

# Friars, Robert Browning, Snowsfields and Tower Bridge Schools

## We learn and succeed together



THE BRIDGES  
Federation



[@FriarsSE1](#) [@PrimaryRobert](#) [@SNSPrimary](#) [@TBPrimary](#)

Find us at: <https://thebridgesfederation.org.uk/>

### Newsletter 25th March 2022

Dear Parents,

It's been a fun week across the Federation this week. Friars presented a whole school dance to parents last Friday and celebrated Red Nose Day. Snowsfields enjoyed brilliant PE sessions from LPESSN. PC Hazel's visit was thoroughly enjoyed by classes at Tower Bridge and Robert Browning schools.

We can't wait to see your children's homework projects come into school next week, it's always a huge treat for the staff on the gate. Thank you for continuing to support your children with their learning at home.

Thank you for the kind donations of Easter Eggs, we will [gratefully receive more Easter Eggs](#) as prizes for our Easter Egg Bingo and Raffle next week. Please can any donations of Easter Eggs be handed into the school offices by [Wednesday 30th March](#). Thank you.

We hope you are all able to enjoy the beautiful spring weather this weekend.

Next week we are saying goodbye to **Sarah Maugey** at Tower Bridge. Sarah has worked across Snowsfields and Tower Bridge for 13 years and we want to say thank you for all your years of service.

You have been a beacon of strength for children, parents and staff over the years and we will miss your cheerful, positive energy around the school.

We know you will keep in touch, and wish you well in your new job, where you will continue to make a difference to people's lives.



Remember we  
finish at 1pm  
on Friday 1st  
April.

You will have seen from our newsletter that there are some events we do at all our schools across the federation and some that happen in individual schools. Every year each school gets to choose which charity events they wish to support.

**Events** happening across the Federation next term to look out for:

Reading Cafe  
Sports Day and Race for Life  
Summer Fair

### Term Dates 2021 - 2022

#### Spring term

Wednesday 5th January – Friday 11th February 2022

*Half Term: 14th February -18th February 2022*

Monday 21st February – Friday 1st April 2022

#### Summer term

Wednesday 20th April 2022 – Friday 27th May 2022

*Half Term: 30th May 2022 – 3rd June 2022*

Monday 6th June – Wednesday 20th July 2022

### National Online Safety Guides

These brilliant guides support parents with online safety. You will always find the latest guide on the back page of our newsletter. This week we have a phone scams and whatsapp guide. You can also follow them on twitter @natonlinesafety

### Vomiting and Diarrhoea

If your child is vomiting or has diarrhoea please keep them at home for 48 hours after their last episode.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/diarrhoea-and-vomiting/>

### Dogs

Dogs are not allowed on the school premises. Thank you

### Nursery Places

We have Nursery places available. If you have a Nursery aged child or know of friends or family who do please let them know! Children are eligible if they were born between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019.

### Robert Browning, Snowfields and Tower Bridge

#### SCHOLARPACK APP

#### 1 WEEKS TO GO

Do you have access to the scholarpack App? If not, please contact your school office for an access code. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 we will only be using the App to communicate with parents, we will no longer be sending texts. If you need help to download and access the app, please come and speak to a member of the office team who will be happy to assist.

### Southwark Free Swim and Gym

If you are a southwark resident, please click on the link below to register for free swimming. Our year 3 parents and carers might want to take up this offer in readiness for the swimming lessons that will be starting after the Easter holiday for children in year three.

<https://www.everyoneactive.com/southwark-free-swim-gym/free-swim-and-gym-application/>

## Term Dates - Planning Ahead

### 2022 - 2023

#### **Autumn term**

Monday 5 September 2022 - Friday 21 October 2022

Half Term Monday 24 October 2022 - Friday 28 October 2022

Monday 31 October 2022 - Friday 16 December 2022

#### **Spring term**

Wednesday 4 January 2023 - Friday 10 February 2023

Half Term Monday 13 February 2023 - Friday 17 February 2023

Monday 20 February 2023 – Friday 31 March 2023

#### **Summer term**

Tuesday 18 April 2023 - Friday 26 May 2023

Half Term Monday 29 May 2023 - Friday 2 June 2023

Monday 5 June 2023 - Friday 21 July 2023



## Our Super Stars of the week at Friars and children showing our values.



## Snowsfields Certificate Winners - Nurturing



**Snowsfields  
Reading Raffle  
winners!**





# Certificate Winners at Tower Bridge

We won the  
Reading Raffle  
at Tower Bridge  
this week!



# Certificate Winners at Robert Browning





# COMIC RELIEF at Friars - Friday 18th March

Superheroes - The whole school dressed up for Comic relief



Each class also took part in a Dance in the playground followed by a whole school dance. Fun was had all round in honour of Comic Relief



**£614.50  
raised so  
far! Thank  
you.**



## LPESSN PE sessions with Wilson at Snowsfields



Parents and carers ask your child to share with you a game or skill they learnt during this session.

On Tuesday 22nd March, Snowsfields enjoyed a PE CPD session with Wilson, a PE Specialist, from The PE & School Sports Network. Each class from Rainbow class, Reception to Year 6 participated in different games and activities with a focus on Athletics. We are now looking forward to integrating these new games into our future lessons.





# Snowsfields Girls' Football Team

Snowsfields girls' football team represented Southwark at the London Youth Games girls football competition on Tuesday 22nd March. Although they didn't lift the trophy this time, they played exceptionally well. We are so proud of them.





### Attendance and Punctuality

Overall whole school attendance for week beginning: 14/03/2022 : **89.46%**

**1st Place Attendance: Y1,Y3,Y4,Y5    1st Place Punctuality: Y6**

| Classes | Absences | Lates | Points |
|---------|----------|-------|--------|
| Year 1  | 0        | 13    | 50     |
| Year 2  | 2        | 12    | 275    |
| Year 3  | 0        | 15    | 0      |
| Year 4  | 0        | 12    | 375    |
| Year 5  | 0        | 18    | 300    |
| Year 6  | 2        | 7     | 450    |



### Attendance and Punctuality

Overall whole school attendance for week beginning: 14/03/2022 : **95.96%**

**1st Place Attendance: Year 2      1st Place Punctuality: Year 4**

| Classes              | Absences | Lates | Total Attendance |
|----------------------|----------|-------|------------------|
| Year 1—Red Class     | 6        | 6     | 95.59%           |
| Year 2—Orange Class  | 4        | 3     | 98.40%           |
| Year 3—Yellow Class  | 8        | 7     | 96.92%           |
| Year 4 - Green Class | 9        | 1     | 95.71%           |
| Year 5—Blue Class    | 24       | 5     | 90.77%           |
| Year 6—Purple Class  | 9        | 6     | 96.79%           |





## Attendance and Punctuality

Overall whole school attendance for week beginning: 14/03/2022: **95.15%**

**1st Place Attendance: Y5 1st Place Punctuality: Y5**

| Classes              | Absences | Lates | Points |
|----------------------|----------|-------|--------|
| Year 1—Red Class     | 11       | 14    | 175    |
| Year 2—Orange Class  | 8        | 8     | 350    |
| Year 3—Yellow Class  | 24       | 10    | 300    |
| Year 4 - Green Class | 24       | 12    | 525    |
| Year 5—Blue Class    | 6        | 5     | 1025   |
| Year 6—Purple Class  | 7        | 8     | 1025   |



## Attendance and Punctuality

Overall whole school attendance for week beginning 14/03/2022: **94.06%**

**1st Place Attendance: Year 5 1st Place Punctuality: Year 6**

| Classes              | Absences | Lates | Points |
|----------------------|----------|-------|--------|
| Year 1—Red Class     | 16       | 24    | 150    |
| Year 2—Orange Class  | 7        | 17    | 275    |
| Year 3—Yellow Class  | 6 1/2    | 9     | 775    |
| Year 4 - Green Class | 4 1/2    | 12    | 775    |
| Year 5—Blue Class    | 3        | 17    | 375    |
| Year 6—Purple Class  | 9        | 4     | 875    |



# MAGNA CAMPS



## EASTER 2022 HAF PROGRAMME SOUTHWARK

MONDAY 4TH APRIL - THURSDAY 14TH APRIL 2022

BOOKINGS NOW OPEN UNTIL MONDAY 28TH MARCH 2022

# 320 FREE SCHOOL MEAL\* CHILDREN PLACES THIS EASTER 2022

IN ADDITION TO OUR STANDARD ACTIVITIES



### OUTDOOR ADVENTURE WEEK

PARKOUR  
ORIENTEERING  
NERF  
SLACK LINES  
DENBUILDING  
ARCHERY

KNOT TYING  
FIRELIGHTING  
CAMOUFLAGE OUTFITS  
FACEPAINTING  
TREASURE HUNTS  
SURVIVAL BRACELETS

### EASTER ADVENTURE WEEK

11TH - 15TH APRIL 2022

EGG HUNTS  
CLAY EGG MAKING  
RAID THE NEST  
EGG PARACHUTES  
CAPTURE THE RABBIT

CHOCOLATE NESTS  
EGG-CITING SPORTS  
EGG-SCAPE GAMES  
EASTER DISCO



Age groups:  
Reception to Year 6  
CAMP TIMES  
09:00 - 15:00

MAGNA HAF EASTER KIDS CAMP venues this Easter 2022:

**St John's and St Clement' Primary**  
Adys Road, SE15 4DY  
4th - 8th April

**Heber School**  
Heber Road, SE22 9LA  
11th - 15th April

\*Eligible Free School Meal (benefit related) children

In partnership with



Department  
for Education



## BOOK YOUR MAGNA CAMPS TODAY!



[www.magnagroups.com](http://www.magnagroups.com)



0333 012 4984



Magna Camps provides children and young people the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of activities throughout the day. Every day is full of action-packed activities delivered by Team Magna that will keep your child wanting to come back for more.

## SAMPLE MAGNA CAMP TIMETABLE

|               | MONDAY  | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY   |
|---------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| 07:45 - 09:00 |  <b>EARLY DROP OFF</b>  |  |  |  |  |
| 09:00 - 09:15 | Welcome to MAGNA CAMPS / Sign in / Pre-Camp Activities to get you excited!  |  |  |  |  |
| 09:15 - 10:15 | Magna Active   | Magna Creative        | Magna Sports          | Magna Well-Being      | Magna Survival        |
| 10:15         | <b>SNACK TIME</b>   |  |  |  |  |
| 10:15 - 11:15 | Magna Creative   | Magna Sports          | Magna Well-Being      | Magna Active          | Magna Sports          |
| 11:15 - 12:00 | Magna Sports   | CAMP THEMED ACTIVITY  | Magna Creative        | Magna Sports          | CAMP THEMED ACTIVITY  |
| 12:00         | <b>LUNCHTIME</b>  |  |  |  |  |
| 12:45 - 13:30 | Magna Creative   | Magna Active          | Magna Survival        | Magna Creative        | Magna Active          |
| 13:30 - 14:15 | Magna Sports   | Magna Survival        | CAMP THEMED ACTIVITY  | Magna Survival        | CAMP THEMED ACTIVITY  |
| 14:15 - 15:00 | Magna Survival   | Magna Creative        | Magna Sports          | Magna Active          | Magna Creative        |
| 15:00 - 15:45 | CAMP THEMED ACTIVITY   | Magna Well-Being      | Magna Creative        | CAMP THEMED ACTIVITY  | Magna DSCB            |
| 15:45 - 16:30 | Magna Active   | Magna Sports          | Magna Active          | Magna Sports          | Magna DSCB            |
| 16:30 - 18:00 | <b>EXTENDED DAY - CHILDRENS CHOICE</b>  |  |  |  |  |

## WHAT TO BRING

1. Wear comfortable shoes and clothing – Don't forget a jacket!
2. A refillable drinks bottle - Children get thirsty, we encourage them to keep hydrated
3. A Fun – can do attitude!

**Please note:** We do ask that all items are clearly labelled so we can ensure your child goes home with all items they attended with!

Magna are an awarding partner to deliver Harrow's HAF programme in line with the DfE initiative. That means **ALL LOCAL SOUTHWARK PRIMARY CHILDREN ON FREE SCHOOL MEALS (benefit related) can have 3 days inclusive access to our Ofsted Registered Kids Festive Camps between Monday 4th to Thursday 14th April 2022**



## HOW TO BOOK

STEP

1



Create a parent account and register your child on our booking system (DO NOT BOOK HERE AS YOU WILL BE CHARGED)

<https://www.magnagroups.com/haf-programme>

STEP

2



Having completed STEP 1, complete the registration form on link below to select your chosen dates and camp venue:

<https://forms.gle/9Q8nCzEaCQ43u7F18>

PLEASE NOTE SPACES ARE LIMITED AND ALLOCATED ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS

If you are having trouble booking online, please email us at [info@magnagroups.com](mailto:info@magnagroups.com) or call us on 0333 012 4984, and we will be happy to help.





# Family Activities EASTER HOLIDAYS



## Saturday 2nd April 2:00pm - 4:00pm - Story Dice

Be inspired by the stories in our exhibition, and within the walls of Two Temple Place itself. Join us to find out how to create story dice with your favourite characters and use them to tell your own stories.



## Wednesday 6th April 10:30am - 12:30pm - Creative Coiling

Learn about the pottery technique of coiling and find out how to make your own pot out of recycled newspaper.



## Friday 8th April 10:30am - 12:30pm - Scratchy Sgraffito

'Sgraffito' comes from an Italian word meaning 'to scratch' and involves scratching through a top layer to reveal different colours, textures and materials underneath. Inspired by the sgraffito works in our exhibition, make your own sgraffito picture using wax crayons and paper.



## Saturday 9th April 10:30am - 12:30pm - Amazing Armour

Express yourself with your own armour plate art, inspired by Phoebe Collings-James' work in our exhibition.



## Monday 11th April 10:30am - 12:30pm - Nature Tiles

Jade Montserrat's film, Clay, looks at the tactile experience of working with the clay and the natural world. Use different natural found objects to help you create your own clay tile design.



## Thursday 14th April 2:00pm - 4:00pm - Story Pots

Stories and storytelling are very important in our exhibition, as well as in Two Temple Place itself. Create a collage inspired by your favourite stories (or your own story!) to make your own paper pot.



## BODY VESSEL CLAY

BLACK WOMEN, CERAMICS  
& CONTEMPORARY ART

29 January - 24 April 2022







## Free Easter Holiday Family Activities with the London Wildlife Trust

at the Centre for Wildlife Gardening 28 Marsden Road SE15 4EE

**Monday & Tuesday 4th&5th April 10 till 3**

### *Brilliant Birds*

A fun two day course for families living in Southwark to discover garden birds, make nests, find out about spring migration, play games, learn to use binoculars, stories and crafts.

**Monday&Tuesday 11th&12th April 10 till 3**

### *Marvellous Minibeasts*

A fun two days for families living in Southwark to discover the important little animals in our garden and have fun exploring different habitats such as the pond, the log pile and the trees. Games, crafts, trails, animal Olympics. Supports school learning too.



Funded by



Limited places. To book visit <https://www.wildlondon.org.uk/events>

Email [dwallace@wildlondon.org.uk](mailto:dwallace@wildlondon.org.uk)  
or phone **07740 717930**



**Title:** Southwark-based Sports Camp for Local Children delivered by LSBU Students

**A Sports Camp at LSBU is a chance for your child to  
Make New Friends | Learn New Skills | Create New Memories**  
We accept tax free childcare, childcare vouchers and offer a 10% sibling discount!

Every half term LSBU Active bring a jam-packed programme of Multi Sports so all children can find a piece of camp they love. From mini tennis to dance, from football to brand new games and activities and even ending each day with free choice.

This April we are delivering 2 weeks of fun. Our first week will be based around team games and skill development in sports such as basketball, football, netball, tennis and athletics. Our second week will focus on introducing new skills to children such as dance, yoga, gymnastics, boccia and much more!

Our holiday sports camps introduce children to new sports activities and boost their physical, social and mental development.

**We asked parents what skills their children learned at LSBU Active Sports Camps**

- Social Skills
- Respect
- Listening
- Teamwork
- Confidence

Our Sports Camps also provide LSBU students with real life experiences and employability skills which prepare them for their career after University plus they're qualified, supportive and encouraging coaches with a passion for sport and physical activity!

**Key Information:**

Visit our website to find out more [here](#) or email/ ring us on [sportscentre@lsbu.ac.uk](mailto:sportscentre@lsbu.ac.uk) / 02078157812 to register your child

The holiday sports camps are open Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays) from 9:30am to 4:00pm. 10% discount is available for children of students and staff and for siblings (T&Cs Apply).

**Week 1:** 4 April 2022 – 8 April 2022

**Location:** Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Sports Facility

**Week 2:** 11 April 2022 – 14 April 2022

**Location:** St Jude's Primary School, Colnbrook St, London SE1 6HA

**Price:**

1 Week: £120.00

1 Day: £28.00

"I got to learn new activities I have never done before – **February 2022 Camper**"

"The Sports Ambassadors were excellent and couldn't have been more encouraging – **February Camp Parent**"

"I would love to carry on this journey as a sports coach and run my own Basketball Club – **Jhon, Sports Ambassador, Year 1 Applied Science Student**"

# LSBU Active Sports Camp

Bringing 2 weeks of fun activities and lots of memories this April Holiday

**Week 1: Monday 4 April – Friday 8 April**

**Location:** Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Sports Facility

**Week 2: Monday 11 April – Thursday 14 April**

**Location:** St Jude's Primary School, Colnbrook St, London SE1 6HA

Our Sports Camps provide LSBU students with real life experiences and employability skills which prepare them for their career after University – they're qualified, supportive and encouraging coaches with a passion for sport and physical activity!



"I would love to carry on this journey as a sports coach and run my own Basketball Club"  
**Jhon, Sports Ambassador, Year 1 Applied Science Student**

"I got to learn new activities I have never done before"  
**February 2022 Camper**

"The Sports Ambassadors were excellent and couldn't have been more encouraging"  
**February Camp Parent**

For more information on our LSBU Active Sports Camps for 2022 and how to book on please contact [sportscentre@lsbu.ac.uk](mailto:sportscentre@lsbu.ac.uk) | 020 7815 7812

**Make new friends | Learn new skills | Create new memories**

\*children must be 5 years or older and in at least Year 1 of school



**Kinship Hub** is a community-based service aimed at supporting kinship carers across London and the UK. Kinship carers are people raising relatives or children within their network, who, for one reason or another, are unable to live with their parents. It is estimated that kinship carers prevent approximately 64,000 children from entering the care system each year; however, unlike foster carers and adopters, they receive very little support from Local Authorities.

Kinship Hub runs the **Kinship Carers Cooking Club**, a weekly group where children and carers can get together and cook a meal from scratch. The project involves delivering ingredients and recipe cards to kinship families (delivery currently available in South London only) and then facilitating a group cooking session on Zoom later on the same day. We also in-person cooking sessions every month, based in South London. The sessions are open to any UK based kinship carer and their children. Session dates can be found at: <https://www.kinshipcarershub.org/news-and-events>

Kinship Hub also offers **free online webinars** to kinship carers and children on a range of topics from managing contact safely, to promoting a positive sense of identity, life story work and building resilience.

More recently, we have launched our **employability program** through our catering company, **Kinship Kitchen**. The aim of this program is to train kinship carers in food safety and provide paid employment opportunities for them through our catering company; while at the same time generating income to sustain our other community projects.

Kinship Carers can **self-refer** at [www.kinshipcarershub.org/contact](http://www.kinshipcarershub.org/contact), or can be referred by a social worker or other supporting professional. For more information please contact Director **Anna-Lou Manca** on 07792 320 549 or email [info@kinshipcarershub.com](mailto:info@kinshipcarershub.com).

**Website:** <https://www.kinshipcarershub.org/>

**Facebook:** @kinshiphubLondon

**Instagram:** @kinship\_hub

**Twitter:** @kinshiphub





ARE YOU A **KINSHIP CARER**  
RAISING A RELATIVE OR A  
FRIENDS' CHILD?  
JOIN OUR **FREE KINSHIP**  
**CARERS COOKING CLUB**  
WHERE YOU AND YOUR  
CHILD(REN) JOIN OTHER  
KINSHIP FAMILIES TO  
SOCIALISE AND MAKE  
HEALTHY AND DELICIOUS  
MEALS TOGETHER!

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*How it works:*

- *We will deliver your ingredients to you every week with a recipe card.*
- *We will send you a link to join a group cooking session on Zoom, where together with other kinship families we will all cook a healthy meal.*
- *Once a month we will meet in person to socialise, have fun, and of course cook!*

REGISTER AT:

[WWW.KINSHIPCARERSHUB.ORG/CONTACT](http://WWW.KINSHIPCARERSHUB.ORG/CONTACT)  
OR FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE EMAIL  
[INFO@KINSHIPCARERSHUB.COM](mailto:INFO@KINSHIPCARERSHUB.COM) OR CALL  
07792320549





## Information:

- Saturday 2nd April 2022
- 11 am - 1 pm
- Surrey Docks Watersports and Fitness Centre, SE16 7SX

**Meet new people, have fun and learn new skills**



# Active Together Festival

For D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent people and their family and friends

Come and try exciting FREE pan-disability inclusive sports and activities

Sailing, football, water sports, yoga, basketball, boccia and much more



## Register here:

Online: <https://bit.ly/ActiveTogether-SignUp>

Phone: 020 7993 9883

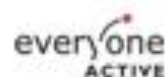
For more information:

Call: 020 7993 9883

[Sophie.Epsley@AccessSport.co.uk](mailto:Sophie.Epsley@AccessSport.co.uk)



## Supported by:





# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about PHONE SCAMS

In a three-month period during 2021, no fewer than 45 million people in the UK experienced a suspicious attempt at being contacted via their mobile. Phone scams are a common form of cyber-attack where fraudsters engage directly with their intended victim through their smartphone. As our phones carry so many sensitive (and therefore potentially valuable) details about us, it's vital that trusted adults are alert to the tactics that scammers use to get access to user accounts, personal data and private information for financial gain.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### SMISHING

SMS phishing, or 'smishing' is one of the most common forms of mobile-based cyber-attack. Smishing is when a scammer texts their target, pretending to be a reputable person or organisation. They aim to trick the victim into supplying sensitive data such as bank details and personal information, so that they can then access the target's bank accounts and remove money.

### IMPERSONATION

Fraudsters often impersonate someone else to trick the victim into actually transferring money directly. They might claim, for example, to be a friend or relative using a different number who urgently needs funds. Other common cons include sending fake texts informing the target that they have a package which requires a fee to be delivered, or that they have an unpaid bill to settle.

### NUMBER SPOOFING

Here, the scammer takes impersonation a step further by cloning the phone number of a genuine company. So when the target receives a call or text, their phone recognises the sender's number as legitimately belonging to Amazon, HMRC, the NHS or the DVLA (who have all been impersonated in these cons). This makes the scam far harder to spot and the victim much more inclined to comply.

### FAKE TECH SUPPORT

Attackers contact a target, pretending to work for their employers' IT support team. They then advise them to download some software to fix 'a technical issue' with their device. In reality, however, the software grants the scammers access to the victim's private data and sensitive information. This can be more common on desktop and laptop devices, but is still possible to accomplish on mobiles.

### SIM HIJACKING

SIM hijacking switches control of a phone account from the victim's SIM card to one in the scammers' possession. Criminals use personal details pieced together from social media (birthday, address, pet's name and so on) to pose as you, then instruct your phone network to transfer your number to their SIM - giving them access to all calls and texts meant for you, including one-time login passcodes.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### DO SOME DIGGING

If you've received a call or text asking for specific information, research the caller's number. There are several websites that allow you to enter a phone number and will then display any relevant information about it - this usually includes feedback and comments from other people, so you can easily see if that particular number has been implicated in potential scams.

### TRY A CALL BLOCKER

If a suspicious call comes through on your mobile, you can manually block the number if you believe it to be dubious or a nuisance caller. Alternatively, you could consider installing a call blocker service on your phone. They automatically stop calls getting through from numbers which have been reported as suspicious, halting potential scammers in their tracks before they can reach you.

### VERIFY THE SOURCE

Never disclose confidential details to an individual or organisation you're unfamiliar with. If the caller claims to represent a company you trust but is still asking for personal information or payment on an outstanding charge, end the conversation. Then find the company's genuine number on a bill or on their website and call them directly to confirm if there really is an issue you need to address.

### BREAK OUT THE TECH

Lots of anti-virus software now also protects mobiles. Some anti-virus apps can detect phishing links in text messages and alert you to the risk. When you're out and about, try not to use public WiFi for sensitive transactions: it's far less secure than your home WiFi network. Instead, you could consider installing a VPN (virtual private network), which encrypts all data travelling to and from your phone.

### REPORT INCIDENTS

If you or a family member does give out confidential information to a caller you aren't sure about, contact the actual company mentioned to check if the call was genuine. If they confirm that the call was not made by their organisation, you should report it as a potential scam via the Action Fraud website and (depending on exactly what information was divulged) consider involving the police.

### BE WARY OF LINKS

If you get a message from an unknown number asking you to click on a link, report it as spam and do not open the link. One recent example 'warned' victims they'd been exposed to the Omicron variant and needed to click a link to buy a special test - only to find they had paid their money to scammers. Links can also install malware onto your device, so always treat them with extreme caution.

## Meet Our Expert

Formed in 2016, Kryptokloud provides cyber security and resilience solutions to its customers. With offices in the UK, the company offers managed service operational packages including cyber security monitoring and testing, risk audit, threat intelligence and incident response.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.actionfraud.gov.uk/news-centre/2021/45-million-people-report-a-suspicious-attempt-at-being-contacted-via-their-mobile-phones-in-the-uk/>





WhatsApp is one of the most popular messaging apps in the world, with more than 1.5 billion people in more than 180 countries using it to send and receive text, photos, videos and documents, as well as make voice and video calls through an internet or Wi-Fi connection. The free app offers end-to-end encryption, which means that messages can only be read by the sender and the recipient in one-to-one chats, or all members if it is a group chat. Not even WhatsApp can read them.



AGE RESTRICTION  
**16+**



What parents need to know about

# WhatsApp



## AGE LIMIT CHANGE

Since May 2018, the minimum age for using WhatsApp is 16 years old if you live in the European Union, including the UK. Prior to this, the minimum age was 13, which still applies for the rest of the world. WhatsApp has not yet stated whether it will take action against anyone aged between 13 and 16 who already hold accounts under the old terms and conditions, such as closing their account or seeking parental permission.

## SCAM MESSAGES

Occasionally on WhatsApp, people receive spam messages from unauthorised third parties or from fraudsters pretending to offer prizes to 'lucky people', encouraging recipients to click on a link to win a prize. A common scam involves messages warning recipients that their WhatsApp subscription has run out with the hope that people are duped into providing their payment details. Other scam messages include instructions to forward the message in return for a reward or gift from WhatsApp or another person.

## FAKE NEWS AND HOAXES

WhatsApp has been linked to enabling the spread of dangerous viral rumours. In India, for example, a number of attacks appear to have been sparked by false rumours shared on WhatsApp.

## THE 'ONLY ADMIN' FEATURE AND CYBERBULLYING

Cyberbullying is the act of sending threatening or taunting text messages, voice messages, pictures and videos, with the aim to hurt and humiliate the receiver. The group chat and group video call features are great for multiple people to chat simultaneously, but there is the potential for people to hurt others with their comments or jokes. The 'only admin' feature gives the admin of a group chat greater control over who can send messages. Whilst this can be good for one-way announcements, the group admin has the power to block somebody from responding to an offensive message in a chat, which could result in a child being upset and unable to reply.

## CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

To start a chat in WhatsApp, you need to know the mobile number of the contact you want to speak to and they also need to have the app downloaded. WhatsApp can find contacts by accessing the address book of a device and recognising which of those contacts are using WhatsApp. If your child has shared their mobile number with somebody they don't know, they can use it to get in touch via WhatsApp.

## LIVE LOCATION SHARING

WhatsApp's 'Live Location' feature enables users to share their current location in real time to their contacts in a chat, allowing friends to show their movements. The feature, which can be found by pressing the 'attach' button, is described by WhatsApp as a "simple and secure way to let people know where you are." Location-sharing is already a common feature on other social apps, including Snapchat's Snap Map and Facebook Messenger and can be a useful way for a child to let loved ones know they are safe. However, if your child is in a group chat with people they do not know, they will be exposing their location.



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## Top Tips for Parents



### CREATE A SAFE PROFILE

Even though somebody would need your child's phone number to add them as a contact, as an extra security measure we suggest altering their profile settings to control who can see their profile photo and status. The options to choose from are 'Everyone', 'My Contacts' and 'Nobody'. We suggest selecting 'My Contacts' or 'Nobody' to ensure their profile is protected.

### EXPLAIN HOW TO BLOCK PEOPLE

If your child has received spam or offensive messages, calls or attachments from a contact, they should block them. Messages and status updates sent by a blocked contact will not show up on the phone and will stay undelivered. Blocking someone will not remove this contact from the contact list - they will need to be removed from the phone's address book. To block a contact, your child needs to open the person's chat stream and tap on the settings.

### REPORT SCAM MESSAGES

Advise your child not to tap, share or forward any message that looks suspicious or sounds too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they will be given the option to report the number as spam directly inside the chat. They can also report a contact or a group as spam using the following steps: 1) Open the chat. 2) Tap on the contact or group name to open their profile information. 3) Scroll to the bottom and tap 'Report Spam.'

### LEAVE A GROUP

If your child is part of a group chat that makes them feel uncomfortable or has been added to a group they don't want to be part of, use the group's settings to show them how to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once, if they leave again, they cannot be added again.

### USING LIVE LOCATION SAFELY

If your child needs to use the 'Live Location' feature to share with you or a friend, advise them to only share it for the amount of time they need to. WhatsApp gives the options of either 15 minutes, one hour or eight hours. However, your child can choose to stop sharing at any time.

### DELETE ACCIDENTAL MESSAGES

If your child has sent a message to the wrong chat or if a message they sent has contained a mistake, they can delete it. To do this, simply tap and hold on the message, choose 'Delete' and then 'Delete for everyone.' The app allows seven minutes to delete the message after it has been sent, but it is important to remember that recipients may have seen and screenshot a message before it was deleted.

### SET TIME LIMITS

A 2017 study found that by the age of 14 the average child will have sent more than 35,000 texts, 30,000 WhatsApp messages and racked up more than three solid weeks of video chat. Although it is inevitable that your child will use technology, you can still set boundaries. This is not easy, especially since teens use their devices for both schoolwork and free time, often simultaneously.

SOURCES: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2018/apr/26/whatsapp-plans-to-ban-under-16s-the-mystery-is-how>; <https://whatsappibrynd.com/>; <https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/whatsapp-update-latest-india-hoaxes-forward-messages-app-downs-uk-454611.html>

