



Werrington Primary School

Newsletter

17th September 2019.



The **MORE** that you
READ, the more things
you will **KNOW**.
The **MORE** that you
Learn, the more places
you'll **GO**.

Dr. Seuss

Parent Governors

Our two Parent Governors' terms of office are up in the next few weeks and we would like to invite parents to apply for the positions. As a school it is recommended that we encourage people to apply with one or more of the following skill sets:

- A passion to ensure that every child is given the best possible opportunities to thrive;
- Ability to analyse data;
- Performance management/appraisal of someone else;
- Financial planning/management;
- An HR or legal background;
- Expertise in health and safety.

Governors are expected to attend three Full Governing Body meetings per year, plus three committee meetings. Meetings usually take place on Thursday evenings.

If you would like to apply for one of the positions, or have a chat about what the role involves, please contact the Office. Applications close on 4th October 2019.

Easy Fundraising

Buying on Amazon through Easyfundraising has changed - it's now called **Amazon Smile**.

Anything that you purchase through Amazon Smile results in a donation being given to our PTFA for school funds and it doesn't cost you a penny!

We are registered with them so please choose us as your nominated charity to continue to help raise money for the school – Please make sure that you choose **Werrington County Primary School, Parent, Teachers And Friends Association** as the other Werrington Primary is also on there!

Contact Information

Please ensure that the school office has current, up to date contact details for your child so that we can quickly contact a parent or carer in case of an emergency.



Early Mornings

To help ensure the safety of the children it is important that they are not on the school premises too early in the morning. **Children who enter the school grounds more than 10 minutes before the school doors are open should be under the direct supervision of an adult.** It is not appropriate to leave children without adult supervision.

Please ensure that the climbing wall and new outdoor gym are not used by your children during this time as they will not be covered by our school insurance - Parents may be liable for any damage or injury caused by this equipment being used without permission.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Please try to avoid driving onto the school premises when collecting your child from an after school club – We do ask that you park on the Village Hall carpark and walk across to school.

If you do drive onto the school grounds, please do not move your vehicle whilst children are moving about on site.

Due to the large number of children participating in after school clubs on Fridays, the **Choir will be exiting the building from the Year 2 fire escape doors.**

Active Kids

Grown-ups also need support to help them get active with their kids. Today in the UK, only one-fifth of girls and a little more than that of boys get the recommended 30 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity they need each day. This is why we want to remind families how much fun it is to spend time being active with each other.

The website below has some great ideas on how you can get active with your child:

<https://www.activekidsdobetter.co.uk/active-home>

Parking

Please can all parents/carers be respectful of our neighbours within the area when parking your cars. I've been asked to remind parents that you cannot park on the Chemist or the Village Surgery car parks. The Village Hall car park has been resurfaced and we encourage parents to park there.

Thank you for your continued co-operation and support in this matter.



Attendance Matters

Good attendance is closely linked to good progress and attainment. Poor attendance increases the chance that a child will have gaps in their learning.

Please make sure that where possible, your child is in school every day.



The whole concept of social media relies upon users having friends and/or followers. 'Friends' tend to be those with whom users will share their own personal profile. It's usually a mutual relationship with both parties able to engage and interact with everything their friends post online. 'Followers' on the other hand can typically be just one-way relationships and, dependent on the platform, only provide access to certain aspects of an individual's profile, such as a person's content feed. A common trait that often exists between the two however is the desire to gather as many friends or followers as possible.



What parents need to know about SOCIAL PRESSURES LINKED TO 'FRIENDS & FOLLOWERS'



POSSIBLE 'FRIEND ENVY'

Children may compare the number of friends or followers that they have with their own online friends and people they know. In some cases, this could lead to 'friend envy', particularly if they see this as a sign of popularity. This could lead to your child showing signs of jealousy and resorting to sending friend requests to people they don't know that well, or even strangers, in a desperate bid to increase their own status online.



OPEN DOOR POLICY

Another way that children can increase their following is by leaving their accounts open so that they can be easily found, and anybody can view their posts. This is in the hope that other users will like their posts and decide to follow them, therefore increasing their numbers. Once again, this can leave your child vulnerable to being followed by strangers or people who have dishonest intentions.



FEELINGS OF REJECTION

Just like increasing friends and followers can bring a sense of happiness and satisfaction, so the loss of friends and followers can cause children to suffer feelings of sadness and rejection. Depending on how invested your child is in their social media activities, this could influence their attitude and behaviour offline and potentially have a negative impact on their mental health and wellbeing.



COLLECTING 'FAKE' FRIENDS

Children who feel under pressure to increase their friend count or want to increase their following as quickly as possible can be vulnerable to collecting 'fake' friends. They may, for example, accept friend requests from people they don't know very well or from complete strangers, inadvertently leaving themselves open to online bullies, trolls or even the possibility of being groomed.



CONSTANT NEED TO PLEASE

As children start to gain more friends or an increasing number of followers, they might start to feel an added level of pressure to provide them with more interesting and likeable content. Almost as if they now have an audience waiting, this constant need to please may be an extra burden that pushes your child into oversharing personal information or posting material that is inappropriate or offensive, inaccurately portraying what they're actually like in the offline world.

Safety Tips for Parents

BE THEIR FRIEND OR FOLLOWER

The best way to know who your child is friends with online or who follows them is to be their friend or follower yourself. This will allow you to see who your child is engaging with most online or open up discussions about how they know certain people they've added to their network who you haven't heard them speak about before or you yourself don't know.

TURN ON PRIVACY CONTROLS

All social media platforms have their own privacy controls which can be used to help protect children online. For instance, removing the ability for strangers to comment on public posts or having a screening process for friend or follow requests is good practice which can help to ensure your child's experience online is a safer one.

TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

If privacy measures have been put in place, then usually your child will receive a notification if somebody tries to befriend them online. Talk to your child about making sure they don't open up their personal life to people they don't know and that if they are ever in any doubt, they should never accept a friend request from a stranger.

BEHAVE ONLINE AS THEY WOULD OFFLINE

Your child's behaviour online should always be treated as an extension of their behaviour offline. Discuss with your child the pitfalls of trying to be somebody they're not and that trying to please everybody will only make them unhappy. Tell them that they should be proud of who they are and that they should always behave in an appropriate and responsible way when posting content online.



TALK TO THEM ABOUT THE VALUE OF REAL FRIENDSHIP

Social media can often distort what true relationships and friendships should actually be like. It's important to teach your child the value of true friendships and that meeting and speaking to people face to face in the real world, offline, is often a better way to build a more trusting and confident relationship with someone rather than just speaking to them online.



DISCUSS WHAT BEING POPULAR ACTUALLY IS

A higher number of followers can be a measure of popularity but can also lack substance beyond just the number itself. Discuss with your child that popularity can come and go and that a large number of followers doesn't necessarily mean a large number of friends, particularly online where the real value in a relationship cannot be accurately determined.



Meet our expert

Pete Badh is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.

