

# FAMILY NEWSLETTER

24 JUNE 2025



## JUNE 2025

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June - BB Summer Fete, 10 am - 11.45 am

**\*\*NEW\*\*** Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June - Free family session after the fete, E Safety Tips for Summer, 11.45 am - 12.15 pm in the ICT suite

## JULY 2025

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July - Year 6 Residential in school (overnight)

**\*\*NEW\*\*** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July - Students only, visiting their new classrooms

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July - Sports Day on Meadowbrook Field  
(Upper School in the morning, Lower School in the afternoon)

**\*\*NEW\*\*** Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July - Year 11 Families visiting Sixth Form from 1.30 pm

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July - Lower School families invited to visit BB after school to informally meet our September Lower School teachers and classroom staff

**\*\*NEW\*\*** Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July - Students only, visiting new classrooms

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July - Upper School families invited to visit BB after school to informally meet our September Upper School teachers and classroom staff

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July - Summer Prom for our older students

**\*\*NEW\*\*** - Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Student School Disco in the Hall,  
Lower School in the morning, Upper School in the afternoon

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July - Leavers' Assembly, 10 am, in the Hall

**\*\*NEW\*\*** Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July - Celebration Assemblies  
Lower School 9.40 am - 10.30 am, Upper School 1.45 pm - 2.30 pm  
Selected parents will be invited for those students winning awards

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July - Last day of term for students and staff

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July - Occasional Day

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July - Occasional Day

**SCHOOL FETE** - The fete is happening this Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> June from 10 am until 11.45 am. **We are still looking for prizes our raffle and gifts for our Tombola.** Our ever popular Wine & Water stall will be running so if you have any bottles of wine you could donate, we would be grateful! Raffle tickets are £1 each so if you have any spare tickets at home, please consider purchasing these or sending them back into school so we can pass them on. **THANK YOU!**



**ALSO THIS FRIDAY !!! E-SAFETY HINTS & TIPS FOR SUMMER** - Thinking ahead to the summer and wondering how best to keep your child safe online? Beccy Hughes, our Safeguarding Lead across the Federation will be running a **FREE family information session** this Friday. Join her for 30 minutes in the ICT suite in school, straight after the fete (11.45 am - 12.15 pm). [Click on this link](#) to let us know you're coming - we'll have cold drinks and snacks available! An opportunity to sit down and rest after the fete!

**CLASS LISTS** - Final conversations are taking place with staff this week and shortly after, we will be sending home the new class lists and the social story for you to share with your child/young person.



**TRANSITIONS** - To help prepare for classroom changes next year, we have scheduled some dates into the calendar for transitions.

### **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July**

- Students only will visit their new classrooms between 1.30 pm and 2.15 pm
- Early Years will run a “stay and play” session for new students and their families

### **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July (Sports Day)**

- Year 11 families are invited into school from 1.30 pm to meet with Nat Lowson, our Sixth Form Lead, and the team, for a visit to the Sixth Form classrooms
- After school from 3.20 pm until 4 pm, Lower School families can visit BB and meet with class teachers in the Hall. Classroom staff will also be present. This is an informal session and we hope to take small groups to view next year's classrooms, where possible

### **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July**

- Students will have another chance to visit their new classrooms between 1.30 pm and 2.15 pm
- Early Years will run their second “stay and play” session for new students and families

### **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July**

- After school from 3.20 pm until 4 pm, it will be the turn of Upper School families to visit BB and meet with class teachers in the Hall. Classroom staff will also be present until just after 4 pm. This is an informal session and we hope to take small groups to view next year's classrooms



**Parents Evenings** - Over the summer and before students arrive to start the new academic year, staff will take time preparing their classrooms. There will be an opportunity for families to view the new classrooms and meet with their new Class Teacher in the Autumn Term at our Parents' Evenings. Each Class Teacher chooses two dates across the week to either meet families in person at the school or hold the Parents' Evening online via Teams or via a phone call. For now, please keep week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2025 free (Monday to Thursday) and we'll let you know which evenings you can book appointments, once known. Thank you.

**What's Working Well / It Would Be Even Better If** - Nikki Burroughs, our Executive Head, is currently planning the Federation's strategy and areas for development for the next academic year. Nikki is keen to hear your top x3 thoughts, ideas and suggestions based on two points = "what's working well / it would be even better if ..."

If you would like to contribute to this, please [click here to follow the link](#) which will be open until close of play next Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> June. Thank you.

We will still be offering families the opportunity to respond to a generic Parent Survey this term, which is based on questions raised during an Ofsted inspection. The link to this Survey will be shared with you in early July.

**Home:School Diaries** - Last year, as a result of the feedback we received from families within the Parent Survey, we changed the format of our Home:School Diaries. For example, we introduced emoji's and tick boxes for use at home and at school.

Before we place our printing order for the 2025-2026 Home:School Diaries, we would really value a discussion with families to review the current versions. An online Teams meeting has been set up for **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July at 1 pm**. If you could join online for a 20 minute discussion, that would be great! The login details are below. Hope to see you there.

## **MICROSOFT TEAMS**

**[JOIN THE MEETING NOW](#)**

**MEETING ID: 390 608 247 727 9**

**PASSCODE: XH9XS7F8**



**SPORTS DAY 2025** - The PTFA would like to sell drinks to those attending Sports Day this year. We will need some volunteers though - Lower School parents for the morning session, and Upper School parents in the afternoon. Is this something you could help with?! Please call the School office. Thanks!

**AUTUMN 2025** - We have a few dates already for the next academic year:

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025 - Pupils return to school**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September - PTFA meeting, 9.30 am in school**

**w/c 22<sup>nd</sup> September - Parents' Evenings (exact evenings to be confirmed but keep Monday-Thursday evenings free for now)**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October - PTFA Disco in the afternoon**



**FRIDAY 27 JUNE 2025**

**10 am - 11.45 am**

see you  
**FRIDAY**

Donations of wine, luxury gifts, food items & prizes gratefully received for the Hampers and Tomobola!

Thank you so much

Raffle draw taking place on 27 June @ 11.30 am

Please return your money, stubs and any unsold raffle tickets to us asap



**LET US KNOW YOU'RE COMING ALONG!**  
**[CLICK ON THIS LINK](#)**

## **E-SAFETY SUMMER HINTS & TIPS** **Bidwell Brook School ::: Friday 27 June**

In this friendly, relaxed 30 minute session, we'll look at:

- the online world that our children are accessing;
- hints and tips to keep them safe when online over the summer and setting important digital boundaries.

Time:  
Straight after the fete,  
11.45 am - 12.15 pm



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTUBE KIDS



## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

As its name suggests, YouTube Kids is a child-friendly version of Google's online video-sharing platform. Its colourful user interface is designed with young people in mind, and it offers a curated, family-friendly experience with features like age-based content settings and parental controls.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT BYPASSING FILTERS



YouTube Kids is less likely to show inappropriate material than YouTube, but there have been reports of the app showing age-inappropriate content to young viewers. One investigation found that YouTube Kids had shown videos that promote skin bleaching, weight loss, drug culture and firearms to children as young as two, as inappropriate content had bypassed the platform's algorithms and human moderators.

### BE WARY OF ADVERTISING



Like Google's regular YouTube app, YouTube Kids features pervasive advertising before a video plays. While these adverts are designed to be family friendly and are subject to a strict review process, it's worth noting that YouTube Kids collects information around children's viewing to inform targeted content and advertisements.

### DESIGNED TO BE ADDICTIVE

YouTube Kids is designed to be addictive. The platform's design features, such as the constant stream of new videos and the reward system of points or virtual stickers, can be very engaging and make it difficult for children to switch off. Research has shown that spending too much time using digital services such as YouTube can lead to screen addiction, affecting children's daily routines, studies, and even their social lives.

### SETTINGS CAN BE CIRCUMVENTED



YouTube Kids offers built-in parental controls, enabling you to set screen time limits and curate the content children are able to view; however, children are often more tech-savvy than we think. They can easily bypass or tweak these settings if they have access to the associated Google account password, thereby exposing themselves to age-inappropriate and potentially dangerous content.

### AI-GENERATED MISINFORMATION



There is also a risk of children accessing videos that contain disinformation and misinformation. A BBC investigation found that some YouTube channels are using artificial intelligence (AI) technology to create misleading 'scientific' videos that are recommended to children as educational content. These videos included conspiracy theories and ideas that lack scientific backing.

### DATA COLLECTION RISK



While there are limits on the data that YouTube can collect on children under 13, children can still inadvertently give away sensitive information when using YouTube Kids. The platform collects data on children's viewing habits, content searches and location, which YouTube and third-party advertisers can use.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### PARENTAL CONTROLS

YouTube Kids offers several settings that allow you to manage what content children can view. For example, you can choose what level of content you want them to access, such as 'Preschool' or 'Younger'. You can also turn off the search function, so that only those videos approved by the YouTube Kids team themselves will appear on a child's recommendations list.

### CHECK WATCH HISTORY

YouTube Kids has made it easy for you to keep an eye on what the children in your care have been watching on the app. By clicking on the 'Recommended' icon at the top right of the home screen, you can see which videos they've been viewing, and how much of each. If a child watches YouTube Kids while signed into a Google account, you can check their history through Google's 'My Activity' page.

### SET TIME LIMITS

The built-in parental controls let you keep a tab on how long children spend watching videos. You can set a timer that limits screen time and disables the YouTube Kids app once a specified length of time has been reached. It's also worth speaking to children about the dangers of spending too much time on YouTube, to ensure they remain focused on other, more important activities.

### WATCH TOGETHER

It's important that you try to make YouTube Kids a fun and positive experience for children. One way to do this is by introducing watching sessions, where you all gather around and share the most enjoyable videos that you have recently watched. This can be a great way of giving you both new things to talk about and of keeping an eye on what they're watching.

### Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced journalist with more than 10 years of experience covering the technology industry. Previously a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Carly is now a freelance journalist, editor, and copywriter. Her bylines include Forbes, TechRadar, Tes, The INQUIRER, The Metro, Uswitch, and WIRED.



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