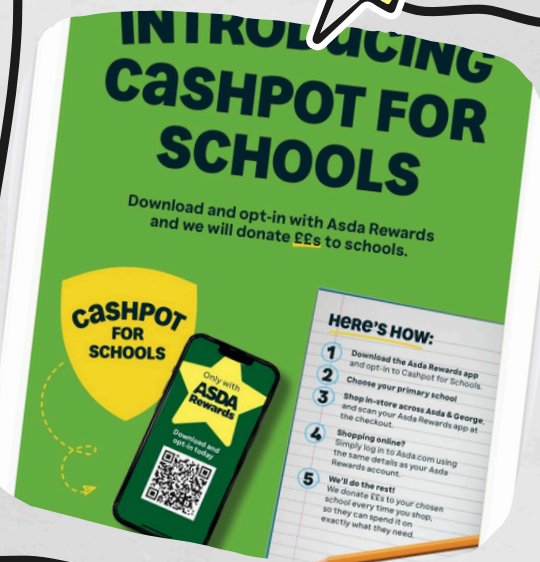
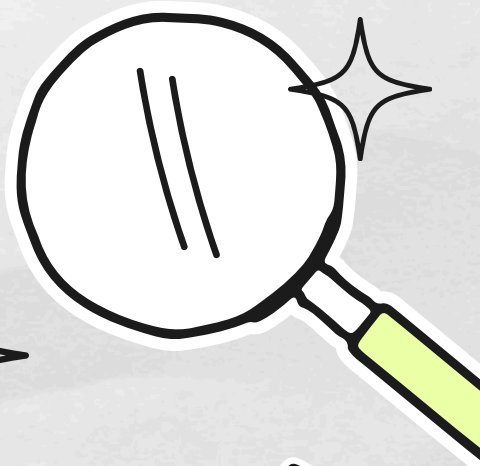


BOORLEY PARK NEWSLETTER 4

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

At the start of term, the PTA shared details about Asda's Cashpot for Schools. By downloading and opting in with Asda rewards, Asda will donate funds to school for every in-store or online shop. This will support funds for upcoming curriculum projects and funds to further develop our school environment. Thank you in advance for supporting the fundraising for the children at Boorley.

As the leaves start to change and the weather becomes cooler, please could we remind parents to ensure children have a suitable coat and PE kit to wear outside. We will continue to use the outdoors as much as possible for playtime and PE.



INSPIRING MINDS

In Year 1, we embarked on an exciting local walk to observe our community as it transforms with the changing seasons for our Science longitudinal study. Our enquiry question focused on "How does the environment change throughout the seasons?" and we began by exploring the beauty of Autumn, making predictions about what we might encounter along the way. The sun shone brightly for most of our walk, illuminating the vibrant colours of fallen leaves and the crispness in the air. To our delight, we even spotted a rainbow just before the rain began to fall! Upon returning, we gathered to discuss our observations and reflect on our predictions, sharing the various signs of Autumn we had discovered together. It was a wonderful experience that deepened our understanding of the seasonal changes in our environment.



NURTURING FUTURES

Over the last two weeks, we have held our first Eco Council and School Council meetings. These children prepared a speech and were voted to be their class representative by the children.

The children arrived at the meetings with enthusiasm and passion. We discussed how we will inform the school community about the Eco Council and School Council. Some ideas the children came up with included a display board, posters and information shared in the newsletter. The children are also looking forward to being part of the upcoming Assistant Headteacher interviews.

We are really looking forward to working with the Eco Council and the School Council and are sure they will have a big impact on our school community.



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

We are delighted to support the Rotary Club Shoe Box appeal this year. This scheme collects and sends shoeboxes filled with gifts to disadvantaged children to enable them to receive a Christmas gift. Shoeboxes will be delivered to children in Moldova, Montenegro, Romania and Ukraine. Last year, 18,000 boxes were sent to spread joy to refugees from Ukraine in Poland.

We have attached information about how to assemble and fill shoe boxes. Please read this carefully to understand what the shoebox can be filled with. The scheme categorises the contents of the boxes based on the gender and age of a child. Please see the leaflet attached with this week's newsletter with further information.

Shoe boxes need to be dropped into school by 16th October with a £2 donation to cover the cost of transportation.



PLEASE SEE THE SCHOOL WEBSITE FOR DATES FOR YEAR R (2025 INTAKE) TOURS



SAFEGUARDING NOTICES

We have noticed this week that some of our younger pupils have been walking themselves into school. Please can we politely remind you that, unless you have given permission for a Year 5 pupil, all other pupils need to be walked to their classroom door by an adult. This is for everyone's safety. Thank you.



KEY DATES

September

Monday 30th September - Harvest Festival
KCC Church food bank donations - UHT milk, rice, crackers, biscuits, tinned food (meat, fruit, fish, stew, vegetables, cream rice, custard and baked beans. Please check for expiry dates

October

Parents' Evening - Tuesday 8th October - 3.30-7pm
Parents' Evening - Thursday 10th October - 3.30-5.30pm
Friday 11th October - INSET Day - school closed for pupils

Book Fair in School - 3.15-4.15pm on
Wednesday 16th, Thursday 17th and Friday 18th October
Friday 18th October 2:45pm - Yr 1 Art Parent Workshop
Tuesday 22nd October 3-3:15pm: Yr 4 Parent Workshop - look at our learning!



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about INSTAGRAM

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Instagram is a highly popular social media platform with over 2 billion active monthly users. The app is continuously updating and adding new features to meet the wishes of its audience, allowing them to upload images and videos to their Instagram feed, create interactive 'stories', go live, exchange private messages or explore and follow other accounts that catch their eye.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ADDICTION

Many social media platforms, Instagram included, are designed to keep us engaged on them for as long as possible. They encourage scrolling often and scrolling more in case we miss something important – in essence, a fear of missing out. On Instagram, young people can lose track of time when aimlessly scrolling and watching videos posted by friends, acquaintances, influencers and possibly strangers.

UNREALISTIC IDEALS

Children sometimes compare themselves to what they see online: how they look, how they dress, and the way their life is going in comparison to others on social media. However, most people only share the positives about their lives online and many use filters when sharing pictures of themselves. A constant comparison with unrealistic ideals can lead to insecurity over one's own appearance and lifestyle.

GOING LIVE

Livestreaming on Instagram allows users to connect with friends and followers in real time. Risks increase if the account is public, because that means anyone can watch the broadcast, which could result in further contact from strangers. Additional dangers of going live include an impulse to act inappropriately to draw more viewers, as well as being exposed to harmful content or offensive language.

INFLUENCER CULTURE

Social media influencers are sometimes paid thousands of pounds to promote products, services, apps and more. When celebrities or influencers post such content, it often says 'paid partnership' above the post. In April 2024, Ofcom found that over a quarter of children (27%) believed in influencer marketing, accepting their endorsement of products wholeheartedly. So it's perfectly possible for young people to be taken in by this kind of content.

PRODUCT TAGGING

Product tags allow users to tag a product or business in their post. This tag will take viewers directly to the product detail page on the shop where the item can be purchased. Children may also be encouraged by influencers to purchase products that they advertise.

EXCLUSION & OSTRACISM

Youngsters are highly sensitive to feeling excluded, which comes in many forms: not receiving as many 'likes' as expected; not being tagged in a friend's photo; being unfriended; not receiving a comment on their post or a reply to a message they sent. Being excluded online hurts just as much as offline. Young people have reported lower moods and self-esteem when excluded in this way, feeling as if they don't belong and aren't valued.

Advice for Parents & Educators

AVOID GOING PUBLIC

If a young user wants to share their clothing style, make up or similar and use product tagging to show off the items in their post, they may be tempted to change their settings to public. This leaves their profile visible to everyone, which carries the risk of strangers getting in touch with them. Set a child's account to private and explain the importance of keeping it this way.

HAVE AN OPEN DIALOGUE

Talk to children about the positives and negatives of social media, including the risks involved and how they can view or create content safely with family and friends. Explain how safety settings will ensure only followers can view them, and why this is so important. Also, if you find a child continuously uses filters on their photos, ask them why and impress on them that they don't need it.

MANAGE LIKE COUNTS

Due to the potential impact on mental wellbeing, Instagram allows users to hide the total likes on their posts, to prevent people from obsessing over that number in the corner. Users can hide like counts on all the posts in their feed as well as on their own posts. This means others can't see how many likes a person gets. This can be done by going into Settings > Notifications > Posts > Likes > Off.

USE MODERATORS

Instagram Live has implemented a mechanic called 'Moderators', meaning that creators can assign a moderator and give them the power to report comments, remove viewers and remove the ability for certain viewers to comment at all. Consider this if a child in your care wants to go live on the platform. It's also recommended to keep devices in communal spaces so you're aware if a child does go live or watch a livestream.

FOLLOW INFLUENCERS

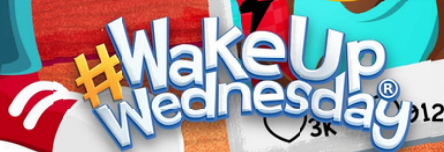
Following influencers will allow you to monitor what they're sharing as well as being able to discuss anything which you deem inappropriate. Talk to children about who they follow and help them to develop critical thinking skills about what the influencer is trying to do. For example, encourage the child to ask themselves if an influencer is trying to sell them a product when they make a video endorsing it.

BALANCE YOUR TIME

Instagram has a built-in activity dashboard that lets you control how much time is spent on the app. Make sure children sign in to the platform with the correct age, as Instagram's 'Teen Accounts' afford much more control for parents and carers over how long they can use the app each day. Talk with young users about how much time they spend on Instagram and work together to set a healthy time limit.

Meet Our Expert

Dr. Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BCyberAware. She has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. Claire has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College