

# Churchfields' Weekly Newsletter

Friday 20 January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

You may be aware from recent media coverage that the National Education Union (NEU) has declared strike action which will take place on **1 February and 2, 15 and 16 March**. This is happening because of a national dispute between the union and the government over teachers' pay and conditions, not because of any issues at our school.

Once the school has received official notification from the NEU and I am made aware of which of their members at Churchfields will be undertaking strike action, I will immediately begin planning ahead for the above days. This will involve me carefully considering the extent to which either base can remain open, either fully or partially, on each of the strike days.

Not all teaching staff at Churchfields are NEU members, and not all NEU members may decide to undertake strike action.

When planning possible partial or full school closures, my decision will be based on a number of factors, such as whether the reduced number of staff available will affect the school's ability to safeguard children and ensure their health and safety. For example, as a result of a reduction in the number of first aiders on site or whether there are sufficient staff to provide adequate pupil supervision. Children's safety must and will always be my top priority.

If there is a partial school closure, updated guidance from the Department for Education indicates that schools should prioritise places for vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers, similarly to when schools were partially closed as a result of the pandemic. The school determines which children come under the vulnerable category using various factors. However, **we depend on you to inform us if you are a critical worker and would like your child(ren) to be prioritised for a school place**. Critical workers include certain people working in health & social care; education & childcare; key public services; local & national government; food & necessary goods; public safety & national security; transport; and utilities, communication & financial services.

**Please refer to Annex B (pages 22 and 23) of the attached guidance for more detailed information and contact the school by email at [admin@churchfields.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@churchfields.wilts.sch.uk) by Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January if you 1) meet the definition of critical worker; and 2) are likely to require a school place for your child(ren) during the intended strike action. Unfortunately we will be unable to consider a place for your child(ren) if you do not contact us before the deadline.**

The school may be required to request evidence of critical worker status. Names cannot be added to the critical worker list if this evidence is then not provided.

No school places are guaranteed at this stage until I am aware of the staffing complement available at the school on the intended strike days. However, I will ensure you are kept informed in a timely manner in case you need to make alternative arrangements for your child(ren). Thank you for your support and patience in the meantime.

Kind regards,

Simon Fletcher.

## Mathletics

Another hard-working student has reached the top of the Mathletics podium today. Well done to Oliver H. Lots of shiny silver certificates too which is always good to see. Well done!

**GOLD:** Oliver H

**SILVER:** Oliver H, Emily J, William, Leighton, Vinnie, Ryley, Christina, Joseph, Isabella R

**Bronze:** Logan, Emily C, Bodhi C, Ezra, Florence, Alexis, Maddox, Hector G, Oliver H, Rufus, Emily J, William, Leighton, Livinia, Ted L, Vinnie, Morgan, Harry, Ryley, Christina, Joseph, George R, Isabella R, Alexander S, Isabella S

## Sports Leaders Conference



On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January we went to Trowbridge for a Sports Leaders Conference. We did lots of fun games, learnt lots and gained a good understanding of what a Sports Leader does. We have thought of many ideas to help the school become more active and will be sharing these with everyone very soon. By Edie



## TERM DATES FOR 2022 – 2023

<b>Term 1: Thursday 1 September – Wed 19 October</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thursday 01 September – children back to school</li> <li><b>Wednesday 19 October – INSET DAY (school closed)</b></li> </ul>	<b>Term 4: Monday 20 February – Friday 31 March</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday 20 February – children back to school</li> <li><b>Friday 31 March – INSET DAY (school closed)</b></li> </ul>
<b>Term 2: Monday 31 October – Friday 16 December</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday 31 October – children back to school</li> </ul>	<b>Term 5: Monday 17 April – Friday 26 May</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday 17 April – children back to school</li> <li><b>Monday 1 May – Bank holiday (school closed)</b></li> <li><b>Monday 08 May – Bank holiday (school closed)</b></li> </ul>
<b>Term 3 Tuesday 03 January – Friday 10 February</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Tuesday 03 January – INSET DAY (school closed)</b></li> <li>Wednesday 04 January – children back to school</li> </ul>	<b>Term 6: Monday 5 June – Tuesday 25 July</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday 05 June – children back to school</li> <li><b>Monday 24 July – INSET DAY (school closed)</b></li> <li><b>Tuesday 25 July – INSET DAY (school closed)</b></li> </ul>

## Diary Dates Term 3

DATE	EVENT
Wednesday 18 January	Woodpecker Class Indoor Cricket AM
Thursday 19 January	Falcon Class Swimming AM
Thursday 26 January	Falcon Class Swimming AM
Tuesday 31 January	Spirituality Day
Thursday 02 February	Falcon Class Swimming AM
Monday 06 February – Friday 10 February E-Safety Week	
Tuesday 07 February	West Wilts Dance Festival at the Forum Bath
Thursday 09 February	Falcon Class Swimming
Friday 10 February	End of Term 3

### WILTSHIRE COUNCIL CAREERS FAIR

The Wiltshire Council Careers Fair is taking place on Thursday 26 January 2023, 2pm to 6pm, at County Hall, Trowbridge.

Learn more about exciting opportunities at Wiltshire Council. A number of in-house services will be exhibiting at the event, and are ready to explain what they do and what they can offer you.

Find out more on the [Wiltshire Council jobs website](#).



## WARM SPACE



Atworth Village Hall is offering a warm space a comfortable place open to everyone

Chat, work or relax  
free WIFI  
soup/tea/coffee & biscuits

Friday 20th January 12pm - 15.00pm  
Friday 27th January 12pm - 15.00pm  
Friday 3rd February 12pm - 15.00pm  
Friday 17th February 12pm - 15.00pm  
Friday 24th February 12pm - 15.00pm








Churches of North  
Bradford on Avon  
& Villages

You are warmly invited to a  
special family friendly church  
service,

in which we will celebrate the  
partnership between our local churches and  
schools.



## Shining a Light on our Schools

### Churchfields, Christ Church and Winsley Schools.

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2023

10.30am Christ Church

The service will include the presentation and  
blessing of candles for each school community  
and Commissioning new school leaders.

Jesus said

*'I have come in order that you might have life—  
life in all its fullness.'*

John 10:10



# MY SCIENCE FAIR

SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2023

## CALLING ALL YOUNG SCIENTISTS!

Join us for a free, fun-packed day of workshops and activities exploring the worlds of music and science at Wiltshire Music Centre!



### TAKE PART IN THE MSF23 PROJECT COMPETITION!

- **DESIGN** your very own investigation about ocean sounds, planets, atoms or light!
- **GET ADVICE** from real scientists from the University of Bath
- **PRESENT** your findings at MY SCIENCE FAIR 2023

**FREE!**  
Children from  
5 to 11 years  
can enter

Sign up by **MONDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2023 — PLACES ARE LIMITED**  
**You do not need to know your project before you sign up!**  
Our team of scientists can help you design and create your investigations at our Drop-in sessions

Learn more at: [www.wiltshiremusic.org.uk/msf](http://www.wiltshiremusic.org.uk/msf)





## 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 **replying** (commenting on). Since the entrepreneur Elon Musk acquired Twitter in October 2022 for \$44 billion, he has **introduced** several **major changes** to the platform.

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

## 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 "new secure" feature – telling users how many people have seen their tweet (even if they haven't retweeted it). Previous research has found that "unfavourable comparisons with other social media users can cause young people to experience feelings of inadequacy". Twitter's chief executive said: "It's important to our vision of a well-balanced, open Twitter."

## TROLLS AND BULLYING

This anonymity offered by fake profile encourage some users to send tweets designed to provoke a reaction; to start-up 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 on the service. 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 "newer enforcement will rely more heavily on AI—specifically of the type known as 'natural language processing'—to identify and remove hate speech, but not freedom of speech." His analysis would have changed yet, but this wording suggests they may limit who can sue to Twitter for removing their posts, while expanding free speech, the usual American sentiment, where some NGC courts interfere.

## HACKED HASHTAGS

The hashtag (#) is one of Twitter's most recognizable facets, allowing users to find specific trends or topics. But the sheer volume of tweets each hour can rapidly distort 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 check Twitter's privacy settings so that your child's content is not shared directly by other people on the platform and the account is not located next to a search bar.

## 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 in determining if a story they've seen is true; remind them to watch out for adobe and think about the message's possible motive. Emphasize that it's not a good idea to believe something if they aren't sure it's correct.

## ENGAGE SAFETY MODE

When Safety Mode is activated, Twitter checks for abusive or scary behavior such as hurtful language or repeated negative replies. The platform then flags these suspect accounts and sends them a warning 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 more 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 'tweeps' - little prompts which appear if someone is about to tweet using harmful or offensive language. These tweets 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 untagging 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. Gelleschewski is an active safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and other safety programs in schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing Internet use and online behavior of young people in the UK, US and Australia.



**National  
Online  
Safety\***

#WakeUpWednesday

## BE CAREFUL WHO TO FOLLOW

As accounts are no longer being as rigorously vetted under the "blue tick" system, it's essential that young Twitter users understand what the means, 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.