



WEEK BEGINNING 29TH SEPTEMBER

Events this week:

Thursday 2 nd October	School Census (Night at the Movies lunch menu – see below)
	Acorns Family Learning – Busy Bags

Looking forwards:

Monday 6 th October	Years 3 & 4 Netball
Thursday 9 th October	Harvest Service @ St. Michael's Church PM
w/c 13 th Oct	Spirited Arts Week
Monday 13 th October	Years 3 & 4 Football
Thursday 23 rd October	School Photos
	Y5/6 Tag Rugby
Friday 24 th October	INSET DAY and Parents Meetings – Parents Evening this term will take place during the daytime on INSET day as a trial. Further information will be sent nearer the time with slot booking options. There will be morning and afternoon slots available.

DAY AT THE MOVIES
2nd October 2025
Census Day

MAINS
MARGHERITA PIZZA (V)
BBQ CHICKEN PIZZA
PEPPERONI PIZZA
PLANT BASED FRENCH BREAD PIZZA (VG)
JACKET POTATO & CHOICE OF FILLINGS

SIDES
POTATO WEDGES
COLESLAW
SWEETCORN

DESSERT
POPCORN CRISPY CAKE
FRUIT YOGHURT
FRESH FRUIT

dolce

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have recently been made aware of chats through WhatsApp and iMessage/ text groups involving children at St Michael's and in other schools. Please be vigilant about the groups your children are added to or that they create, and monitor the content regularly.

It should be noted that some apps, such as WhatsApp, are intended for children **over 16** in the UK. It should also be noted that, in the UK, you must be **aged 13 or over** to have a Facebook, Instagram or Snapchat account, as well as **over 13 years old** to have an iCloud account.

Some of the safety features of these apps make it difficult as a parent to monitor the content unless you are part of the group but essentially, they are unmonitored platforms.

- End-to-end encryption – this means that only people within the chat can read or listen to what is being sent. WhatsApp and many other platforms cannot view these messages, and they cannot be remotely accessed by police or government, and they can't be seen by hackers. This means that the message privacy is more secure, but also means they can't be monitored for illegal activity.
- Disappearing messages – this is an optional feature on some platforms that allows you to set messages to disappear 24 hours, 7 days, or 90 days after sending. This setting can be applied to all chats or selected ones. It is important to remember that messages can still be saved, screenshotted, or forwarded before they disappear.
- View once – this feature allows you to send photos and videos that disappear from your chat once they've been opened. The image or video that you send cannot be saved, shared, or forwarded and you can see when it has been opened (if you have read receipts turned on). The image or video expires after 14 days if it is not opened.
- Live location – this allows you to share your real-time location for a certain amount of time with other users in an individual chat or group. You can stop sharing at any time but the people you shared it with will still be able to see your last updated location.

I would urge you to talk to your child about the need for you to monitor the activity in these groups regularly to ensure their safety and to be aware of the content being shared by and to them. Kindness and respectful usage of online platforms is made reference to in our policies such as Anti Bullying, E Safety and Behaviour, which you can find on our website.

Please ensure that they understand that:

1. Being added to a group does not mean you have to stay. If you do not like the people or the content, LEAVE.
2. It is possible to block others so they cannot add you to groups.
3. They should think carefully before being part of a group including people they do not know.
4. What they write and send can be shared more widely by others and does not go away.
5. They need to ensure that they would be happy to have their contributions read out to you or another adult. If not, perhaps stop and think of another way....
6. Cyber bullying is experienced by 1 in 4 teenagers and can lead to significant harm for the victim including serious mental health issues and self-harm.

There are a number of websites with tips for talking to your child about online behaviour and esafety which you may find useful.

[Teaching Your Child about Internet & Online Safety | NSPCC](#)

[Staying safe online | Childline](#)

[Child Safety Online: A practical guide for parents and carers whose children are using social media - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Thank you for your support in this.

Mr Riordan.

Gate and site updates - reminder

Thank you to you all for reading this update in the newsletter last week. We are re-posting as a reminder, and have added a small extra notice around tailgating, please see below.

As will be familiar to you, our gates were recently updated with stronger locking mechanisms, high-definition cameras and new buzzers. Some timing changes to gates will take effect from Monday 15th September and are summarised here:

Pedestrian gates and morning routines

Gates unlock shortly before 8:40am to enter the school site. There is no audible signal – please push the gates and they will hold open. Gates release and lock shortly after 8:50am when all doors close and the site needs to be cleared. The site is monitored at the start and end of the school day with cameras and staff present. The school day begins in class at 8:50 a.m., when registration starts and the doors close. Once classroom doors close at 8:50 a.m. they will not be re-opened – please do not knock on the classroom doors if you arrive after this time and/ or if they are closed; you will have to enter the building via the office.

Car gate

The car gate will be closed at all times. If there is a need to enter via the car gate, please use the buzzer. Parents dropping off for breakfast club are welcome to use the former School House parking spaces if available and enter via the pedestrian gates. We kindly ask anyone exiting using the car gate to wait until it is closed behind you before driving off alongside us monitoring the cameras.

Site access

The rear pedestrian gate remains closed at all times whilst school is in session. Access to the school site can only be made via the front pedestrian gate. You will be identified on camera but may be asked to announce who you are and your reason for visiting. Parents arriving for breakfast club or wraparound care should use the buzzer and be prepared to wait as there may be a delay in staff granting access.

Tailgating

We know everyone in our school community demonstrates the school values of love and kindness, so it can sometimes be conflicting when arriving at the gate to be buzzed in and there is another parent or family member also arriving behind you - it's the natural thing to do to let them in with you! But we all have a duty of care to maintain the safety and security of the school site. Should this happen, please continue to be polite but ask them to wait, close the gate behind you, and ask that they buzz separately to make themselves known. If you are the person arriving behind someone, please respect this, be prepared to wait and buzz to announce yourself. We hope you all understand the balance we strive to achieve here and that the safety of our children comes first.

During the school day, no ad-hoc access will be provided to the school site unless you have either called ahead to confirm we are expecting you or the school has called you.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are pleased to share with you an important leaflet produced by Bracknell Forest, designed to help primary-aged children—especially those in Years 5 and 6—recognise and respond to misinformation and disinformation online. In today's digital world, children are exposed to a wide range of information, and it is more important than ever that they develop the skills to think critically and safely navigate the media they encounter.

Research from the National Literacy Trust shows that children often turn to their parents and families for guidance on these issues, sometimes even before speaking to their friends. By reading and discussing this leaflet together, you can help your child build the confidence and skills they need to question what they see online, spot false information, and make informed decisions.

We encourage you to use this leaflet as a starting point for conversations with your child about what they see and hear online. Talking openly about these topics can help your child feel supported and better equipped to deal with misinformation and disinformation.

We also encourage you to explore the [Internet Matters Fake News and Misinformation Advice Hub](#). This website offers practical tips, interactive quizzes, and resources to help families talk about misinformation and develop critical thinking skills together. Internet Matters is a not-for-profit organisation supported by leading media firms, including BT, Sky, Virgin Media and Google. Their advice is trusted and regularly updated to reflect the latest challenges facing children and families online.

Thank you for working with us to support your child's digital wellbeing and critical thinking skills.



Understanding fake news

A guide to help you tell what's true and what's not!

Bracknell Forest Council

How to spot fake stories

Here are some simple ways to help you recognise false information:

- 1. Check the source (the person or website where the news has come from)**
 - **Good sources:** News websites you know, like BBC or trusted experts.
 - **Red flag:** If the source is unknown or always shares things that aren't true, be careful.
- 2. Look for evidence**
 - **Good news:** Shows facts like studies or quotes from real experts.
 - **Red flag:** Claims with no proof, or just say 'experts say' without saying who they are.
- 3. Beware of emotional headlines**
 - **Red flag:** If the title is full of strong emotions like fear or anger, it might be trying to trick you!
- 4. Check the date**
 - **Old stories:** Sometimes old news gets shared again and looks like it's new.
 - **Red flag:** If it's an old story without updates, it might not be true anymore.
- 5. Check other sources**
 - **Good news:** If lots of websites say the same thing, it's more likely to be true.
 - **Red flag:** If only one website or person is talking about it, you should check it carefully.
- 6. Be careful with photos and videos**
 - **Red flag:** If the photos or videos look weird or fake, it might be part of a trick!

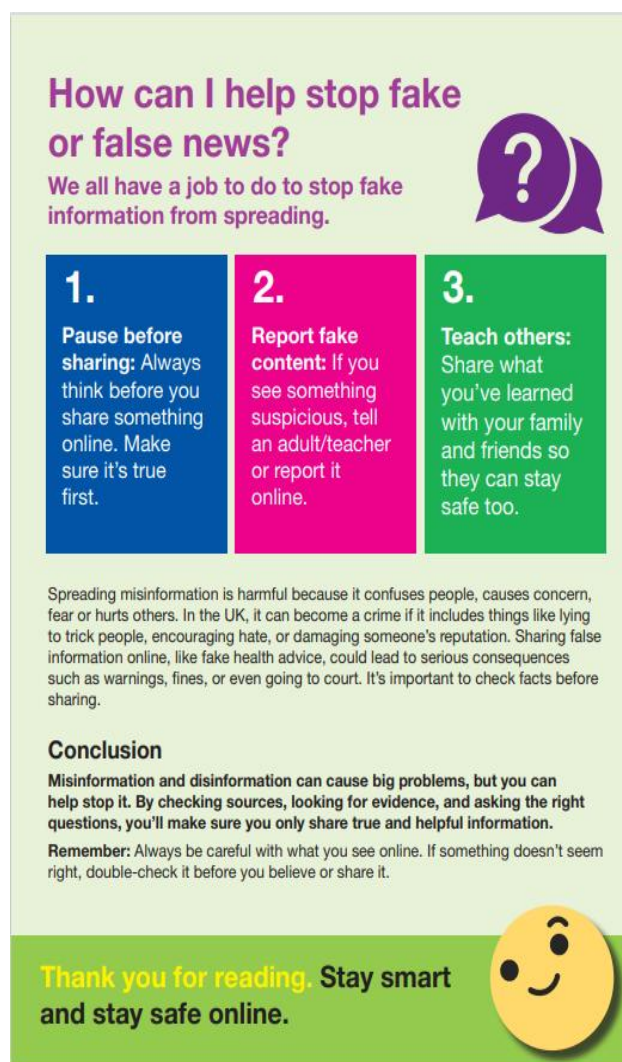
What are misinformation and disinformation?

Misinformation: This is when someone shares false information by accident. They might think it's true, but it's actually wrong!

Example: A friend shares a post saying a famous singer has quit their job, but it's not true!

Disinformation: This is when someone shares false information on purpose to trick others.

Example: A group might make up a fake story about an actor to make people dislike them.



How can I help stop fake or false news?

We all have a job to do to stop fake information from spreading.

- 1. Pause before sharing:** Always think before you share something online. Make sure it's true first.
- 2. Report fake content:** If you see something suspicious, tell an adult/teacher or report it online.
- 3. Teach others:** Share what you've learned with your family and friends so they can stay safe too.

Spreading misinformation is harmful because it confuses people, causes concern, fear or hurts others. In the UK, it can become a crime if it includes things like lying to trick people, encouraging hate, or damaging someone's reputation. Sharing false information online, like fake health advice, could lead to serious consequences such as warnings, fines, or even going to court. It's important to check facts before sharing.

Conclusion

Misinformation and disinformation can cause big problems, but you can help stop it. By checking sources, looking for evidence, and asking the right questions, you'll make sure you only share true and helpful information.

Remember: Always be careful with what you see online. If something doesn't seem right, double-check it before you believe or share it.

Thank you for reading. Stay smart and stay safe online.



Head Teacher Award Winners

- Acorns - Arthur – for being a kind, hardworking Acorn
- Year 1 - Maliyah – for being a helpful and happy member of our class
- Year 2 - Noah – for trying hard everyday and always being kind
- Year 3 - Shirley and Aaron – both for great writing
- Year 4 - Ralphi – for showing real integrity, empathy and compassion in his interactions with others
- Year 5 - Louis – for giving his all in everything this week
- Year 6 - Nathan – for his amazing focus and attitude this week

Well done to you all!





Looking After Little Teeth

Now accepting new NHS patients - no cost to families

Children should visit the dentist as soon as their first baby tooth appears. Early check-ups help spot problems before they start and build confidence in the dental chair. Regular visits make dental care feel familiar, reduce anxiety, and set the foundation for a lifetime of healthy teeth.

Let's make brushing, smiling, and visiting the dentist a normal part of growing up!

Call 01344 484466 to book onto Chloe's Children's Clinic

NHS Perfect Smile Bracknell (Crossways) 01344 484466 **PERFECT SMILE**



Happy Halloween

Join us here at green man on the 30th October for a spooky filled kids day of fun.

With face painting
A costume contest
paint a pumpkin
hook an eye
goody bag
and spooky games to enjoy

From 3-6
Please see the Bar Staff for more information
£5 per child

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT



have a **WICKED** time at Village Bracknell 16th November



ELSA & OLAF FESTIVE LUNCH

NEVER LETTING *singing go*

30th November



PRINCESS AND SUPERHEROES SING-A-LONG

26th October