St Lawrence's C of E Primary School
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Friday 25th September 2026

Caring, Considerate, Courageous

As I have loved you, so you must love one another. (John 13:34-35)

A Message from Miss Hammond

It has been another busy and enjoyable week at St Lawrence's, with lots of opportunities for our children to learn, take part in new experiences and represent our school.

On Monday, Foxes Class took part in a football competition and did incredibly well. The children showed lots of effort, determination and teamwork throughout the competition, and we were very proud of how they represented the school. A particular well done to our girls' team, who won their league and have now progressed through to the final! We are looking forward to hearing how they get on.

On Tuesday, Hedgehogs Class visited the Food Festival. As always, this was a lovely event, with the children taking part in a range of activities and enjoying the opportunity to explore different foods and experiences. They represented our school beautifully and were a real credit to St Lawrence's. They even came back to school with some lovely treats that they had made during the day! Hedgehogs also took part in pedestrian training this week, helping them to develop their understanding of how to stay safe when walking in our local community. It was great to see them putting their learning into practice.

Owls Class also enjoyed a special visit from YOYO this week. They delivered a lovely session linked to Harvest, giving the children an opportunity to think about the importance of harvest, being thankful and sharing with others. The children really enjoyed getting involved and learning together.

I have also seen some lovely writing across school this week. The children are working hard to develop their handwriting and are particularly focusing on their joins in both KS1 and KS2. It is wonderful to see the care they are taking with the presentation of their work and how proud they are becoming of their handwriting. You can also support your child at home by giving them opportunities to practise their handwriting through the Letter-join website. This provides activities and resources that children can use to practise their letter formation and joins. If you would like any further information about accessing Letter-join or need any support, please contact the school office.

It has been another positive week, and we are incredibly proud of the children for their hard work, enthusiasm and the way they continue to represent our school. Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Miss Hammond

Transfer to Secondary School in September 2027

By **31 October 2026,** the Year 6 children will need to apply for a school place to start secondary school in September 2027.

The first step in this process is to attend school open evenings before making an application. The dates of the open evenings are listed below for your information.

We would advise you to check on the school websites for more information.

School	Date
All Saints RC School	06/10/2026
Archbishop Holgate's CE School	14/10/2026
Fulford School	29/09/2026
Huntington School	30/09/2026
Joseph Rowntree School	13/10/2026
Manor CE Academy	15/10/2026
Millthorpe School	01/10/2026
Vale of York Academy	08/10/2026
York High School	07/10/2026

YEAR 3 /4 REDESTRIAN TRAINING

Diary Dates

1st October	Census Day with Census Lunch
13th October	Individual School Photos
23rd October	Break up for Half Term
31st October	Secondary School Application 2027 Deadline
2nd November	Back to School
10th November	Book Fair in School
10th November	Parents Meeting from 2.00pm
11th November	Parents Meeting from 2.00pm
12th November	Flu Vaccinations – Reception to Year 6
16th - 20th November	Anti-Bullying Week 2026: Break the Silence
16th November	Odd Socks Day 2026 for Anti-Bullying week
18th November	Year 1/2, Year 3/4, Y5/6 - Cinema Trip
27th November	Training Day - School Closed for the children
30th November	Christmas Tree Decorating Day
17th December	Break Up for Christmas
18th December	Training Day - School Closed
4th January	Training Day - School Closed for the children

Attendance from this Year!

Owls - 89.2%

Badgers - 96.3%

Hedgehogs - 90.7%

Foxes - 93.4%

Whole School - 93.1%

Flu Immunisation Programme:

Reception to Year 6

The Flu Vaccine is being offered to all children in Reception, Y1,Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 on **Thursday 12th November.**

In the previous years, parents has a link from school to complete the consent forms but this year, and going forwards, the consent link and reminders will come from an NHS address to you email.

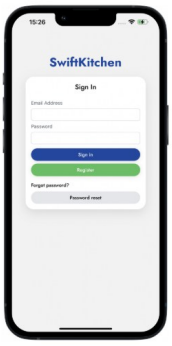
Please look out for this email to consent to your child/ren having the Flu Immunisation

Work with Pathfinder

Are you looking for a new opportunity in education?
Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust regularly has a range of vacancies across our schools and central team, from teaching and support roles to leadership and professional services positions.

If you, or someone you know, would like to find out more about working for Pathfinder, visit our **vacancies page** to see the latest opportunities.

School Meals Ordering



A reminder to please order your child's school lunch in advance on the Swift Kitchen app for the week ahead.

You can order for a week, month or a term at a time so you can be organised!

Once you have chosen the lunch choice for your child and added to the basket, please don't forget to checkout so the order is confirmed.
The cut off for ordering meals for any day is 8.30am.

Any problems, please don't hesitate to contact the School Office.

Year 3/4 Food Festival

On Tuesday the Year 3/4 pupils enjoyed an exciting trip to the York Food Festival, they made bread and their own butter and enjoyed tasting the butter on the bread. They also tried milk chocolate, dark chocolate and chocolate nibs and then made their own chocolate lollipops!

Quote from the children *"It was a long walk, but worth it!*

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

DISCORD

AGE RESTRICTION 13+ (with a 17+ app rating on app stores)

Launched in 2015, and with over 90 million daily active users, Discord has become one of the main ways gamers communicate – with text, voice, and video chat helping people connect around shared interests. For many young people, Discord can be a useful way to talk with friends, join communities, and explore hobbies. However, like any online platform built around communication, it also carries risks around strangers, inappropriate content, spending money, and time spent online. This guide looks at what parents and educators need to know.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

A CHANNEL FOR EVERYTHING

While Discord is strongly associated with video games, it also hosts communities for almost anything you can imagine, such as books, music, influencers, cooking and sport. Some large servers focus on popular games like Minecraft or Fortnite, but many are private, invite-only spaces where friends or communities with shared interests can chat across phones, computers, and gaming consoles.

REAL-LIFE DISTRACTION

Like many social platforms, Discord can become a real time-sink. Although it does not rely on endless scrolling in the same way as some apps, constant messages, group chats, and voice channels can keep young people engaged for long periods, especially in larger servers. As Discord is closely linked to gaming, it may also increase the time they spend playing games.

STRANGER DANGER

Users can choose to stay within private servers with only people they know, but joining public servers will most likely bring them into contact with strangers. Many users are just friendly enthusiasts, yet others could have harmful intentions, including grooming, extortion, or radicalisation. In these types of environments, anyone can claim to be another teenager, which can make it harder for young people to judge who is safe to talk to.

A HARASSMENT RISK

There is also a risk from people a young person already knows in the real world. Bullying in the real world can continue online, and Discord servers can make this feel more intimidating, especially if someone uses anonymous or multiple accounts to carry out threatening behaviours. Because Discord works across computers, phones, and gaming consoles, unwanted contact can follow young people into online spaces that should feel safe and private.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

This huge amount of choice can help young people "find their tribe", especially when they have niche interests. However, because users can create servers around almost any topic, younger users may still encounter unsuitable or distressing content. Even in spaces linked to child-friendly games, Discord cannot directly control every conversation, image, or video shared by other users.

A MONEY DRAIN

Discord is free to use, but users can still spend real-world money on it. This may include Discord 'Nitro', a monthly subscription that unlocks customisation features and larger media uploads, or purchases through the 'Shop' for profile cosmetics and game-related items. Small purchases can add up quickly, especially if spending controls are not in place.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE FAMILY CENTRE

Parents and carers should make use of Discord's 'Family Centre', which gives an overview of a younger user's activity while respecting their privacy. Messages are not shared, but adults can view an activity feed and receive weekly email summaries. Discord says this is designed to support conversations about online behaviour, rather than be about constant monitoring.

MANAGE TIME ONLINE

Agree clear expectations around when and how Discord can be used, especially during homework, bedtime, and family time. Encourage young people to turn off unnecessary notifications and leave servers that feel overwhelming. If Discord is mainly used alongside gaming, discuss healthy limits for both activities so that schoolwork, sleep, and offline friendships are not affected.

CHECK, TALK, REPORT

Review Discord's privacy settings together, including who can send them friend requests or private messages. Use this as a chance to talk to them about strangers, privacy, and personal information, making sure young people know to question suspicious behaviour, such as requests to keep conversations secret. Show them how to block and report these kinds of users and reassure them that asking for help will not get them into trouble.

REVIEW SPENDING CONTROLS

Talk openly about paid features such as Discord Nitro, profile cosmetics, and in-game purchases. Make sure the young people in your care understand that digital items still cost real money. Check payment settings on the device they use, avoid storing card details where possible, and consider adding approval requirements for purchases, particularly for younger or more impulsive users.

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, and The New Statesman.

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

See full references list on our website