



# Thursfield News

22nd September 2023

**Class of the week— Reception for their lovely work in class**

**Everyone at Thursfield wishes Y6 all the best for their residential at PGL next week. We know they are going to have a fabulous time and can not wait to hear all about it on their return.**

Please ensure you are considerate to our neighbours when parking at the start & end of the day.

### The Children of Thursfield need you

Here at Thursfield we have a fabulous PTFA team, whose commitment and support in providing events for the local community is exceptional. Over the years, they have raised huge amounts of money for the pupil's of Thursfield and purchased many items for the school. Currently there are only a limited number of members in this group, so we are reaching out to all parents to see if you could kindly volunteer some time to help out. We would love to run a disco and the 'Thursfield Pumpkin Patch' before half term. However I'm afraid that without an increase of volunteers these events and future events may not be able to happen. This would be a terrible loss to the school. If you can offer some time at these events or in preparation before, please contact the PTFA. You can do this via their Facebook page or the school office. Thanks in advance for your support.

Please send a healthy snack for breaktime or order via Arbor. No items containing nuts. Thank you

### Advanced Notice

Monday 13th November

PTFA AGM

5.30pm at Thursfield

Everyone welcome—please come along to support the school

Thank you to everyone who returned the forms regarding music lessons. We will be in touch regarding lessons and availability.

### Harvest Assembly

EYFS & KS1 25/10/23 9.30am

Congratulations to Henry S for winning the Good to be Green for this week.



### Golden Book Winners for focus on the school value

RKT— Rosella F	3/4P— Maggie H
RRB— Callum C	4T— Imogen H
1/2M— Jack C	5M— Matilda B
1/2R— Harry G	5/6B— Lola S
2O— Tess G	5/6R— Louis W
3RT— Bobby WT	

### Whole School Attendance — 97%

RRB— 100%	RKT—100%	1/2M— 98%	1/2R— 98%	2O— 98%	3RT—92%
3/4P—97%	4T—93%	5M—99%	5/6B—99%	5/6R— 93%	

Last week's winners: RRB & RKT

Please continue for e safety and open evening

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION  
**16+**

in UK and Europe;  
rest of the world 13+

...MSG ME...

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With more than two billion active users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls, 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. This privacy issue has been in the spotlight recently, as the UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging; WhatsApp is unwilling to do so and has reportedly considered withdrawing its service in the UK should this legislation go ahead.

## 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.

## CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user that they want to message. If your 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 your child might be added to a group chat (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people that they don't know.

## FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allows 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 an original... and might not be entirely factual, either.

ONLINE

## 'VIEW ONCE' CONTENT

The facility to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate images or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't re-open 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 increased privacy.

## CHAT LOCK

Another new option allows users to store certain messages or chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind a passcode, fingerprint or face ID authentication. The risk here is that this function creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content that they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of (such as age-inappropriate material).

## 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's safely on the way home, for example. However, anyone in your child'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 & Carers ...TYPING...

### EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage your child to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider, for example, whether the message 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 your child's WhatsApp settings (go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups') 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 your 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.

### THINKING BEFORE SHARING

Help your child to 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 to then be shared more widely (even publicly on social media). Encourage your child to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

### CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Some parents like to check in with their child about how they're using WhatsApp, explaining that it will help to keep them safe. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of chats that are in there, who they're with and why your child wants to keep them hidden. Also, if your child has sent any 'view once' content, you could 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.



...HEY OSCAR...

NOS National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://blog.whatsapp.com/an-open-letter> | <https://faq.whatsapp.com/1077018839562332> | [https://faq.whatsapp.com/65100589e189245/?helpref=he\\_inay](https://faq.whatsapp.com/65100589e189245/?helpref=he_inay)  
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<https://www.aura.com/learn/whatsapp-scams>



# Thursfield Primary School

We Care, We Share, We dare to Dream

## RECEPTION 2024

Was your child born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020?

If they were, we would like to invite you to one of our open events at Thursfield Primary School, Chapel Lane, Harriseahead.

Wednesday 8th November 2023 at 5:30

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 9:30

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 9:30

If you would like to attend one of our events, please call the school office on 01782 512301 or email [office@thursfield.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@thursfield.staffs.sch.uk) to book a place.

Visiting the school on our open evenings will give you an insight to our school and will allow you to make your choice of school when application forms become available.

Applications can be made online via [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/admissions)

