musk. That sparked a host of changes to the platform – not all which have been received positively by its fans. The alterations have continued with each passing month, many of them raising online safety concerns among the 530 million users of Twitter (now rebranded as simply X). With further adjustments reportedly in the pipeline, X has attracted more than its usual share of controversy and caution in recent times.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

A BLOCK ON BLOCKING

X has announced plans to remove its blocking feature. Previously, this stopped other users from viewing your profile or sending you direct messages, while also hiding their posts from your feed. Only this latter function will now remain. The decision has been criticised by some members, who feel that blocking (in its current form) protects them from X users who promote denial and hatred.

LIMITED REPORTING FEATURES

X offers a premium membership, with some functionality (such as controlling who can view and reply to your posts) increasingly being made exclusive to those who pay the subscription fee. Several commentators have speculated that X could one day become an exclusively paid-for service, with access to accounts being revoked for anyone unwilling or unable to take out a subscription.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Many of X's less age-appropriate posts can feature anything from extreme political views to pornography. While accounts marked as 18+ are restricted from non-members, it's still fairly easy to stumble across this material accidentally. X's new 'For You' page also shows content from accounts that a user doesn't already follow – meaning that almost anything could end up on a child's feed.

VERIFICATION FOR SALE

Historically, Twitter's moderators granted account verification: certifying someone as authentic by placing a blue tick next to their username. One of X's earliest changes was to place verification behind a paywall; this caused the number of celebrity impersonators to rise and left no way to distinguish, say, a legitimate influencer from a copycat fake account seeking to exploit other users.

BLUE TICK SALE

Advice for Parents & Carers

PROTECT PRIVACY

Unsavory characters may try to gain access to a young person's X account – either to view their posts and gather information on them, or to completely take control of it. To minimise risk, ensure the account has a strong password and enable the 'Protect Your Posts' feature (via the account settings), so that strangers can't view your child's posts without first being approved as a follower.

DON'T RISE TO THE BAIT

To gain more views and followers, some X users post deliberately inflammatory comments on sensitive topics such as race, sexual orientation and gender issues. Many young people could find this upsetting. Emphasise that, if your child encounters someone spreading hate on X, it's best not to give that person what they want: an argument. Ignore them, mute their account and move on.

STAY ALERT FOR IMPOSTERS

Make sure your child understands that X's blue ticks no longer guarantee the identity of anyone on the platform. While it might be exciting if a celebrity liked your child's post, it could just as easily be an imposter with malicious intentions. If your child's not 100% sure that an X user actually is who they claim to be, advise them to err on the side of caution and avoid interacting with that account.

ONLY FOLLOW TRUSTED ACCOUNTS

Using the 'Following' tab on X helps to ensure that the only content your child sees has come from accounts they've chosen to follow: this should reduce the chance of them inadvertently being exposed to harmful, violent or explicit content. Show your child how to report another user's account if, say, they're behaving inappropriately by spreading misinformation or offensive opinions.

BE READY TO TAKE ACTION

If your child suffers harassment on the platform or becomes the target of a hack, you could consider deactivating their account entirely. Recently, X's safety features have been criticised for allegedly failing to protect users' wellbeing – so if your child is being subjected to abusive messages or similar mistreatment on the platform, it might be prudent to remove them from X altogether.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GBGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. Always eager to test out the latest apps, games and online trends, he's also a parent who understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.

