

Robert Browning, Snowsfields and Tower Bridge Primary Schools

We learn and succeed together



 [@towerbridgeschool.bsky.social](https://www.towerbridgeschool.bsky.social) [@snsprimary.bsky.social](https://www.snsprimary.bsky.social) [@robertbrowning.bsky.social](https://www.robertbrowning.bsky.social)
Find us at: www.thebridgesfederation.org.uk

Newsletter 10th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wishing you all a 'Happy New Year'.

Thank you for all your flexibility this week, it has been an unusual start for Robert Browning, however the children and staff across the Federation have really enjoyed welcoming Robert Browning's children and staff and they have been having fun learning and working together at Tower Bridge and Snowsfields. Such amazing teamwork!

Many parents have downloaded the Arbor app, if you haven't done so, please can you add it to your to do list to do this weekend. Robert Browning we will send you information to download the app on Monday. Please see the 'how to get started' guide on page 2.

Please look out for communication regarding this terms enrichment clubs. Children who are in receipt of pupil premium can access one free club this term. Clubs are a brilliant opportunity for your child to develop new skills and make connections with children and staff from across the school.

As you are aware the temperature has dropped, thank you for ensuring your child is wrapped up warm with a coat, hat and gloves. The children do love to spend time outside

Have a lovely weekend, we look forward to seeing you on Monday, the school gates open at 8:45am.



Important! **Scholarpack has changed to Arbor** **6th January 2025**

We have changed our MIS system (Scholarpack) to Arbor from 6th January 2025. You will need to download a new app from your app store to continue to receive messages from the school and to be able to send us messages. Please see page 2 of the newsletter for further details.



Dates For Your Diary



Tower Bridge

Wednesday 22nd January- Year 5 assembly
Wednesday 29th January- Year 4 assembly
Wednesday 5th February- Y3 assembly
Friday 14th February- Break up for Half Term
February 17th- 21st - Half Term Week
Wednesday 5th March- Parent and Pupil Review Meetings

Robert Browning

Tuesday 21st January- Year 5 assembly
Tuesday 28th January- Year 4 assembly
Tuesday 4th February- Y3 assembly
Friday 14th February- Break up for Half Term
February 17th- 21st - Half Term Week
Wednesday 5th March- Parent and Pupil Review Meetings

Snowsfields

Tuesday 21st January - Year 5 assembly
Tuesday 28th January - Year 4 assembly
Tuesday 4th February - Year 3 assembly
Friday 14th February- Break up for Half Term
February 17th- 21st - Half Term Week
Wednesday 5th March - Parent and Pupil Review Meetings

Term Dates 2024-2025 are on the Federation website

[Term Dates – The Bridges Federation](#)

Term time holidays will not be authorised.

Other important dates for this year can also be found on the school website here:

[Diary – The Bridges Federation](#)

Applying for a Reception place

If your child was born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021, you must apply for a primary or infant school place for September 2025. You will need to apply online. Please click on the link here: [eAdmissions](#). **The deadline to make the online application is 15th January 2025.**

On **January 6th 2025** all 3 schools are moving to Arbor.

We will no longer be using Scholarpack.

Parents please see below guidance explaining what you need to do. From **January 6th** you will no longer be able to send or receive messages with the school via Scholarpack.

If you need any help please contact your child's school.



We're using Arbor's free Parent Portal and Parent App

We've chosen Arbor to help us manage our school.

Arbor is a simple, smart and cloud-based MIS (Management Information System), which helps us work faster, smarter and more collaboratively as a school. The Parent App and Parent Portal mean we can keep you informed about your child's life at school in a much more accessible way. Log into Arbor to see and update your child's information, get live updates and make payments or bookings on the go!

The Parent Portal works on Google Chrome (computer or laptop) and you can download the Parent App from the App Store or Google Play Store on your phone (Android 5.0; iOS 10.0 and upwards).

How to get started

1. Wait for your welcome email from us telling you Arbor is ready - you won't be able to log in before
2. Click the link in your welcome email to set up your password
3. Go to the App or Google Play Store on your phone and search 'Arbor'
4. Click 'Install' on Android or 'Get' on iPhone then open the App
5. Enter your email, select the school, then enter your password
6. Accept the Terms & Conditions and enter your child's birthday

The Sunnyville School of Magic
W10 5BN, London, GBR

Enter your password

Log In

Forgotten password?

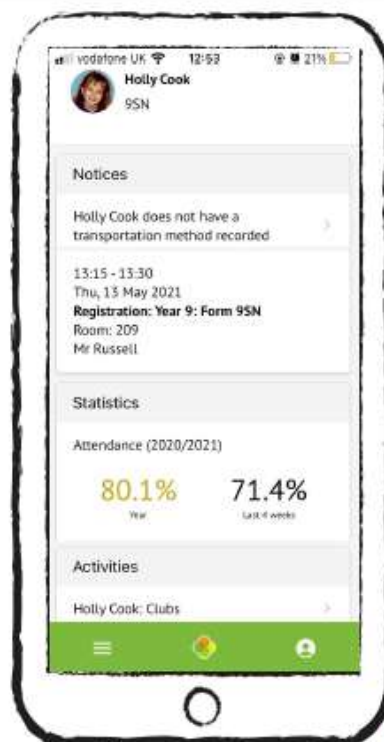
Need help using Arbor?

Contact the school office if you have questions about Arbor, the App or Parent Portal. Tell us the type and model of your phone, e.g. an iPhone SE, and include screenshots or screen recordings.

To safeguard student data in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), Arbor only works directly with schools.

Some tips to try:

1. Ensure your username is the email address you use for Arbor. Ask us to **check the email address** linked to your account.
2. **Reset your password** from the login page, or ask us to do this.
3. If the login email was sent to you more than 96 hours ago, the **password link will have expired**. Ask us to send it again.
4. Ask the school office to check that your email address has not been used twice - e.g. on another guardian or child's profile.
5. **Enter the birthday** of one of your children to log in.
6. Only relatives who are **Primary Guardians** of a child can access the Arbor App. Ask us to check you can access Arbor.





Thank you to all the parents who have downloaded and logged onto the app since Wednesday. All parents would have received a welcome email with a link. This link will expire over the weekend, so if you have not downloaded and logged on yet, please do so as soon as possible. Arbor will be the only app we will use. Scholarpack is no longer accessible.

How to get started

1. Wait for your welcome email from us telling you Arbor is ready - you won't be able to log in before
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WOW!

Thank you to everyone who supported the raffle at the end of term. We managed to raise **£276.00** which we will use to buy special sports tops for when pupils represent the school in Sports competitions.

P.E Kits and Timetable 2025

- Reception - Sunshine Class** - Friday
 - Year 1 - Red Class** - Tuesdays and Thursdays
 - Year 2 - Orange Class** - Tuesdays and Thursdays
 - Year 3 - Yellow Class** - Mondays and Thursdays
 - Year 4 - Green Class** - Tuesdays and Wednesdays
 - Year 5 - Blue Class** - Tuesdays and Thursdays
 - Year 6 - Purple Class** - Mondays and Wednesdays
- On the days listed above, all children **must** attend school wearing a PE kit. This includes navy blue tracksuit bottoms/leggings, t-shirt and their school jumpers. Children **must** wear sports trainers on these days.

Wearing a PE kits is important to ensure health and safety and personal hygiene. If children are not wearing suitable clothing, we will send reminders to parents.

**school
jumper**



**tracksuit
bottoms**

trainers



This week we welcomed staff and pupils from Robert Browning School to learn with us as their school was too cold for learning. We have enjoyed having them with us so much and meeting all the parents too!

stronger
TOGETHER



Look out for your child's homework project sheet in their book bag and on Google Classroom. Here are some of the amazing projects by Yellow Class last term.

**homework
PROJECTS**

A Huge Thank You!

As you know, we have had problems with our heating this week. We would like to thank all the staff and children at Snowfields and Tower Bridge Schools for accommodating us when Robert Browning was closed. We would also like to thank all the parents who brought their children to the other schools so that the children could continue their learning with the teachers. Thank you to the parents who helped their children get online to learn at home. Finally, thank you to all our staff for their teamwork and flexibility to make the plans work. Hopefully our heating problems have now been resolved!



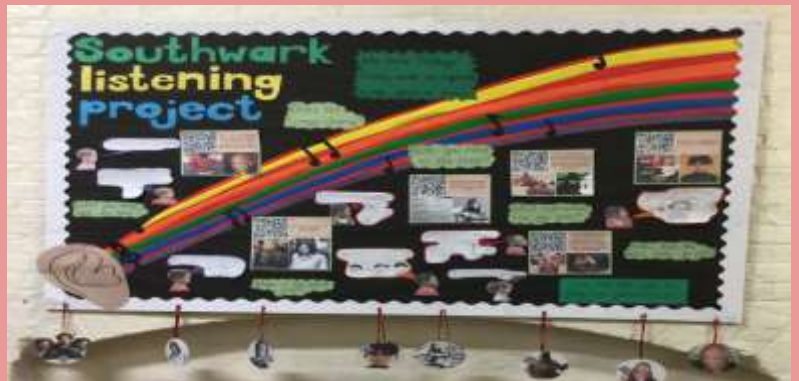
Attendance Hamper Winners!

If you attend school and are on time, your name will go in the raffle for the attendance hamper each half term!



Wonderful Displays!

Have a look at the wonderful displays that are around the school. Can you spot one belonging to your child's class?



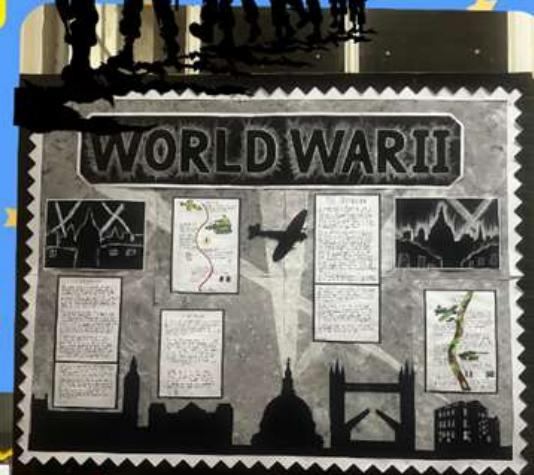
Snowsfields Primary School



Displays

Our school displays are a wonderful way to showcase the children's learning and creativity. They highlight the key knowledge and skills the pupils have been working on and reflect our engaging approach to teaching.

We hope you enjoy seeing how the displays celebrate the children's hard work and achievements!





	Absence	Lates	Total
Year 1	7	4	1000
Year 2	10	6	1650
Year 3	6	8	725
Year 4	12	12	200
Year 5	7	16	400
Year 6	4 1/2	9	1175

Overall whole school attendance for week beginning 16/12/2024: 93.22%

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



Overall whole school attendance for week beginning: 16/12/2024: 92.06%

**1st Place Attendance: Y2
1st Place Punctuality: Y2**

	Absence	Lates	Total
Year 1	23	6	90.42%
Year 2	7	5	97.08%
Year 3	23	6	92.07%
Year 4	14	13	94.40%
Year 5	9	11	96.79%
Year 6	51	12	83.00%



	Absence	Lates	Total
Year 1	14	15	850
Year 2	27	21	200
Year 3	11	2	1850
Year 4	38	18	350
Year 5	17	4	750
Year 6	19	12	950

Overall whole school attendance for week beginning: 16/12/2024:

91.49%

**1st Place Attendance: Y3
1st Place Punctuality: Y3**

Robert Browning, Snowfields and Tower Bridge Primary Schools

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Find us at: www.thebridgesfederation.org.uk

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Being in school and having the best attendance possible underpins all the many benefits of school for your child, such as their learning, wellbeing and wider development. We want to work with you to ensure that attendance for pupils at the Bridges Federation is the best it can be.

As a parent, you are legally responsible for making sure your child gets a suitable full time education. This means making sure your child is in school every day except when

- Your child is too ill to go to school.
- You have permission for a leave of absence from your child's school for them not to attend. You should only ask for this in exceptional circumstances. Generally, a holiday will not be classed as an exceptional circumstance.
- Your religious body has a day especially for religious observance.

If my child needs to be absent from school, what do I need to do?

You should contact us as early as possible (no later than 10am) on the first day of absence to explain why. If you do not, we will contact you to find out where they are.

My child is ill. What should I do?

If your child is ill, read the NHS's 'Is my child too ill for school?' advice to help you decide whether they can go to school. Contact us as soon as possible to let us know that they will be absent.

Do I need to provide medical evidence to support my child's illness related absence?

We may ask for medical evidence when your child is absent due to illness. This may be in cases where:

- Your child is regularly absent due to illness, to assess how we can help by putting support in place.
- We have reason to believe your child was not too ill to attend and a conversation has not resolved the issue.

If you are asked to provide evidence this does not need to be a letter from your doctor or consultant, and doctors will not usually provide such letters. It can, instead, be appointment cards, prescriptions, or notes of previous consultations (including from the NHS App.)

To avoid disruption to your child's attendance, medical and dental appointments should not be booked during the school day whenever reasonably possible.

My child is struggling to attend school. What can I do?

The first step is to talk to us about why your child is missing school, and what help we can give. You should still do everything you can to help your child attend as much as possible whilst waiting for help and support to be put into place. Information on who you can contact for help, including the school's senior leader responsible for attendance, can be found in our attendance policy on the website. We follow the expectations laid out in the DfE guidance 'Working together to improve school attendance.'

<https://assets.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wpuploads/2024/07/aaa-guide-for-parents-on-school-attendance-19th-Aug-version.pdf>

<https://thebridgesfederation.org.uk/home/attendance/>

Family support

FATHER'S GROUP



Join a 12-week course to improve your parenting skills.

Whether you are a father, grandfather or stepdad, receive advice and tips on topics such as positive parenting, improving relationships and role modeling. Crèche provided.

When:
Where: 1st Place Family Hub
12 Church Street, Burgess Park, SE16 0RN

BOOK A PLACE

Email: ben.campbell@southwark.gov.uk
Phone: 07738 860 768



The Nest - Wellbeing Hub

The Nest operates a drop-in service every **Saturday between 10:30 and 14:30**. Therapeutic practitioners and support workers can offer 1:1 emotional support, information & advice and signpost you to the appropriate services.

Drop-In Service | The Nest



To get involved, you can refer via our website www.imago.community or scan the QR Code



For further information, please contact our Hub:
youngcarers@imago.community
0300 111 1110

Southwark Young Carers is a service of Imago Community
Registered charity number 106388



We support young people living in Southwark aged 6-24, who provide unpaid care or support to a family member with a long-term illness, disability, mental health condition or a substance misuse issue.



Free Workshops for Parents and Carers

Do you want more guidance on how to talk to your children, teens and young people about vaping, alcohol or drugs? Do you want to be informed on the current themes and trends we come across working with young people in the borough?

Substances are more accessible today than ever before. For parents, carers or anyone responsible for children and young people, it can feel overwhelming and difficult to know how to respond.

We're offering FREE online workshops for parents and carers in Southwark, to give advice and guidance to help you navigate this quickly changing landscape.



WE'VE COVER:

- Current trends amongst young people
- Strategies for talking to young people about substances in an open and supportive way
- Practical advice on how to keep your children safe from the dangers of substance misuse



For further information contact:

- Email: Southwark.YoungPeople@cgl.org.uk or scan the QR code for a direct link to the event page.
- You can call us on: 020 3404 7699



TAP - IN SESSIONS

Free and stand alone information sessions for parents and carers on a range of topics - 'TAP-IN' to the ones you need or complete the set!

Sessions include:

- Digital Safety - how to support children to be safe online
- Ages and Stages - how to support different developmental stages
- Parental Wellbeing - how to communicate our needs
- Parenting and Autism
- Parenting and ADHD
- More to come....

JOIN NOW

Beth Gilbey
07394 865 980
bethany.gilbey@southwark.gov.uk
EARLYHELP@SOUTHWARK.GOV.UK



We hold in person and online sessions throughout the term

Contact the team for next available session



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

For parents of children aged 0 - 10 years

This 12 week course helps parents and carers to:

- Build positive family relationships
- Manage anger and stress
- Implement effective discipline strategies
- Understand your child's development
- Recognise and value your family and cultural traditions
- Develop effective communication
- Meet others and share ideas

JOIN NOW

Who to contact: Esther Arrese
Email: esther.arrese@southwark.gov.uk
Tel: 020 3404 7494

WHEN IS IT ON?

Tuesday
10am-12pm
Online and in person

Online evening groups also available
What time?
10am-12pm

Please contact for more details.



EPEC BEING A PARENT 1-3

For parents of children aged 1 - 3 years

This 9 week course helps parents learn practical skills for everyday life.

- Looking after yourself as a parent
- Recognise and manage your children's emotions
- Learn positive parenting strategies
- Support your children's resilience

JOIN NOW

Contact: Claire Gager
Email: Claire.gager@southwark.gov.uk
Call: 07547 555 545

WHEN IS IT ON?
STARTING 15TH JANUARY 2023

WEDNESDAY MORNING
1ST PLACE CHILDREN & FAMILY HUB
12 CHURCH STREET
LONDON
SE16 0RN

What time?
10am-12pm



Family info

SOUTHWARK SCHOOLS IMPROVE AIR QUALITY

Supporting schools to improve air quality and reduce CO2 emissions through the use of green energy.

Address: Air Quality Monitoring & Engagement Project for students in Year 5 and above

This project will use an air quality monitor placed in classrooms and the Pupils of Southwark schools. Pupils will monitor the air quality throughout the year.

Teachers and students will participate in a specially designed programme to develop their understanding of air quality, why it matters and discuss strategies to improve it.

The school will be notified of quality alerts and provided with tools such as a dedicated website and resources to use in class to help them to understand the local air quality.

Teachers and parents can register interest by filling out the form on the QR code or by emailing: airquality@southwark.gov.uk

QR code

Parents Skills 2Go

Parent Skills 2Go in partnership with SOUTHWARK ADULT LEARNING SERVICES

ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL)

CLASSES ARE STARTING!

Come to test your level on **WEDNESDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2024**

Time: 10am - 1pm

Venue: The Lewington Community centre
9 Eugenia road
Rotherhithe SE16 2RU

CRÈCHE WILL BE PROVIDED (FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS)

For details and to register: 02035369609, 07394662602
ParentsSkills2Go.org

Let's talk PANTS with Pantosaurus! | NSPCC

NSPCC

PANTS

- Privates are private
- Always remember your body belongs to you
- No means no
- Talk about secrets that upset you
- Speak up, someone can help

Southwark Council

Free* 15 week Learning Unlimited course for adults interested in becoming Teaching Assistants Award in Support Work in Schools

Wednesdays 9.30am – 12.30pm

From 26th February to 25th June 2025

We will contact you after you register to arrange an assessment time. This course will be delivered online using Zoom

What will I get from attending the course?

- The knowledge and skills required to become an effective teaching assistant
- The City & Guilds Award in Support Work in Schools (Level 2)
- The opportunity to progress to the Certificate In Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools or to apply for work as a Teaching Assistant
- Find course FAQs here - <https://www.learningunlimited.co.uk/what-we-do/training/itt/faqs/>

How much does it cost?

*The course is free but there is a non-refundable registration fee of £60.

To apply for a place on the course use the link below to complete the online form: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/award-in-support-work-in-schools-tickets-1142527714149>

All applicants should have level 2 English.

Please note you will need to complete a portfolio which will require quite a lot of homework. Places are subject to completion of application form and assessment.

City & Guilds Award in Support Work in Schools

Southwark Council

Learning Unlimited

Online English (ESOL) Course

A FREE 15-week Entry level online accredited course for Southwark residents

Classes will be on **Tuesdays & Thursdays at 10am–12.30pm**

25th February - 26th June 2025 (term-time only)

plus online Conversation Clubs

This course will take place on Zoom. Applicants should live in Southwark

To apply for a place on the course *in advance* please use this link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online-english-esol-course-tickets-1142527714149>

Spaces are limited so book soon.

We will contact you to confirm your place on the course.

Enjoy **FREE** access to classes

Sign in or download the Southwark Leisure App and click on the 'free online classes' button.

Over 20 adult class programs, Kids Born To Move classes, 2000 plus workouts, plans and challenges. Stream from the web, your mobile and TV.

family
fun



LORD'S

NATIONWIDE CRICKET HUBS



We run a network of cricket Hubs that provide free-to-access training and match play to 6,500 state-educated young cricketers at 164 sites across the UK. The Hubs focus on talent: helping promising youngsters who have been engaged through mass participation activities or non-traditional formats to join cricket clubs, develop their hard-ball skills, and access the formal talent pathways. The Hubs also have a transformational impact off the cricket pitch, helping participants to feel happier and more confident, and improving their focus and performance at school.

<https://www.lords.org/mcc/mcc-foundation/mcc-foundation-in-the-uk>

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about JUSTALK KIDS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

JustTalk Kids is a child's version of the JustTalk app – a highly popular social networking platform – designed for users up to 13 years of age, allowing them to video call, message and participate in group chats. While adults can link their own JustTalk account to their child's and make use of parental controls, it's important to understand the risks associated with the app.

SUBSCRIPTION FOR PREMIUM ACCESS

While JustTalk Kids is free, there's the option to subscribe to a kids' premium account or a premium family account. At a cost, this feature allows children to have access to more fun features such as games they can play with others in a call, exclusive stickers, a badge denoting them as a premium subscriber, and exclusive ringines and themes.

RESISTANCE TO CONTROLS

JustTalk Kids endeavours to allow children the sense of having a chat-based app while allowing parents to set controls (either the app or from their own adult JustTalk account). The basis behind this is positive; however, some children are challenging their parents by refusing to use JustTalk Kids, preferring to use the adult version without any restrictions in place.

KNOWING THE PARENT PASSCODE

After downloading JustTalk Kids, parents can set a passcode which users must enter to add contacts. The parental controls help to manage which content can be viewed and who children can add as a contact; this then allows children to chat with friends in a controlled environment. However, prospective contacts don't have to know a specific username, in theory, someone could type in a random name and then add them as a friend.

POTENTIAL DATA LEAKS

JustTalk and JustTalk Kids claim to be secure and encrypted, going so far as to state that even the developers themselves won't access your data. However, a security lapse in 2022 highlighted that messages were not in fact encrypted – leading to concerns around the security of the app and the transparency of the development team.

CYBERBULLYING

Online chats can provide a sense of anonymity, leading some users to post things which they wouldn't normally say in person. Combined with the option of group chats, there's a risk that young people might join in with this kind of behaviour, escalating it further and potentially turning what should be a fun experience into something deeply negative.

TOO MUCH SCREEN TIME

A report by the UK Parliament Education Committee highlighted a 52% increase in children's screen time between 2020 and 2022 – as well as finding that 20% of children used their smartphones in a manner consistent with screen addiction. Introducing children to social networking apps when they're too young can lead to bad digital habits and a reliance on technology from an early age.

Advice for Parents & Educators

JUSTIFY THE CONTROLS

If parents allow their child to use JustTalk Kids, they should explain that they're putting parental controls in place to make the app safer. Make sure the child knows not to put their full name on the account and doesn't use a photo of themselves as their profile picture. This type of open discussion will help to ensure that a child is aware of the app's potential risks and knows how to reduce them.

TALK ABOUT ONLINE FRIENDSHIPS

Young children could be excited to use this app. However, highlight that they must do so in a positive, respectful and responsible manner. While it can be easy to get caught up in a group chat, it's important to talk to others politely and call out any unpleasant behaviour. Discuss the importance of limiting their contacts to people they know in real life and use parental controls to enforce this.

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.



DOS AND DON'TS OF SHARING

Some children might not understand the potential dangers of oversharing online. Set clear guidelines around what is and isn't safe to share on the internet, and discuss the concept of a digital footprint. Children need to understand that the things they say and share online can never be completely erased. Even if they delete it themselves, it can be saved and distributed by others.

ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Apps like JustTalk can sometimes lend themselves to bullying behaviours. Parents should monitor what their child is sending and receiving. Check in with them regularly and encourage them to share their feelings (both positive and negative) at home. Remind them that they can block a contact if someone is treating them disrespectfully.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/justtalk-kids>

@wake_up_weds

/wuw.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 06.01.2025