



Westlands Primary School Newsletter



Week 18 – 24/07/20

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of a very strange year, we would like to wish you all a lovely summer break and we are very much looking forward to seeing everybody in September. Please make sure you have read our return to school information so you know how school will work in the new academic year.

We would also like to take this opportunity to say a very sad farewell to Mrs Alexander who is retiring this year. We would like to thank her for all she has done for the school and our children and wish her the very best.

Miss Barnett will also be leaving us and wish her every success with her teaching career, we know you will be amazing.

Stay Safe
Westlands Primary School

Exciting news... Miss Stanton is getting married in the Summer Holidays after a long wait as to whether or not it can go ahead. She will return to us as Mrs Hughes!

Congratulations

Personal data is a strange commodity. Cyber thieves can buy huge quantities of personal data on the black market for very little, yet your own personal data is hugely valuable to you. If your personal data falls into the wrong hands, it could lead to identity theft, bank fraud or something even more sinister such as stalking. The severity of that threat is multiplied when it comes to the personal data of children, when threats such as internet grooming begin to emerge. The bad news is that children aren't always great at safeguarding sensitive information, which is why they need parents' help and guidance. That's why we've created this guide to show you how you can protect your own and your family's personal data.

What parents need to know about PROTECTING PERSONAL DATA

EVERY DETAIL IS KEY

Which info should you be wary of sharing online? Aside from the obvious, such as full names, date of birth and address, think of the type of information you're asked for when answering security questions for services such as online banking. The name of your first school, your mother's maiden name, the names of your pets, your favourite band. Data thieves will harvest as much of this information as possible, so don't make it easy for them by publishing it anywhere online.

SOCIAL MEDIA VISIBILITY

Social media sites, such as Facebook, encourage us to share sensitive information in order to build our online profiles. Many people are lured into thinking that only their friends can see such information, but that's rarely the case. Such information can easily be shared with 'friends of friends' or even anyone searching for you online because privacy settings are opaque. Keep social media profiles to the bare minimum. If you wouldn't be comfortable hanging a sign with that information on your front door, don't enter it into social media sites.

DANGEROUS GAMES

Online games are a particular risk for children. Many of the most popular games – such as Fortnite, Minecraft or Roblox – have voice or text chat facilities, allowing them to talk to fellow gamers. Or, sometimes, people pretending to be fellow gamers. It's very easy for children to be seduced into divulging personal data such as their address, birthday or school. It's critical parents both educate children on the dangers on online chat in games and take safeguards to protect children.

IMPOSTERS AND PHISHING ATTACKS

Even if you're scrupulous about keeping your data private on social media, it's easy to be lulled into handing it over to imposters. There are two golden rules for you and your children to follow: 1. Never divulge personal information to phone callers, unless you can be absolutely certain you know who they are. 2. Never click on links or open attachments in emails or social media, unless you're 100% certain they are genuine. So-called phishing emails are growing ever more sophisticated, with fraudsters able to replicate the exact look of bank emails and even include details such as account numbers and IDs.

THE RISKS OF PASSWORD SHARING

Password sharing – using the same password for multiple sites – is one of the easiest ways to lose control of your personal data. Hacking of major websites, including usernames and passwords, is common. If you're using the same password for a hacked site as you do on your Gmail account, for example, you're handing data thieves an easy route into your inbox, where they will doubtless find all manner of sensitive information, such as bank emails and contacts. Your email account will often also let them reset the password on multiple other accounts. Don't share passwords; use password managers to create strong, unique passwords for every site.

National Online Safety **Safety Tips for Parents & Carers**

#WakeUpWednesday

LOOK OUT FOR LEAKS

Many security software packages have features that look for personal data leaks or prevent people from entering it into risky sites in the first place. For example, Bullguard Premium monitors dangerous sites for usage of data such as your email address, debit card numbers, passport number and more, and then sends you email alerts and details of how to take remedial action if it spots them being used. Such software also issues warnings if it sees personal data being entered into unprotected, high-risk sites.

KEEP DATA GUARDED

Don't give the thieves a head start by handing them pieces of sensitive information for free. For example, it's very common to see email addresses such as davesmith1976@gmail.com – an immediate clue that you were born in that year. If you have a less common name than Dave Smith, thieves could immediately start using that information to cross-reference against public records or other database breaches, allowing them to start building a profile of information about you. Likewise, don't use your date of birth in a password. If that's hacked, you've handed the thieves another big clue.

DON'T OVERSHARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The biggest threat to your child's privacy is you. Parents often overshare personal information on social media: full names, names of schools, children's birthdays, names of their friends. All of this can be easily gleaned to build profiles that could be used to groom your child in online games or in real life. Exercise extreme caution with social media posts concerning your children.

BE WARY OF SHARED NETWORKS/SYSTEMS

Avoid entering any personal data into a web browser when you're using public Wi-Fi (in a coffee shop or airport, for example) or when using shared computers. Shared Wi-Fi connections are much easier to eavesdrop on than your home network, especially if they are not password protected or the password is shared freely with customers. Don't do online shopping, banking or enter any logins/passwords when using shared Wi-Fi. Likewise, if you're using a shared computer at work, for example, as it's very easy for a browser to save logins that could be used by others.

PLAY SAFE IN ONLINE GAMES

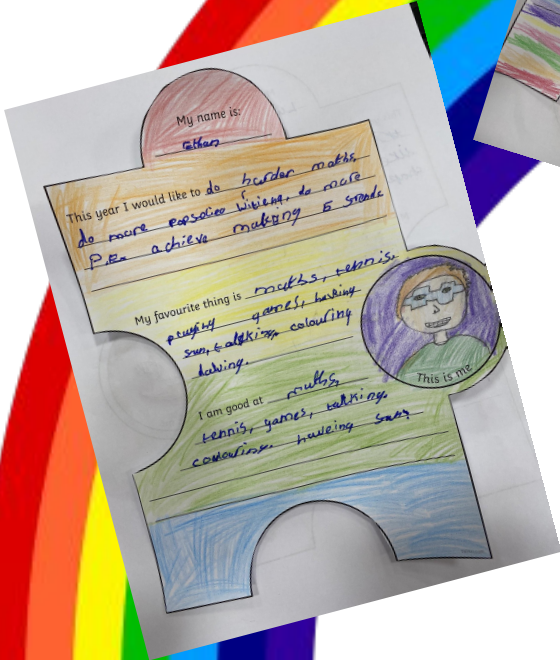
Children must be taught to treat strangers in online games with the same caution as they would treat strangers in the street. Don't allow children to use their real name as their username in games to prevent imposters convincing kids into thinking they are real-life friends, and only allow them to add friends in the game that they know in real life. Regularly ask to monitor your child's friends list in such games and ask them to identify who the players are. With younger children in particular, ask them to only use voice chat in family rooms, so that you can hear conversations.

Meet our expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as *The Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *BBC Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and the *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and has written regularly about internet safety issues over the years.



UPDATE



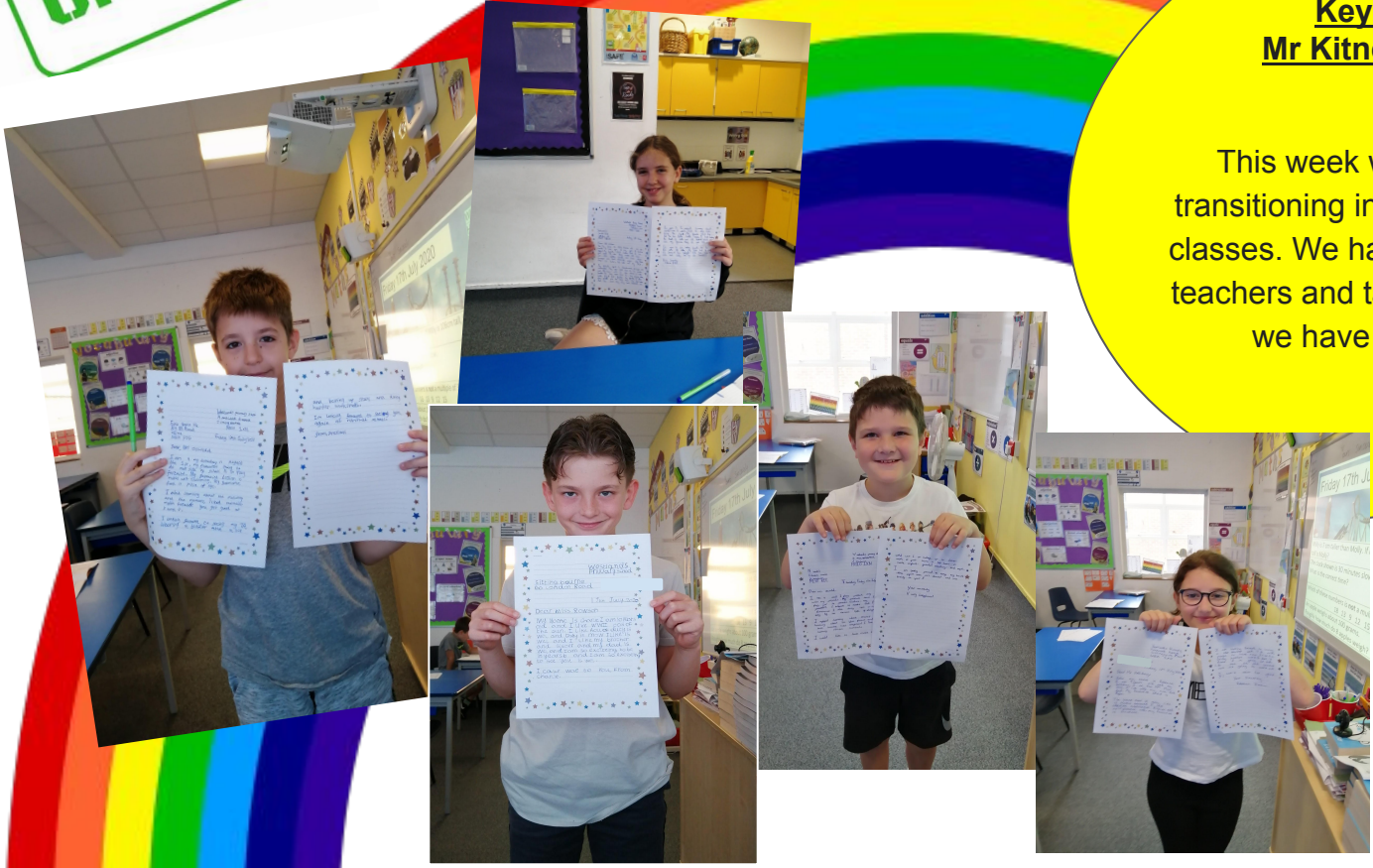
Key worker pod with Miss Kierans and Mrs Monk

This week we have been reflecting on our school year as well as talking about next year. We have done some transition activities to help with any worries or questions the children had and their next school year. We also made some jigsaw puzzle pieces to put together which represents us as a pod.

UPDATE

**Key worker pod with
Mr Kitney and Mrs Vaughan**

This week we have been discussing transitioning into our new year groups and classes. We have written letters to our new teachers and talked about any worries that we have moving up the school.



UPDATE

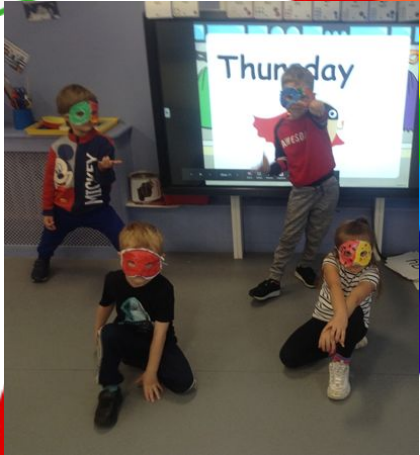


Key worker pod with Mrs Judge and Mrs Fenn

This week we have been talking about transitioning into our new classes, we have had the opportunity to express any worries and made an 'all about me' silhouettes for our new teachers.



UPDATE



EYFS Pods
Super EYFS to the rescue! This week we have been inspired by the story Supertato - Supertato comes to the rescue of the veggie who had been trapped by the Evil Pea! We have created our own masks and super hero outfits, Lily-May even dressed up as the Evil Pea! The children in Mrs Watson and Miss Daniell's pod have been busy looking after and planting veggies in the garden - we hope they continue to grow over the summer!



UPDATE



Year 1 Pods

This week in Year 1, we looked at the wonderful transition videos and blurbs from our new class teachers. Then, we discussed our feelings about moving to Year 2. This led us on to the book, *The Colour Monster*; a lovely book which helped us to describe how we feel. We made our very own *Colour Monster* using card and collage materials. We also took part in an experiment showing what happens if we do not share our feelings - they can bubble up and erupt like the vinegar and bicarbonate of soda in the experiment.



UPDATE

Year 6
Transition 2020
Welcome to Westlands!



Year 6 Pods
This week we have been focusing on transition. We have taken time each morning to look at the range of secondary schools that the children will be attending and have been reading the information that they have published. We have even taken part in some of their activities! The children have then been given the opportunity to discuss any worries or concerns that they have.

Fulston Manor School


 Welcome to Borden Grammar school
 

A virtual tour for our new Year 7 boys...




Highsted Grammar School
Sittingbourne



Hello Everyone,

I hope you are all well and enjoying the sunny days with your families. I have been exploring lots of countryside walks and found some lovely spots for picnics with my family at the weekends. My garden is blooming with lots of flowers and butterflies so it's been nice to spend some time sitting with my children watching them.

I miss you all very much and look forward to seeing you all soon.
Love Mrs Hurley



Breakfast Club & After School Club in September

If you said you needed Breakfast Club and After School Club provision in September, you will receive a letter to confirm your space.

Please make sure you log in and pay on ParentPay to confirm your space. This will close on the 1st September.

Contact us

Although we are now on the school holidays, there is someone at school if you need any help until Friday 24th July

You can contact us by:
Weduc - westlandsprimary
Tel - 01795 470862
Email - wpsoffice@swale.at



Returning to School

Please remember children return to school on the 3rd September.

Make sure you know the start time and finish time for you child/ children as these are staggered.

It is now the Summer Holidays