

FRIDAY 3rd OCTOBER 2025

LACE HILL ACADEMY

Weekly Bulletin



Attendance

95.1%

RECEPTION: 96.36%

YEAR 1: 94.67% YEAR 4: 98.13%

YEAR 2: 95.33% YEAR 5: 96.15%

YEAR 3: 91.43% YEAR 6: 93.75%

Our attendance has taken a dip this week, although we are just above national. Some children have been unwell and we hope they feel better soon. May I remind parents that holiday during term time will be unauthorised.

Shout Out ~ Don't forget to check out your child's class page.

The children who have been awarded the trophy this week are:

Y1 – Harrison

Y2 – Bruce

Y3 – Eva

Y4 – Parker

Y5 – Oliver

Y6 – Alexandros

Whole School – Jack



Attendance – Y4, 100% 3 days this week

Tidy classroom – Y5, well done for keeping your learning environment tidy

Presenters of the week

Our presenters of the week this week are:

Y1 – Lucie

Y2 – Vincent

Y3 – Aaris

Y4 – Ivy

Y5 – Grace

Y6 – Grace



Safeguarding

If you are worried about a child it is vital you report it. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

<https://www.buckssafeguarding.org.uk/childrenpartnership/>



Class assembly dates

Reception: Wednesday
25th February at 9am, Lunar New Year

Y1: Friday 20th March at 9am,
Poetry

Y2: Friday 12th June at 9am,
Oceans

Y3: Thursday 30th April at 2:45pm,
May Day

Y4: Friday 17th October at 9am,
Diwali

Y5: Thursday 23rd October at
2:45pm, Black History Month

Y6: Tuesday 11th November at
10:50am, Remembrance

MORE

11th-12th October

BIG Open Weekend

Try our facilities
for FREE

let's do
MORE

The **Big Open Weekend** at Swan Pool is on **Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th October 2025**. This is a fantastic opportunity for families in the local area to explore the site and enjoy a wide range of **free activities**, including:

- Taster swim lessons
- Gym access
- Group exercise classes
- Soft play
- Try dive sessions
- Family fun swim sessions

All activities are free, and some sessions require booking in advance. The easiest way to see the full schedule and book sessions is via the website: www.buckinghamshireleisure.com/swan-pool-leisure-centre/open-weekend/

KEEPING SAFE ONLINE

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

VPNs

VPN use among UK teens is on the rise – with a noticeable uptick following the introduction of the Online Safety Act's age-verification rules. A VPN – or virtual private network – can boost online privacy by hiding internet activity and masking the user's location. But while this technology has legitimate uses, it can also allow children to bypass safety filters and access inappropriate content. This guide covers what parents and educators need to know about VPNs and how to keep young people safe.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BYPASSING RESTRICTIONS

VPNs are commonly used by young people to get around blocks on school networks or parental controls. This could include accessing social media, gaming sites or adult content that would otherwise be filtered out.

ACCESSING INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

When a VPN is active, content filters can no longer see which sites a child is visiting. This means they could access inappropriate content without detection. This also makes it harder to intervene when a child is engaging in risky behaviour, as it may be difficult to detect it's happening.

REDUCED TRANSPARENCY

VPNs may make parental monitoring software ineffective, stopping parents from monitoring their child's activities, including their ability to identify potentially harmful or inappropriate content or online contact. This in turn may prevent parents from protecting their children from attempted sextortion or other online threats.

FALSE SENSE OF ANONYMITY

Children believing that VPNs make them 'invisible' online may seek to explore unsuitable internet content, including content which might otherwise be blocked. This may result in them seeking and accessing increasingly inappropriate – or even harmful – content.

INCREASED EXPOSURE TO MALWARE

Many free VPN apps are poorly regulated and may carry hidden malware. Young people installing unverified software could unknowingly open up their device (and home network) to spying, data theft, computer viruses, or even remote access by criminals.

RISK OF MALICIOUS VPN PROVIDERS

Although VPNs may increase privacy from network or service provider filtering and monitoring, this results in providing user and usage data to VPN providers. Some VPN providers may track user activity and sell that data to advertisers – or worse, malicious third parties. Not all VPNs are trustworthy.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EXPLAIN THE POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF VPNs

Explain how VPNs can help protect user data and therefore may be appropriate when using public or other unsecured Wi-Fi, or while dealing with sensitive corporate or personal data.

EXPLAIN THE RISKS OF VPNs

Discuss online risks, including harmful, disturbing, and criminal content. Inform children about criminal content, such as sextortion, and how VPNs may restrict adults from monitoring children's internet use and helping them avoid these risks.

FREE ISN'T FREE

Discuss the risk of 'free' VPNs and how they may sell or use people's data, which adds privacy risks. Additionally, discuss the potential for added malware in VPN downloads, and how these compromise devices and apps, leading to potential fraud or theft.

CHECK DEVICES FOR VPNs

VPNs can be installed as both apps and browser extensions, so regularly check these on the devices used by the young people in your care. If they have been using VPNs, discuss it, listen to their reasoning, and inform them of the associated risks. In some cases, it may be appropriate to block VPN use via parental controls and other settings.

DISCUSS ONLINE BOUNDARIES

Reinforce the importance of keeping safe online and how filtering and monitoring helps keep young people safe – explain this to them rather than just 'being strict'. Encourage an open conversation around what they're accessing and why.

