

# Robert Browning, Snowsfields and Tower Bridge Primary Schools

## We learn and succeed together



[@robertbrowning.bsky.social](https://www.instagram.com/robertbrowning.bsky.social) [@towerbridgeschool.bsky.social](https://www.instagram.com/towerbridgeschool.bsky.social)

[@snsprimary.bsky.social](https://www.instagram.com/snsprimary.bsky.social)

Find us at: [www.thebridgesfederation.org.uk](http://www.thebridgesfederation.org.uk)

## Newsletter 23rd May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please take a look at pages 9-11 of the newsletter for many activities and events taking place over the May half term.

It has been so exciting seeing the children's homework projects coming through the school gates this week. It is always a joy to celebrate their effort and creativity! Thank you for your ongoing support with your children's learning.

During the holiday it is a good opportunity to talk to your children about staying safe online. Internet Matters have many resources available (in age groups categories) including videos and guides. Please find the links here:

[Pre-school \(0-5\) online safety tips and advice | Internet Matters](#)

[Online safety advice for 6-10 year olds | Internet Matters](#)

[Online safety for pre-teens \(11-13s\) | Internet Matters](#)  
[Teens 14+ online safety advice and expert tips | Internet Matters](#)

Have a fun filled half term holiday, we return to school on Monday 2nd June, the gates open at 8:45am. Please support your child to attend school on time every day, children are marked as late if they arrive at school after 9am.



### [The Neurodiversity Family Hub](#)

Please find the link [here](#) for the Neurodiversity Family Hub which provides activities for children in three age categories: under 5, 6-11 years and 11-18 years of age. They are based at Mint Street Park Adventure playground. 14 Weller Street SE1 1QU.

## Dates For Your Diary

### Tower Bridge

Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May - HALF TERM - SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 2nd June - Back to school - gates open 8.45am

Wednesday 4th June - Pop-Up Book Shop

**Tuesday 1st July - Sports Day Y1-6 (DATE CHANGE)**

**Wednesday 2nd July - EYFS Sports Day**

Wednesday 9th July - Summer Fair

Wednesday 16th July (AM) - Sunshine Class celebration assembly

### Robert Browning

Monday 2nd June - Back to school - gates open 8.45am

Tuesday 1st July- EYFS Sports day

**Friday 4th July- Sports Day (Date Change)**

Wednesday 9th July - Summer Fair

Friday 18th July- Year 6 Leavers assembly

Friday 18th July- 2.45pm- Reception Celebration of learning assembly

Tuesday 22nd July- Break up at 1pm.

### Snowsfields

Monday 2nd June - Back to school - gates open 8.45am

**Tuesday 1st July - Sports Day (DATE CHANGE)**

Wed. 2nd July - Secondary school transition day

Wednesday 9th July - Summer Fair

Tues. 15th July - Sunshine class Graduation, 10am

Thursday 17th July - Year 6 End of year show 2pm

Tuesday 22nd July- Break up at 1pm

Term Dates 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 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](#)





Please use the back gate to collect your child from the playground. Please do not try to use the small gate on the playground for the safety of the children.

## respect for all

[ value of the week ]  
TOWER BRIDGE

We were lucky enough to be offered free tickets to the basketball playoffs at the O2 last weekend, and the families who went have said what a great time they had.



Why not spend some of half term answering the next STEM question? How does the weather affect our daily lives? You can show your answer any way you want. Be as creative as you want to!



Question for Summer 2

How does the weather affect the way we live our daily lives?

What do you think? Draw, write or explain your answer in anyway you want. Hand to your teacher before 7/7/25 with your name on.



Some older pupils took part in a Sports Festival last week at the Marlborough Sports Garden. They participated in activities from Ballers Academy; Boccia; Deuce Beach Tennis and Sideout.



## PE

After all their hard work leading up to the SATs, Year 6 have been on some lovely curriculum trips this week. Visiting the Natural History Museum and also taking part in rounders and other sports in Burgess Park.



Well done to all the children who completed homework projects this term. A special raffle will take place after half term to win a book!

## Homework PROJECTS





## Early Years

Fabulous Counting with teddies



## Groundwork Update

Thank you to everyone who attended the sessions last term- we hope you found them useful! Dates for this term:  
Tuesday 3rd June: Autism and play  
Tuesday 17th June: Planning the school holidays.



## Homework Projects and Home Learning



## Library Visit to Red and Orange Class



## Blue Class Trip

Blue Class went on a trip to the Museum of London, Docklands.

## Rainbow Class

The children have been learning how to wash their hands and clean their teeth. They made patterns in maths.





# Snowsfields Primary School

## HOMEWORK projects

We have been so impressed with the fantastic homework projects that have come in this half term—what a wonderful showcase of creativity and effort! Please do encourage your child to complete their project. Not only can they earn extra Dojos, but there's also a special class treat to look forward to.



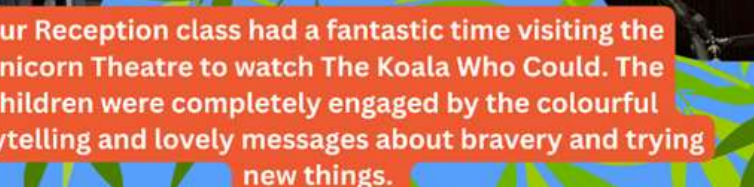
Well done to our Year 6 pupils for showing such resilience and dedication during SATs week! Here they are enjoying a well-earned break at the park—so proud of all their hard work!



Our STEM Club had a fantastic time exploring hands-on activities using the 'STEM in a Box' resources, provided through the RAF Youth STEM Programme.



Our Reception class had a fantastic time visiting the Unicorn Theatre to watch The Koala Who Could. The children were completely engaged by the colourful storytelling and lovely messages about bravery and trying new things.







Our school value this week is:  
R - Respect for All



Reading Raffle Winners



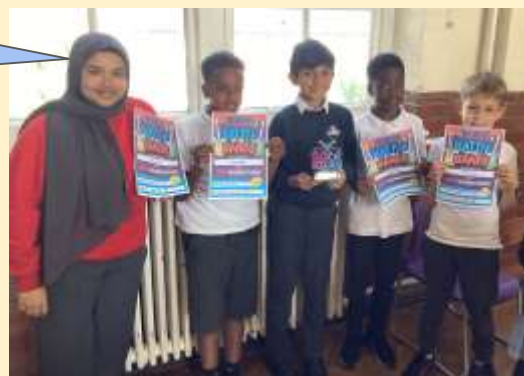
Reading  
Raffle  
Winners

Our core value this week  
is: Resilience



Times Tables  
Rock Stars

Our school value this week is:  
**I - Inclusive and Inspirational**



Reading  
Raffle  
Winners





	% present	Lates	Total
Year 1	100%	2	425
Year 2	98%	1	450
Year 3	96.7%	11	75
Year 4	98.2%	6	300
Year 5	96.4%	15	0
Year 6	99.3%	6	225

**Overall whole school attendance for week beginning 12/5/2025: 98.1%**

**1st Place Attendance: Year 1**

**1st Place Punctuality: Year 2**



**Overall whole school attendance for week beginning: 12/5/2025: 94.36%**

**1st Place Attendance: Y6 & Y2**  
**1st Place Punctuality: Y6**

	Absence	Lates	Total
Year 1	10	3	96.00%
Year 2	2	5	99.13%
Year 3	18	8	92.41%
Year 4	8	5	93.60%
Year 5	17	3	92.76%
Year 6	2	2	98.67%



	Absence	Lates	Total
Year 1	5	5	300
Year 2	36	13	125
Year 3	5	1	500
Year 4	13	7	175
Year 5	8	4	375
Year 6	2	0	325

**Overall whole school attendance for week beginning: 12/5/2025:**

**95.19%**

**1st Place Attendance: Y6**  
**1st Place Punctuality: Y6**

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Find us at: [www.thebridgesfederation.org.uk](http://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/>



**secondary**  
transfer  
for parents  
of Year 5  
pupils



## HARRIS ACADEMY BERMONDSEY OUTSTANDING EVERY TIME!

Ofsted Outstanding in 2009 | 2015 | 2019 | 2025

#ProudToBeHAB



Outstanding in all areas – including Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development, Leadership and Management, and Sixth-Form Provision.

### Open Days

3rd June

10th June

17th June



Book a Tour

### What Ofsted said about us

“Pupils benefit from an exceptional enrichment offer.”

“Pupils develop a rich body of knowledge and achieve very highly.”



Keep up with the latest school news, student achievements, and community events—follow us!  
Stay Connected, Stay Informed – Follow HAB Online!



Contact us if you have any questions at [admissions@harrisbermondsey.org.uk](mailto:admissions@harrisbermondsey.org.uk)

55 Southwark Park Rd, Bermondsey, SE16 3TZ

[www.harrisbermondsey.org.uk](http://www.harrisbermondsey.org.uk)

020 7237 9316

**Harris Academy**  
Bermondsey



family  
fun

# LONDON MARBLE SHOW

**SATURDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY**  
BERMONDSEY VILLAGE HALL  
**12 - 6PM**

PE & SCHOOL SPORTS NETWORK

## FREE GIRLS FOOTBALL

**EVERY MONDAY (17:00-18:00)**  
BURGESS PARK ASTRO TURF

WILD CATS | KICK IT GIRLS | OPEN TO ALL GIRLS AGED 5-11 | SQUAD

PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER

**FREE AFTERSCHOOL SPORTS**  
AT MARLBOROUGH SPORTS GARDEN

**School's out, time to play!**  
Children aged 5-11 - join us for **FREE** afterschool sports at Marlborough Sports Garden! Fun, beginner-friendly sessions run Tuesday-Thursday, with free play on Monday and Friday. Choose from football, touch rugby, rollerskating, cricket, volleyball and more.

**SPRING 2025**  
Week 1: Tue 27th April 2025  
Week 2: Tue 2nd May 2025  
Week 3: Tue 9th May 2025  
Week 4: Tue 16th May 2025  
Week 5: Tue 23rd May 2025

**SUMMER 2025**  
Week 1: Tue 3rd June 2025  
Week 2: Tue 10th June 2025  
Week 3: Tue 17th June 2025  
Week 4: Tue 24th June 2025  
Week 5: Tue 1st July 2025  
Week 6: Tue 8th July 2025  
Week 7: Tue 15th July 2025

**TIMES**  
All sessions run from 3.45 - 5.15pm

**LOCATION**  
Marlborough Sports Garden  
London Road, SE1 1SP

Get in touch! Email [amsp@best.org.uk](mailto:amsp@best.org.uk)  
or call 020 7403 3393 or visit online at [www.best.org.uk/afterschoolsports](http://www.best.org.uk/afterschoolsports)

BANKSIDE OPEN SPACES TRUST

London Wildlife Trust | Centre for Wildlife Gardening  
28 Marsden Road, SE15 4EE

## Half Term Family Workshops

**Plant Power ~**  
Edible plants Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May 10am-3pm  
Medicinal Plants Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May 10am - 3pm

Free fun one- or two-day workshops for families living in Southwark suitable for primary aged children but you are welcome to bring your younger and older ones too. On Wednesday you will discover which plants are edible and which are poisonous and cook something to eat. On Thursday you will look at medicinal herbs and make a lotion, a balm and a bath bomb to take home.

You can choose Wednesday or Thursday or both days. Workshops for all the family funded by Southwark Council. Booking essential. Free, booking fee £3 but let us know if that is too much for you (email [family@wildlondon.org.uk](mailto:family@wildlondon.org.uk))

To book visit our website: [www.wildlondon.org.uk/events](http://www.wildlondon.org.uk/events)  
Only one free Southwark family workshop per academic year per adult.

Funded by Southwark Council

To book please scan the QR code or visit [wildlondon.org.uk/families](http://wildlondon.org.uk/families)

PE & SCHOOL SPORTS NETWORK

James Michael Faraday Primary School  
Marsden Street  
SE17 2AB

**YEAR GROUPS 1-7**

## FREE GIRLS FOOTBALL CAMP 2025

**09:30 - 15:30**  
27th - 30th May 2025

QR code for registration

LEWISHAM LIONS CENTRE

## HALF TERM HOLIDAY CAMP

**MAY 2025**  
TUESDAY - FRIDAY  
10:00AM - 15:00PM

**£12 PER DAY OR £40 WHEN BOOKING ALL DAYS**

FOR MORE DETAILS EMAIL:  
[EPOOLE@MILLWALLCOMMUNITY.ORG.UK](mailto:EPOOLE@MILLWALLCOMMUNITY.ORG.UK)

Lewisham Disability Sports Network presents:

## Lewisham Inclusive Sports Festival

**Register Now!**

A free event, accessible to all abilities, for disabled young people and their families, aged 5-25!

Register below or scan the QR code:  
<https://bit.ly/LewishamMultiSport>

**Saturday 21st June**  
2pm to 4pm  
Ladbroke Grove  
Silverstone Rd  
SE8 4QN

In Partnership with:  
Access Sport | GLL | Sport England | Lewisham and Greenwich | London Borough of Lewisham | London Borough of Greenwich

Camille.Redfern@AccessSport.org.uk | 020 7993 1085

## DISABILITY- INCLUSIVE BASKETBALL

**FREE Weekly Basketball Sessions with Disability Sports Coach at Burgess Park, supported by Access Sport.**

Have fun, make friends, learn new skills. All abilities welcome.

**Where:** Burgess Park Basketball Court, Cobourg Road, SE5 0JB  
**When:** Thursdays 17.00 - 18.00. Starting from 15th May 2025  
**Who:** D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent young people aged 8 - 25  
**Cost:** FREE

Scan below to express your interest and find out more

**Hoops**  
Basketball by Access Sport



# 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 modelling. Crèche provided.

**When:**  
**Where:** 1st Floor Family Hub, 13 Charnleigh Street, Burgess Park, SE16 0HT

**BOOK A PLACE**  
Email: [ben.campbell@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:ben.campbell@southwark.gov.uk)  
Phone: 07738 860 768

**Parent Skills**

## PARENT SPACE

A QUARTERLY ONLINE & IN PERSON PROGRAM

A 12 WEEK COURSE DESIGNED FOR PARENTS WITH CHILDREN FROM TWO YEARS TO SCHOOL AGE. THE COURSE IS FREE AS WELL AS GOOD FOR CHILDREN THAT SUPPORT THEIR PARENTS.

**SERIES**  
WEDNESDAY 10TH JANUARY 2025 11AM-12PM  
WEDNESDAY 10TH APRIL 2025 11AM-12PM  
WEDNESDAY 10TH JULY 2025 11AM-12PM

**FOR DETAILS & TO REGISTER**  
• [adrian@parentskillsgo.com](mailto:adrian@parentskillsgo.com)  
• [parentskillsgo.org](mailto:parentskillsgo.org)

**BOOKING**  
07507443231  
0772530083  
02030494878  
07504463863

PLACED HERE TO IMPROVE PARENTING AND SUPPORT FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN

## 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

## SENsational Stay & Play

Fun FREE groups for children with additional needs or disabilities and their parents/carer

- Have fun with your child
- Meet other families
- Get advice and support from a range of specialists on topics such as Speech & Language, Behaviour and Autism

Multiple locations across Southwark  
Multiple **stay & play** sessions for under-5s  
Saturday respite sessions for 9-11 years  
See timetable on back of this leaflet

For more info visit [www.southwark.gov.uk/sensational-stay-and-play](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/sensational-stay-and-play)  
Or to book [www.southwark.gov.uk/sensational-stay-and-play](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/sensational-stay-and-play)

Southwark Children and Family Centres

**Southwark Young Carers**

To get involved, you can refer via our website [www.imago.community](http://www.imago.community) or scan the QR Code

**IMAGO**

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.

For further information, please contact our Hub  
[youngcarers@imago.community](mailto:youngcarers@imago.community)  
**0300 111 1110**

**Drug and Alcohol Service** **Young People**

## 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.

- 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@cg.gov.uk](mailto:Southwark.YoungPeople@cg.gov.uk) or scan the QR code for a direct link to the event booking page.  
• You can call us on: 020 3404 7699

**BOOK HERE**

## 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
- Agas 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](mailto:bethany.gilbey@southwark.gov.uk)  
[EARLYHELP@SOUTHWARK.GOV.UK](mailto: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 8 - 18 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**

With us support: **Positive Parenting**  
• 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

**WHERE IS IT ON?**  
Tuesday  
10pm to 11pm  
13 Charnleigh Street  
Burgess Park  
SE16 0HT  
Online learning, groups and individual  
What time?  
10pm to 11pm

## The Neurodiversity Family Hub

The Neurodiversity Family Hub provide specialised clubs for children & young people with SEND in Southwark, including: Teen Tribe, Junior Tribe and Tiny Tribe

As well as parent/carer support, including:

Parent Connect, Parent Circle, Walk & Talk, My Advocacy Partner and whole family gatherings.

<https://theneurodiversityfamilyhub.org/>

**FREE YEAR 6 LITTLE FISH THEATRE SUMMER PROGRAMME**  
FOR SOUTHWARK CHILDREN  
28TH JULY - 8TH AUG 2025 (MON-FRI)  
AT RYE OAK PRIMARY SCHOOL

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK A PLACE FOR YOUR CHILD  
EMAIL: [INFO@LITTLEFISHTHEATRE.CO.UK](mailto:INFO@LITTLEFISHTHEATRE.CO.UK)

TO FILL IN A BOOKING FORM  
CLICK THE LINK BELOW OR  
SCAN THE QR CODE

<https://bit.ly/W4T3nFRV>

**ART DREAMS MUSIC DANCE**



# family info



## 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

(Seven-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.southwark.gov.uk/info/20000/online-english-course/1457/771449>

Spaces are limited so book soon.

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



## NEW SCHOOL UNIFORM WEBSITE LAUNCH

On the 11th of February we will launch our NEW website. The URL remains: [www.price-buckland.co.uk](http://www.price-buckland.co.uk)



Website QR code. This will take you to the homepage to search for your school



If you have ordered from our website before, go to the Account Section and re-set your password. You can use the same password that you have currently.



You can then see previous orders and manage your account.

Any Questions? Call us on 01899 540327



## 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



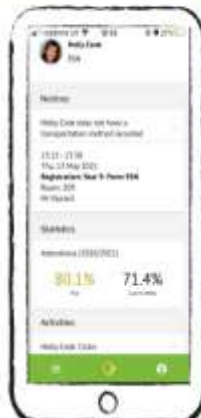
### Need help using Arbor?

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.



## Let's talk PANTS with Pantosaurus! | NSPCC

NSPCC



Privates are private



Always remember your body belongs to you



No means no



Talk about secrets that upset you



Speak up, someone can help



### Free Home Fire Safety Visits

A fire can start in any room and the effects can be devastating, even a small fire in your home can lead to substantial damage and expensive repairs. The LFB want to stop fires from happening and that is why we offer free home fire safety visits to help keep you and your loved ones safe.

#### What happens during a home fire safety visit?

Our firefighters or trained staff will visit you at home, at a time that suits you and carry out a risk assessment. They will give you advice based on your home and individual needs, this includes; information on how to prevent fires, the importance of smoke alarms to detect a fire and your escape plan in the event of a fire.

A visit can take up to 90 minutes or longer if needed and we will fit free smoke alarms if required.

Specialist alarms can be fitted for people who may have a delayed response to escape for example; strobe light and vibrating pad alarms for those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

#### How to book a Home Fire Safety Visit:

Freephone: 0800 028 4428

Email: [smokealarms@london-fire.gov.uk](mailto:smokealarms@london-fire.gov.uk)

Text /SMS: 07860 021 319

<https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/the-home/home-fire-safety/>

Worried about a relative, friend or neighbour? Although everyone is eligible for a free home fire safety visit, some people with health problems or lifestyle behaviours can have an increased chance of a fire happening. To help you we have listed some of these examples below:

#### Increased risk factors can include:

Anyone that smokes; overloaded electrical sockets or poor wiring; unsafe use of candles or naked flames; previous fires or near misses; cooking left unattended; hoarding of any kind or someone who lives alone.

#### They are less able to react because of:

Mental health conditions such as dementia or learning difficulties; no smoke alarms are fitted or they don't work; alcohol dependency or drug misuse (prescribed or recreational); physical health issues including sensory impairments eg: hearing or sight.

#### They have a reduced ability to escape:

Mobility issues due to a physical disability; age-related problems or as a result of a long-term illness; escape routes are not kept clear or are blocked due to actions such as hoarding or conditions that affect decision making.

If you know anyone who has any combination of these risk factors, give them our details to arrange a free home fire safety visit or simply ask them if they would like you to book a visit for them.

Remember -This is not an exhaustive list, if you are unsure please contact us for extra advice.



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 out more about the course: <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/20000/learning-unlimited/1457/771449>

How much does it cost?

\*The course is free but there is a non-refundable registration fee of £10.

To apply for a place on the course see the link below to complete the online form:

<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/20000/learning-unlimited/1457/771449>

All applicants should have level 2 English.

Please note you will need to complete a portfolio which will require you to be self-employed.

Please see website for completion of application form and assessment.

### SOUTHWARK SCHOOLS' INDOOR AIR QUALITY



Southwark Council is a proud member of the London Air Quality Network (LAQN) and is committed to improving air quality in schools and across the city.

Arbor - Air Quality Monitoring & Engagement Project for students in Year 6 and above

This project will use air quality sensors placed in classrooms and the

results of the data will be shared with the school and the LAQN.

Teachers and students will participate in a specially designed curriculum to develop their understanding of air quality's effects on health and discover strategies to improve indoor air quality.

This initiative builds on existing air quality efforts and provides tools such as a dedicated webpage and monitoring devices to assist schools in fostering a cleaner, healthier educational atmosphere.

School staff and parents can monitor progress by filling out the form on this link or by emailing:

[https://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/20000/learning-unlimited/1457/771449](mailto:https://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/20000/learning-unlimited/1457/771449)

[environmentalprotection@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:environmentalprotection@southwark.gov.uk)

[www.southwark.gov.uk](http://www.southwark.gov.uk)

Check out the Southwark School Air Quality Project on the LAQN website to see how you can get involved.

Southwark Council

Southwark Council



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION  
**16+**

In UK and Europe;  
rest of the world 13+

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.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### 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.

### '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

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