



# WESTON NEWS

2022-23 ISSUE 8: 6 January 2023

Website: [weston.cheshire.sch.uk](http://weston.cheshire.sch.uk)

Facebook: [westonvillageprimary](https://www.facebook.com/westonvillageprimary)

Twitter: [@WestonVillagePS](https://twitter.com/WestonVillagePS)

## Dates for your diary (new dates in red):

Wednesday 25 January – Blue Class assembly  
(arrive from 9.50am for a 10am start)

Wednesday 1 February – Choir to Young Voices  
in Manchester

Monday 6 February – Children's mental health  
week

Tuesday 7 February – Parish Council  
presentation to parents plus choir performance  
at school (details to follow)

Tuesday 7 February – Safer Internet day

Thursday 9 February – Class and leavers  
photographs

Friday 10 February – Dress to Express day  
(details to follow)

Monday 13 February – Year 6 residential all  
week

Wednesday 15 February – Green class assembly  
(arrive from 9.50am for a 10am start)

Friday 17 February – School closes for half term

Monday 27 February – School reopens

Thursday 2 March – World Book Day (costumes  
– details to follow)

Thursday 16 March – Turquoise class assembly  
(arrive from 9.50am for a 10am start)

Monday 20 and Thursday 23 March –  
Parent/Carers consultation evenings (details to  
follow)

## A message from Mr Cutts

It has been lovely to welcome everyone back to school this week and to see all of the children take the new term in their stride, full of energy.

I hope you enjoyed a happy and peaceful festive period. The law of averages says that not everyone will have. Please don't hesitate to reach out to school for support or advice. We have strong links with external expertise and support and can at the very least signpost help.

There is a strong focus on mental health in school this half term, with the week of 6 February set aside for some specific work to coincide with Children's Mental Health Week, Safer Internet Day and Dress to Express Day. The theme for Mental Health Week this year is Let's Connect, which is designed to promote healthy connections and relationships in order to positively impact on mental health. [Find out more about the theme here.](#)

## School Improvement Update

You might be a parent who sends their child to school, trusting that they are in good hands and are accessing a great experience and hopefully you know that this is what they get at Weston. However, you might be interested in gaining a bit more of an understanding about the nitty gritty of school improvement. If so, this little section should be helpful.

You will remember that we had an Ofsted inspection last term in which we were graded as Good with Outstanding features. At the time I wrote to you about the inspection and brought your attention to the targets that the inspectors have given us, related to early reading and further curriculum development. Both were areas that we had identified in our own self-evaluation.



Ofsted September  
2022.pdf



Weston Village  
Primary School Ofsted

Since then all curriculum leaders (all teachers lead at least one curriculum area, line-managed by Mrs Lawton, the curriculum assistant headteacher) have worked tirelessly

on their subjects. We group our subjects into departments (we call them pods) and take a collaborative approach to improvement through pod meetings. Curriculum leaders also have significant dedicated non-contact time for the purpose of monitoring and improving their subject. Our focus last term, in part informed by the inspection, was on clearly identifying the very key component knowledge that all children need to secure in order to progress through a subject curriculum, so that every teacher is clear about the fundamentals at the heart of our ambitious and broad curriculum. We have also been working on embedding 'Great Teaching at Weston' within our curriculum. This is a consistent framework of excellent teaching approaches based on research and underpinned by Rosenshine's 10 Principles of Instruction. This dual approach to further enhancing the planned curriculum and the taught curriculum is yielding measurable improvements in teaching and learning across the school.

In terms of early reading, at the time of the inspection we had already taken positive action to support the small group of children who didn't pass the Year 1 phonics screening check in their accelerated learning. We have since redefined some of the leadership of reading and the scope of those leaders and made some changes to our use of reading books, which will be communicated to you by the teachers via Class Dojo.

The school's other priorities relate to further enhancing attitudes to learning to ensure that our already outstanding practice remains of model of excellence for others to emulate; enhancing the children's enrichment opportunities and securing the outstanding potential of our Early Years department.

We are very proud of our distributed leadership approach and the positive impact that the teachers make far beyond their own classrooms. I will continue to provide occasional updates on school improvement throughout the year.

### End of Term Activity

The Autumn term ended in a flurry of activities and events. As well as the nativity plays, there were two further choir performances at Shavington Academy and the Wychwood Park Hotel Christmas markets. We had an excellent Weston's Got Talent 2022 packed full of wonderful acts from our KS2 children, who pushed themselves to perform in front of the school. We also announced the winners of two competitions, run by the school council and by our caterers, Aramark – design a Christmas jumper and decorate a festive placemat.

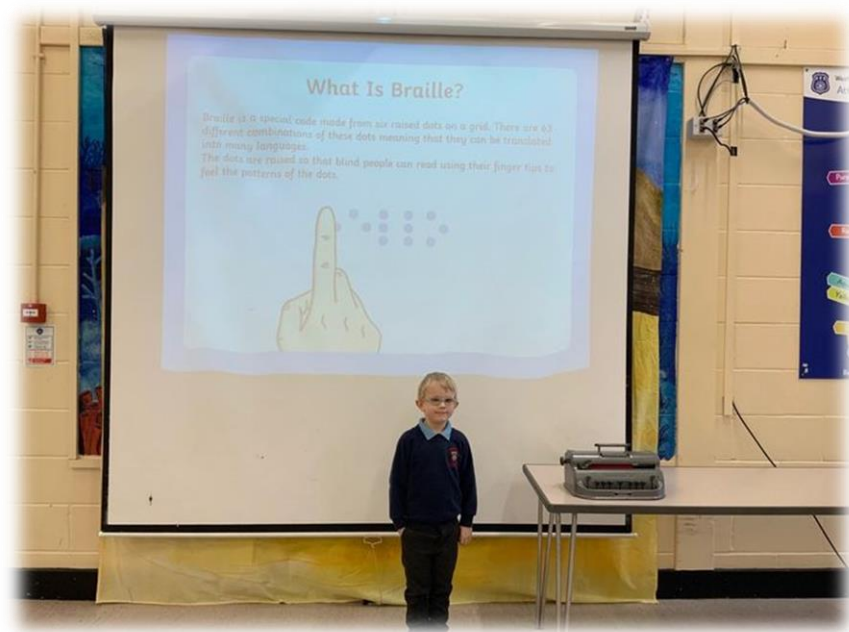


## Lost Property

This item is in the newsletter every week because it is always relevant. When they are unnamed, they are almost impossible to match to a child. **Please ensure that all pupil property is named.** We STILL have a large quantity of unnamed lost property, including jumpers and cardigans, bottles and even coats. Being responsible for your own property is a life skill and we ask that you reinforce this at home in order to keep lost property to a minimum.

## Reception 2023

The 15 January deadline for applications is now imminent. I am aware that we have had a high number of applications this year and that parents of children who have a sibling at school will not get a place for their child unless they apply. [Apply via the Cheshire East school admissions website.](#)



## World Braille Day

Miles in Gold class is becoming more and more expert at reading and writing in Braille. This week saw World Braille Day and we marked this in a whole school assembly by finding out all about it. Miles spoke to the whole school about it and talked about the Braille that is used in school to write in Braille. Ask your child about what they have learnt from Miles, who did a great job!

## Online Safety

You may have read about an incident involving an 11 year old girl elsewhere in the region. Her mother discovered that she was being groomed over Spotify. This interaction, over a prolonged period of time and with an unknown adult, resulted in the girl sharing explicit photographs via the app.

The parent considered herself to be very vigilant around online safety and her daughter did not have access to apps that demonstrably present more risks of grooming such as TikTok, Snapchat, Facebook and Instagram and her daughter used Spotify to listen to podcasts before bedtime.

The groomer was using the shared playlist facility to ask questions and interact with children and encouraging them to upload photos as album art within Spotify.

Clearly, undesirable behaviour will always remain part of society and the prevalence of online apps presents ever-changing risks to our children. Our role as school and parents is to ensure that children are aware of risks and how to counter them, in an age-appropriate way as well as to prevent their access to age-inappropriate apps and games and to monitor their online behaviour.

Please do let us know if you require any further advice or support including for specific games and apps that your child might be using.



Part of our Social Media & Live Streaming Series



Brought to you by



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](https://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)

What you need to know about...

# MUSIC STREAMING APPS & SITES



What are they?

'Music Streaming Apps & Sites'

Music streaming apps allow people to listen to music on their devices. It gives users access to millions of songs and artists from around the world. Popular music streaming apps and sites include Spotify, Soundcloud, Apple music, Amazon Prime and Deezer. Music streaming allows children to listen to songs from around the world in a much easier and cheaper way. This enables them to showcase their talent which would have been very hard to do many years back.

Know the Risks

## Explicit content

Explicit content is everywhere online, including in popular music. Children can easily access songs on Spotify, for example, that may have explicit or inappropriate language not suitable for children. It is also easy to erase searches so you can't see what a child has been listening to.

## Adult themed podcasts

Many music streaming apps also offer the ability to listen to podcasts which can vary across any kind of topic, from business and health to comedy and relationships. Again, children could be exposed to content which is more adult themed or contains age-inappropriate language.

## Chatting to strangers

Some music apps, like Playlist, want to make music a more social experience by finding others who share the same musical tastes and will allow users to join group chats where they listen to a playlist together in real time. This could open up your child to talking to strangers online.

Safety Tips

## Use child friendly apps

Many music streaming services are made just for children. For instance, the Spotify kids app provides parents with control over what their children listen to and all the content is family friendly and fun for children to explore.

## 18+ Turn off explicit content

Most of the major music streaming apps will provide the option to turn off explicit material to make sure the music is completely clean. Some services even offer an option to lock the content censoring settings with a password, so your child can't switch it back.

## Implement privacy controls

Check the privacy setting of your child's app. Ensure that whichever app or site they choose to stream music, the settings are set to be private. This way they can only share the music they are listening too with friends and family and can't engage in conversation with strangers.

Offering Support

## Explore apps yourself

If your child insists on wanting to use a music streaming app then be part of the journey with them. Take the time to understand which apps they prefer to use and why they want to use it. Find out how to use the app yourself and understand what they could be exposed to and how to ensure they get the most of it in a safe manner.

## Regularly check-in

Have regular conversations with your child about what they are listening to and how they are feeling. If they do hear explicit music or content that makes them feel uncomfortable, let them know that they can always talk to you and discuss what they've heard and what it means.

Our Expert  
Parven Kaur



Parven Kaur is social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks; a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



## ParentPay – Have You Missed Anything?

Here are the ParentMail communications since the last newsletter:

12 December – School attendance

14 December – TCT newsletter

6 January – Spring 2 sports after school clubs



Don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

*Thomas Cutts*