



HEADTEACHER'S WEEKLY BULLETIN

"For I know the plans I have for you... plans to give you hope and a future"
Jeremiah 29:11

ISSUE NO. 26 : 28 Mar 2025

DIARY DATES

Tues 1 Apr	9am "How we teach reading at St Peter's"—Busy Bees Parent info session in school hall
Wed 2 Apr	FOSP Cinema Evening
Thurs 3 Apr	Sponsored Bunny Hop 2.45pm Easter Bonnet Parade—Parents welcome to watch
Fri 4 Apr	9am Easter Service at St Peter's Church—All welcome. Please take your child directly to the church from 8.45am
Tues 22 Apr	INSET Day—school closed for staff training

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL OUR LOVELY ST PETER'S MUMMIES



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are hurtling towards the end of the spring term already, and I do wonder how we got here so quickly. The children have been working extremely hard, growing in all senses of the word: socially, emotionally and academically. I hope you have also seen this as you have talked with class teachers at your parent consultations this week and then been able to celebrate these achievements with your child[ren]. It was lovely to catch up with many of you while you were looking over your children's books.

I think the many plants that the children have been growing as part of their learning must have taken inspiration from the children as they too are flourishing. The Dragonflies tomato plants have absolutely shot up. This week the children have been eagerly investigating the different flowers and plants growing around the school, and exploring which trees are deciduous or evergreen. The classes have produced some lovely work including fantastic nature books in Ladybirds. What a wonderful time they have had, especially with this fabulous weather.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

As you are all aware, this weekend is a special one for our mothers, carers, grandmothers and, indeed, great grandmothers whether they are with us today or in our hearts. We would like to wish you all a very Happy Mother's Day for Sunday and hope you are all thoroughly spoilt over the weekend.

We hope, for those of you who could make it, you enjoyed the assembly the children presented to you on Thursday. They certainly worked their socks off rehearsing for it! For those of you who could not make it, we have made a recording which we will send by email and hope you all enjoy watching it.

 **A mother's love is whole no matter how many times it's divided**

Mother's Day in the UK has its origins in the 16th-century custom of 'Mothering Sunday', which fell on the fourth Sunday of Lent. That's three Sundays before Easter, and the tie-in with the church calendar is why the date changes each year. The tradition was that you paid your 'mother church' a visit – either the church where you were christened, your parish church, or the nearest cathedral – and you were said to be 'going a-mothering' when you did so.

On this day, which came to be known as Mothering Sunday, servants were given the day off to go back to the parish in which they were born, with children and other family members also joining in. Because this occasion was a rare opportunity for a family get-together, the focus of the day gradually shifted to visiting not just the mother church, but one's own mother.

On the way to the church, people gathered wildflowers to leave in the church and to present to their mothers. And, although the day fell during Lent, the austerity was relaxed for Mothering Sunday and people treated their mothers to edible gifts such as Simnel cake, 'mothering buns' or fig pie.



A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

As a mother protects her children, watching over them day by day, so you Lord protect, your arms constantly encircling us, your hands delivering us from harm.
For the intensity of your love, Lord Jesus we thank you.
Loving God, we thank you for mothers
— for all they mean or have meant, for the love they have shown and the care they have given.
We thank you for the qualities of mothers
— their patience, their kindness, concern and understanding.
We thank you for the part they play in our lives, and we thank you for this day of saying 'thank you' this opportunity to say what we so often mean to say but so rarely do.
For mothers and motherhood, for children and families we bring you this day our grateful praise.

"A mother is she who can take the place of all others but whose place no one else can take" - Cardinal Merilliod

IMPORTANT MESSAGES: There are **NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS** next week!



TREE CLIMBING:

Children should **not** be climbing trees/bushes on school grounds at any time. This is a safety issue—the trees are not appropriate for climbing and we do not want any child hurt trying to do this, or indeed, our lovely plants damaged in the process. We appreciate that tree climbing can be an exciting activity, but please may we ask that parents have oversight of their children when playing outside of school in the field areas. Thank you.



EASTER BONNETS:

We are looking forward to seeing lots of lovely Easter Bonnets on Thursday. Please may the children take these to their classrooms on Thursday morning where the teachers will store them safely ready for the parade on the playground at 3pm.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about BLUESKY SOCIAL APP



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.



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.



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.



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.

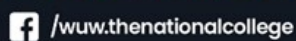


Meet Our Expert

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.



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



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