

Sytchampton Endowed Primary School

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28th March 2025

Dear Parents and Families,

We have been making the most of the good weather again this week, with lots of time spent outside.

SEND Coffee Morning

We will be holding a SEND coffee morning on Wednesday 2nd April between 9-10am. This is an ideal opportunity to come and have a coffee and chat to other parents, as well as sharing any concerns you have about your child. Anyone is welcome who has a SEND child, or a related concern they would like to discuss.

Mother's Day and Special Person Gift Room

This was a big success on Wednesday – the children really enjoyed shopping for their gifts. Thank you for all the present contributions.

Free Breakfast Club

As previously advertised, we will be launching our free breakfast club from Monday 28th April. This will run from 8.15am and will be open to all children. More details will be sent out next week, including information about how to book spaces.

Drumming Workshops

Unfortunately, the people running the drumming workshop had to postpone this week. We will rearrange this for a new date soon.

Computing Survey

From time to time we will send home short surveys that help us gather information about specific things to help to inform our curriculum. This week we are focusing on online safety and computing. Please take a moment to fill in this short survey so we can gather information to support our teaching in school. All responses are confidential. [Complete the survey here.](#)

Easter Assembly

We will be having an Easter Assembly on Friday 11th April at 2.40pm. Everyone is welcome to attend

Have a lovely weekend,

Miss Templeton and Staff

Diary Dates (these will be added to over time)

Tuesday 1 st April	Year 5 trip to Dodderhill to see Oliver the Musical
Friday 11 th April	Easter Assembly – Parents Welcome
Friday 11 th April	Last day of Spring Term
<i>Easter Holidays – Monday 14th April – Friday 25th April</i>	
Monday 28 th April	First day of Summer Term
Monday 28 th April	Free Breakfast Club begins – open to all children
Monday 5 th May	May Bank Holiday – School Closed
Monday 2 nd June	INSET Day – School Closed
Tuesday 1 st July	Sports Day (confirmed date!)
Wednesday 16 th July	Whole School Trip

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about BLUESKY SOCIAL APP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

With an App Store rating of 17+ & Google Play rating Mature

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

While Bluesky has been around since 2019, it's suddenly taken off in a big way thanks to a significant exodus from X (formerly Twitter). Indeed, it looks and behaves a lot like Twitter before Elon Musk bought the platform. Bluesky has been touted in recent months as a safer, more open-minded alternative to X – but like any social media site, it still has its share of risks.

NO PRIVATE ACCOUNTS

While most social networks allow accounts to be private, at the time of writing, all Bluesky accounts must be public. The development team has indicated this might change in the future, but the app is built on a public-first protocol. If private accounts are ever introduced, it may only be in a limited way – such as through the implementation of group chats.

INTERACTIONS WITH STRANGERS

Every account being public means that anyone can be contacted by anyone else. While users don't have to respond and can easily block people and move on, it does mean that youngsters are at particular risk of being conned by scammers, messaged by predatory adults or exposed to others with ill intentions. These hazards can be compounded by the fact that Bluesky doesn't require its users to provide their real name.

TROLLING AND BULLYING

While Bluesky currently feels a lot friendlier than X seems to have become, its lack of private accounts means that there's nothing to stop users from trolling and cyberbullying younger people. While accounts can be blocked and reported, a persistent bully could simply create a new profile, potentially making their victims feel unsafe in continuing to use the app.

DANGEROUS MISINFORMATION

Established news organisations have fact-checking and editing processes, but social networks have no such controls and can often serve as breeding grounds for misinformation and disinformation. Bluesky will possibly be no different once it reaches a certain size, and children may not have the critical thinking skills to tell fact from fiction – or to discern an informative, honest user from a malicious one.

ADULT TARGET AUDIENCE

Bluesky isn't designed with children in mind, and there aren't many parental controls on the platform. In an interview with the BBC, Bluesky's CEO originally said that the app would only allow users aged 18 and above to sign up, but a spokesperson later clarified its age restriction as 13+. This could imply the app was originally meant for an adult audience and suggests that making the platform more child-friendly might not currently be a priority.

RAPID GROWTH

At the time of writing, Bluesky seems calm in comparison with other social networks where moderation is lax and the atmosphere toxic – but that's due at least in part to its smaller community. The app has recently been adding as many as a million users per day, and if that continues, there'll be more unpleasant users to handle, and moderators could struggle to maintain the pleasant environment Bluesky is currently known for.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE THE ADULT CONTENT FILTER

Bluesky doesn't have much in the way of parental controls, but there are content filters which can hide sexual and graphic imagery. These are enabled by default for underage accounts but can be manually turned on in the 'Moderation' section of the app's settings. The 'advanced' Bluesky Moderation Service lets you restrict content even further, hiding – for example – self-harm content, extremist rhetoric, and even rude posts.

ENCOURAGE BLOCKING AND REPORTING

Another tool that Bluesky uses to ensure a decent experience is muting and blocking accounts. The former prevents you from seeing a specific user's content, while the latter stops them from seeing yours. If a child is encountering trolls or bullies on the platform, encourage them to use this function, while also reporting the offenders to help make the platform a nicer place for everyone.

LOOK OUT FOR FAKES

Impersonation is a problem on all social networks. While the consequences are usually benign, imposters sometimes attempt to scam or groom children by pretending to be a popular influencer or online personality. Bluesky is unique in that it can be connected to official domains, with users' handles linking to other sites; while this isn't widely used right now, it could be a reliable way to verify celebrities and public figures in future.

KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

As with all social media platforms, moderation and content filters can only do so much; it's highly likely that a child will eventually face something unsavoury. For that reason, it's important to make sure that young people are aware of the risks and know how to handle the technology if anything they see on the app makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

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, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/bluesky-app>

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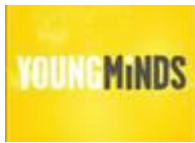
We regularly get sent links to organisations that offer help to parents, children and families going through difficult times. We thought it would be helpful to add these at the bottom of the newsletter each week, in case there is anything you would like to find out more about. As always, please do make an appointment at the office if there is any way we can help. We will keep this list updated with services that get in contact with the school.

- [Family Lives](#)



Phone: 0808 800 2222

Hours: 9am – 9pm Monday to Friday.
10am – 3pm on weekends.



- [YoungMinds Parent Helpline](#)

Phone: 0808 802 5544



- [Action for Children](#)

Phone: 0300 123 2112

Hours: Vary (see website)

- [Gingerbread \(single parenting\)](#)



Phone: 0808 802 0925

Hours: Vary (see website)