



Important Dates:

Date	Who	Detail, Timing and Venue
January		
Fri 30 th	All	3pm - Celebration Assembly – all families welcome to attend.
February		
w/c 2 nd Feb	All	Careers Week – see below- volunteers needed.
Thurs 5 th	Reception	PM- NHS Vision screening – opt out letters have been sent home.
Tues 10 th	All	Safer Internet Day
	Y4	1.30pm - Y8 Production at Hugh Sexey's to watch High School Musical – Please consent on MCAS.
Fri 13 th	All	Inset day – school closed.
Half Term	All	Holiday club being held at East Brent. Details were sent out last week. Contact Lympsham office for more details -01934 750473.
Mon 23 rd	All	School re-opens for term 4.



REMINDER: Y4 trip to Hugh Sexey's to watch High School Musical:

We have only had two Y4 parents' consent on MCAS for their child to attend. Please can you complete by Friday 30th Jan. If you are having any difficulties, please speak to the office.

Parent survey for school catering: Please can we ask all of you who haven't done so yet to complete the catering survey which is attached to the email. We are looking at ways to improve this so your input is vital in shaping our future service. So far, we have only had 16 responses. The deadline for completing this is **Friday 6th February**. Your feedback is truly appreciated, many thanks.

Safer Internet Day: Tuesday 10th February. We will be doing several things in school that week including our Speak out, Stay safe campaign in collaboration with the NSPCC. Please see overleaf regarding staying safe on You Tube. More information guides to follow in the coming weeks.

Careers Week: We are looking for parent/carer volunteers to support our Careers week planned to begin on Monday 2nd February. We would love to hear from anyone who may be able to do a short talk to either the whole school or individual classes. We are looking for parents who work in ecological type roles for examples; gardening, conservation, building, agriculture and marine work.

School Lunches: On Tuesday 3rd February the packed lunch option is showing as ham but it is in fact cheese. We are trying to resolve this with BROMCOM. If you want to order a cheese packed lunch, please select what shows as they will receive a cheese packed lunch. Apologies for any inconvenience.

Useful Information

Further information can be found on our website: www.eastbrentcofeacademy.co.uk

Our values
'Peace, Endurance, Aspiration, Respect, Love & Service'

Our Christian Value this term
'Hope - Aspiration'

Safeguarding

Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility. If you are worried about a child, please email

office@eastbrentcofeacademy.co.uk

Designated Safeguarding Lead:
Katie Whiting

Reporting Absence

If your child is feeling unwell, please contact the school office on 01278 760490 or email using the school email address: -

office@eastbrentcofeacademy.co.uk

Current Job Vacancies within WLT

Please visit the Wessex Learning Trust website for all current vacancies [HERE](#)

East Brent CofE Academy
Church Road, East Brent
Somerset, TA9 4HZ

Main Office: 01278 760490

Email:

office@eastbrentcofeacademy.co.uk

Attendance Round up

Ladybird Class: 97.7%

Bumblebee Class: 96.7%

Dragonfly Class: 96.4%

Whole School: 96.7%



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

YOUTUBE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows YouTube. The Google-owned site lets anyone upload videos to be shared around the world, and as a result, it's an incredible resource with instant free access to material covering every conceivable topic. But with over 500 hours of video uploaded every minute, not all of it will be appropriate for young eyes.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate content. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but it can also lead to binge-watching and screen addiction – especially if 'auto-play' is active. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

RADICALISATION

YouTube's algorithm tends to promote content that's getting the most traffic – a lot of which can be quite extreme. This can be fine for harmless topics, but YouTube isn't regulated like television, and that means that conspiracy theories, fake news and hateful ideologies can occasionally surface to warp impressionable minds all too easily. Remember – the more they watch, the more they'll be recommended.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as message other users directly. Connecting with strangers online can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, cyberbullying and – in the worst cases – online predators. If a child is creating content themselves, this can increase the likelihood of them becoming a target.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends and challenges, some of which are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may cause physical or emotional harm children who watch or copy them. The painful 'salt and ice challenge' – where people use these two ingredients to burn their skin – is just one of many examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

The comments sections of popular content creators regularly have scammers posing as that influencer, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and often offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users aren't who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Educators

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

For older children, Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate material (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence, and sexual content) to underage viewers. To prevent children from chancing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that they use to access YouTube. It's worth also turning the auto-play feature off, to prevent YouTube's algorithm automatically recommending something inappropriate.



TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows parents and carers to monitor what their child is watching, uploading, and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches, and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives a parent or carer oversight of how their child uses sites like YouTube and helps to ensure that they are only accessing appropriate content.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them under 18. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course. You may want to keep an eye on how children interact with this material – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand what they're interested in. Remember that creators often share content outside of YouTube, so don't ignore their web presence elsewhere!

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS

It's possible to sidestep most inappropriate content completely via Google's own YouTube Kids app for Android handsets and iPhone. This lets you filter content by 'preschool' (4 and under), 'younger' (ages 5 to 8) and 'older' (ages 9 to 12). This isn't a perfect substitute for personal supervision, as the app's filtering system is automated, and Google can't manually review all videos.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that a child is subscribed to can be hidden. If the child is only uploading videos set as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases. For example, users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch. If you'd like to avoid children purchasing content online, limit their access to online payment methods. Many parents have discovered the hard way that a child happily consuming a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



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