Crown Lane Primary School Weekly

Friday 23rd October 2026

Message from our Head of School

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported, contributed delicious food, dressed up, and joined us for our fabulous PTA International Afternoon. It was a wonderful celebration of culture, community and belonging and you all helped to raise a fantastic £370. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about different countries and cultures, while also taking pride in sharing and celebrating their own heritage. For me, events like these truly showcase what makes Crown Lane School so special: our wonderful diversity, families and staff coming together to support one another, and the strong sense of belonging that exists throughout our school community.

We have many exciting events planned for next term, including a Family Cinema Evening, the Winter Fair, our End of Term Music Concert and class showcases. Please keep an eye on the school calendar for further information.

We will also be holding our PTA AGM coffee morning on November 24th. We are looking for a new Chair to help organise PTA events, this could be one parent volunteer or shared between two parents. If you would like to find out more about this exciting role, please enquire at the school office.

I continue to be incredibly proud of our children, who demonstrate the Crown Lane values and superpowers every day and take pride in belonging to our school community. Wishing all our families a wonderful, restful and enjoyable half-term break. A reminder that Monday 2nd of November is an INSET day, children return to school on Tuesday 3rd of November.

Reading morning

Come and Share the Joy of Reading! We are delighted to invite parents and carers to join us in our wonderful Malorie Blackman Library for a special opportunity to share a book and read alongside your child. Our pupils absolutely love spending time in the library and are always excited to share their favourite stories, discover new books, and show off the fantastic collection we have on offer. Reading together is a great way to encourage a lifelong love of books, and we would love for as many families as possible to join us. We look forward to welcoming you into our library and celebrating the joy of reading together! See dates below:

Date	Year Group
Thursday 5th November	Reception Nightingale
Thursday 12th November	Nursery Nightingale

Date	Year Group
Thursday 19th November	Year 6 King
Thursday 26th November	Year 5 Parks
Thursday 3rd December	Year 4 Seacole
Thursday 10th December	Year 3 Attenborough

Upcoming dates

Date	Events
Saturday 24th October-Sunday 1st November	Half term
Monday 2nd November	Staff INSET (pupils not in)
Tuesday 3rd November	Pupils return for term 2
Wednesday 4th November	Y3 learn to ride
Monday 9th November	Individual photo
Tuesday 10th November	Reception and Nursery open morning
Monday 16th November	Year 5/6 Cycle training week
Wednesday 18th November	Reception and Nursery open morning
Thursday 19th November	Family Movie Night
Tuesday 24th November	PTA AGM meeting 9am
Wednesday 25th November	Year 5 & 6 West Norwood Picture House Trip
Thursday 26th November	Reception and Nursery open morning
Friday 27th November	Whole school panto
Thursday 10th December	Winter Fair
Friday 18th December	School finishes for Christmas holidays at 2pm

Year 1 Bolt

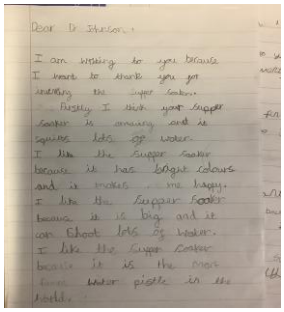
This week we continued our learning about Garrett Morgan and wrote him a letter to thank him for saving so many people's lives to with his inventions.
Also, this week we have learnt about Mexico for International evening. We learnt about where Mexico is located, the capitol city as well as learning about some of their customs, such as the Day of the Dead.
We made Papel picado decorations where the children demonstrated amazing fine motor skills when cutting different shapes.

Reception Nightingale

This half term, we have been exploring the signs of Autumn. The children carefully observed a variety of pumpkins and were inspired to create their own still-life paintings. They showed great creativity as they mixed colours and represented the different shapes, sizes and textures they could see.
As part of our learning for Black History Month, we learned about Mae Jemison and why she is such an important figure. The children discovered that Mae Jemison was the first Black woman to travel into space and discussed how determination and hard work helped her achieve her dream. We enjoyed looking at photographs of her and used our learning as inspiration for making our own fantastic rockets.
We have also enjoyed celebrating International Day, focusing on the country of Spain. The children explored the colours and design of the Spanish flag and created their own versions using colouring, playdough and Lego. We learned about Spanish culture and even made a traditional Spanish cold soup called *gazpacho*. Some of us were brave enough to give it a try, and Zariyah proudly told us, *"Mmm, it's nice!"*. We are especially looking forward to beginning our Forest School sessions during the first week back after half term, where the children will enjoy even more opportunities to learn and explore outdoors.
Have a wonderful half term!

Year 2 Rosen

This week, Rosen Class has been learning about Lonnie Johnson, the inventor of the famous Super Soaker water pistol. As part of our learning, we investigated his invention by testing a Super Soaker against other water pistols to see which could shoot water the furthest. The children enjoyed making predictions, carrying out fair tests and recording their observations.
Inspired by Lonnie Johnson's invention, we also created some fantastic artwork using water pistols filled with paint. The children loved experimenting with colours and patterns to produce vibrant and unique pieces of art.
To finish our learning, we wrote letters to Lonnie Johnson to thank him for inventing such a wonderful toy. We took great care to use our cursive handwriting and included thoughtful reasons why his invention has brought joy to so many children around the world. We are very proud of the children's enthusiasm, creativity and excellent writing this week.

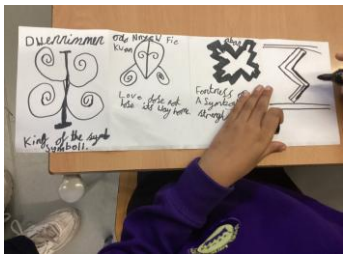


Nursery Zephaniah

This week in Nursery, we have had lots of fun exploring Japan as part of our preparations for International Evening! We discovered the work of Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama and created our own colourful polka-dot cherry blossom trees. We practised counting to five in Japanese and explored mark-making in our very own Japanese sand gardens, practising the numbers 1–5 in Japanese writing. We also had fun creating origami paper aeroplanes, making our own sushi and tried using chopsticks to eat it with and learning about the Japanese flag. It has been a wonderful week full of creativity, discovery and learning about a different culture!

Year 4 Seacole

Year Four had a very international week learning all about Ghana. They enjoyed tasting 'chinchin' a Ghanaian snack, learning lots of facts about the country and learn how to speak some words in one of the Ghanaian languages. We also explored how Ghanaians represent their values, beliefs and what is important to them using symbols, patterns and colours by looking at creating our own Kente cloth, Adinkra symbols and the flag. The class have been amazing this term and look forward to the new term ahead with them for lots more learning, exploring and investigating together.



Year 5 Parks

This week, Year 5 have been exploring the beautiful country of Uganda, often referred to as the "Pearl of Africa." The children have learned about Uganda's stunning landscapes, rich wildlife and fascinating natural environment, including its famous mountain gorillas. Inspired by Uganda's lush forests and incredible biodiversity, the children created some beautiful silhouette forest pictures. They used their creativity and artistic skills to capture the atmosphere of Uganda's forests and the wildlife that calls them home.

Year 3 Attenborough

The Year 3 children have worked incredibly hard over the last few weeks, and the classroom is absolutely bursting with fantastic work that reflects their dedication, focus, and growing independence. We are so proud of how well the children have transitioned into Key Stage 2 this half-term. They have truly earned a relaxing break! We wish you all a wonderful, safe, and restful half-term holiday, and we look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and ready for more adventures in the next half-term.

Holiday Home Learning Reminders:

To keep up the fantastic momentum our young learners have built up over this first term, please support your children with these daily habits over the break:

- **Daily Reading:** Please aim to read with your child every single day. Just 10 to 15 minutes of daily reading makes a massive difference to their comprehension skills and vocabulary.
- **TT Rockstars:** Log in to **Times Tables Rock Stars** daily to complete a few games. Regular practice will help build up their recall speed and multiplication confidence for next term!

Year 6 King

Over the past few weeks, King Class has been exploring the incredible journeys and lasting legacy of the Caribbean community in Britain. By stepping into the shoes of the characters in *Windrush Child*, the children gained a deeper understanding of the courage, challenges and triumphs of the Windrush pioneers.

Because music - especially reggae and ska - played such a massive role in sharing Caribbean culture with the UK, creating these vibrant vinyls allowed the children to celebrate that lasting cultural impact in a beautifully visual way.

Maths at Crown Lane

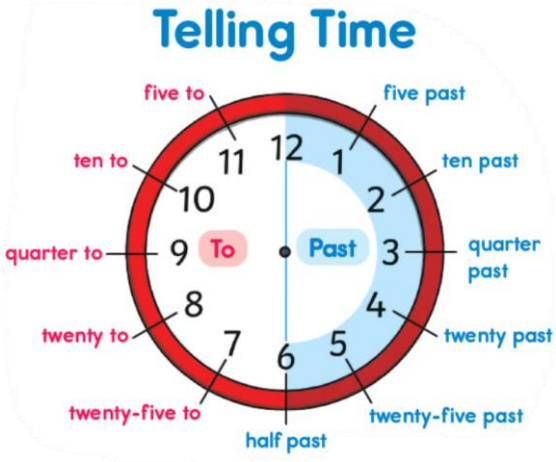
An area of maths that lots of children struggle with is reading an analogue clock. This is something that you could practise with them at home.

These are the National Curriculum expectations for each year group:

Year 1	Tell the time to the hour and half past the hour.
Year 2	Tell the time to the quarter hour and starting to know 5 minute intervals.
Year 3	Tell the time to the minute, including on a clock with roman numerals.
Year 4	Tell the time on any analogue clock, knowing the different ways to say each time (Quarter past three or Three Fifteen).

Children in year 5 and 6 should be able to read the time on any analogue clock reliably.

When practicing at home, this diagram could be helpful:



Inventor of the week

This week or inventor of the week is Gladys West. Why not research and find out more about them!

INVENTOR & MAKER OF THE WEEK

Gladys West

MATHEMATICIAN & EARLY DEVELOPER OF GPS

Gladys West was born in 1930 in Virginia, USA. She grew up on a farm, where most children were expected to work on the land. However, Gladys loved learning and worked hard at school. She got the best results in her whole high school and won a free place at university. She decided to study maths, which was very rare for women, and especially for Black women at that time.

After finishing her studies, Gladys got a job as a mathematician and computer programmer for the US Navy. At that time, computers didn't work like we know today, so she had to do a lot of maths by hand.

Gladys worked on using satellites to take accurate measurements of the Earth. She created complex computer programs that helped to work out the planet's exact shape and size. This was an important part of developing GPS (Global Positioning System), which is the technology we use every day in our phones and cars to tell us where we are.

Gladys showed how perseverance and working hard in maths can have a huge impact on people's lives.

INVENTORS & MAKERS

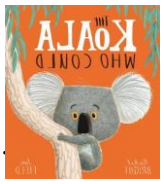
Recommended Reads

This week, the recommended reading list is all about Being Brave.

EYFS – The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark by Jill Tomlinson

Why read?

Plop the owl discovers that the dark isn't as frightening as he imagined. A reassuring story that helps children talk about worries and trying new things.



KS1 – The Koala Who Could by Rachel Bright

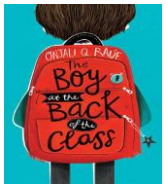
Why read?

A warm and funny story about overcoming fear and stepping outside your comfort zone.

KS2 – The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q. Raúf

Why read?

A powerful story about friendship, courage and compassion. It helps children consider the experiences of others and the difference that kindness can make.



Crown Lane Autumn 2 2026/27 Curriculum Enrichment and After School Clubs

Tuesday 3rd November to Friday 11th December 2026

Total 6 Weeks

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Year 1 - 6 Tennis Club **3:30-4:30pm** **Cost £6 per session** Develop gross motor skills, hand/eye coordination. Build strength and agility. **Please sign up via ParentPay**	**Years 1-6 – Cheerleading** **3.30-4.30pm** **Cost £7.50 per session** Learn a range of gymnastic skills, including coordination, balance and agility. **Please sign up via link below** CHEERLEADING CLUB (4 - 11yrs) at CROWN LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL, Crown Lane, Streatham, London, SW16 3HX | ZLH STUDIOS | Powered by ClassForKids	**Year 3 - 6 Music with Computers** **3:30-4:30pm** **Cost £4 per session** Making music with computers **Please sign up via ParentPay**	**Years 1-6 Art Club** **3.30-4.30pm** **£4 per session** Art club gives children the opportunity to explore their creativity in a fun and relaxed environment. **Please sign up via ParentPay**	**School Football Team** **3.30-4.30pm** **Free** Aims to raise footballing ability, build character, train leaders in a positive and fun environment. **BY INVITATION ONLY**
Years 1-6 Steel Pans **Cost 3.30-4.30pm** **£4 per session** Commun Phoenix ity Steelband's objectives are to provide enjoyment and increase confidence when playing the steel pans. **Please sign up via ParentPay**	**Years 3-6 Library Club** **Cost 3.30-4.30pm** **£4 per session** Enjoy our new library with some group reading sessions, reading activities and homework help. **Please sign up via ParentPay**		**Years 1-6 Street Dance** **3.30-4.40pm** **£6.50 per session** **Please sign up directly via Ms Emma - 07380529132**	**Years 1-4 Football** **3.30-4.30pm** **Cost £6 per session** Aims to raise footballing ability and build character in a positive and fun environment. **Please sign up via ParentPay**

Sporting Champs: After School Club 3.25pm-6.00pm
Afterschool Club: £16.00
Early Stay and Play 3.25-4.30pm - cost £9.00
Late Stay and Play 4.30-6.00pm - cost £11.00
To access Sporting Champs, your children need to be registered online via this link: https://sportingchamps.classforkids.io/

Secondary school applications September 2027

Dear Year 6 parents

How to Apply for Secondary school place for September 2027

Applications must be made using the online Common Application Form (CAF) via the borough you live in. (**Deadline 31st October 2026).**

Please also check individual schools' websites as some schools also require additional paperwork.

Please click on the link below for the borough you live in

www.lambeth.gov.uk/eadmissions
www.wandsworth.gov.uk/admissions
www.merton.gov.uk/admissions
www.croydon.gov.uk/education

E-Safety

We have recently become aware of some concerns relating to WhatsApp and group chat use among pupils. To support families in keeping children safe online, we are resharing our guidance on WhatsApp and group chats. WhatsApp is one of the most popular messaging apps in the world, but it also presents significant risks for children and young people. Although the app has an age rating of 13+, many pupils begin using it much earlier, often before they are developmentally ready to manage online communication safely. One of the main concerns is group chats. Children can be added to large groups without knowing everyone involved, making conversations hard to follow and manage. Group chats can quickly become overwhelming and, at times, unkind, increasing the risk of peer pressure, exclusion or online bullying. Many children also find it difficult to manage constant online conversations. Messages can continue late into the night, expectations to reply quickly can create anxiety, and misunderstandings are common when tone and context are missing. Another important risk is contact from strangers. Anyone with a child's phone number can message them, and children may encounter people they do not know through group chats. Features such as disappearing messages or hidden chats can make harmful content harder to spot and address. For these reasons, the school strongly recommends that pupils do not have a smart mobile phone until the age of 16. If a phone is needed for safety, we advise using a non-internet enabled device. Please refer to the group chat poster here and WhatsApp poster here for further guidance and practical safety advice.

Admissions

Crown Lane Reception and Nursery Open Days

Reception and Nursery 2027
Tuesday 10th November 9.15am
Wednesday 18th November 9.15am
Thursday 26th November 4.30pm

If you would like to attend one of our open mornings, please email admissions@crownlaneschool.co.uk with your name, child's name and contact details.

Crown Lane Primary School

Nursery Entry January and April 2027

We have limited places left for Nursery for January and April 2027.

We take children from the term after their 3rd birthday.

Full time and Part time available

If you are interested, please email admissions@crownlaneschool.co.uk

or pick up an application form from our main Reception

This week attendance champs are **King Class!**
The school attendance target is 95%. Everyday counts! A percentage of less than 90% means 20 days of lost learning. That's 4 weeks of crucial knowledge and skills lost which will form gaps in the child's learning.

Class	Merit of the week	Reader of the week	Writer of the week
Bolt	-	-	-
Rosen	Noela-Mai	Taher	Mustfa
Attenborough	Aila & Yusuf	Rayan	Nawal
Seacole	Lara & Adela	Efi	Abdurrahman
Parks	Jeziel & Luke	Enzo	Latrielle
King	Tyrione & Kimoya	Shahana	Zachary

Update from Lambeth

Support for families during the school holidays is changing. These changes are because of the Department for Work and Pensions' (DWP) new Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF).

Holiday vouchers are no longer available due to funding changes, **Lambeth Council has other types of support available for parents, outlined below.** We would encourage parents facing financial hardship to utilise the offers most suitable to their circumstances.

Holiday, Activities and Food programme

Across the Winter, Easter and Summer holidays, Lambeth Council works alongside a range of brilliant local organisations, charities and partners to deliver the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme. This is funded by the Department for Education. The HAF is for children who are aged 4-16 years old (Reception to Year 11 inclusive), receive targeted free school meals (for households in receipt of universal credit earning £7,400 or less), live in Lambeth or attend a Lambeth school.

These are completely free activities for children to take part in. Every activity includes provision for a free healthy meal attending child, reducing household food costs. This offer can also help parents to juggle work and family life in the summer holidays and reduce childcare costs.

For the latest information on the HAF offer expected at each school holiday, parents can visit our website or contact HAF@lambeth.gov.uk.

Lambeth's Emergency Support Scheme

As part of the Crisis and Resilience Fund, the Council does receive funding to provide targeted cash support to Lambeth's residents facing financial hardship. The council's Emergency Support Scheme (ESS) can help if families are facing a crisis, disaster or can't afford essentials or resettlement costs. To access the scheme, applicants need to live in Lambeth, be on means-tested benefits, have a household income below £30,000 and savings less than £6,000.

For more information on this support, parents can visit www.lambeth.gov.uk/ESS and applications are to be made online at https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/form/emergency-support-scheme.

Lambeth Council Cost of Living service

Lambeth Council has its Financial Link Worker service which provides 1-2-1 advice and support to parents through cost of living appointments in person or over the phone.
Support includes:

- Form filling and support with access to **benefits and grants**
- Access to food banks and low-cost food
- **Council tax entitlements checks, support** and advice
- Reducing **energy and water bills**
- Managing budgeting, **debts and arrears**
- Applying for the Emergency Support Scheme (ESS)
- Connecting residents to **employment and training** opportunities

To make an appointment, parents can contact the Cost of Living team on **020 7926 5059**, email **costofliving@lambeth.gov.uk** or visit **lambeth.gov.uk/costofliving**.

Community notices: Not endorsed by the school

A fun packed, multi activity holiday offering high quality care with an emphasis on FUN. We aim to do more than just keep the children occupied with a wide range of activities that offer something for everyone!

Holiday Club includes arts & crafts, court activities and swimming for competent swimmers.

- **Children should wear comfortable clothes and trainers.**
- **Bring a healthy packed lunch (no nuts, sugary sweets or fizzy drinks**
- **Please provide a reusable water bottle.**

Cost per day:
Standard: £26.50 | Concessionary: £21.55

Spaces are limited - Book now
active.lambeth.gov.uk

ACTIVE LAMBETH
Leisure for all

Community notices: Not endorsed by the school

Barn Elms Boat Club

Looking for something different for your pupils this half term?

Barn Elms Boat Club is running rowing courses for young people on the Tideway, on the very stretch of the Thames where the Oxford v Cambridge Boat Race is raced. We have been teaching people to row here since 1964, and we would love to welcome your pupils on to the water.
There is a course for every level:

BEGINNERS
Never rowed, or been on the water fewer than 10 times? This is the place to start.

IMPROVERS
For those who have already done a few beginner courses and are ready to try a wider range of boats, including small boats, to build their skills.

EXPERIENCED
For young rowers already training and racing who want to take their rowing to the next level over the holiday.

Dates: 19th to the 30th October
Ages: 12-18
Where: Barn Elms Boat Club, Queen Elizabeth Walk, London SW13 0DG

BOOK IN 2 MINUTES:
https://bookwhen.com/barnelmsbh

Community notices: Not endorsed by the school

MUSICAL THEATRE

FREE

HALF TERM WORKSHOPS AT LONGFIELD HALL

REGISTER:
07988629697 or
youthmanager@longfieldhall.org.uk

Ages 6 - 9
Wed 26 Oct
10am – 2:30pm

Ages 10+
Thurs 29 Oct
10am – 3:30pm

LONGFIELD HALL
WHERE CREATIVITY AND COMMUNITY MEET

www.longfieldhall.org.uk

Registered charity no. 1133679, 50 Knatchbull Road, London SE5 9QY

At Crown Lane we start on time, With friends and fun and learning prime!

So hurry through the morning gate– 8:55—don't be late!

GOOD ATTENDANCE MEANS....

Being in school at least 95% of the time...

MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

Crown Lane Primary

90% sounds good but its actually over 100 lessons missed!

There are **365 days** in a calendar year

175 of those days are **NOT** spent at school

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

GROUP CHATS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

On messaging apps, social media and online games, group chats are one of the most popular ways that children connect. Group chats allow messages, images and videos to be shared in one place and help friendships flourish; however, they also come with a number of risks.

TEASING AND BULLYING

Children of all ages are keen to fit in socially, and group chats can sometimes complicate that process. While group chats can foster connection, they can also give way to mean comments or jokes at someone's expense, especially when others join in for laughs. When bullying happens publicly, in front of friends and classmates, it can intensify the emotional impact – adding to embarrassment, anxiety and feelings of isolation for the child being targeted.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some group chats may include inappropriate language or imagery. Even if a child isn't actively participating in the conversation, they may still be exposed to this content simply by being part of the group. Some apps have disappearing messaging features, where content is only available once or for a few seconds, which makes it harder for children to report something they've seen.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Children often can't control who is added to a group, which can lead to privacy concerns. Sharing personal details in group chats can be dangerous, and children have no control over what others do with the material they send. Some members of the chat might even decide to use such information maliciously.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

Exclusion in group chats is common and can take several forms. Sometimes a new group is created specifically to leave one child out on purpose. In other cases, the chat may happen on an app that a child doesn't have access to, making it impossible for them to join in. This can cause feelings of being left out – even unintentionally.

PEER PRESSURE

Children may feel they have to constantly stay engaged just to be included and keep up with the conversation. In some cases, they might partake in inappropriate behaviours – like sharing explicit photos, jokes or teasing – just to fit in. Group settings can also encourage children to act in ways they normally wouldn't, or stay silent when they know something is wrong, out of fear of being excluded. Some children may find it difficult to leave toxic group chats.

VIDEO AND LIVE CHATS

Many popular apps allow children to engage in live streaming with interactive chats or have group video chats. Anyone can be added to these streams, and often children tag peers in the comments and have conversations which are unmoderated. There's a risk of being exposed to inappropriate or violent content and offensive language, either in the group videos or via the group chats.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats can become an arena for children to compete for social status. Help children consider how people might feel if they behave unkindly. If a child does upset someone, encourage them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

SET SOME GROUP CHAT RULES

Discuss safe group chat practices, such as asking a peer for consent before adding them to a group chat, or leaving a group chat if a stranger is added. Tell children that if they're added to a group they didn't agree to beforehand, it's OK for them to leave immediately.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If a child encounters inappropriate content or feels uncomfortable in a group chat, encourage them to block and report the sender and leave the group. Make sure children know it's OK to leave a group chat if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Group chats are an excellent way for children to connect and feel like they belong. However, remind them that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their feelings and empower them by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. You can also encourage children to speak up if they witness others being bullied.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

It's vital for children to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Ensure they understand the importance of not revealing personal details – like their address, their school, or photos they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they can't be certain where it might end up or how it might be used.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Being bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be an irritating distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to children that they can still be part of a group chat while disabling notifications. In fact, it would be healthier for them to do so, helping them avoid the pressure to respond immediately.

Meet Our Expert

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

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®