



Important Dates :

4th November - Return to school

8th November - Foundation Unit is closed

9th November - Open morning to prospective families @ 9-11am

2nd December - FLU vaccinations

11th December - KS1 Nativity @ 2:15pm

12th December - KS1 Nativity @ 9:15am

12th December - Christmas Jumper Day (Save the Children)

20th December - BREAK UP

This half term..



Year One visited Kemps 'Pick Your Own' Pumpkin Farm in Horsforth, to select their own pumpkins to make a delicious soup as part of their Design and Technology work around Cooking and Nutrition. They brought their carefully selected pumpkins back to school, designed their soup, considered the health and safety requirements and then worked as a team to make the tastiest pumpkin soup ever! Thank you to all the families who joined Year One to share their delicious soup last Friday, it was lovely to see so many of you enjoying time with your children in school.

Foundation Stage Unit - "We have had a wonderful start to the new school year with all of our children in nursery and reception settling so well! Autumn is upon us and the children have been so eager to explore the changes in the garden. The changes in the weather have brought about our favourite natural resource of all - mud, glorious mud! It has been wonderful to see how resilient, creative and imaginative the children are exploring this wonderful resource to create beautiful artwork, meaningful marks and a whole range of potions! Roll on the next term where we will be starting our Project Work and preparing for Christmas Festivities."



This half term continued...

Year 3 have been digging deep to find their inner sculptor! Everyone has worked diligently (and patiently) to produce these elegant sculptures of clay poppies. This is in preparation for a larger display honouring Remembrance Day later in November. Our fabulous Art teacher, Mrs Cummins, taught Year 3 exciting new techniques and they worked with water and tools to shape the clay into smooth, rounded petals. The whole year group should be very proud of their artistic capabilities.



Year 2 children had a glorious time cosying up by the bonfire this week. Parents and children alike enjoyed delicious jacket potatoes, sweet chocolate apples and homemade Yorkshire Parkin. It was lovely to see our community come together and enjoy the festivities.



Year 4 embarked on a visit to our local library as a delightful introduction, allowing them to explore and connect with the librarians. The children were informed about how to become members, and we hope that many of them will seize this opportunity during the half-term break!



Y5 wrote their own spooky stories focussing on creating suspense. Before the writing process began, the children went on a local walk to collect a 'special' stick. This resource was then written into their stories to help with descriptive language. This week, the children performed a dramatic retelling outside around a fire which was created from the children's sticks. The charcoal from the fire was used to create illustrations for the front covers of the children's stories!



Additionally, they shared their insights on Black History and the Windrush Generation during an assembly, showcasing their knowledge through a performance and presentation.



Year 5 and 6 have done an exceptional job with their homework projects this term. Year 5 have been studying Macbeth by Shakespeare and Year 6 have been looking into the events during World War 2. The projects are open ended and the children research and read about their chosen topic then take it to a creative level. They can produce anything they want based on the theme. The children have been really excited about this and the staff have been blown away with what they have created.

A letter from Leeds North & West Food Bank

To Manor Wood Primary School

I'm writing to thank you and all your pupils for your generous harvest donation of food and toiletries to our foodbank. Trussell foodbanks rely almost entirely on donations (of food or money) to meet the increasing needs of people in our area in these challenging times. Your donation of 45 kg will provide about 106 individual meals. We will be issuing a proper certificate for this shortly but I wanted you to know the figures before the half term break.

Thank you again!

Kind Regards

Winners...

Recently, our Year 6 boys team triumphed with a score of 2-1, while our Year 4 boys team secured a 6-3 victory against our neighbours, Carr Manor Community School! Fantastic results all around, and a big thank you to Mr. Hill and Mrs. Lester for their remarkable coaching and support for the children.



Poppy Appeal



When we return to school on Monday 4th November, we will be selling items to support the Poppy Appeal. Prices will range from £0.10 to £1.50 (displayed in ascending order in the accompanying photograph). Please note that we will only accept cash.

MW Family Questionnaire – Results

Thank you to all the families who took the time to respond to the questionnaire sent out last week about parent and carer views. We are especially grateful for the additional written feedback provided by some, as these specific insights can greatly assist us in improving all we do for our children and families. It was reassuring to see that so many of you felt our curriculum was ambitious and your children feel happy and safe at school.

We have been working hard making some changes behind the scenes and hope to build on our strengths and make some positive changes. A general consensus emerged around a few issues that we can address promptly. You can expect to see a more frequent presence of the Senior Leadership Team in the mornings, both at the gate and in the playground. We have also put in place some stricter timelines and communication practices to ensure families get all the information they need without being overwhelmed by messages. Our goal is to share all important dates with you well in advance and to limit any whole-school Seesaw messages to one bulletin each week, which we plan to send out on Wednesday afternoons. Additionally, when required, you will continue to receive messages tailored to your child's class or year group.

After school club and lost property

We understand that plans can sometimes change unexpectedly, or that you may be attending an event in school on an afternoon. If you decide not to send your child to OOSC that evening, please inform the school office and/or Carmel Barton our Extended Services Manager so that we can ensure your child is properly accounted for in our registration.

If your child happens to misplace any clothing during the school day, we encourage you to check the lost property box located at the school office. After half term, we will have a larger, all-weather proof container for lost items, which will be accessible outside of the office. This should make it easier for families to find items while picking up their children from OOSC. We have noticed that some families are entering the school after collecting their child from OOSC in search of lost belongings, which we cannot allow without an adult to accompany you. Thank you for your understanding.

Half - term play opportunities



The Festival of Play is a collection of playful activities taking place over the half-term. Everyone is encouraged to let their playful side out this half term, and take part in #leedsplayfest! The full listing of organised events and highlights of the week include:

- playful packs and mini-playboxes in community libraries that are accessible for free.
- a playful industrial unit landing in front of Leeds Art Gallery with information on what's going on, as well as...
- ...free, city-centre playful activities and workshops AM and PM, including 'wheel of crisps' and 'shaving foam shenanigans'!
- Play Streets taking place across the city - residents have been encouraged to sign-up and run a play street during the festival.

I hope you all have a really wonderful half term and we look forward to seeing you in when we return to school on Monday 4th November.

Kate Humphries

iOS 18 Launch

Apple have recently released their latest operating system, iOS 18. iOS 18 offers lots of new features (some are restricted to newer phones) but one feature that you should be aware of is the ability to now lock and hide apps.

When an app is locked, Face ID, Touch ID or your passcode will be required to open it. This also means that notifications will no longer be shown for that app. Additionally, apps can now be hidden so they can only be accessed through a hidden apps folder that is also locked. This new feature illustrates the need to have regular chats with your child about what they are using their phone for.

Vault (secret) Apps

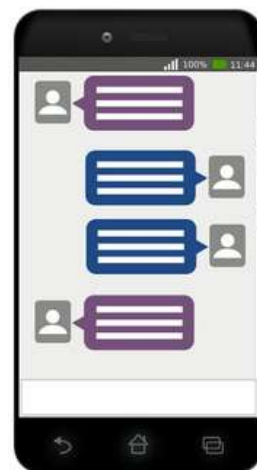
Have you heard of Vault Apps? They are basically secret apps that are concealed by looking like a normal, less conspicuous app. For example, one of these apps looks and works like a working calculator when opened, but when a passcode is entered, it reveals photographs, videos, documents and contacts. One way to prevent your child from using these apps is to ensure parental controls are set up so you can review all app purchases. You can find out more here:

- <https://www.bark.us/blog/find-hidden-apps/>
- <https://www.safes.so/blogs/vault-apps/>

Mobile phones: do you know the risks?

We know that children having access to a smartphone can expose children to risks including:

- Viewing inappropriate content
- Excessive screen time/use, which in turn can affect their mental health and sleep pattern.
- Contact from inappropriate people/grooming
- Cyberbullying
- Spending money on in-app purchases/scams



What effects do mobile phones have on children's mental health?

Compass discuss the research around this important topic, outlining the positive and negative effects that mobile phones have:

<https://www.compass-uk.org/services/compass-changing-lives/what-effects-do-mobile-phones-have-on-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health/>

EE launches Age Guidance

EE has launched age guidance for smartphone usage to improve children's digital wellbeing. In summary, they recommend that children under 11 should use non-smart devices, for children aged 11-13, they advise that if a smartphone is used, then parental controls should be enabled and access to social media restricted. Finally, for 13-16-year-olds they still recommend that parental controls are implemented and appropriate restrictions set up. You can read the full guidance here:

<https://newsroom.ee.co.uk/ee-launches-age-guidance-for-smartphone-usage-in-drive-to-improve-childrens-digital-wellbeing/>

Could you delay when your child is given a smartphone with Smartphone Free Childhood?

The premise behind this movement is that all parents/carers of a class all agree not to give their children smartphones (therefore the level of peer pressure is reduced) for a set time or until a specific age:

<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

What device?

When you think it is the right time for your child to have a phone, then Which? provide an overview of some options available:

<https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/mobile-phones/article/buying-a-first-mobile-phone-best-dumb-phones-and-smartphones-for-kids-aA03C3Y8aTzr>

Instagram: new Teen account features

You must be over 13 years of age to set up an account.

Instagram is used to post photos and videos as well as send direct messages, make voice/video calls and send disappearing messages. Users can also upload to 'Stories' (which disappear after 24 hours), broadcast live and upload reels (short videos).

Teen accounts – NEW feature

Instagram have introduced Teen Accounts to try and create a safer experience for them. With a Teen Account, who they can contact is limited and the content they access will be set to the most restrictive setting to reduce exposure to sensitive content. If a teen would like to override any of these settings, then they will need their parent's permission by setting up parental supervision. These changes will be in place for all new users straightaway so any users that sign up that are under 16 will automatically be given a Teen Account. Existing users will be moved over to Teen Accounts over the next couple of months (in the UK).

Supervision settings – new features

Instagram already offers a supervision facility, but they have added to the features to include:

- The ability to see who your child has messaged in the past week
 - (you will not be able to see the contents of these messages)
 - The option to block your child from accessing Instagram at certain times e.g. during school or at night.
- The ability to see what topics your child has chosen to see.

Read the press release from Instagram, which outlines all the upcoming changes: <https://about.fb.com/news/2024/09/instagram-teen-accounts/>

You may not be seeing everything!

Did you know that you can hide your stories and live videos from specific people so your child could be uploading content but restricting your account from viewing it?

Safety Features

Ensure your child knows how to report posts and people, how to unfollow and block people, delete and turn off comments. View here: <https://help.instagram.com/269765046710559>

Make sure your child understands that there is a risk that content they upload can be shared with others without their permission as other users can screenshot it.

More information

- Visit the family centre to learn more about the features available: <https://familycenter.meta.com/uk/>

Learn Through Play with Sesame Street

The Sesame Street website has a whole host of resources, activities, and games from supporting with learning ABCs to discussing tough topics such as grief.

<https://sesameworkshop.org/>

Expert Approved Apps for Learning at Home

On the Google Play Store, you can find a list of expert approved Apps for learning at home suitable for children up to the age of 12.

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/category/FAMILY>

Be aware of what you share

Get Safe Online have produced a set of tips to help you avoid oversharing and outlines what the consequences might be if you do:

<https://www.getsafeonline.org/whatdoyoushare/>

Staying safe online with Google Families

Google have a one stop resource to help you and your family stay safe online. It includes how to set up parental controls and important steps on how to keep your children safe online. You can find out more here:

<https://families.google/>