



# Offley Newsletter 14

— 19th December 2025 —

Wow! What an incredible final week of the Autumn Term here at Offley! It has been wonderful to see so much kindness, happiness and cheer between the children, staff and parents. The Year 4 children had parents clapping along to their incredible drumming performance, led by Mr Proctor! Children from year 1 upwards laughed, smiled, danced and sang their way through the performance of Aladdin during our annual pantomime visit.

EYFS children thoroughly enjoyed an in school performance of 'The Clumsiest Elf' and we all received a visit from a very special guest. We would like to wish all our families and school community a very Merry Christmas, we hope you enjoy spending time with your loved ones and we look forward to welcoming you back to school in the new year, on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026!

Week 2

## Menu

w/c 5.1.26

DINE WITH MIQUILL					
WEEK TWO					
	Comfort	Healthy	Roasts	Around the World	Fishy Chips
<b>DINE</b> Main	All Day Brunch	Italian Chicken Meatballs	Beef & Onion Shortcrust Pie	Chicken Shawarma Pitta	Battered Fish
Vegetarian	All Day Vegetarian Brunch	Mac N Cheese	Roasted Vegetable Hotpot	Falafel Pitta	Margherita Pizza
Allergy Free	AF All Day Brunch	AF Chicken Meatballs	AF Savoury Mince With Carrots (No Lentils)	AF Chicken Wrap	AF Cheese & Tomato Pizza
Sides	Rosti & Beans	Pasta & Broccoli	Roasties, Cabbage & Gravy	Wedges & Roast Carrots	Chips & Peas
<b>DINE</b>	Tomato Pasta	Tomato Pasta	Tomato Pasta	Tomato Pasta	Tomato Pasta
Jacket Potato with choice of topping					
Freshly made sandwiches & salad are also available					
<b>Dessert STOP</b>	Jammy Crumble Bar	Fresh Fruit Salad	Chocolate Sponge & Custard	Shortbread	Chocolate Cookie

WEEK COMMENCING:  
10/11, 01/12, 05/01, 26/01, 23/02,  
16/03

Fresh Bread & Salad is available daily with a choice of Yoghurt, Jelly or Fruit instead of dessert

MIQUILL



Mark  
YOUR  
Calendar

The Academy website now has an events calendar which will be updated to include all key dates in school. Please save the page in your favourites:

<https://offley.cheshire.sch.uk/events/month/>



Please can we ask that when dropping off and collecting children from The Zone, the pavements are used to walk to and from the entrance. It is difficult to see pedestrians when reversing on the car park during the darker nights. Thank you for your support in keeping our school community safe.



**Thank you to all of our families for your continued support.**

**Merry Chrismtas**

**and a Happy New Year!**



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION  
**16+**

in UK and Europe;  
rest of the world 13+

With more than two billion active users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. This privacy issue has been in the spotlight recently, as the UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging; WhatsApp is unwilling to do so and has reportedly considered withdrawing its service in the UK should this legislation go ahead.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency'. Plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

### CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user that they want to message. If your child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that your child might be added to a group chat (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people that they don't know.

### FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allows news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "Forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original ... and might not be entirely factual, either.

## ONLINE

### 'VIEW ONCE' CONTENT

The facility to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate images or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't re-open them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this 'disappearing' content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing increased privacy.

### CHAT LOCK

Another new option allows users to store certain messages or chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind a passcode, fingerprint or face ID authentication. The risk here is that this function creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content that they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of (such as age-inappropriate material).

### VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child's safely on the way home, for example. However, anyone in your child's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

## Advice for Parents & Carers ...TYPING...

### EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage your child to treat unexpected messages with caution; get them to consider, for example, whether the message sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

### ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change your child's WhatsApp settings (go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups') to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval; you can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except ...'. Additionally, if your child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

### THINKING BEFORE SHARING

Help your child to understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content to then be shared more widely (even publicly on social media). Encourage your child to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

### CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Some parents like to check in with their child about how they're using WhatsApp, explaining that it will help to keep them safe. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of chats that are in there, who they're with and why your child wants to keep them hidden. Also, if your child has sent any 'view once' content, you could discuss their reasons for using this feature.

## Meet Our Expert

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



...HEY OSCAR...

NOS  
National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://blog.whatsapp.com/an-open-letter> | <https://iq.whatsapp.com/1077018839582332> | [https://iq.whatsapp.com/361005896189245/?helpref=hc\\_fnav](https://iq.whatsapp.com/361005896189245/?helpref=hc_fnav)  
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