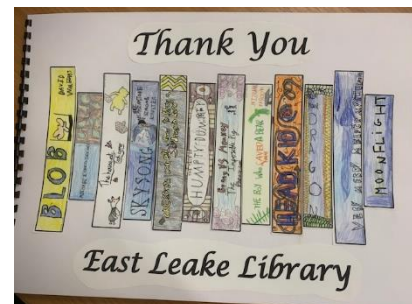


Cool to be kind!

We've been celebrating 'random acts of kindness' day across school this week. Each class chose a child who has shown care and kindness for a special certificate in assembly.

Today, we have been out and about across East Leake, spreading some positivity and planting bulbs in Meadow Park.



Say hi to Ted!

We have a new member of the Lantern Lane family – Ted the tortoise! Ted has a special home in our main building and children have all enjoyed seeing him around.



He has a special job in school of helping children with their emotions and giving pupils some extra responsibilities.



Ted is very popular and enjoying his new stardom!

Please remember these rules when on school grounds:



No dogs are allowed on the school site.



No smoking or vaping on the school site.



Please dismount bicycles and scooters when on the school site.



Please park safely around our school site and be considerate of our local community.

British Gypsum workshop



Our Y2 pupils enjoyed a special workshop with British Gypsum this week to support their science curriculum.

Weekly attendance

Our whole school attendance was 95.5% - this is really good! Well done to Mills house, who were 'Attendance Champions' this week for the house with the highest attendance

Parents & Carers Evening

Our Spring term parents' and carers' evening is on Tuesday 25th & Wednesday 26th February. Please make sure you have booked your appointment.

Spring dates

Pupils return to school on Monday 24 th February	
Monday 24 th February	Y5 Ice Skating starts
Tuesday 25 th & Wednesday 26 th February	Parents' & Carers' Evening
Wednesday 5 th March	Y2 Mrs Jones and Mrs Prowse's Class Assembly
Thursday 6 th March	World Book Day
w/b 9 th March	National Science Week
Wednesday 2 nd April 2pm & 6pm	Y3 Musical – 'Splash!'
Wednesday 12 th – Friday 14 th March	Y4 Castleton Residential
Wednesday 19 th March	Y2 Miss Sabin Class Assembly
Wednesday 2 nd April	Y1 Miss Mistry's Class Assembly Y6 watching ELA 'School of Rock' musical
Friday 4 th April	Y3 Ancient Egyptian Day
Friday 4 th April	Last day of Spring term
Pupils return to school on Tuesday 22 nd April 2025	

See next page for this week's online safety update...

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE RELATIONSHIPS & DATING APPS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Dating apps are used to help people find new relationships – whether casual or more long term – matching users based on age, interests, gender and more. Some may consider dating apps harmless to under-18s because they aren't able to use them, but effective age verification measures are quite scarce, and it's been known for young people to end up on apps of this type.

EASE OF ACCESS

The relatively lax age verification process of many dating apps makes them incredibly accessible to children who really shouldn't be using them. This carries the obvious risk of exposing under-18s to a dating scene populated by adults – who may not even be aware of the young person's true age. This is concerning when we consider the 'hook-up culture' common on these apps – with many people using them to arrange casual sexual encounters.

CONTACT AND CONDUCT RISKS

Once someone is active on a dating app, their social media profiles can be linked to the app and might be accessed by others. This can lead to random users 'sliding into their DM's' (sending a direct message) without consent. Complete strangers could start bombarding a young person's inbox with pictures, messages and sexual comments.

SCAMS AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Some young people may feel they've formed a real bond with someone through online dating, but there's always a risk that it's not genuine. Scammers on these apps often build romantic connections with their victims – then once they feel they have their victim's trust, they begin asking for money under false pretences (such as suggesting they meet in person and requesting a 'loan' to cover a train ticket).

UNVERIFIED ACCOUNTS

As with all online interactions, you may not be talking to whom you think you are. Without paying a subscription, users of dating apps can often only view a certain number of profiles at a time. A TikTok trend has advised young people to set their age limit to 80 years and over – putting them in a sparse and more 'exclusive' category to bypass the usual restrictions. Unfortunately, this can lead to matches with someone much older.

PEER PRESSURE

The pressure to be in a relationship can be huge, and many young people use online dating apps as a cost-effective way to meet others. Some users find it difficult to meet people organically due to their lifestyle, and may not have the time or money to go out and socialise. It's also common for young people to set up accounts for their single friends in the hope of finding a match for someone they know.

SKewed PERSPECTIVES

Dating apps can promote an unrealistic view of what makes someone attractive. With such vast options, some users can become both picky and extremely harsh about others' appearance. Ultimately, all you see on these apps are pictures (with no insight into someone's personality), and some young people struggle with the fear of being judged. Even when someone does start dating, there's a persistent paranoia that their partner is only one swipe away from a potentially better match.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALK ABOUT DATING APPS

Let young people know that they can talk to you about anything, even something as private as their dating life. At school, the relationships, sex and health curriculum can assist with conversations around healthy relationships, consent and online safety. Emphasise the message that you want to help them make healthy, safe and informed choices. If they feel embarrassed talking to you, make sure they have a trusted adult who can help them.

ENCOURAGE DATA PROTECTION

Empower young people to protect their data and personal information. Explain why including things like their school, age and surname in their profile could potentially be dangerous. Make sure they know never to give out personal details, and that there's no reason for other users to ask for them. If they feel uneasy about a situation online, they need to speak to someone that they can trust.

VERIFICATION STAMPS

Explain that someone using a dating app should only communicate with those who have gone through a verification process. Online dating apps use a variety of methods to ascertain a user's identity, including scanning valid documents (such as a driver's licence or passport). Verification can also involve users taking a selfie to ensure that the photos on their profile match it.

REPORT AND BLOCK

Remind young people that they can always report or block (or both) anyone who makes them feel uncomfortable on any platform. Ask if they know how to do this and offer to help them figure it out if they're unsure. Every app should have advice on how to report or block another user, so be sure young people are familiar with the settings.

Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings works at RAISE (www.raiseducation.org.uk) in the field of relationships, sex and health education, providing educational, age-appropriate workshops for pupils around the more sensitive areas of the curriculum – including online safety and healthy relationships.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/online-relationships-dating-apps>

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