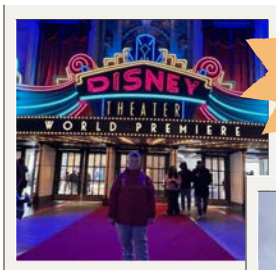
thecrescent_academy The Crescent Academy Meir

The Crescent Academy Newsletter

#LessDarkHours | February 2026 | #HalfTermComing





Information for next year's Paris visits will be sent home next week!





Head Teacher's Welcome

The days are certainly starting to feel a little longer - not all journeys to and from work are in the dark now, so I hope some springtime sunshine is just around the corner!

We have had so much fun in January - getting out and about and really stuck into our learning. This week is the third Spelling Bee of the year - a true highlight of the calendar, but a sign of how quickly the weeks are passing.

A big thank you to those who took the time to complete our Parent Questionnaire last month. All of your responses are being analysed and in our March Newsletter I'll tell you what we are doing next to address anything you have raised and celebrate anything you say we do well!

After the half term break there are big changes coming to the way in which we use social media and how we share pictures with you. These changes are all explained on Page 2 also.

Something that has really taken off this term are the uptake of children attending after school clubs - it is fantastic to see children trying things that they have never done before.

At the end of this week the children can enjoy a week off before they return in the run up to Easter. Whilst they should have the most lovely break - spend some time to get thinking about what you may like to create this year for The Easter Bonnet parades... egg-cellent!

If you have any questions, please be sure to speak to us.

Adam Clewes

Coming up this Month & Next...

February 2026

9th Y3NE Parents Lunch
10th Y3TC Parents Lunch
11th Y3TS Parents Lunch
12th Y5TR Parents Lunch
13th Y5JB Parents Lunch

9th Nursery Parents invited to Storytime

10th Y5JB Sharing Assembly

9th - 13th Children's Mental Health Week

12th Parents' Evening 3.30-8pm

13th - Close for half term

23rd - Back to school

March 2026

2nd Y2KB Parents lunch
3rd Y2HV Parents lunch
4th Y2EB Parents lunch

5th World Book Day

16th Disco tickets on sale £1.50

16th 1CR Parents Lunch
17th 1OT Parents Lunch
18th 1LS Parents Lunch

20th SMSC Day Who Runs the World?

26th Spring Discos

27th Easter Bonnet Parades

27th Close for Easter holidays

Social Media - Changes in School

Facebook and Instagram have been a wonderful way for us to celebrate learning and keep you connected with school life. However, with the rise of new technologies and concerns around online safety - particularly the misuse of AI - we can no longer guarantee that children's photos remain completely secure once posted online.

Because safeguarding is always our top priority, we will continue to use Facebook but with a slight change. From now on, we'll share class-specific photos that showcase the fantastic work and learning happening in school, rather than photos of the children themselves.

We know many of you love seeing your child's smiling face as they learn, and we truly understand how special that is. This decision hasn't been easy, but it's one we make to protect every child in our care.

Please rest assured that there will still be plenty of opportunities to celebrate your child's achievements - through newsletters, school events, and other safe channels. In fact, you'll have a leaflet next week about a platform to share photos of your child's learning in class that will be in the secure environment of your class only online.

Our commitment to sharing their successes with you remains as strong as ever.

Over half term if you follow us on social media, you'll notice that you will stop following us. Once you request to follow again, you'll need to add some details so that we can make sure our social media page is a special place for our Crescent community.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support as we adapt to keep our children safe in an ever-changing digital world.

Social Media - Outside School

We continue to receive lots of complaints about children's use of social media outside of school; during evenings and weekends.

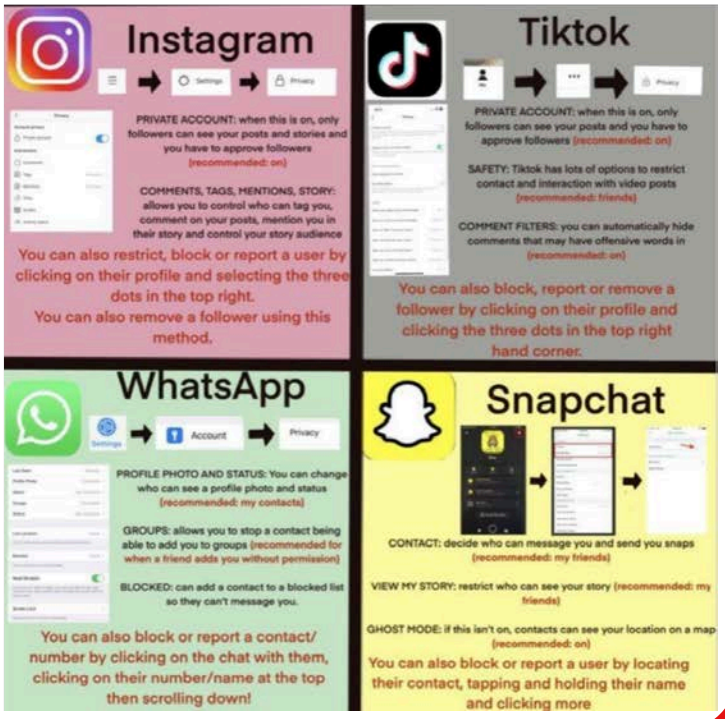
Most Social media apps are for pupils 13 years and over (for WhatsApp it is 16!) and so if you have allowed your child to break this rule, we ask for your vigilance. Just like their interactions in person, online interactions require supervision and support.

What is right will vary from family to family but some strategies that are known to be successful include:

- Monitoring their phones for the apps that are downloaded
- Enacting parental controls on phones and consoles
- Reviewing the messages they send on platforms and apps – making monitoring part of a daily or weekly routine
- Setting expectations about what space (preferably communal) and times they have access to devices
- Encouraging them to share or discuss with you what they are doing.

As parents, it is your responsibility to make sure that what your child does online, at home, is appropriate for their age – including which games they play, films they watch and social networking sites they use.

As your child's Head Teacher - my advice is keep them off devices as much as possible and do not allow access to social media! If you are going to allow this then here's some helpful controls to implement:



Mrs Oakes - Teacher



shout out

Mrs Oakes is simply a sensation! And here's why...

She has worked across all year groups; she's been busy setting up our new 'Pinewood at the Crescent' provision; she is a staple part of the residential visits crew; she is leading on the support group for the London Marathon. The list could go on and on.

We all love Mrs Oakes!

You'll LOVE this Valentines Day Menu!

Cheese Burgers or Pizza Twists with Curly Fries



Followed by...

Decorated homemade cupcakes and heart shaped biscuits.



Be sure to sign up for a LOVEly Valentines Menu on Friday February 13th!

Made your appointment yet? Can't make it? Don't worry! We can always arrange a phone call! Some appointments still available!



No Mobiles Required!

Sticking with the theme of technology - please be advised that your children will be told not to use their phone on the school site - this is from the moment they walk through the school gates and not to use them until they are outside of them. More and more research shows the negative impact it is having on their mental health.

Staff will be role modelling this by their phones being out of sight in the building and I would ask you to do the same on the school run - phones away and chat to your child.