

Summer term CARE values.

Every term we focused on 4 of our CARE values across school. I mention these in assemblies and the children and staff try to use these values throughout the term.

Our new CARE values are; Cooperation, Achievement, Resilience and Empowerment

KEY DATES

APRIL

Easter holiday – break up Thursday 2nd

return 20th APRIL

Week of 27th Mock SATs Y6

27th – fast feet taster sessions girls y1-y4

30th – year 4 trip – life centre

MAY

4th – bank holiday school closed

Week of the 11th - Year 6 SATs

Week of the 18th – walk to school week

20th – year 4 meet a scientist

22nd - break up for half term holiday

SPRING INTO EASTER- A TERM TO REMEMBER!

As we come to the end of a very busy and successful term, we would like to wish all of our families a wonderful Easter break. For those celebrating, we hope you enjoy this very special time, and for everyone we encourage you to take the opportunity to rest and recharge and spend quality time with loved ones ahead of the Summer Term.

The term has been filled with fantastic experiences for our children and the wider school community. This week alone has been particularly special as we recognise our **CARE values** for the Spring term of **COMPASSION, ACTIONS, RESOPNSIBILITY AND ENDEAVOUR** and complete our Career focused month of March with one final assembly.

As a whole school, we have also come together to enjoy our Spring Colour run, Earth Hour activities and a special Easter assembly where we invited Rev Anita to school and not forgetting Y5’s curriculum and learning trip to The Hancock Museum, Newcastle.

From our Easter celebrations and final celebration assembly, ‘When I Grow Up Day’ and Red Nose Day, to events involving the wider community, our reading cafes, open nights and ladies day in the Nursery as well as the Class assemblies over this term, the support you have provided your children and the school, ensures that they are **thriving** and value your child’s time in school.

At Westlea we are incredibly proud of the **rich experiences** that we provide alongside our **ambitious curriculum**. None of this would be possible without the dedication of our staff, as well as the continued support of our parents, carers and wider school community. Thank you and we look forward to welcoming you back for an exciting Summer term.

School will close on Thursday 2nd April and open on Monday 20th April.

Mrs Scothern



HERE'S THE IMPACT OF READING 20 MINUTES PER DAY!

A student who reads A student who reads A student who reads

20:00

minutes per day

5:00

minutes per day

1:00

minute per day

will be exposed to **1.8 MILLION** words per year and scores in **90th PERCENTILE** on standardized tests

will be exposed to **282,000** words per year and scores in **50th PERCENTILE** on standardized tests

will be exposed to **8,000** words per year and scores in **10th PERCENTILE** on standardized tests

National Year of Reading 2026



New month and new Artist, Musician and Scientist for April... I wonder who they can be?

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE



	WE 02/04/26
Class 1	97.2%
Class 2	82.1%
Class 3	97%
Class 4	91.3%
Class 5	97.3%
Class 6	94.5%
Class 7	97.3%
Class 8/9	98%

Attendance Update

We will continue to use our Attendopoly board with the classes to encourage great class attendance. Your child's class rolls the dice if they collectively have an attendance over 96% (which is our school target).

The pupils really enjoy participating with the game and finding out what space they will land on and what extra treat that might be for the class!

This week classes 5 reached 96% or above.

Keep up the great work!

Our whole school attendance for WE 02/04/26 is 94.9%

Our attendance for the year to date is 95.5%

Our target for this half term is **96%** we are currently at **96%**



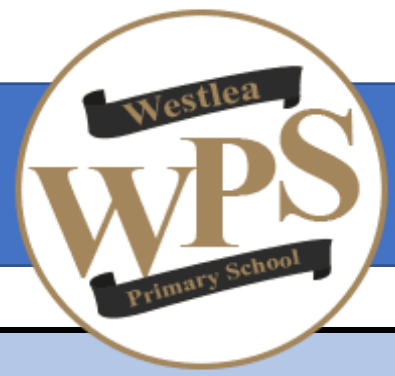
SAFE GUARDING AND ATTENDANCE TEAM:

Mrs Scothern is our Designated Safe Guarding Lead with Mrs Davey and Mrs Simmons as Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads. Please get in touch with any queries or concerns.

ATTENDOPOLY OUTCOMES THIS WEEK

Classes who rolled the dice this week won;
 Class 1 - £10 spend Year 6- Cookery
 Class 3- hot chocolate
 Class 5- No homework
 Class 7- £10 spend

THIS WEEK'S AWARDS



Head Teacher's Award

Congratulations to all of our parents and carers who entered the Easter Egg competition. Thank you for taking the time and effort to produce some outstanding entries. The pupils at school were amazed by your imaginations and creativity.

Congratulations to **Jackson and Deanna** (class 3) for displaying excellent school values at playtime.

INDIVIDUAL CLASS STAR OF THE WEEK AWARDS

	WE 03/04/26
Class 1	Willow
Class 2	Kayden
Class 3	Blake
Class 4	Noah
Class 5	Alliah
Class 6	Grace
Class 7	Finley
Class 8 and 9	Blake and Bronson

RIGHTS RESPECTING AWARDS

	WE 03/04/26
Class 1	Reuben
Class 2	Ava
Class 3	Mitch
Class 4	Clara
Class 5	Frankie
Class 6	Joah
Class 7	Veronica
Class 8 and 9	Zuzanna and Emily

This week's Right of the week- Article 15 your right to meet with friends and join clubs

Character values: CARE		
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Community	Compassion	Cooperation
Ambition	Actions	Achievement
Respect	Responsibility	Resilience
Enjoyment	Endeavour	Empowerment



Pupil discussions: You have a right to join clubs: This is our Rights Respecting focus for the week and a great topic for discussion. Feedback and data from Autumn and Spring Term show that more and more pupils have attended and experienced after-school clubs.



Head teachers awards: Our CARE values this term are... COMPASSION, ACTIONS, RESPONSIBILITY AND ENDEAVOUR

These are given to pupils in school who have shone outside of the classroom. It maybe they have shown excellent manners and held a door for a visitor or a friend or have shown our WESTLEA CARE values in some way. Perhaps they have cooperated with each other to play a game or complete a group activity or shown resilience to keep going when a task or a learning activity has been a challenge. Visitors and other members of staff can nominate these students so it is very special if you are recognised for your efforts or for just being you!

In other news... Reader, Writer and Mathematician of the week



Well done to these students. They will all be entered into the end of term draw.

Reader of the week:

Class 1 – Otis
Class2 - Arlo
Class3 - Annabelle
Class4 -Ezra
Class5 - Alana
Class6 - India
Class7 – Ella E
Year6 – Eden + Oakley

Mathematician of the week:

Class 1 – Ollie F
Class2 - Tyson
Class3 - Lara
Class4 - Eliza
Class5 - Grace
Class6 - Erica
Class7 - Evan
Year6 – Isla C + Malaya

Writer of the week:

Class 1 - Evalyn
Class2 – Indy
Class3 - Rayne
Class4 - Ruby
Class5 - Alice
Class6 - Carter
Class7 – William
Year6 – Lilly R + Dylan

**Celebrate
St George's Day**
Thursday 23rd April

MENU

**MINCE AND YORKSHIRE PUDDING
WITH ROAST POTATOES
CHEESE AND ONION PIE
WITH ROAST POTATOES
JACKET POTATO WITH CHEESE**

CARROTS/SWEETCORN

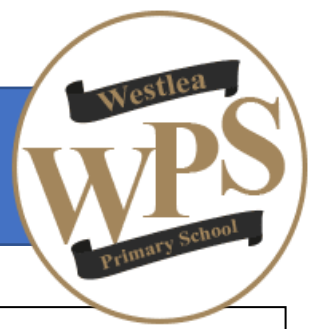
JAM SPONGE
FRESH BREAD, SALAD BAR, FRUIT AND
YOGHURT ALSO AVAILABLE

Chartwells

The poster features a red background with white and red bunting at the top and bottom. A silhouette of a dragon is visible in the background. The text is white and red.

New spring/summer menu starting up after Easter. Starting on week 1. You can find the new menu on the school website.

In other news... Prize draw



Reader, Writer and Mathematician of the Week – Termly Draw

Throughout this term, children have been proudly placing their special tickets into our weekly draw, celebrating their achievements in reading, writing and mathematics. These tickets have been awarded to pupils who have demonstrated excellent standards in their work and shown fantastic progress in their learning.

We are delighted by the enthusiasm and commitment shown by all the children. Their hard work, determination and positive attitudes towards learning have truly shone through each week.

At the end of term, all tickets were entered into our special draw, giving every child the chance to be recognised for their efforts. Well done to all those who took part, you should be incredibly proud of your achievements!

Keep up the brilliant work, and we look forward to celebrating even more successes next term.

Well done Bronson Y6, Jacob Y6 and Grace Y5.

You each receive £20 voucher to spend at The Works.





In other news... Curriculum and learning: C7 trip – Hancock Museum

On Monday class 7 visited the Hancock museum. We had an amazing time searching for clues to answer our tasks on Ancient Egyptians, the romans and the dinosaur lair. Class 7 especially enjoyed the vicious Viking exhibition. We had a great time.



Hugo – I loved it because it was so fun and gave me information about the past.

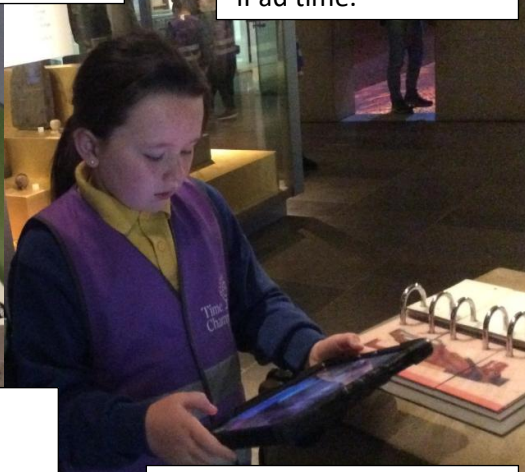
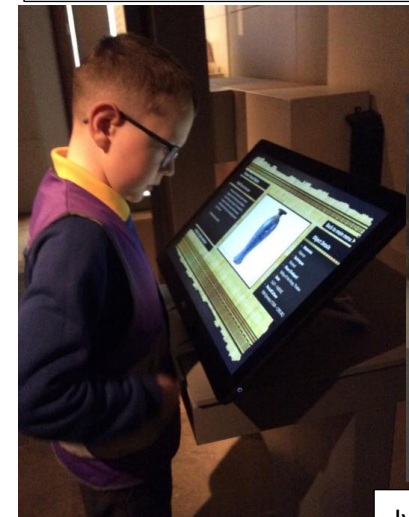


Chris – It was very interesting.

Aria – I loved the Egyptians.

Ava – I learnt lots of fun facts.

Sophiya – I had lots of iPad time.



Ivery – it was fantastic!

Jacob – It was amazing how much information I got!

Grace – I loved the animals.

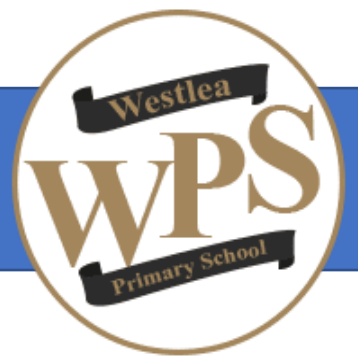


Luna – I found out lots of fun facts.



In other news...

Attendopoly prizes



Congratulations to 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 and year 6. They collectively achieved our target attendance figure of 96% or above for a week's attendance. They then rolled the dice and landed on some exciting enrichment activities.

Y6 – Fruit Platter



C3 – Mindfulness Colouring



C7 - Cookery



C6 – Cookery and board games



C1 – Art session

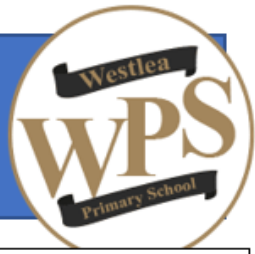


C5 – Extra PE

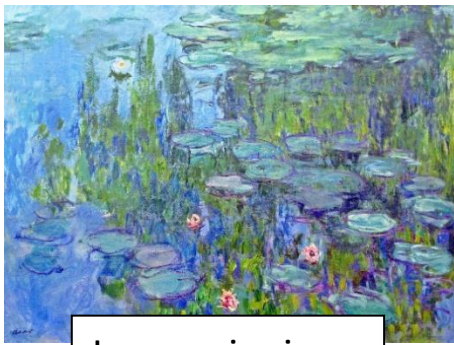


In other news...

Quality of Education



Every month we will be sharing information about recognised artists, musicians, and scientists through our newsletter and also during lessons and assemblies. This is one of many strategies used to enrich the curriculum and broaden student horizons, building cultural capital and representation.



Impressionism

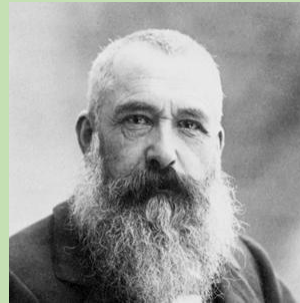


Artist of the Month

Have you ever wanted to capture a moment? To make a picture that shows not just how something looks, but also how it makes you feel? Meet the man who did just that!

Monet was born in Paris in 1840 and as a child he showed great talent as an artist. In 1872 he painted a picture of a harbour using very loose brushstrokes. The artist and his friends, became known as the impressionists after the title of Monet's painting.

April



Claude Monet
(1840-1926)

Did you know?

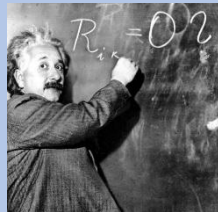
Monet sold his first set of drawings when he was only 15.

When Albert was a boy, he fell in love with physics when his father gifted him a compass.

He was fascinated by the way the magnets moved inside of the compass, and thought about this when he was older and coming up with his theories around relativity.

Albert hated the strict discipline of the grammar school he attended as a teenager, and left aged 15... While at school, he excelled at maths, physics, and philosophy, but struggled with other subjects like languages.

In 1896, he was accepted into the Swiss Federal Polytechnic School in Zürich, Switzerland. He originally failed the entrance exam, but was let anyway due to his exceptional maths results! However, this was on the condition that Albert also went to high school and finished his formal schooling.



April

Musician of the Month

April

Elton John

Early Life

Reginald Kenneth Dwight was born on 25th March 1947 in Middlesex, England. When he was just three years old, his family realised that he was a piano child prodigy after he played a complicated piece of classical music from memory. When he was 11 years old, his musical ability won him a scholarship to the prestigious Royal Academy of Music in London.



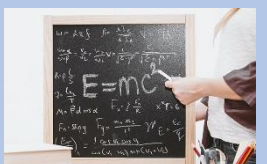
Pop music

Scientist of the Month

Albert Einstein (14 March 1879 – 18 April 1955)

One of the discoveries Albert announced in 1905 was his famous formula: $E=mc^2$. Albert figured out that matter – the tiny particles that make up everything in the world – can be turned into energy. The equation, $E=mc^2$, describes how this conversion can be achieved. This amazing breakthrough made the 26-year-old Albert Einstein a star!

Albert's theory of relativity helped scientists understand how the universe works.



Sir Elton John is known for being flamboyant in fashion. He loves wearing different shaped glasses.

He also cowrote musicals such as The Lion King and Billy Elliott

Music Superstar

By the early 1970s, Elton was one of the best-selling pop performers in the world.

Some of his most famous songs from this era include 'Crocodile Rock', 'Rocket Man', 'Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me' and 'Sorry Seems to Be the Hardest Word'.



pop



In other news...

Community, Personal Development Nursery and School Colour Run





In other news... Autism awareness day



One of the first things that children learn at Westlea is that we are **all unique** and we are **all valued and special in our own way**. **'We learn together to achieve success for all'**.

On the 2nd of April, some of our pupils helped me explain about what it is to be autistic by producing a power point and sharing their experiences to their friends.



Our whole school colour run could not have happened on a better day! Autism awareness day is a celebration of colour and uniqueness! What better way to show this and support all of our pupils and families by hosting a colour run!



Pupils in Year 5 and 6 wanted to share some messages linked to autism awareness. The pupils who wrote messages feel strongly about this topic. Some are autistic, some have family members who are autistic and some others wanted to share their thoughts and feelings.

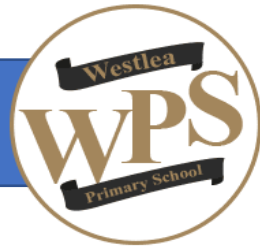
Hugo Class 7 – Autism is fantastic because it makes you different and in Westlea Primary School different is perfect.

William Class 7 – Autism is something that effects the way you think, feel and act.

Ava Class 7 - Autism is something special and unique and it is fine to have.

Autism is something that lots of people have, it is not something bad to make fun of – Myles Class 7

Finley in Class 7 gave a speech to the school on autism and his experiences in school – I like that I am treated the same as everyone else. I love being in year 5.



EARTH HOUR

Switch off for our world and connect with nature on Saturday 28 March 2026 at 8.30pm. [World Wide Fund for Nature | WWF](#)

We celebrate Earth Hour every year at Westlea as a shared experience for 1 hour. Prior to the switch off of electricity across school, Mrs James and the eco-group lead the school in a moving and informative assembly. The eco-group clearly explained how our positive actions of reducing, reusing and recycling plastics will impact our world greatly. They explained about the use of energy across the world and how the smallest of changes can make a huge difference!



Every March, millions of people around the world join Earth Hour to show they care about the future of our planet. This year, we are celebrating 20 years of WWF's Earth Hour - a moment for us to come together, switch off for our world and connect with nature.



Quotes from our Eco group

"We spoke about loss of biodiversity and Mrs Scothern said that we gave really important messages and spoke clearly."

"The whole school listened so carefully to our important message."

Quotes from our Eco group

"We told everyone about our new plants in the scooter park and the plans for encouraging biodiversity."

"We hope to see lots of bees, butterflies and moths."

"I feel like I'm saving the earth."

"I enjoy caring for nature."

"I like learning about nature."





In other news... Easter assembly with Rev Anita and our Easter Egg winners



Over the past half-term we have discussed in assembly about different faiths and special festivals. We have shared the preparation of Muslim festival of Eid and the understanding of Ramadan and also the Hindu festival of Holi. We have also spoken about the Christian festival of lent and Easter.

As a school we all came together to welcome Rev. Anita and Sue to our assembly. Rev. Anita shared a story that needed us all to participate. The message of excitement and waiting for something special was discussed and linked to Easter and festivals.



Class	Winner
1	Arthur
2	Elliot
3	Koen
4	Parker
5	Amelia F
6	Layla C
7	Hugo
Y6	Abbi
Parent	Joanne Robson



The whole school joined together to congratulate our winners. Mrs Scothern was so happy she got to wear a special Easter bonnet for her egg speech this year created by her friends in Class1!



🌟 **BIG FEELINGS ADVENTURE** and **LIMITLESS** coming to Seaham 🌟

Now taking bookings for CRT Hub -Seaham

😊 **Big Feelings Adventure** - Helping children understand, express & manage **BIG** emotions. Helping children with big feelings? Our 10-week wellbeing course teaches calm-down skills, confidence and emotional tools for children in Year 1-6.

😄 **Limitless** – a 10-week course for young people (10+)

Growing up today isn't easy. Pressure, expectations, emotions – it all stacks up fast.

Limitless is a relaxed, down-to-earth course that helps young people:

- understand stress, anxiety and mood
- build self-awareness and confidence
- learn practical ways to cope when things feel overwhelming

No judgement. No awkward sharing.

Drop us a message to find out more or to book head to www.bookwhen.com/livewellne



Join the **BIG FEELINGS ADVENTURE** *relax Kids*

Wednesday's 4.15pm - 5.45pm

10 weeks from 22nd April (not including half term)

CRT Seaham Hub SR7 7DU

£25 per child
(subsidised thanks to funding - If cost is an issue, please contact us privately – we can help.)

🌟 Week 1 & 10: Parents welcome to join to celebrate children's learning! All families receive a Big Feelings Adventure workbook on completion!

Limited spaces – early booking recommended.
📄 To book or find out more www.bookwhen.com/livewellne

 Coalfields Regeneration Trust



Seaham Park C.C.
Est. 1911
Quinon Proficit Deficit

ALL STARS AT SEAHAM PARK C.C.

PRIORITY BOOKING WINDOW 12TH MARCH
NATIONAL BOOKING WINDOW 19TH MARCH

FRIDAY SESSIONS STARTING **24TH APRIL TO 3RD JULY**
6.30PM - 7.30PM

8 SESSIONS

ALL STARS CRICKET

FUN ✓ SKILLS ✓ TEAMWORK ✓

SCAN TO BOOK ON THE ECB APP!



 **MC**
Michael Coghan
Football Coaching

SEAHAM FOOTBALL CAMPS

9th & 10th April 2026
16th & 17th April 2026

10am - 2pm

Parkside Community Centre
Seaham, SR7 7UH

FREE HAF PLACES
FOR CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS (FSM).

To book a paid place, please download the MCFC app and complete a booking form. Free HAF places - obtain a ticket from your child's school and follow booking instructions.

 **FUN & FOOD**
Holiday activities with healthy food

 Durham County Council

0800 348 269

Funded by:  Department for Education

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SOCIAL MEDIA & MENTAL HEALTH

An estimated one-third of children have a social media account, so it's important that trusted adults know what content young people are consuming, what they're posting and the interactions they're having. On social media, it can be easy to go down 'rabbit holes' that aren't beneficial to our wellbeing. As platforms grapple with managing such 'legal but harmful' content, lives are being impacted – sometimes to tragic effect. We might be daunted by the scale of the tech giants and their content which so entrals young people, but we can still help children to be aware of their mental wellness: recognising when something isn't OK... and knowing what to do about content that upsets them.

1. UNDERSTAND THE ALGORITHM



Algorithms rank content by user interest: someone who regularly interacts with sports news, say, will see the latest results at the top of their feed. Likewise, if a user browses content that can cause harm, that's what will be recommended to them in future. Someone who's had a bad day and looks for posts which reflect their mood will find similar content being suggested to them more and more.

2. AVOID THE MAIN FEEDS

Avoiding the default feeds on social media platforms limits the amount of recommended content that's shown. Users can opt to only scroll through the accounts they follow, use restricted modes, or highlight posts that they don't want to see more of. Explore the platform safety settings to see how you can take control of what your child's phone shows them when they open the app.

3. DISCUSS WHAT THEY'VE SEEN

Chatting about what your child's seen online keeps you aware of the content they're interacting with. Don't assume that platforms are screening out inappropriate material, or even that your child would recognise content as being harmful. Discuss who they follow, what posts they like and what comes up in their feeds: if alarm bells ring, it could be time for a more in-depth talk or to seek support.

4. LEARN HOW TO HIDE CONTENT

If your child stumbles across unsuitable content on social media, there's the option to hide that post as well as indicating you'd prefer any similar material not to be suggested in future. On some platforms, you might also be able to block posts that contain specific words, which is an excellent way to start taking control of what your child sees online.

5. SET DAILY LIMITS

Phones and most apps can tell you how much they're being used. Spending too long online can mean a child misses out on other activities that are important to all-round wellbeing. You could set some family rules – for everyone to follow – around device use, such as screen time limits and tech-free spaces: involving your child in creating this agreement makes them more likely to stick to it.

6. MONITOR THEIR ACTIVITY

Keeping a discreet eye on how your child is using social media can help ensure they're not entering potentially dangerous situations. As they grow up, of course, children need space to exercise their independence – but you can still occasionally ask to see what they're looking at. Be transparent about your own social media use and try not to sound judgemental about your child's.

7. TURN OFF PUSH NOTIFICATIONS

Even for adults, it's tempting to check an email or message as soon as the alert sound pings. Push notifications encourage people to open their apps and spend time on their device, so turning them off will help your child to practise mindful use of tech. Most of us have other things that we need to focus on as a priority – and those notifications will still be there later, when we have more time.

8. USE DEVICES TOGETHER

Giving children internet-enabled devices and complete freedom to explore platforms on their own can result in exposure to hugely damaging content. You could consider making a particular area at home a designated space to use phones, tablets and so on – making it much easier to monitor what content your child is viewing and (if necessary) steer them away from any potentially harmful paths.

9. ENCOURAGE OTHER ACTIVITIES

Mental health professionals often highlight the importance of exercise, quality time with loved ones, a balanced diet and restful sleep for our mental wellbeing. Spending hours on social media can cause us to sacrifice other activities that our brains need to feel well – so encouraging your child to put down their phone and enjoy something that doesn't involve a screen can be immensely beneficial.

10. TALK ABOUT PEER PRESSURE

Most platforms default children's accounts to private, so only people they've accepted as friends can see their posts. This reduces the risk of bullying or unkind comments, but – just like offline life – the digital world can still make children feel as if they need to act or look a certain way to fit in. Talk to your child about peer pressure, and listen to any concerns so you can provide the support they need.

Meet Our Expert

Shazia Sarwar - Azim is executive headteacher at a specialist primary school and, as an emotional therapy coach, works with school leaders to focus on the SEND, mental health and wellbeing agenda. A passionate advocate for vulnerable learners, Shazia is a Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and the author of *The Rainbow Within*, a book which supports children with SEMH needs.



Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-5626555>
<https://www.nos.co.uk/news/tech/2022/03/22/parents-need-to-know-about-social-media-and-mental-health/>