

Dear Parents and Carers,

Some of our children enjoyed a morning at The Marlborough School yesterday, playing Boccia and Curling.

The children will be returning to The Marlborough School in 2023 to take part in a Boccia tournament. Once again, we were delighted to be invited to take part in this session which was led by some of the pupil Sports Leaders from the Secondary School. For our children who took part in the session it was a great opportunity to meet staff and pupils from The Marlborough and to visit the school site. All this helps towards feeling more confident when moving into year 7.



Yesterday, some of our children in key stage 2 went to a Festival of Hockey at St Edward's School. The three teams each played 5 games of hockey against other schools. The children were very enthusiastic and showed great teamwork. It was lovely to see their confidence grow as they progressed through the tournament. If your child is interested in playing hockey more information can be found at <https://oxfordhawks.co.uk/information-and-forms/>

Tomorrow is the second own clothes day in exchange for a gift for our Christmas Shopping event at the end of term. Last week during own clothes day, the children looked splendid in assembly wearing their Christmas jumpers and Santa hats!

The Christmas trees have arrived in school, we are grateful to Yarnton Nursery, Bunkers Hill and the Blenheim estate who have all donated trees. One of the trees will be in the school raffle and another tree is outdoors decorated with children's Christmas wishes.

We would like to politely remind everyone about parking safely at pick up and drop off time. We have had concerns raised about parking on corners of roads adjoining to Rutten Lane. This poor parking impacts of other driver's visibility and puts pedestrians at risk. Please ensure you park safely and responsibly to avoid road traffic accidents in our community.

Best wishes Deborah Nind and The WF team

**Our assembly theme for the month of December is Peace**



Writer of the week – Oscar H in Year 2  
 Mathematician of the week – Anoushka in Year 5  
 Reader of the week – Arina in Year 5  
 School Value – Tandis in Year 1  
 BLP of the Week – Lincoln in Year 2

### **Celebration of achievements**

This week Frankie in Year 6 and Ethan C in Year 5 have been awarded their bronze merit arrows. Well done to them for successfully completing a range of activities to a high standard to be awarded their arrow badge.

Congratulations to the following children who have reached their 75 nights of reading at home: Paislee & Oscar WJ in Nightingales. Jamie & Tansy in Swallows. Esme in Red Kites. Cora, Dora, Charlotte, Milly, Nate, Georgia, Nancy, Serenity, Ethan, & Nathan in Eagles. Claire & Selina in Peregrine Falcons. Joan in Sky Larks. Congratulations to the following children who have reached their 50 nights of reading at home: Belle & Eddie in Nightingales. Evangeline in Swallows. Lupita & Frankie in Eagles. Charlie & Maisie in Peregrine Falcons. Aurora & Cheya in Sky Larks. Congratulations to the following children who have reached their 25 nights of reading at home: Noah in Nightingales. Emelia in Peregrine Falcons.

### Attendance

School starts at 8:45am, can you please make sure your child is in class by 8:45am.

#### EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS!

There are only 190 statutory school days in one year and 175 days (weekends and school holidays) available to use for holidays. Parents should avoid taking their children out of school during term time in order to go on holiday.

Class	Attendance for 28.11.22 – 02.12.22
Eagles	97.27%
Kestrel	100%
Kingfishers	97.14%
Nightingales	95.00%
Owls	97.97%
Peregrine Falcons	100%
Red Kites	95.19%
Sky Larks	95.45%
Swallows	100%
Wrens	97.14%
Total	97.52%

### The Reading Agency's Gadgeteers, Winter Mini Challenge 2022

Join in with The Reading Agency's Gadgeteers, Winter Mini Challenge 2022

Oxfordshire Libraries are once again running the Winter Mini Challenge! The Reading Agency has teamed up again with the Science Museum Group to bring back the Gadgeteers from this year's Summer Reading Challenge.

It starts on Thursday 1st December 2022 and finishes on Sunday 20th February 2023.

Parents and carers can register their children for free at [wintermini.org.uk](http://wintermini.org.uk)

The children set their own reading challenge. A target of 3 books is recommended.

They can read any books for their Challenge, including eBooks or eAudio which can be borrowed for free from Oxfordshire Libraries. For some brilliant book ideas a collection will be available on the library Overdrive platform: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ebooks](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ebooks). Parents and carers can join their children to the library by visiting [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries)

Children rate and review the books they have read on the Winter Mini Challenge website to unlock virtual rewards and a special Winter Mini Challenge certificate.

There are also games, reading activities and book reviews on the website.

### Christmas Play Dates

14.12.2022	Key Stage 1 Christmas Play at 10am
14.12.2022	Lower Key Stage 2 (Year 3 & 4) Christmas Play at 2pm
15.12.2022	Foundation Stage Christmas Play at 9.45am
15.12.2022	Key Stage 1 Christmas Play at 2pm
15.12.2022	Lower Key Stage 2 (Year 3 & 4) Christmas Play at 5.00pm

## **January 2023**

04.01.2023 Term 3 Starts  
19.01.2023 Year 4 Trampolining  
25.01.2023 Netball Tournament at The Marlborough School

## **February 2023**

06.02.2023 Heights & Weights for Foundation & Year 6  
08.02.2023 Portals to the Past Workshop, Year 5 & 6  
09.02.2023 End of term 3  
10.02.2023 Inset Day  
20.02.2023 Start of Term 4  
23.02.2023 Sports Hall Athletics, Year 5 & 6

## **Children's Christmas Shopping Day**

**The 2nd Non-uniform Day: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December (in exchange for a female gift)**

### **Shopping Day: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

On the actual shopping day, we ask for your child to bring in £2 and to hand it to their teacher, please put it in an envelope with their name on if possible, to avoid cash handling. This allows them to buy 2 gifts for whoever they choose. They will choose their gifts from a class selection and they will then wrap and label their gifts to come home with them. We hope this answers some questions but if not please email [williamfletcherschoolpta@gmail.com](mailto:williamfletcherschoolpta@gmail.com) The children thoroughly enjoy choosing the gifts themselves, the wrapping and the surprise for the recipients.

### **Key dates:**

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December** - non-uniform day in exchange for a female gift

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas School Lunch

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Shopping Day

### **PTA Update**

Tomorrow Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December is the second non uniform day in exchange for a female gift for the Christmas shopping event. Please leave your gifts with your child's class teacher at drop off, they'll then be taken away and stored until the event on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Please don't forget to return your Christmas Plays raffle tickets, sold and unsold please to your class teacher by this Friday.

Tickets will also be available to buy at the Christmas plays in addition to the usual lucky bucket.

Do you know of anyone or a business that would be willing to donate a prize for our raffle? A voucher or even a bottle of wine, box of biscuits/chocolates would be amazing.

If you feel you have something you'd be willing to donate please leave in the school reception or email us at [williamfletcherschoolpta@gmail.com](mailto:williamfletcherschoolpta@gmail.com) and we can arrange collection. We would need these by Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December. Many thanks in advance.

### **Lego Club News**

Lego club has started up again and it has been wonderful to see so many children getting involved and letting their imagine take flight.

We have had lots of creative builds including an alien space world from Georgie, lots of Tractors from Pod, a rainbow house from Ingrid and a motorbike park from Kieran to name a few. All the children have worked really creatively and it's been wonderful to watch.

### **Yarnton Jiu Jitsu Champions!!**

William Fletcher students have combined with Bletchington Primary school students to make a village team and take part in a Jiu Jitsu league throughout 2022, competing against Bicester. The kids applied themselves both in lessons and at the events and won a tight victory in November cinching the championship. Students from the team will be presented medals in Fridays assembly and the school will receive the championship trophy to keep for the year.

If you're interested in your child joining the team, contact coach David Plested at [inspirebijuk@gmail.com](mailto:inspirebijuk@gmail.com). All new starters receive a Free trial.

### **Christmas Hockey Club**

Williams Hockey Coaching are running a Christmas hockey camp from December 21st - 22nd at Oxford Hawks Hockey Club, for children aged 5 - 16 years. Please see attached for full details and below for registration form:

[www.forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=1psWpRy2xUS79XR1D31bwbqDBBEE2ddlrWQhabGgcShUOTVEVEoxNkZJWUo4WFE2VFZMVTZUMkhOUi4u](http://www.forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=1psWpRy2xUS79XR1D31bwbqDBBEE2ddlrWQhabGgcShUOTVEVEoxNkZJWUo4WFE2VFZMVTZUMkhOUi4u)

### **Christmas Tennis Club**

Woodstock Tennis Club is running a two-day Christmas tennis camp on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2022. Children aged 5+ of all abilities are welcome. Rackets can be borrowed for the sessions and children should come in trainers and comfortable clothing.

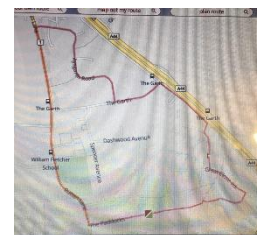
<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/Fortyfifteentenniscoaching/Coaching/Camps>

### **Yarnton Family Santa Run**

You are all warmly invited to join in a local family fun run on Saturday 17th December.

Festive attire encouraged! Meeting in Rutten Lane park from 2:15 for a 2:30 start Free refreshments afterwards in the park.

The route is approx 2.5km loop...feel free to do 1 lap or 2, cut corners, join as we pass your house... whatever works for you!! Join a bit of festive fun!!



### **Ignite After School Club Term 3**

Ignite are running an after school sports club for children in Foundation to Year 6. If you would like your child to attend Ignite Sports Club for term 3, which will run every Thursday from 3pm to 4pm, starting on 5<sup>th</sup> January, please complete the Parent Pay form. It is based on a first come first serve basis and will cost £4.50 per session (£27.00 for term 3).

### **Friday cafe**

*Starting Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 8.45am- 10.30am in the Howard Hillsdon Room.*

Pop in, meet other parents and carers, everyone welcome. Information available at each session, including:

\*Helping your child with maths \*Healthy lunchbox ideas \*Money matters \*Reading with your child.

Tea, coffee and biscuits available and younger siblings always welcome. For more information, please contact: Clare Pink, Family Support Worker

[clarepink@william-fletcher.gov.uk](mailto:clarepink@william-fletcher.gov.uk) or, Karen Ariss: [karen.ariss@abingdon-witney.ac.uk](mailto:karen.ariss@abingdon-witney.ac.uk)

### **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast club runs every day from 07:30 – 08:45 in the Howard Hillsdon building (old playgroup). The children enjoy a range of breakfast cereals, fruit juices, yoghurts and toast, followed by the opportunity to play indoor games. The cost is £5.00 per child. If you would like your children to take part in breakfast club, **please see the staff in the office to book prior to attendance.**

## **Knitting For All**

We have a knitting club at school run by Steph Radda on Tuesday's from 3pm - 4.15pm (term time only). If you would like your child to attend or for more information, please contact Steph on 07940564486 for further details.

## **Yarnton Brownies**

Yarnton Brownies currently have spaces. Come and join the fun! Open to girls aged between 7-10. We run Wednesday's during term time from 6.30-8pm. Please visit <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/> for more information and to register interest. Alternatively call 07866122863 - Heather Kimber Moss for any additional help.

## **Forthcoming Dates**

### **December 2022**

09.12.22	Non-uniform day in exchange for female gift
12.12.22	Pupils from Year 5 & 6 sing carols at Erdington House
14.12.22	Key Stage 1 Christmas Play at 10am
14.12.22	Lower Key Stage 2 (Year 3 & 4) Christmas Play at 2pm
15.12.22	Foundation Stage Christmas Play at 9.45am
15.12.22	Key Stage 1 Christmas Play at 2pm
15.12.22	Lower Key Stage 2 (Year 3 & 4) Christmas Play at 5.00pm
16.12.22	School Christmas Lunch
16.12.22	Year 5 & 6 sing carols and songs on the playground at 3pm to parents/carers
19.12.22	Christmas shopping day
20.12.22	School Carol Service
20.12.22	End of term 2

### **William Fletcher School Term Dates 2022/2023**

#### **Term 2**

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October to Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December  
Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November INSET Day

#### **Term 3**

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January to Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February

#### **Term 4**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February INSET Day

#### **Term 5**

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May

#### **Term 6**

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June INSET

### **William Fletcher School Term Dates 2023/2024**

#### **Term 1**

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October  
Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September INSET Day  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September INSET Day

#### **Term 2**

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October to Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December  
Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November INSET Day

#### **Term 3**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February

#### **Term 4**

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February to Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February INSET

**Term 5**

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May

**Term 6**

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June to Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June INSET

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# HiPAL

AGE RESTRICTION  
**12+**

(with reduced functionality for under-12s)

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

HiPal is a trending social media app which turns phones into walkie-talkies, allowing people to have voice conversations with friends or strangers. There are two account options: one for users aged under 12 and one for those aged 12 or above. The former has fewer features and limits interaction with strangers, enabling use of the walkie-talkie feature or photo sharing with friends and family only. The 12+ accounts offer more options, including adding strangers as friends, sharing photos and videos publicly, sending private messages and holding voice chats with strangers as well as friends.

### CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

HiPal's under-12 accounts don't allow direct connections with strangers (although children seeking more friends can share their 'Friend Code' on other platforms), but for older users, chatting with strangers seems to be the app's main appeal. The 'Public Squares' shows nine online users (hitting 'refresh' replaces these with another nine), and clicking on someone's profile starts a conversation.

### SEXTING AND SUGGESTIVE PICS

Almost immediately after our expert downloaded the app, strangers began to message privately – asking for provocative images or sharing explicit photos of themselves. Likewise, in the 'Explore' feed, many of the pictures and videos are innocent – but some are far more salacious. There is always the risk of other users secretly saving a revealing photo and re-sharing it elsewhere.

### NEED FOR VALIDATION

Some users – particularly girls – post photos on apps of this type hoping for positive reactions and comments to boost their self-esteem. Suggestive images tend to attract more flattering feedback, encouraging the user to post more frequently and with more explicit content. Conversely, receiving unkind comments about their picture can impact a young user's confidence and sense of self-worth.

### NO AGE GATES OR MODERATION

Although users are given an initial choice of the under- or over-12 profile, there is no verification method to confirm someone's age; it is quite clear that the 'older' option offers a more complete experience on the app, but there seems to be no content moderation in place. Likewise, there is a reporting button for users to make a complaint but these reports do not appear to be followed up.

### INTRUSIVE FEATURES

HiPal's walkie-talkie gimmick is no different from a normal phone call and seems rarely used; although it allows conversations to still be heard while a phone is locked, which could have awkward results. HiPal also offers 'Boom' messages: unmissable large-text notifications which are highly distracting and briefly take over the phone – users can't access other apps until the message fades.

### LARGE GROUP CHATS

The app offers group chats with up to 100 people – both friends and unknown users. This not only means excessive 'Boom' messages taking over your child's device, but near-constant notification alerts and – most worryingly – the potential for walkie-talkie chatting and sharing photos with strangers outside parental supervision and apparently with no moderation from the platform itself.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### EMPHASISE CAUTION

Remind your child of the dangers of connecting with strangers online. Some may be using the app innocently; others may have more sinister intentions. Encourage your child to consider what information they disclose in private messages and emphasise that they should inform a trusted adult if someone on the internet ever attempts to persuade them to meet in person.

### TALK ABOUT SEXTING

It can be an awkward conversation (which young people are often reluctant to have), but it's vital to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sharing explicit images, as well as the emotional impact. Make it clear your child should never feel pressured into sexting – and that they should tell a trusted adult if they receive any unwanted explicit images.

### BUILD RESILIENCE

With HiPal's lack of moderation, it's imperative that children are prepared for comments they might receive after uploading an image. You can build their resilience and equip them to manage these situations by having them show you any comments they've received. Together, discuss how the nice ones made them feel – and what they could do if someone posted a comment that upset them.

### AVOID OVER-SHARING

Young people should think carefully about what they share in their profile, bio and posts. Talk to your child about not disclosing personal details such as phone numbers, other social media accounts or images which could reveal where they live or go to school. It's essential for children to recognise that strangers can assemble a detailed profile of someone based on things they can find online.

### CONSIDER MENTAL WELLBEING

Many users on HiPal publicly share photos that are intended to be alluring in the hope of gaining more likes, friends and positive feedback – boosting their self-esteem and making them feel more self-assured. When young people regularly engage with social media platforms, it's important that parents and carers keep in mind the potential impact such platforms can have on mental wellbeing.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland 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 carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



<https://hipal.app/about/privacy.html>

**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday



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