



EBOR GARDENS
Primary Academy

WEEKLY NEWS

Friday 28th February, 2025 - Issue 22

A Message from Mrs Wathen and Mr Spink

Good afternoon everyone.

It was a frosty start this morning but the sun decided to make an appearance and it has put a smile on everyone's face here at Ebor Gardens! Tomorrow is the first day of meteorological Spring which means that we should start to see more sunshine and slightly warmer temperatures. Hopefully that will keep a smile on everyone's face.

This week we have shared some information by letter regarding Ramadan and Eid. Miss Dosanjh has written to Upper Key Stage 2 regarding fasting. If your child is fasting this Ramadan, please read the letter and return the reply slip to your child's teacher. That way we know and we can make appropriate arrangements for lunchtimes. We can also monitor how they are feeling - especially if it is their first time experiencing fasting. We are expecting Eid al-Fitr to be Sunday 30th March - Monday 31st March. A letter has been sent home with a reply slip so that you can let us know if your children will not be at school due to religious observance.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

N - 87%	RBT - 99%	RDO - 93%
1AD - 94%	1MM - 95%	2HW - 99%
2RK - 97%	3JH - 99%	3NB - 100%
4CS - 98%	4RM - 96%	5NP/LW - 98%
5HW - 97%	6FA - 93%	6LB - 99%

Whole School attendance this week is 96%.

We are aiming for 96% or above.

- Biscuit Bears:** RBT, 2HW & 3NB
- Extra Play (97%+):** RBT, 2HW, 2RK, 3JH, 3NB, 4CS, 5HW & 5NP/LW, 6LB
- Pizza Party (100%):** 3NB



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DIARY DATES 2025

Wednesday 5th March 2025 - School Nurses in school (R&Y6 height and vision checks)

Thursday 6th March 2025 - World Book Day

Thursday 13th March 2025 - Y2 Thackray Medical Museum Trip

Friday 21st March 2025 - Red Nose Day

Thursday 27th March 2025 - Class Photos

Wednesday 2nd April 2025 - Easter Discos

Friday 4th April 2025 - School closes for Easter

Tuesday 22nd April 2025 - School reopens for Summer 1

Tuesday 23rd April 2025 - Guide Dog visit to Reception

12th - 15th May 2025 - Y6 SATs Assessments

Wednesday 21st May 2025 - Yr 3 Trip to Cannon Hall Farm

Friday 23rd May 2025 - School closes for half-term

Monday 2nd June 2025 - School reopens for Summer 2

23rd & 24th June 2025 - Y4 Residential Trip

7th - 9th July 2025 - Y6 Residential Trip



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Please be sure to park very safely and sensibly around school at Breakfast Club, morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. On some occasions, the main gate has been blocked by parents/carers cars. Parents/carers and visitors must not park in front of the main gate so that cars (including emergency service vehicles) can get in and out at all times.



Child Friendly Leeds City Centre Map

Find out what activities and events are going on in the city centre
www.breezeleeds.org/places-to-go-and-things-to-do

Covered Picnic Area	Bowling (Members Only)	Big Screen	Public Piano (Some places only available to registered)
Food Stalls	Cinema	Art Gallery	Community/Library Hub
Play Area	Escape Room	Indoor Golf	

Car Park	Cycle Rack
Park & Ride Stop	Free Wifi
Water	ATM
Taxi Stop	Toilets
Hospital	Changing Places

Museums/Art Gallery/Library
Shopping Centre
Transport
Education
Theatre & Area
Status & Landmarks
Pedestrianised Area

LOVE EXPLORING™
 Love Exploring is a FREE fun app that uses the magic of augmented reality to bring to life amazing local sights – opening up magical worlds including Dinosaur Trails, Bug Hunts, Fairy Walks and more.

www.wearechildfriendlyleeds.com
[@childfriendlyleeds](https://twitter.com/childfriendlyleeds)

Scan this QR code for local bus and train info.



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With more than two billion active users, 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. The UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging, but for the time being, this controversial feature remains.

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 they want to message. Therefore, if a 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 the child might be added to a group chat or community (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people they don't know.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allow 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.

CHAT LOCK AND SECRET CODES

In 2023, WhatsApp introduced a feature that lets users keep their chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind their phone's passcode, fingerprint or face ID. There is an additional feature – 'Secret Code' – where users set a unique password for locked chats. Unfortunately, this creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of.

VIEW ONCE CONTENT

The ability to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate material or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't reopen 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 protection of privacy.

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 is safe while out, for example. However, anyone in a user'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 & Educators

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution; get them to consider whether it 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 a child's WhatsApp settings 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 a 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.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Check in with the child about how they're using WhatsApp, making sure they know you only have their safety at heart. If you spot a Locked Chats folder, you might want to talk about the sort of content they've stored in there, who they're talking to, and why they want to keep these chats hidden. Also, if children send any View Once content, it could be helpful to ask them why.

DISCUSS GROUP CHATS

Make children aware that there could be members of a group that they don't know well and that words can be misinterpreted. Encourage them to leave a good impression, to avoid joining in if conversations turn towards bullying, and to respond to such situations in an appropriate way. Make sure they know that it's OK to leave a group chat if it makes them uncomfortable – or for any reason, in fact.

THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children 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 that a user posts to be shared more widely, even publicly on social media. Encourage children to consider how an impulsive message or forwarding might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

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.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/whatsapp?2025>



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At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MARVEL RIVALS



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Marvel Rivals launched in December 2024 and amassed a player count of nearly 150,000 in mere weeks. This player versus player (PvP) shooter packs in a host of recognisable comic-book characters, pitting two teams of six against each other. Despite the game's cartoonish nature, there are several potential risks for parents and educators to be aware of.

IN-GAME CHAT

Voice chat allows players to speak to teammates and opponents within the game, but in a competitive environment, some conversations can become unpleasant. Text chat is equally prominent among those playing on PC and will be shown on the side of the screen. Moderation on chats is relatively lax, so it's important to recognise that potentially inappropriate messages could arrive at any time.

VIOLENT CONTENT

There's no gore in Marvel Rivals, and the violence depicted is comparatively cartoonish – but the playable characters available vary between more traditional superheroes and supervillains, and figures like Black Widow and The Punisher, who use more realistic firearms. Given the game's nature as a shooter, this may make some parents and carers uncomfortable as some players will be firing these weapons at each other.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

While Marvel Rivals is free, there is an in-game store, selling character skins from recognisable movies and comic-book titles. Each season also includes a E10 Battle Pass (much like those seen in Fortnite and Call of Duty), offering a series of exclusive cosmetic items. These passes don't expire – but they can't be purchased once the next season rolls around, creating a fear of missing out.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The game includes some innuendos and mature themes in the dialogue, which could expose youngsters to content unsuitable for their age, detracting from a safe and family-friendly gaming experience. As we mentioned previously, the content of the in-game chat could also be age-inappropriate, ranging from swearing to mature themes to potentially harmful content.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With such a huge player base, it's impossible to predict whom your child will be teaming up with or playing against. They're virtually certain to run into strangers through voice and text chat, for starters. Most of these people will just be ordinary gamers enjoying the action, but there is the risk of some users behaving inappropriately with younger players – either intentionally, or because they don't realise that they're speaking to a child.

FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

The inclusion of iconic characters might make Marvel Rivals appear more approachable than other games in the genre, with recognisable heroes and villains like Spider-Man and Venom. This could lead to more interest from younger players, increasing the likelihood of children playing the game without properly understanding the risks.

Advice for Parents & Educators

FOLLOW ESRB RATINGS

The ESRB rating for Marvel Rivals says the game shouldn't be played by anyone under 13. Most children of that age will be able to appreciate the moral compass of the roster of characters (people can play as Hela, the Goddess of Death, for example), while also ensuring that the violence, however cartoonish, won't overwhelm them.

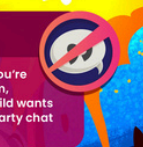


FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

The game's inclusion of fan-favourite characters like Iron Man and the Hulk, plus its increasing popularity, means that younger Marvel fans will likely be eager to see what the fuss is about. Since it's free, consider playing Marvel Rivals yourself to gauge how you feel about a child playing it. Alternatively, you could let them play against the game's AI in Practice Mode, until they're old enough to compete online.

MONITOR OR TURN OFF CHAT

Voice and text chat can both be adjusted within the in-game settings. If you're particularly concerned about exposing children and young people to them, however, you can disable both forms of chat in the game's settings. If a child wants to play alongside friends, remind them that they can use their console's party chat feature or host a call on a third-party service like Discord.

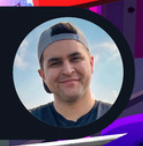


DISCONNECT PAYMENT OPTIONS

Parents should ensure that no payment options – such as debit cards – are linked to the game, to prevent unauthorised purchases and charges. Children can be tempted by enticing in-game offers without fully understanding the costs. Removing payment methods avoids impulsive in-game spending and instils a sense of financial awareness, teaching young people to be careful with their money.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor at the Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, he has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and plenty more.



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World BOOK

Day

Thursday 6th March

DRESSING UP

On the day, your child may dress up as their favourite character from a book OR they may come in their cosy pyjamas. Please ensure they are appropriate for wearing all day at school.



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Bedtime story reading competition.

Each class will have a competition to find the best story reader. If your child wants to take part, they will have to read their favourite part of a bedtime story for no more than one minute.



World Book Day Book Donations

If you have any unwanted children's books at home, please bring them in on World Book Day. They will be sorted and we will distribute them to children in need.



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THURSDAY
6TH MARCH

3.20PM - 4.00PM



EBOR GARDENS
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big bedtime read



COME ALONG WITH AN ADULT TO THE SCHOOL HALL TO SHARE SOME BEDTIME STORIES, DRINKS AND BISCUITS.

YOU CAN CHANGE INTO YOUR PYJAMAS BEFORE THE EVENT IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO.

ENTRANCE THROUGH THE HALL DOORS AFTER YEAR 5 AND 6 HAVE LEFT. ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.



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