



# Churchfields Infants' School Weekly Newsletter

Autumn Term, Issue 15  
5th January 2024

Value of the month  
*Responsibility*

Growing Together: Every Day In Every Way

## Happy New Year and Welcome Back!

Happy New Year and welcome back to school. We hope that you had a relaxing break.

Thank you to all who sent warm wishes, cards and gifts to our staff at the end of term. We really do appreciate your kind words and thoughts.

I am impressed how quickly the children have settled back into their learning.

During the first hour back, I received visits from a number of children in Reception for fabulous writing using their phonics skills. A big well done for earning a Golden Headteacher Award so quickly.

I look forward to watching the children learn and grow throughout the term.

### Philosophy Friday

Have a go at this question at home with a grown up!

**Would you rather have a pet snail or a pet fish?**

Why?

### DIARY DATES:

**Nursery Open Evening**  
10th January 5-6pm

**Nursery Tours**  
11th January at 10 am

**Year 2 Workshop**  
17th January

**Nursery Workshop**  
18th January

**Nursery Stay & Play**  
30th January

**Reception Workshop**  
31st January

**Year 1 Workshop**  
1st February

**Parent Consultations**  
8th February 3:40 - 6 pm

**Parent Consultations**  
12th February 3:40 - 7 pm

For other important dates, please visit the Calendar page on our school website.



## 150 Years Of Churchfields School

We have a special year ahead of us as we see our school celebrate 150 years.

We have planned a series of exciting events with the PTA and Junior school so watch this space for further details!

If you would like to be a part of the PTA, please contact: [pta.churchfields@gmail.com](mailto:pta.churchfields@gmail.com).



## Congratulations Miss Foxley!

We are delighted to announce the early, unexpected arrival of Miss Foxley's baby boy. Both mother and baby are doing well. We know you will join us in wishing Miss Foxley congratulations and best wishes for the future.



---

## Curriculum Workshops

We believe that children achieve their very best when we work in partnership with our families. This term we will be resuming our popular parent workshops that provide a valuable opportunity for you to understand how you can support your child at home with their learning.

Workshops will be virtual and will begin at **5pm**. The links with details will be sent out to Year 2 and Nursery shortly. Year 1 and Reception links to follow at a later date.

**Year 2 - 17th January**

**Nursery - 18th January**

**Reception - 31st January**

**Year 1 - 1st February**

---

## Returning To Routine

We know coming back to school is difficult after a long break especially when the mornings may be dark and cold but please ensure that your child is on time for school so they can settle back into the routine as quickly as possible.

It is unsettling for children to arrive after their friends and they can feel embarrassed entering the classroom when everyone is already seated. Being late also means they may miss the first few minutes of the teaching session, which impacts on their learning.

We know a number of parents are still arriving late and walking their child to the classroom. This means our staff need to monitor the door rather than attend to the children that have arrived on time, which again delays learning. Please ensure your child is in line by 8:55 so they can enter school with their friends.

Lateness also puts additional pressure our office team who are trying to deal with queries both in person and on the telephone. We need to reduce the number of children who through the office once the gates are closed.

Finally, Mrs Anderson and Mrs Beck have a responsibility to secure the site and lock gates at 9:00 to keep everyone in school safe. This is delayed when children arrive late to school as we wait for parents to leave the premises. Please be reminded that the gates open at **8:45 am** and children should be in the playground, lining up with their friends by **8:55 am** when the bell is rung. The gates are locked at **9:00 am** to allow enough time for parents to leave, rather than to enable late children to enter.

We thank you for your understanding and cooperation on this matter. We look forward to seeing you at school by 8:55 on Monday morning. Have a wonderful weekend.

## Nursery Open Evening

We would like to invite prospective parents and carers of children due to start in September 2024, to an open evening on **Wednesday 10th January** when you can come and view the nursery, chat to the nursery teachers and ask any questions you might have.

Feel free to drop in between **5 and 6 pm** - no need to book.

---

## School Admissions 2024

If your child is starting Reception, transferring from infant to junior school, or transferring from primary to secondary school in September 2024, you must apply online at [www.redbridge.gov.uk/schools/schooladmissions/](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/schools/schooladmissions/). Application rounds are now open and must be **submitted by 15th January 2024**.

The deadline for parents and carers to apply for primary school places for children born between 01/09/2019 and 31/08/2020 is on **15th January 2024**. Please note that where parents are intending to request deferred entry for their summer-born children, they still need to apply by this deadline.

Further information on applying for primary school, as well as the link to the e-Admissions portal, can be found at <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/schools/primary-school-admissions/>.

---

## Nursery Stay & Play

Spend some time playing with your child in Nursery! Nursery are hosting a Stay and Play on **Tuesday 30th January**.

**Morning session 8:45 – 10:00 am**

**Afternoon session 1:00 – 2:00 pm**  
(from 12:45 pm for parents of afternoon children)

Please remember not to use mobile phones while on-site. Younger children are welcome but must be kept with you.

---



## E-Safety Tip of the Week!



### YouTube

Please see attached an informative poster about YouTube; this includes lots of advice and helpful tips.



NSPCC

internet  
matters.org

Be Internet Legends.



Phone: 0208 505 0386

Website: [www.churchfieldsinfant.com](http://www.churchfieldsinfant.com)

E-mail: [admin.churchfields-inf@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:admin.churchfields-inf@redbridge.gov.uk)

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# YOUTUBE

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

## INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate material. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

## CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as messaging other users directly. Connecting with strangers online, of course, can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, to cyberbullying and even to encountering online predators.

## SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but can also lead to binge-watching and the risk of screen addiction, especially if 'auto-play' is activated. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

## HIGH VISIBILITY

Content creators can also be put at risk – especially young ones who try to make their online presence as visible as possible. Creating and uploading content exposes children to potential harassment and toxicity from the comments section, along with the possibility of direct messaging from strangers. Videos posted publicly can be watched by anyone in the world.

## TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends, challenges and memes that are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may harm children through either watching or copying. The painful 'salt and ice challenge', which can cause injuries very quickly, is just one of many such examples.

## SNEAKY SCAMMERS

Popular YouTube channels regularly have scammers posing as a well-known influencer in the comments section, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and sometimes offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users are not who they claim to be.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate content (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence and sexual situations) to underage viewers. To prevent your child from changing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that your child uses to access YouTube.

18

CENSORED

### TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows you to monitor what your child is watching, uploading and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives you an oversight of how your child is using sites like YouTube and helps you ensure they are only accessing appropriate content.

### CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that your child is subscribed to can be hidden. If your child is only uploading videos that are protected as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

### CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS

Influential content creators usually have other social media accounts which they encourage their fans to follow. Having an open discussion about this with your child makes it easier to find out how else they might be following a particular creator online. It also opens up avenues for you to check out that creator's other channels to see what type of content your child is being exposed to.

### MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them children. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course, and react to content differently. You may want to keep an eye on how your child interacts with content on YouTube – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand the types of videos they are interested in.

### LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases: users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch, for example. If you're not comfortable with your child purchasing content online, limit their access to your bank cards and online payment methods. Many parents have discovered to their cost that a child happily devouring a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

## Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday