



Newsletter

Friday 27th January 2023



WOW is a pupil-led initiative where children self-report how they get to school every day using the interactive WOW Travel Tracker. If children travel sustainably (walk, wheel, cycle or scoot) once a week for a month, they get rewarded with a badge. It's that easy! Brookburn will be taking part in this amazing initiative starting in February and a member of the WOW team came into school to do a special assembly this week. This coincides with our school streets road closure which starts on Thursday 2nd February and will continue each Thursday until half term after which date they will gradually increase.



A large part of being a UNICEF councillor at Brookburn is listening to the views and opinions from your peers. It was suggested, by a Year 5 pupil, that we could do more to encourage wildlife to school. The UNICEF councillors met and discussed ways in which to do so. We're delighted to reveal our new bird feeders and wildflower seeds. We'll be planting the seeds in March, along with the ECO councillors. In the meantime, we're looking forward to doing a spot of bird



A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to the Taylor family for donating a drum kit to our school.

Mr. Sumner, our music lead, is delighted as the current set in the hall was damaged and no longer stands up straight!

This will make the perfect replacement!



Important Notice!

Please note that we have had to make a change to the date of **Mrs Connaughton's** class assembly. The new date will be **Tuesday 14th March**. The full list is below:

- 3A (Mrs Connaughton) Tuesday 14th March
- 3B (Miss Kingsford) Thursday 9th March
- 4A (Ms Faulder) Friday 24th March
- 4B (Mr Sumner) Thursday 30th March

All assemblies start at 9.15am and last around 30mins

International Day Thursday 16th February

A reminder that Madame Warrington's famous International Day takes place on Thursday 16th February. As well as a special continental breakfast and assemblies on the day, children have the opportunity to dress up in the colours of a flag, in traditional dress or as a famous person from another country (please no football kits)



Important news for parents and carers

Winter viruses and infections such as Covid-19, Flu and Scarlet Fever are making people ill

How you can help keep all of us safe



Keep your child off school or nursery if they have a high temperature. Do not let them go back until they feel better and the fever has gone.



Tell your child to wash their hands with soap and water.



Get them to cough or sneeze into a tissue, then put it in the bin.



If you do not feel well, stay at home. If you have to go out, wear a face mask.



If you are ill, do not visit care homes or people in hospital unless it is urgent.



Get your Covid and Flu jab - see our website: www.manchester.gov.uk/getmyjab



Newsletter

Friday 27th January 2023

COMING UP NEXT!

30th Jan - 3rd Feb

Week 1 Menu

30th Jan

Woodwind lessons (am)

Guitar lessons (pm)

Steel Pan lessons (pm)

1st Feb

Strings lessons (am)

2nd Feb

School Streets Road Closure

6th Feb - 10th Feb

Week 2 Menu

6th Feb

Woodwind lessons (am)

Guitar lessons (pm)

Steel pan lessons (pm)

Year 4 swimming lessons

8th Feb

Strings lessons (am)

9th Feb

School Streets Road Closure



CHORLTON WINTER SHOWDOWN

27 JANUARY - 28 FEBRUARY 2023

• ANSWER AS MANY QUESTIONS AS POSSIBLE •
PLAY IN ANY GAME TYPE • THE WINNING CLASS WILL HAVE
THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF CORRECT ANSWERS PER PUPIL •
ASK YOUR TEACHER FOR FULL DETAILS AND RULES •



Here are the Top of the Rocks from the last 2 weeks

Week ending:	Most Improved	Highest Score	Class of the Week
20th January	Ellery 4B	Sofia 6A	4A
27th January	Ben C 3B	Eva R 6A	4A

MANCHESTER TSA

Trusts & Schools Alliance

Have you thought about becoming a teacher?

Have you just graduated or are currently studying for a degree or fancy a change of career? Manchester Trusts and Schools Alliance is a group of schools across South Manchester who work with Manchester Metropolitan University offering the School Direct route into teaching. School Direct is a school-based route into teaching - working in a school as an associate member of teaching staff while receiving first class training and personalised mentoring support from school and university to become a qualified teacher.

We are currently recruiting for September 2023 – if you might be interested or know anyone who might want to know more please take a look at our web site:-

www.manchestertsa.com

If you would like an informal chat please telephone Brookburn Primary School on 0161 881 8880 and ask to speak to Joan Pennington.



Schools Direct

- Postgraduate training option
- based in a school
- NOT employed by the school
- May be eligible for funding to assist with fees
- One year - full time

All National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informal conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many eggs which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TWITTER



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Twitter is a social media network which allows users to post short messages (tweets) of up to 280 characters. Tweets can consist of text, photos, videos, audio, links, polls and GIFs – often linked by hashtags if they share a common theme or message. Hashtags receiving high levels of interest are said to be 'trending'. Twitter users can engage with other people's posts by liking, retweeting (sharing) or tweeting back (commenting on). Since the entrepreneur Elon Musk acquired Twitter in October 2022 for \$44 billion, he has implemented several major changes to the platform.

INTERACTION WITH STRANGERS

Tweets are public by default, meaning that anyone can view and interact with posts, follow someone and send direct messages. The concern here is that young people may therefore connect and communicate with strangers. Some individuals may follow a young person's Twitter account simply because they have similar interests; however, others may turn out to have more sinister intentions.

FIXATION ON VIEW COUNT

Twitter has recently introduced a 'view count' feature – telling users how many people have seen their tweet (even if they haven't reacted to it). Previous research has found that unfavourable comparisons with other social media users can cause young people to experience feelings of insecurity, jealousy and low self-esteem – leading to an obsession with increasing their numbers.

TROLLS AND BULLYING

The anonymity offered by fake profiles encourages some users to send tweets designed to provoke a reaction; to disrupt conversations; to spark an argument; or to harass the recipient. Such trolling and bullying can impact the mental wellbeing of both the target and anyone who witnesses it. Encourage your child to come to you if they experience such behaviour on Twitter, or if they see it taking place.

PAID-FOR VERIFICATION

Previously, if a Twitter profile displayed a blue tick icon, it meant that the owner – usually a celebrity or a major organisation – had been verified as genuine. Now, however, anyone can pay for a Twitter blue subscription to receive the tick, with the platform carrying out limited checks on the account's authenticity. This could easily lead to more fake accounts impersonating real people or companies.

CONTENT MODERATION CHANGES

In late 2022, Twitter stated that their policy enforcement will rely more heavily on de-amplification of violative content: freedom of speech, but not freedom of reach. No policies have changed yet, but this wording suggests they may limit who can see posts rather than removing them. While supporting free speech, this could encourage an environment where some toxic content remains online.

HIJACKED HASHTAGS

The hashtag (#) is one of Twitter's most recognisable facets, allowing users to find specific trends or topics. But the sheer volume of tweets each hour can rapidly dilute a hashtag's meaning; an initially innocent search term can quickly end up returning inappropriate results. This is common with 'trending' hashtags, as people know that using them will get their tweet seen by a larger audience.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SET ACCOUNTS TO PRIVATE

To reduce some of the fear of your child's tweets being seen and shared by anyone, you can always make their account protected. This means that your child has to give approval for another user to view their posts. You can change Twitter's privacy settings so that your child can't be messaged directly by other people on the platform and their geographical location won't be shared.

FOSTER CRITICAL THINKING

It can be difficult for anyone to ascertain if something online is real or false, but particularly for young people. Encourage your child to check several reputable sources to determine if a story they've seen is true; remind them to watch out for scams and think about the message's possible motive. Emphasise that it's not a good idea to retweet something if they aren't sure it's correct.

ENGAGE SAFETY MODE

When Safety Mode is activated, Twitter checks for abusive or spammy behaviour such as hurtful language or repeated negative replies. The platform then flags these suspect accounts and blocks them from responding to your child's tweets. The autoblock function then prevents these accounts from interacting with your child's again for seven days.

EXPLORE THE NEW SETTINGS

Previously, any user could reply to anyone else's tweets. However, the new conversation settings let your child determine who can reply to their posts – either by selecting everyone (the default option), people they follow or only people they mention (using the @ symbol). This improvement has given users extra control, providing them with more protection from trolls and online abuse.

PAUSE BEFORE POSTING

It's important that young people think about what they're about to post and whether they might regret it later. Twitter has developed 'nudges', little prompts which appear if someone is about to tweet using harmful or offensive language. These nudges promote more positive online behaviour by giving users an opportunity to pause and consider their words before they post something.

BLOCK, REPORT OR MUTE

If someone is upsetting your child on Twitter, you can block and report them. Blocking stops them from messaging or following your child, while reporting an account alerts Twitter to investigate possible misuse. The 'mute' feature, meanwhile, keeps tweets from a specific account (or which include certain words) out of your child's timeline. The other user won't know that they've been muted.

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 posting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



BE CAREFUL WHO TO FOLLOW

As accounts are no longer being as rigorously verified under the 'blue tick' system, it's essential that young Twitter users understand what the reasons, in terms of people not necessarily being who they claim. Anyone who your child only knows online is still a stranger, regardless of how long they've been communicating for. Remind your child never to disclose personal information on social media.

Source: <https://blog.twitter.com/common-thread/en/topics/stories/2022/how-twitter-is-nudging-users-towards-conversations> | https://blog.twitter.com/en_us/topics/product/2022/twitter-blue-update | https://blog.twitter.com/en_us/topics/company/2022/twitter-3-5-our-continued-commitment-to-the-public-conversation | <https://betanetworks.lib.usab.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=213&context=wdt>