



Bankside School

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Visible Consistency, Visible Kindness

Newsletter: 17th July 2026

As we come to the end of another school year, I want to share my heartfelt thanks with every member of our Bankside community. This year has been full of moments that remind us what makes this school so special: pupils who try their best, families who support with kindness and trust, and staff who give their whole selves to the children in their care. It has been a privilege to walk through this year with you.

To our pupils who are leaving us for new adventures: we are incredibly proud of you. You have grown, learned, laughed, and shown resilience in ways that will stay with you long after you leave our gates. As you step into your next chapter, please carry with you the confidence that you are ready. We believe in you, and we hope you stay connected to the memories and friendships you've made here. To all pupils returning in September: we cannot wait to welcome you back. We hope your summer is full of rest, joy, and time with the people who matter most. Come back safe, come back smiling, and come back knowing that we are excited to continue your journey with you.

To our families: thank you for every conversation, every moment of encouragement, and every partnership that has helped your children thrive. Your support means more than you know, and we are grateful for the trust you place in us each day.

And to our staff: thank you for your dedication, your humour, your compassion, and your unwavering commitment to our pupils. You make this school the warm, vibrant, hopeful place it is.

Wherever summer takes you — near or far, busy or restful — we hope it brings sunshine, calm, and moments that make you smile. We look forward to seeing everyone again soon, safe and well, ready for another year of learning, growing, and shining together.

Important Dates

Thursday 3rd September - First day of term for new starters only
Friday 4th September - Autumn Term begins

Just as a reminder we are a **NO NUT** School, we have a number of pupils who have allergies, this includes for some pupils, coconut allergy, please be mindful of pupils using sprays or body lotions as they can be sensitive to this.

Art on the Spectrum Guest Speaker

Inspiring Visit from Local Artist Rhys

This week, we were delighted to welcome local artist and small business owner Rhys to Bankside School. Rhys has successfully built his own art business, Art on the Spectrum, while pursuing his dream of becoming a professional artist.

Rhys first came to our attention when he was featured on the regional news after one of his paintings was purchased by Richard Branson. His story was particularly inspiring for our students, demonstrating that with determination, passion and hard work, it is possible to overcome challenges and achieve your goals. We felt it would be a wonderful opportunity to invite Rhys to Bankside to meet the students who had been so inspired by his journey.

During his visit, Rhys shared his personal story, speaking openly about his experiences as a neurodivergent individual and how he has navigated the complexities of the world of work while developing a successful career as an artist. He encouraged students to believe in themselves, embrace their strengths and pursue their ambitions.

Rhys also led a creative art activity, encouraging students to draw and express their own worlds through art. The session provided a fantastic opportunity for students to meet Rhys in person, ask questions and gain insight into life as a professional artist.

Students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and left feeling motivated by Rhys's powerful message that anything is possible if you believe in yourself, work hard and follow your dreams. We would like to thank Rhys for taking the time to visit Bankside and inspire our learners.



**** WhatsApp safeguarding concern for parents/carers - message from Public Health ****

We have been informed of a WhatsApp group called '*addwholeukabusenoadmin*' which has reportedly been circulating amongst children across Worcester/Malvern.

We understand that some children in the area have been added to this group without their knowledge or consent. We have also been informed that the group may contain images and content that are potentially illegal, highly inappropriate and of a graphic sexual nature.

The sharing of this material presents a significant risk to the safety and wellbeing of children.

If you discover that your child has been added to this group, or any similar group, please:

- Reassure them that they have done the right thing by telling you.
- Ask them not to view, share, save or forward any images or videos.
- Delete any images from the camera roll and then permanently delete from the deleted photos folder so that they are no longer on the device.
- Report the WhatsApp group immediately.
- Leave the group immediately.

How to report and leave a WhatsApp group

1. Open the WhatsApp group.
2. Tap the group name at the top of the screen.
3. Scroll down and select Report Group.
4. Confirm that you wish to report the group.
5. After reporting, select Exit Group.
6. Once you have exited, select Delete Group to remove it from your child's device.

Below is an infographic from National Online Safety (NOS) containing advice for parents and caregivers surrounding Whatsapp.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about WHATSAPP

UK AND EUROPE
16+
13+ REST OF THE WORLD

WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service, with around two billion users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls. Its end-to-end encryption means messages can only be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp can read them. Updates to its privacy policy in 2021 (involving sharing data with parent company Facebook) caused millions to leave the app, but the new policy was widely misinterpreted – it only related to WhatsApp's business features, not to personal messages.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SCAMS

Fraudsters occasionally send WhatsApp messages pretending to offer prizes – encouraging the user to click on a link to win. Other common scams involve warning someone that their WhatsApp subscription has run out (aiming to dupe them into disclosing payment details) or impersonating a friend or relative and asking for money to be transferred to help with an emergency.

DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Users can set WhatsApp messages to disappear in 24 hours, 7 days or 90 days by default. Photos and videos can also be instructed to disappear after the recipient has viewed them. These files can't be saved or forwarded – so if your child was sent an inappropriate message, it would be difficult to prove any wrongdoing. However, the receiver can take a screenshot and save that as evidence.

ENABLING FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp has unfortunately been linked to accelerating the spread of dangerous rumours. In India in 2018, some outbreaks of mob violence appear to have been sparked by false allegations being shared on the app. WhatsApp itself took steps to prevent its users circulating hazardous theories and speculation in the early weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic.

POTENTIAL CYBERBULLYING

Group chat and video calls are great for connecting with multiple people in WhatsApp, but there is always the potential for someone's feelings to be hurt by an unkind comment or joke. The 'only admins' feature gives the admin(s) of a group control over who can send messages. They can, for example, block people from posting in a chat, which could make a child feel excluded and upset.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a WhatsApp chat, you only need the mobile number of the person you want to message (the other person also needs to have the app). WhatsApp can access the address book on someone's device and recognise which of their contacts also use the app. So if your child has ever given their phone number to someone they don't know, that person could use it to contact them via WhatsApp.

LOCATION SHARING

The 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, allowing friends to see their movements. WhatsApp describes it as a "simple and secure way to let people know where you are." It is a useful method for a young person to let loved ones know they're safe – but if they used it in a chat with people they don't know, they would be exposing their location to them, too.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CLICK HERE

CREATE A SAFE PROFILE

Even though someone would need a child's phone number to add them as a contact, it's also worth altering a young person's profile settings to restrict who can see their photo and status. The options are 'everyone', 'my contacts' and 'nobody' – choosing one of the latter two ensures that your child's profile is better protected.

EXPLAIN ABOUT BLOCKING

If your child receives spam or offensive messages, calls or files from a contact, they should block them using 'settings' in the chat. Communication from a blocked contact won't show up on their device and stays undelivered. Blocking someone does not remove them from your child's contact list – so they also need to be deleted from the address book.

REPORT POTENTIAL SCAMS

Young people shouldn't engage with any message that looks suspicious or too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they'll be given the option to report it as spam. If the sender claims to be a friend or relative, call that person on their usual number to verify it really is them, or if it's someone trying to trick your child.

LEAVE A GROUP

If your child is in a group chat that is making them feel uncomfortable, or has been added to a group that they don't want to be part of, they can use WhatsApp's group settings to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once; if they leave a second time, it is permanent.

THINK ABOUT LOCATION

If your child needs to use the 'live location' function to show you or one of their friends where they are, advise them to share their location only for as long as they need to. WhatsApp gives a range of 'live location' options, and your child should manually stop sharing their position as soon as it is no longer needed.

DELETE ACCIDENTAL MESSAGES

If your child posts a message they want to delete, WhatsApp allows the user seven minutes to erase a message. Tap and hold on the message, choose 'delete' and then 'delete for everyone.' However, it's important to remember that recipients may have seen (and taken a screenshot of) a message before it was deleted.

CHECK THE FACTS

You can now fact-check WhatsApp messages that have been forwarded at least five times, by double-tapping the magnifying glass icon to the right of the message. From there, your child can launch a Google search and decide for themselves whether the message was true or not.

Meet Our Expert

Parven Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



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/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

Well Played, Bankside! – Sports & Wellbeing Day

Wow! What a day!

On Tuesday, students enjoyed an action-packed Bankside Sports & Wellbeing Day, taking part in a fantastic range of activities designed to support both physical and mental wellbeing.

Throughout the morning, students got involved in everything from breathing and mindfulness to egg and spoon races, Taskmaster challenges and creating a beautiful Kindness Tree. There was something for everyone, and it was wonderful to see students embracing each activity with enthusiasm and smiles.

In the afternoon, students chose from a variety of sessions including self-defence, jewellery making, slime and gloop making, mindful music, art, rounders, football, Just Dance and board games, giving everyone the opportunity to try something that interested them.

The day was full of fun, teamwork, laughter and new experiences. It was fantastic to see students encouraging one another, building confidence and celebrating each other's achievements. A huge well done to everyone who took part and helped make the day such a success!



Sports & Wellbeing Day cont....



Bankside's Art Exhibition

The artists shown in the exhibit during the final week were:
Cyrus C, Clare M, Betty B, Jess I & Sammy T



New Staff for New Academic Year

We would like to welcome the below new staff to the Bankside Team for the new academic year.



Sarah Emson
Head of Maths



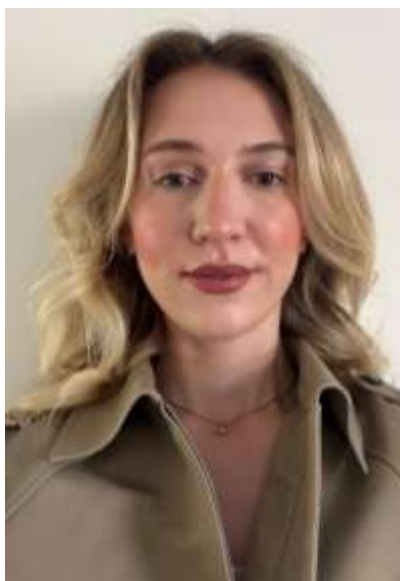
Jo Noyes
Head of Computing



Jo Rogers
Head of Outdoor Education



Roxy Lewis-Hopkins
Head of PSHE



Amelia Wade
Teaching Assistant



Eleanor Morrissey
Admin/Reception

ENJOY THE BREAK STAY WELL TOGETHER SUMMER 2026

Your guide to

a healthy summer



**For the Parents
& Carers Guide**
scan QR code.



**For the
Teenage guide**
scan QR code.

To find out more please visit:
worcestershire.gov.uk/healthandwellbeing



worcestershire
county council