



Northlands News

Northlands Primary School and Nursery

Friday 12th June 2026

Telephone number: 01268 553434

Dear Parents, as we begin the final half-term of the school year, we are looking forward to an exciting few weeks ahead. There are many wonderful events planned for both children and parents, providing opportunities to celebrate achievements, create memories and enjoy our school community together. Our teachers will be working incredibly hard to ensure that every child is well prepared and confident for the next step in their educational journey. We are proud of the progress they have made throughout the year and look forward to supporting them as they finish the term strongly. This week, I have also shared a link to our parental survey. If you have not yet completed it, I would be very grateful if you could take a few moments to do so. The views, experiences and suggestions of our parents are extremely important to us and help shape the future development of our school. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us celebrate what we do well and identify areas where we can continue to improve. Have a great weekend everyone, **Mr Figg**



Barleylands Art Project

Recently, a group of children from Years 2–5 had the exciting opportunity to work with our Artist in Residence, Clare Sams, on a creative project inspired by the classic poem *The Owl and the Pussycat*. We are delighted that the artwork produced by the children is now being exhibited at the art gallery in Craft Arena, Barleylands. A selection of the children were also able to visit the gallery to see their work proudly displayed. During their visit, they were joined by the artist, Clare Sams; Sammi from Creative Basildon, who championed the project; and the MP for Billericay and Basildon, Mr Richard Holden. It was a wonderful experience for the children to see their creativity celebrated in a public exhibition and to share this special achievement with family, friends, and members of the wider community.



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New Lost Property Box

We now have a designated area for all lost property. The box is located outside the main hall for ease of access. If your child has lost any items, please check here! To be able to reunite lost items, please make sure everything is clearly labelled with your child's name.



Girls Make Another Final

It has been a historic season so far for our Girls' Football Team. This week they took another step towards cementing themselves as our best ever team with a closely fought 1-0 win over Lee Chapel. In swirling windy conditions a sublime volley from Klea was enough to separate the two sides and send Northlands through to the final of the Basildon League. Well done girls and one more match to go!



Nursery Spaces: Now Enrolling For September

We are now accepting applications for nursery places starting this September, places in both our 2-year-old room and preschool provision are filling quickly. A range of fully funded childcare options are available for eligible families.

Give your child the very best start in a nurturing, fun, and stimulating environment where they can grow in confidence, develop their curiosity, and build the independence and skills they need for future learning. With sessional places starting from just **£12 per session**, our nursery offers exceptional value alongside high-quality care and education.

For further information, to discuss funding options, or to arrange a visit, please contact the school office. We would be delighted to welcome you and your child to our nursery community.



Summer Term Diary 2026

Thursday 18th June	Infant's Father's Day Sale
Friday 19th June	Junior's Father's Day Sale & Sycamore Class at Forest School
Tuesday 23rd June	2:20pm Beech Class assembly to parents
Wednesday 24th June	Year 3 trip & 10:45 Acorn 2 AM sports day & 2:15 Acorn 1 & 2 PM sports day
Thursday 25th June	1:45pm Reception Classes Sports Day & 2:20pm Willow Class assembly to parents
Friday 26th June	Elm Class at Forest School
Monday 29th June	Year 6 Residential trip to Isle of Wight & 1:45pm Year 1 & 2 sports days
Tuesday 30th June	Hazel Class trip to Hyde Hall
Wednesday 1st July	Chestnut Class trip to Hyde Hall & 1:45pm Year 3 & 4 Sports Day
Thursday 2nd July	Maple Class trip to Hyde Hall & 2:20pm Hawthorn Class assembly to parents
Friday 3rd July	Elm Class at Forest School
Monday 6th July	Start of Science Week
Tuesday 7th July	Move Up Mornings & 2:20pm Sycamore Class assembly to parents
Thursday 9th July	2:20pm Cherry Class assembly to parents
Friday 10th July	Elm Class at Forest School & Year 5 & 6 sports day
Tuesday 14th July	3:15-5:00pm Summer Fete
Wednesday 15th July	2:20pm Elm Class assembly to parents
Thursday 16th July	2:00pm Acorn 1 and Acorn 2 nursery Teddy Bears Picnic
Monday 20th July	Year 6 Leavers' Party
Tuesday 21st July	2:00pm Year 6 Leavers' Assembly to parents & End of academic year

Wednesday 22nd July to Monday 31st August Summer break

Tuesday 1st September Reception to Year 6 children return

We Don't Like Cricket.....

We Love it!

Despite the wind and rain, yesterday our intrepid Infant cricket stars took part in a cricket competition at Basildon Cricket Club. For many of the team



this was their first time representing the school and they did so wonderfully. After a busy morning of cricket the team finished in 3rd place and were awarded the most respectful team award too!



Fathers Day Raffle

Be in with a chance to win a

Father's Day inspired Hamper!

The raffle tickets are £1 a strip and can be purchased from your child's class teacher.

Good Luck!



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about WHATSAPP

...MSG ME...
...HEY OSCAR...
#WakeUpWednesday

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 messages. WhatsApp is unwilling to do so and has reportedly considered withdrawing its service in the UK should this legislation go ahead.

AGE RESTRICTION 16+
In the UK and Europe, WhatsApp is only available to users aged 16 and over.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?
WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the 'parent' of a child, requesting a money transfer. Posing as a spouse, 'emergency' trigger a verification message by asking you to listen to your contact, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

EVOLVING SCAMS
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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 contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that your child might be added to a group chat (by one of their friends) for emergency or 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 original... and might not be entirely factual, either.

ONLINE
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 see when they look to use as evidence of misconduct, people used to be able to turn 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 chat' folder, saved behind a passcode, fingerprint or face ID for verification. 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 location with contacts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child is safely on the way home, for example. However, on some of 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 journey that they make regularly.

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

EMPHASISE CAUTION
Encourage your child to treat unexpected messages with caution: they should consider, for example, whether the message sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they never reveal any 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.

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.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS
It's wise to change your child's WhatsApp settings (go to 'Privacy' then 'Groups') to ensure that only those contacts you 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.

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 chat' 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 Chloe Southworth 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 content on research for the last year, covering emerging themes and advising behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Twitter: @nationalonsafety | Facebook: /NationalOnlineSafety | Instagram: @nationalonsafety | TikTok: @national_online_safety

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