



# Lacewood Link

**End of Spring 1 – February 2026**



It has been a joy to see our classrooms buzzing with energy and enthusiasm as children across the school have been working incredibly hard and embracing their learning with such excitement. From focused lessons to creative moments, the progress being made across the curriculum has been wonderful to see and a real credit to the children's commitment and positive attitudes. A particular highlight was our walk to school mascot visit from Strider, which the children thoroughly enjoyed and talked about with huge smiles. The recent poetry slam was also a great success, with pupils once again exceeding expectations through their confidence, clear voices and willingness to perform. It was truly lovely to see every child involved and supporting one another throughout the school.

Have a lovely half term break everyone!



# Important Reminders

## School Arrival and Collection

Please ensure children are kept under your supervision during arrival and collection times. This is due to health and safety regulations.

## Dojo Points

Dojo points are awarded on a daily basis. Every child has the opportunity to earn at least 5 points everyday.



Daily 5	
Arriving at school on time	1
Wearing correct uniform	1
Positive Playtime	1
Positive Lunchtime	1
Positive Classroom	1
Bonus Points	
Bringing PE kit	1
Completing Homework	1
Completing Homework Projects	5
Outstanding Effort all day	3



## School Uniform

Please remember to come to school in the correct Lacewood uniform everyday. **Leggings are only allowed for PE.** If children arrive wearing incorrect uniform, spares will be provided, and these will need returning to school the following day. Please label all uniform.

Details of the school uniform can be found on our school website.

[Uniform | Lacewood Primary School](#)

Uniform can be ordered through Vortex or Pinders.



# Spotlight On Safeguarding

Here at Lacewood Primary School, we take the safety of our children and staff very seriously. We recognise it is all of our responsibility, in accordance with 'Safeguarding and Child Protection', to ensure that Lacewood is a secure and safe learning place for our children.

## Safeguarding Leads



Miss K Akeroyd – DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead)



Mrs K Anson – DDSL (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)



Mrs C Searle – DDSL (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)



Mrs A Jackson – DDSL (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)

This half term we have strengthened our safeguarding team. This is part of our school commitment to ensuring our safeguarding systems are of the highest standard.

## USEFUL CONTACTS

**Barnsley Safeguarding: 01226 772423**

**Emergency Out of Hours: 01226 787789**

[Barnsley Safeguarding Webpage](#)

**Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO):  
01226 772341**

**NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000**

[NSPCC Webpage](#)

[Keeping children safe online NSPCC](#)

## **THE MAIN CATEGORIES OF CHILD ABUSE ARE...**

### **PHYSICAL ABUSE**

The non-accidental physical injury of a child. The inadvertent result of physical punishment or physically aggressive treatment of a child.

### **SEXUAL ABUSE**

Any act of sexual nature upon or with a child for the sexual gratification of the perpetrator or a third party, including anyone who allowed or encouraged it.

### **EMOTIONAL ABUSE**

Chronic attitudes or acts which interfere with the psychological and social development of a child. When a parent or caregiver harms a child's mental and social development or causes severe emotional harm.

### **NEGLECT**

Child-rearing practices which are essentially inadequate or dangerous. The failure to act on behalf of the child; not providing the care, supervision, affection, and support needed for a child's health, safety, and well-being.



# Spotlight On Safeguarding

This half terms focus:  
WhatsApp



## KEEPING YOUR CHILD SAFE ON WHATSAPP

Here are some key steps you can take to help your child use WhatsApp responsibly and safely:

### 1. Set strong privacy settings

**Last seen, Profile photo, About Info:** set these to 'My Contacts' or 'Nobody' to prevent strangers from seeing their information.

**Status updates:** limit who can see their status to trusted contacts.

**Blocked contacts:** encourage your child to block anyone who makes them feel uncomfortable or is unkind.

**Read receipts:** you can turn off read receipts (blue ticks) to help reduce pressure to respond immediately.

### 2. Turn off disappearing messages

WhatsApp allows users to send messages that vanish after a set time, which can hide evidence of bullying or inappropriate content.

**To check this setting:** Open a chat → Tap the person or group's name → Tap 'Disappearing Messages' → Set to 'Off'.

**Talk to your child** about why it's important to keep a record of conversations and why messages shouldn't 'disappear'.

### 5 STEPS TO

#### Setting healthy boundaries

Children need guidance to build healthy habits with technology. Here are some suggestions:

05

**Screen-free times:** set limits like no phones after 7 PM or during family meals.

04

**Check-ins:** regularly check their chats together and discuss anything confusing.

03

**No phones in bedrooms:** this helps avoid late-night chatting and protects sleep.

02

**Real-life friend rule:** agree that they only chat with people they know in person.

01

**Keep the conversation open:** remind your child that you're their safe person.

## Using WhatsApp safely

As children begin exploring ways to connect with friends online, many are using apps such as WhatsApp. While these platforms can offer positive social interaction, they also come with risks that children may not yet fully understand. WhatsApp's age rating is **13+**, so if your primary-aged child is using it, they'll need close parental support and very clear guidance. It is important to note that age 13 does not reflect the content children may be able to view on WhatsApp; it does not have moderators previewing what users send to each other and therefore, the content may not be appropriate for a child

**CHECK OUT THE NATIONAL COLLEGE WHATSAPP INFORMATION POSTER FOR PARENTS ON PAGE THREE OF THIS NEWSLETTER**





# Spotlight On Safeguarding

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP



### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

WhatsApp is a free messaging service owned by Meta which allows users to send text and voice messages, make video calls, share multimedia – such as images, videos, documents and polls – and have group chats. WhatsApp messages are encrypted, meaning only the sender and the recipient can view what is sent. While this privacy may sound attractive on paper, this app comes with several associated risks that must be considered – especially for younger users.

### GROUP CHATS

Group chats let friends talk together but can pose problems for young users. They might feel excluded – like discovering events they weren't invited to. Hurtful comments can also escalate quickly, as more people join, amplifying the impact through a wider audience.

### EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it attractive to scammers. Tactics include impersonating a child in an 'emergency' to request money, or triggering a login code, then pretending to be WhatsApp and asking for it – giving them access to private messages and personal data.

### CHANNELS

'Channels' let users follow topics anonymously, interacting only through polls or email reactions. However, fake channels can mimic real ones, spreading misinformation, hate speech, or phishing for personal data. WhatsApp may also collect and share channel-following info with third parties, raising privacy issues.

### DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Disappearing messages help share sensitive info, but young people may wrongly assume they're fully private. Senders can opt for their message to vanish after 24 hours, 7 days, or 90 days – or for media, after one view. However, recipients can still save them by bookmarking or taking screenshots, reducing their privacy.

### FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's simplicity makes sharing news quick – accurate or not. To help curb misinformation, messages forwarded over five times now show a 'Forwarded many times' label with a double arrow. This alerts users that the message isn't original and may be unreliable.

### CHAT LOCK

The new 'Chat lock' feature lets users store specific messages in a separate passcode – or biometrically – protected folder. While useful for privacy, it could be misused by younger users to hide conversations or content they know parents and educators might find inappropriate, including age-restricted material.

### VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature helps friends meet up or parents check a child's route home. However, anyone in a child's group chats can track their location, potentially revealing their home address or regular travel patterns to strangers.

### AI INTEGRATION

Meta AI on WhatsApp poses risks to children, including exposure to misinformation, inappropriate content, and data privacy issues. AI responses may be inaccurate, and kids might share personal information unknowingly. It can also hinder critical thinking by offering ready-made answers.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution. Get them to consider, for example, whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

### THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content sent to one user to then be shared more widely, and even publicly on social media. Encourage them to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

### ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. To do this, go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups'. You can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...'. Additionally, if the child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

### CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Have a conversation with youngsters about how they're using WhatsApp, emphasising that it's for their own safety. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of messages that are in there, who they're with and why they have been hidden. Also, if a young user has sent any 'view once' content, discuss their reasons for using this feature.

### 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.





# Events & Achievements



## The Winter Book Exchange



Lacewood children and staff all enjoyed a day in school, snuggled in their Pyjamas for the Winter Book Exchange. The children were very generous and donated unwanted books to exchange with their classmates. The older children read to the younger year groups and this was wonderful to see. Each class also enjoyed a cup of hot chocolate and lots of reading activities throughout the day.



## Go Team Lacewood!

Some of our fantastic Year 4 children took part in the Dearne Cluster Cup basketball tournament at Astrea Academy Dearne!

They absolutely loved it and there were some wonderful skills on show! They finished 3rd overall with some great baskets scored!

A special mention to Alex who scored 5 in one game!



The children loved their visit from Strider this half term and it is wonderful to see them enjoying being active when coming to school!



# Events & Achievements

## Children's University

A massive well done to our Key Stage 2 children who have achieved their Bronze and Silver Children's University Awards this half term. It is lovely to see how you are all developing your skills and are exploring activities that will support you in the future.



## Go Team Lacewood!



Some of our amazing Y5/6 children competed in the Barnsley School Games Indoor Athletics event today at Trinity Academy St Edward's. They all showed great stamina and were absolutely brilliant!

They finished 4th out of 7 schools from all across Barnsley and we are incredibly proud of them all.

The children loved taking part in a 'Kids Plant Trees' event this week. They planted fruit trees and loved the experience. Thank you to Mrs Greaves for taking them!

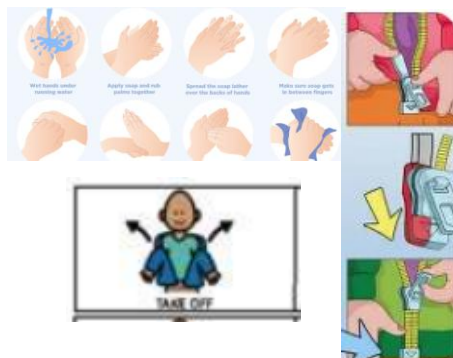




# Learning in Foundation



Reflecting on how we've grown and changed, and celebrating similarities and differences between ourselves and others.



Willow class! A reminder to please send homework and reading books into school every Friday so we can update and change them. 😊

**Developing Oracy skills with Talk Through The Day**

Exploring nature and discovering the world around us.



Please remember the £3 half termly donation we ask for from parents to help us provide those extra special activities for children.

Encouraging a lifelong love of reading through our Winter Book Exchange Pyjama Day



Polite reminder to not let children (including siblings) play with our outdoor equipment before and after school. Thanks 😊



# Learning in Year 1



## NESM Trip!

Ash class loved their trip to the NESM in Sheffield. They explored the museum and had a special workshop to learn about people who help us.



## PE

In PE this half term, we have enjoyed our Dance and Target Game activities. We have learned how to move to music and have developed our stance and aim when doing an underarm throw.

## Art



In art, year 1 have explored printing using different stamps and inks. We learned about secondary colours and made them, too!





# Learning in Year 2

In literacy, we have been writing a story about The Great Fire of London. The children have worked hard to include lots of description and different conjunctions. Once they had perfected their stories, the children presented their writing focusing on correct letter formation and sizing!



In science, we have been learning about materials and their properties. The children discussed which materials are best for certain jobs such as bridges and windows. They took part in a fair test, which tested the suitability of different materials to find the best for water bottles. They even took their learning outside and went material spotting!



In computing, we have been learning how to program Bee-bots. The children have learnt and used vocabulary such as code and debug. They have built resilience when trying to navigate their Bee-bots through tricky mazes.



In art, our focus this half term has been on Paul Klee and printing. The children's end goal was to create a final printed piece of Big Ben. We started with simple line drawings of Big Ben and incorporated different colours and patterns when practising printing with shapes.



# Learning in Year 3

We had a great class trip to Yorkshire Water. We found out how they cleaned water to be ready for us to drink in the treatment centre. We also found out what should and shouldn't go down our toilets and sinks!



In Science, we have been learning about the human body. In this lesson, we were thinking about how our skeleton protects our important organs, keeps us upright and helps us move!



In PE, we have been focusing on gymnastics and netball. In gymnastics, we have been practising our jumps, balances and rolls. We learnt about landing properly with our legs bent to help us keep our balance.



In Maths, our focus has been multiplication and division. We worked with partners and lollypop sticks to divide our lollypop sticks into shapes, then we looked to see how many lollypop sticks were remaining.





# Learning in Year 4

The children in Linden Class enjoyed Jolabokafloð. It was wonderful to see so many children bring in their unwanted books from home and exchange them with other children in the class.



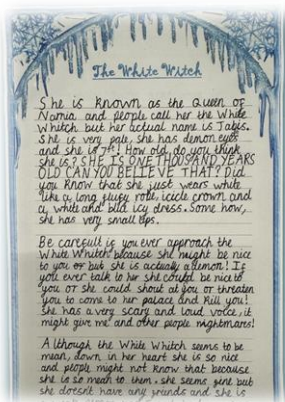
In PE, we have been doing basketball, and I took a team of Y4 children to play in a basketball competition at Astrea Academy Dearne. The children absolutely loved it and we saw some excellent Basketball skills, which they learnt in PE.



In art, the children have been learning about Zaha Hadid who is an architect, artist and designer. They used her wonderful buildings as inspiration to create their own paper sculptures.



Linden Class have loved reading and watching: Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe. They have produced some beautiful pieces of writing – a character description and an informal letter.



### The White Witch

She is known as the Queen of Narnia and people call her the White Witch, but her actual name is Jadis. She is very pale, she has diamond eyes and she is 7 ft. How old, do you think she is? SHE IS ONE THOUSAND YEARS OLD CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT? Did you know that she just wears white. She has long purple ruffled crown and a white and blue icy dress. Some how, she has very small lips.

Be careful if you ever approach the White Witch because she might be nice to you or bad, she is actually a demon! If you ever talk to her she might be mad at you or she could shout at you or threaten you to come to her palace and kill you! She has a very scary and loud voice, it might give me and other people nightmares!

Although the White Witch seems to be mean, down in her heart she is so nice and people might not know that because she is so mean to them, she seems kind but she doesn't have any friends and she is



# Learning in Year 5



A delectable start to 2026 with an exciting trip to Cadbury World. Beech class got to eat the chocolate, temper the chocolate, buy the chocolate, eat some chocolate, enter a maya jungle, eat the chocolate and did I mention, eat the chocolate!!! All in the name of consolidating our learning of the Maya.



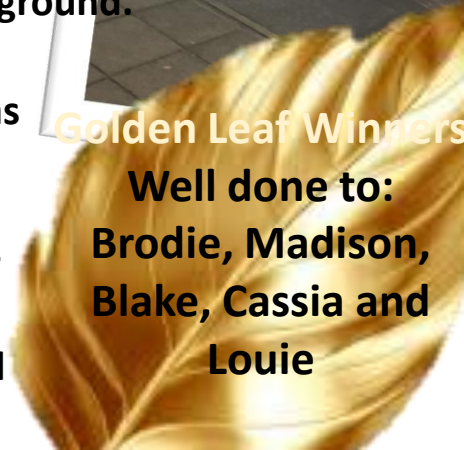
Scattered like mice to the candy canes, gummy bears and giant mushrooms, I sprinted to the sour gumballs, that was glistening under the factory lights, across from the giant sugar mushrooms. Surprisingly it was so sour and fruity when I picked it up with my hands and put it in my mouth. In the corner of my eye, I saw a red mushroom full of marshmallows, I sprinted towards it, towards it touched it with my tongue and licked it "mmm" it was delicious.

After a few minutes, Willy Wonka raised his cane and played a tune (on a flute out of his pocket) that caught everyone's attention. Wiping my gooey face on my sleeve, I skipped to Willy Wonka and the others and I could still taste the gummy bears in my mouth. However, Willy Wonka tempted me with: new ending gumballs, that was covered in rose gold glitter. Feeling sick, my head hurts from all of the sweets.

In our science this half term, we have found out about the forces that are in action in our world. We've had lots of fun testing them out on our playground.

Our work on handwriting has really paid off. We have presented our work beautifully across all of our subjects. Some of us have earned our pen pass and all of us are improving.

Golden Leaf Winners  
Well done to:  
Brodie, Madison,  
Blake, Cassia and  
Louie





# Learning in Year 6

## Learning in Year 6 – Spring 1 🌸 ✨

We have had a fantastic start to the Spring term in Year 6. The children have continued to show maturity, independence and enthusiasm across all areas of their learning. It has been wonderful to see them growing in confidence as we move further through their final year at primary school.

### Reading Event 📖 🗨️

Last week, we thoroughly enjoyed taking part in our special reading event. The focus was on becoming the very best storytellers we could be.

We worked hard on developing our fluency, expression and emphasis to ensure our stories were engaging and exciting for our audience. The children had the brilliant opportunity to read to pupils from FS1, FS2, Year 1 and Year 2. They demonstrated fantastic role-model behaviour and truly embraced the responsibility of performing for younger children. It was lovely to see their confidence shine through as they brought their stories to life



## Design and Technology 🍳 🧑🍳 🧑🍳

This term in Design and Technology, the children planned and produced their very own three-course meals. They showed impressive independence, carefully selecting ingredients, following recipes and using new appliances safely and responsibly.

A big focus was placed on food hygiene and safe preparation, and the children rose to the challenge brilliantly. The highlight of the project was sharing their finished meals with peers and staff — who gave rave reviews of the quality, presentation and taste! It was a fantastic showcase of their growing independence and life skills.

## Literacy – Macbeth 🗨️ 📖

In Literacy, we have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the story of *Macbeth*. The children immersed themselves in Shakespeare’s dramatic tale and produced their own wonderful versions of the story.

We also developed our balanced argument writing, debating whether Macbeth should take the crown for himself. The children learned how to present both sides thoughtfully before forming a reasoned conclusion.

A particular highlight of this module was the role-play element. Acting out key scenes helped the children to deepen their understanding of the characters and motivations within the story. Their engagement and enthusiasm throughout have been excellent.





# Clubs in School

Day	Club
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Wildlife Club</b> – Y2-6 3.15-4.15pm <b>Gymnastics club</b> – FS1-Y2 3.15-4.15pm <b>Minecraft Club</b> – Awaken Education
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Street Dance</b> – Y3-6 3.15 – 4.15pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>FS2 and Y1</b> - Yoga and Movement Club 3.15-4pm
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Lego and Games club</b> – Y2-6 3.15 – 4.15pm <b>Choir</b> – Y1-6 3.15-4.15pm <b>AK Sports Club</b> – Y1-6 (£18 for 5 weeks) <b>Robotics Club</b> – Y5-6 3.15-4.15pm
<b>Friday</b>	<b>No Clubs</b>



All School Clubs can be booked through the Arbor App.

Awaken Clubs are booked through the separate Awaken App.

AK Sports are booked through completing the flyer and bringing the payment into school in a named envelope.

If you have any problems booking clubs, please speak to the office on:  
**01709 887750**



# Important Dates

Date	Year Group	Event
24.02.26	Y4 / Whole school assembly	<b>Harkirat Singh</b> visit to lead a Sikhism workshop with Y4 and whole school assembly.
23.02.26 – 27.02.26	Y5 (All week)	<b>Bike-ability</b> Workshops for Y5 pupils
27.02.26	Y2 and Y3	<b>Compass Be</b> – My emotions workshop in school 1pm
04.03.26	Whole School	<b>World Book Day</b> . Dress as your favourite book character / non-uniform £1 donation
06.03.26	Y4/5	<b>Compass Be</b> – Positive Mental Health workshops in school 1pm
10.03.26	Whole School	<b>Career’s Day</b> – Assembly and workshops in school
12.03.26	Key stage 2 girls (group)	<b>Girl’s Hockey</b> event at Carfield
13.03.26	Y1	<b>Compass Be</b> – Reading and song workshop 1pm
16.03.26	Y5	<b>Transition Visit</b> to Laurel 1.30-3pm
17.03.26	Y6	<b>SAT’s Meeting</b> for parents 3.15-4.15pm
18.03.26	Y3	<b>Egyptian Workshop</b> in school
18.03.26	Y6	<b>Compass Be</b> – Connecting with peers online workshop 1pm
19.03.26	Y5	<b>Laurel Academy Dance Day</b>
19.03.26	Y4-6 (Group)	<b>Barlow Salmon’s Final</b> (Mexborough Athletic)
20.03.26	Whole School	<b>Rocksteady Concert</b> (Before merits) 2.15pm – Parents welcome
20.03.26	Whole School	<b>Red Nose Day</b> (Wear red / non-uniform) £1 donation to charity <b>Rocksteady Concert</b> at 2.15pm
23.03.26	Y6 (group)	<b>Boy’s Handball</b> event at The Dearne 2.30pm
25.03.26	Whole School	<b>Easter Bonnet Entries</b> – FS1, FS2, Y1 and Y2 <b>Decorated Egg Entries</b> – Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6 All entries to be sent into school today for judging. <b>Parent Coffee Morning and Easter Bonnet Parade</b> in the hall 10am <b>Easter Raffle</b> £1
25.03.26	Y5	<b>Robinwood Information meeting</b> for parents 3.15pm
26.03.26	Whole School	<b>Spring Assembly</b> – Easter Egg and Bonnet Winners Raffle Drawn - 2.00pm Parents welcome
27.03.26	Whole School	<b>Dojo Awards and Most Improved</b> – 2.30pm <b>Break up for half term</b>

## **The Art of Birds – Art Competition**

For the Autumn term, our Art Ambassadors have decided they would like to provide another home-learning art competition.

**This term the competition is called: ‘-The Art of Birds.’**



The competition involves children creating a piece of artwork inspired by Birds This could be created in pencil, paint, collage or presented as a sculpture (stable or mobile).

All entries will be displayed and judged by our Art Ambassadors in **3 categories:**

Category 1 – FS1-Y2

Category 2 – Y3 – Y4

Category 3 – Y5 – Y6

Entries need to be submitted to Miss Akeroyd and our school Art Ambassadors by: **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

Winners will be announced and prizes presented in our whole school assembly on: **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Good Luck!**