

Nerrols' Newsletter

18th December 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Welcome to the final Nerrols' Newsletter of 2025! As we come to the end of another busy and successful term, I would like to wish all our families a very happy and restful Christmas break. We are incredibly proud of all our children for their kindness, hard work and positive attitudes throughout the term; they have all achieved so much and should be thoroughly congratulated!

Please do now take the time to rest, relax and spend time together during this very special time of the year. I look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 5th January 2026, refreshed and ready for all the exciting opportunities, learning and experiences that 2026 will bring. Merry Christmas everyone!

Christmas Kindness Challenge

We are so proud of how kind our children have been this term! They have been regularly filling each other's buckets, and our Whole School Kindness Bucket is nearly overflowing which means we are almost there with our first whole-school kindness treat! This morning as the children were arriving, every child who I managed to see and say 'Good morning' to responded so politely and kindly, which certainly helped to fill my bucket!



Over the Christmas Holidays, we are setting our children a Christmas Kindness Challenge! The tasks are all about kindness, helping others and feeling good and the children should have brought home lots of ideas to help them continue spreading kindness at home, including saying something kind, sharing a smile, using kind hands or asking someone else how they feel! Please encourage your child to tick off the challenges as they go and bring them back to share with us in the New Year.

Is your child due to start primary school?

It has been great to meet so many new families looking to join our school community in September 2026 at one of our Open Mornings over the past few months. If you have a child due to start primary school in September 2026, **don't forget to make your application to join our school via the Somerset Council website by 15th January 2026.**

We would also love to welcome any prospective parents and carers to our school and to discuss admission arrangements at our next Open Morning, which will be taking place from 9:30am on Wednesday 7th January 2026.





Christmas at Nerrols!



Christmas at Nerrols (pictures above and even more on Facebook)!

A sincere thank you to all our parents, carers, grandparents, families and friends who attended our recent **Nativity performances** and/or **Christmas Carol Concerts**! The children of all our classes performed with such joy, confidence and pride knowing that they had such support and familiar faces cheering them on, and it was wonderful to see our Hall filled with such an enthusiastic audience on each occasion! Thank you also for your continued support and encouragement throughout the busy festive schedule with practising lines and songs, costumes, and for your co-operation and understanding regarding tickets. We are all very grateful for the role that our families play in making our Nerrols community so special – it was a pleasure to once again be able to share such festive occasions with you all!

Earlier this week, we also celebrated **Christmas Jumper Day** and enjoyed our **Christmas Lunch**! The children enjoyed roast turkey, meat-free sausages, pigs in blankets, stuffing, potatoes and much more along with some festive music that made lunchtime very special. We were even joined by Father Christmas himself as an extra treat!

All of the children at our school also visited the Tacchi Morris Arts Centre this week to watch a performance on the pantomime, **Jack and the Beanstalk**! Thanks to the generous support of our community at our fundraising events and after agreement by our Friends Of Nerrols committee, we were delighted to be able to again subsidise the trip and the children all had a great time!

Parent and Carer Survey 2025

Thank you so much to those of you who have already taken the time to complete our Parent and Carer Survey. Your views and feedback will help to make Nerrols the best place for our children to learn and grow. So far, less than 30% of families have completed our survey, and we would really value hearing from more of you so that the feedback we receive reflects our whole school community. To complete the survey, please follow this link:

<https://www.qdpsurvey.co.uk/OnlineQuestionnaire?code=6281-69347-36561587>

Your views are incredibly important to us in helping to celebrate what is working well and identify areas where we can continue to improve. The survey should take less than five minutes to complete and every response genuinely helps to shape our next steps as a school. If you haven't yet had the chance to complete it, I would be very grateful if you could do so before the closing date of this Friday at 3:00pm. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

House Treat!

Congratulations to **HESTERCOMBE HOUSE** who were the winners of this term's House Treat! Earlier this week, we invited the children of Hestercombe to wear their non-school uniform and take part in some festive crafts and watch The Nativity film! Well done to Hestercombe House, and to all of our children who have been demonstrating our values of *Being kind*, *Working hard* and *Trying their best* this term!



Attendance and Holiday requests

In accordance with guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) regarding attendance, a reminder that parents and carers run the risk of being fined if they choose to take a holiday in term time, as well as any other unauthorised leave for birthdays or other special occasions. We are unable to grant leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances, and holiday requests do not fall into this category and will rarely be approved as an authorised absence. In law, parents and carers are committing an offence if they fail to ensure the regular and punctual attendance of their children at school. Therefore, any unauthorised absence, such as taking holidays in term time, can result in a Fixed Term Penalty Notice. Failure to pay a Fixed Term Penalty Notice may result in a criminal conviction and a fine in the Magistrates Court of up to £1000. If, after carefully considering all of the above, you still wish to request permission for your child to be absent from school, please complete a leave of absence request form (available from the School Office) and submit the application with any supporting documents. Please note that your application must be submitted before your child is absent from school, regardless of whether or not it is likely to be unauthorised. You can find out more about our attendance expectations by reading our Attendance Policy, which is available on our school website: [Policies - Nerrols Primary School](#)

Library book amnesty

Please can we ask all parents, carers and children to check at home for any school library books that may have accidentally not yet been returned. Our children love using our School Library regularly and we always want to promote their enthusiasm for reading by providing them with a wide range of books to read. Any book that belongs to Nerrols should have a small sticker of our school logo on the inside front cover of the book. Please could all books that belong to the School and Nursery be returned by the end of the school year.

Staying Safe at Nerrols

We have been made aware that several titles in the '**According to Humphrey**' series contain a weblink at the back of the book that no longer directs people to information about the books. Instead, the link has been compromised and now leads to inappropriate and unsafe material that should not be accessed by children at any age.

Opposite are images of some of the front covers in the series to help you identify the books should you have any at home. The link can be found on the back cover or may be also included on a page inside. For clarity and reassurance, we are not aware of any children who have accessed this link at our school and have removed copies of the book with the weblink from school circulation. If you have any of these books at home, we advise you to remove them immediately or remove the page with the weblink and be extra-vigilant with all children's books that contain links and ensure that they are checked by an adult. We are grateful for your continued support in working together to keep our children safe.



Online Safety: Helping to keep our children safe online

As part of our children's broad and balanced curriculum, we regularly teach them about the importance of keeping themselves safe when they are online. To help support our parents and carers to do this whilst our children are at home, we have a whole range of resources, including Online Safety Guides for Parents and Carers, available on our website at: [Online Safety - Nerrols Primary School](#) Attached to this week's Newsletter, you will find more information about the popular messaging app WhatsApp. We are aware that some of our older children already have their own mobile phone, and with Christmas approaching others might be gifted one, and hope that the Guide will be useful in equipping our children if parents and carers do allow their children online.

After School Clubs

Our After School Clubs for Spring 1 are now beginning to take shape, and bookings are now open:

Day	After School Club (3:30pm-4:30pm)	Further Details
Wednesdays	KS2 Nerrols Football Club	Bookings open on MCAS!
Thursdays	Reception, Y1 and Y2 Nerrols Multi-Skills Club	Bookings open on MCAS!
Fridays	KS2 Nerrols Netball Club	Bookings open on MCAS!

Office Update

An important reminder that we aim to be a completely **nut-free school**. This includes peanuts and any product that is made of, or may contain, any type of nut and nut-based products such as Nutella. We do have children at our school with severe nut allergies, and it is vital that we keep everyone safe. Please make sure that no nut products are brought into school in packed lunches or other snacks. Thank you, as always, for your understanding and support with this important matter.

The deadline for ordering school lunches for the first week back after Christmas has now closed, and so for any families that have not already placed their order please make sure you send your child to school with a packed lunch. You can still order school lunches right up until the end of the Spring Term (Easter holidays) on MCAS though!

The booking system for our Wraparound Care Club is now open for next year too, and you can make bookings right up until the end of summer term! Please remember that if you are paying using tax-free childcare or another voucher provider, you must allow sufficient time for the funds to reach our account, which can take up to 10 days. We are no longer able to make bookings without funds available in the app, so please make sure you keep your child's account topped up.

Dates for the diary

Friday 19 th December	INSET Day – School Closed to children
Monday 5 th January 2026	First day of Spring 1
Wednesday 7 th January	Reception Class 2026 Open Morning (9:30am)

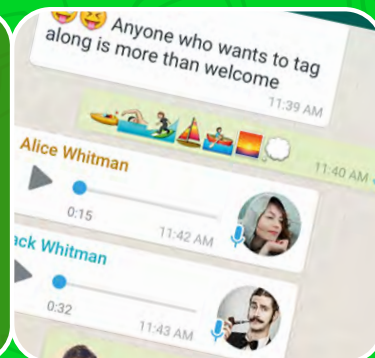
Have a great Christmas break and I look forward to seeing you in 2026!



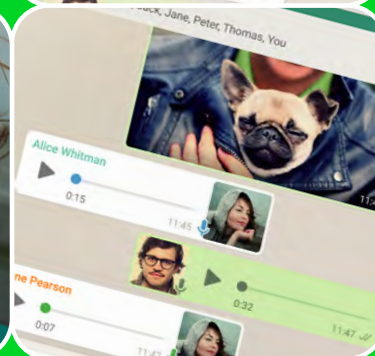
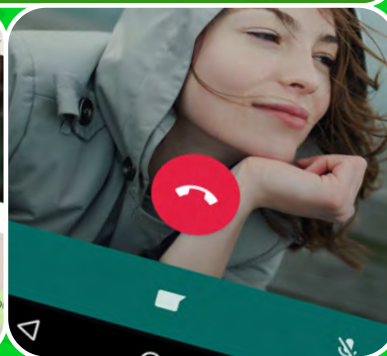
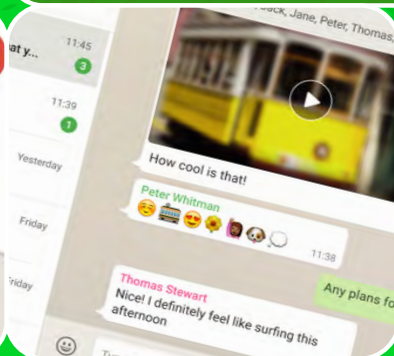
Matt Kerton
Headteacher



WhatsApp is one of the most popular messaging apps in the world, with more than 1.5 billion people in more than 180 countries using it to send and receive text, photos, videos and documents, as well as make voice and video calls through an Internet or Wi-Fi connection. The free app offers end-to-end encryption, which means that messages can only be read by the sender and the recipient in one-to-one chats, or all members if it is a group chat. Not even WhatsApp can read them.



AGE RESTRICTION
16+



What parents need to know about

WhatsApp



AGE LIMIT CHANGE

Since May 2018, the minimum age for using WhatsApp is 16 years old if you live in the European Union, including the UK. Prior to this, the minimum age was 13, which still applies for the rest of the world. WhatsApp has not yet stated whether it will take action against anyone aged between 13 and 16 who already hold accounts under the old terms and conditions, such as closing their account or seeking parental permission.

SCAM MESSAGES

Occasionally on WhatsApp, people receive spam messages from unauthorised third parties or from fraudsters pretending to offer prizes to 'lucky people,' encouraging recipients to click on a link to win a prize. A common scam involves messages warning recipients that their WhatsApp subscription has run out with the hope that people are duped into providing their payment details. Other scam messages include instructions to forward the message in return for a reward or gift from WhatsApp or another person.

FAKE NEWS AND HOAXES

WhatsApp has been linked to enabling the spread of dangerous viral rumours. In India, for example, a number of attacks appear to have been sparked by false rumours shared on WhatsApp.

THE 'ONLY ADMIN' FEATURE AND CYBERBULLYING

Cyberbullying is the act of sending threatening or taunting text messages, voice messages, pictures and videos, with the aim to hurt and humiliate the receiver. The group chat and group video call features are great for multiple people to chat simultaneously, but there is the potential for people to hurt others with their comments or jokes. The 'only admin' feature gives the admin of a group chat greater control over who can send messages. Whilst this can be good for one-way announcements, the group admin has the power to block somebody from responding to an offensive message in a chat, which could result in a child being upset and unable to reply.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

To start a chat in WhatsApp, you need to know the mobile number of the contact you want to speak to and they also need to have the app downloaded. WhatsApp can find contacts by accessing the address book of a device and recognising which of those contacts are using WhatsApp. If your child has shared their mobile number with somebody they don't know, they can use it to get in touch via WhatsApp.

LIVE LOCATION SHARING

WhatsApp's 'Live Location' feature enables users to share their current location in real time to their contacts in a chat, allowing friends to show their movements. The feature, which can be found by pressing the 'attach' button, is described by WhatsApp as a "simple and secure way to let people know where you are." Location-sharing is already a common feature on other social apps, including Snapchat's Snap Map and Facebook Messenger and can be a useful way for a child to let loved ones know they are safe. However, if your child is in a group chat with people they do not know, they will be exposing their location.



**National
Online
Safety**

Top Tips for Parents

CREATE A SAFE PROFILE

Even though somebody would need your child's phone number to add them as a contact, as an extra security measure we suggest altering their profile settings to control who can see their profile photo and status. The options to choose from are 'Everyone,' 'My Contacts' and 'Nobody.' We suggest selecting 'My Contacts' or 'Nobody' to ensure their profile is protected.

EXPLAIN HOW TO BLOCK PEOPLE

If your child has received spam or offensive messages, calls or attachments from a contact, they should block them. Messages and status updates sent by a blocked contact will not show up on the phone and will stay undelivered. Blocking someone will not remove this contact from the contact list – they will need to be removed from the phone's address book. To block a contact, your child needs to open the person's chat stream and tap on the settings.

REPORT SCAM MESSAGES

Advise your child not to tap, share or forward any message that looks suspicious or sounds too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they will be given the option to report the number as spam directly inside the chat. They can also report a contact or a group as spam using the following steps: 1) Open the chat. 2) Tap on the contact or group name to open their profile information. 3) Scroll to the bottom and tap 'Report Spam.'

LEAVE A GROUP

If your child is part of a group chat that makes them feel uncomfortable or has been added to a group they don't want to be part of, use the group's settings to show them how to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once, if they leave again, they cannot be added again.

USING LIVE LOCATION SAFELY

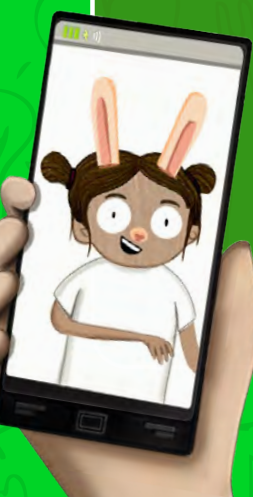
If your child needs to use the 'Live Location' feature to share with you or a friend, advise them to only share it for the amount of time they need to. WhatsApp gives the options of either 15 minutes, one hour or eight hours. However, your child can choose to stop sharing at any time.

DELETE ACCIDENTAL MESSAGES

If your child has sent a message to the wrong chat or if a message they sent has contained a mistake, they can delete it. To do this, simply tap and hold on the message, choose 'Delete' and then 'Delete for everyone.' The app allows seven minutes to delete the message after it has been sent, but it is important to remember that recipients may have seen and screenshot a message before it was deleted.

SET TIME LIMITS

A 2017 study found that by the age of 14 the average child will have sent more than 35,000 texts, 30,000 WhatsApp messages and racked up more than three solid weeks of video chat. Although it is inevitable that your child will use technology, you can still set boundaries. This is not easy, especially since teens use their devices for both schoolwork and free time, often simultaneously.



SOURCES: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/apr/26/whatsapp-plans-to-ban-under-16s-the-mystery-is-how>, <https://whatsappbrand.com/>, <https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/whatsapp-update-latest-india-hoaxes-forward-messages-app-download-a8456011.html>

