



NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2023

ISSUE NO.19

EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING



EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING-ACHIEVING GREATNESS THAT LASTS A LIFETIME

Messages from Mr Taylor

National Storytelling Week.

Children have really enjoyed National Storytelling week. They have taken the opportunity to completely immerse themselves in storytelling for the week - I even caught a few parents taking the time to enjoy a book whilst sat in our reception area! You may have seen the start of our special reading areas across the school where children have been able to enjoy a new book or write a book review. We also had our very first winners of books from our reading vending machine - well done to everyone who received a raffle ticket for reading and returning their reading books **EVERY** day. Watch this space for more exciting developments as we continue to foster a love of reading across the school.

Staffing Update

This week I would like to inform you of some staffing updates. Mrs Bradley, Mrs Cook and Mrs Taroni will be leaving us at February half term. After a number of years service at Warren Farm, they are leaving to pursue opportunities elsewhere both in and out of education. We wish them the best in their new endeavours. We have recruited an excellent Year 6 teacher - Ms Purcell - who will join the team bringing a wealth of experience of year 6 and achieving exceptional outcomes for all. She joins us from an outstanding school and we look forward to welcoming her to Warren Farm. Mrs Young will return to the Early Years team after the half term break in the position of phase leader and class teacher in RSB for the remainder of the academic year. We are currently in the process of recruiting for the position of class teacher for 1/2KT and will notify you of your child's new teacher in due course.

Vision and Values

Having a strong character carries over in many different areas in life. It'll give you a good foundation to build good friendships, help direct you when making decisions, and give you more opportunities in life. Building character in children is especially important because it instills a sense of **Integrity** in them as they grow. This is the third of our new values. Integrity is the ability to act in ways that are consistent with the values, beliefs and moral principles we claim to hold. It's about doing the right thing, even when no one is watching; and about courage, honesty, and respect in our daily interactions. Integrity will help our children achieve '**Excellence in Everything - Achieving greatness that lasts a lifetime.**

Mr Taylor

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Mon 6th Feb	Children's mental health week
Tue 7th Feb	Safer Internet day
Tue 7th Feb	Parents Evening
Wed 8th Feb	Parents Evening
Wed 15th Feb	1/2KT visit Think Tank
Thu 16th Feb	3/4SK visit Safari Park
Fri 17th Feb	Valentines Disco (p.m)
Fri 17th Feb	Break up for Half Term

**INTEGRITY IS DOING
THE RIGHT THING,
EVEN WHEN NO ONE
IS WATCHING.**

- C. S. LEWIS



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PHASE LEADERS

Phase leaders play an integral role in the middle management of the school. They are also the point of contact after you have first spoken to your child's class teacher. Here are our excellent phase leaders for when we return after February half term.



Mrs Young
EYFS Phase Leader



Miss Magee
Year 1 and 2 Phase Leader



Mrs Wilson
Year 3 and 4 Phase Leader



Mrs Wood
Year 5 and 6 Phase Leader

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

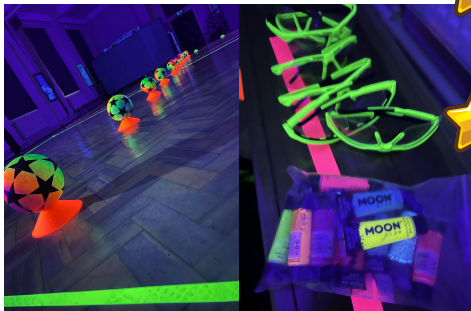
Next week is Mental Health Week. This year's theme is 'Lets Connect'. People thrive in communities, and this connection is vital for our wellbeing. When we have healthy connections – to family, friends and others – this can support our mental health and our sense of wellbeing.

VALENTINES DISCO

On Friday 17th February we will be holding a Valentines Disco for all children in school. This will take place during school hours and each phase will be allocated a time in the school hall. Children will come to school in their uniform but they can bring their own party clothes to get changed into for the disco during the afternoon.



ATTENDANCE



Raising attendance across the school remains a key priority as we strive to reach our school target of **96%**. This term, the class with the best attendance at the end of the Spring term (before we break up for Easter) will win an afternoon of AMAZING Glo- Sports. The lights go off, the hall is blacked out, neon paints at the ready and children enjoy an afternoon of fun filled Glow in the dark sports. The class with the **BEST** attendance will be victorious so you must be **SCHOOL...ON TIME... ..EVERYDAY!**

★	NAH	96.8%
	RSB	94.7%
★	RLM	98.1%
	1CO	91%
	1/2KT	89.5%
	2HM	86.70%
	3CW	90%
	3/4SK	93.5%
★	4DN	96%
	5AG	89.7%
	5/6NW	95.8%
★	6EC	96.6%

PARENTS EVENING

Next week we welcome parents and carers to our second parents evening of the year. At this second event you will have the opportunity to look through your children's books at the excellent progress that they are making. To enable the smooth running of the evening, please arrive at your allocated appointment time.

TERM DATES

Spring Term

Finishes: Friday 31st March 2023 at 12:00pm
Half Term: Monday 20th February 2023 - Friday 24th February 2023
Easter Holiday: Monday 3rd April 2023 - Friday 14th April 2023

Summer Term

Starts: Monday 17th April 2023
Finishes: Friday 21st July 2023 at 12:00pm
Half Term: Monday 29th May 2023 - Friday 2nd June 2023
Summer Holiday 2023 commences Monday 24th July 2023





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NSPCC NUMBER DAY

This Friday, we joined schools from across the country in celebrating Number Day. Number Day is the perfect way to support the NSPCC with fundraising and celebrating maths while helping to protect more children from abuse. Children took part in a wide variety of maths challenges and activities including competing with other schools across the country in a timestables battle of the bands.



SAFEGUARDING

This week's focus is self harm. For many young people, self harm can be a way of releasing tension and or coping with difficult feelings. The physical pain of hurting themselves can be a distraction from the emotional pain they are struggling with. Signs that children are self harming can include; covering up, unexplained bruises, becoming withdrawn and isolated. Supporting a child with that self harms includes helping a child to manage their emotions and look at the root of the self harming. For more information on self harm visit <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/childrens-mental-health/self-harm/>



NAH	Lilly Evans
RSB	Salman Ali
RLM	Jana Qteishat
1CO	Anta Fall
1/2KT	Megan Isibor
2HM	Isla Maddix
3CW	Whole class
3/4SK	Logan Tedstone
4DN	Alicia Humphreys
5AG	Skyla Stacey
5/6NW	Josiah Oriaku
6EC	Abtin Hamidi

BUILDING A READING CULTURE

As part of National Storytelling week, a number of reading areas popped up around the school. This is part of building our reading culture and developing a love of reading. Please support us further by ensuring that your child brings their reading book **and** reading diary to school **every day**. It's vitally important that children learn to read fluently as quickly as possible. Inevitably, fluent readers will learn more, because they can read and gain knowledge for themselves so our challenge is to open this door of opportunity for all of our children. Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.





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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.

Tips for Encouraging Open Discussions about DIGITAL LIVES

The online world is an entirely familiar and commonplace part of life for today's children and young people, far more so than for previous generations. There are many positives to children being able to access online materials, so it's important not to demonise the internet, games and apps, and limit the benefit of their positive aspects. At the same time, we do have a responsibility to educate children about the hazards they may encounter online (just as we would about real-world dangers) so it's essential that we don't shy away from talking to them about the complex – and often sensitive – subject of what they do and what they see when they're online.

Here are some suggestions for kicking off conversations with your child about their digital life ...

MAKE YOUR INTEREST CLEAR

Showing enthusiasm when you broach the subject signals to your child that you're keen to learn about the positives of their online world. Most children enjoy educating adults and will happily chat about what they use the internet for, or what games and apps they're into and how these work. Asking to see their favourite games and apps in action could help you spot any aspects that may need your attention – such as chat functions which might require a settings adjustment to limit contact with strangers. Keep listening even if your child pauses for a long time: they could be considering how to phrase something specific, or they may be gauging your reaction.

BE OPEN AND HONEST, APPROPRIATE TO THEIR AGE

At various stages, children and young people become curious about puberty and how their body changes; about relationships; about how bodies are made; and about sexual health. If your child knows that they can discuss these sensitive subjects with you, they tend to be less likely to go looking online for answers – which can often provide them with misleading information and, in some cases, lead to them consuming harmful content. Don't worry if you don't immediately know the answers to their questions – just find out for yourself and go back to them once you have the facts.

REMIND YOUR CHILD THEY CAN ALWAYS TALK TO YOU

In my role I work with many children and young people who admit being reluctant to tell a trusted adult about harmful content they've viewed online, in case it leads to having their devices confiscated. Emphasise to your child that you're always there to listen and help; reassure them that if they do view harmful content, then they are not to blame – but talking about it openly will help. Children shouldn't be expected to be resilient against abuse or feel that it's their job to prevent it.

KEEP TALKING!

The most valuable advice we can give is to keep talking with your child about their digital lives. You could try using everyday situations to ask questions about their online experiences.

DISCUSS THAT NOT EVERYTHING WE SEE ONLINE IS REAL

Here, you could give examples from your own digital life of the online world versus reality – for example, those Instagram posts which show the perfect house: spotlessly clean, never messy and immaculately decorated. Explain to your child that there are many other aspects of the online world which are also deliberately presented in an unrealistic way for effect – such as someone's relationship, their body, having perfect skin and so on.

TRY TO REMAIN CALM

As much as possible, try to stay calm even if your child tells you about an online experience that makes you feel angry or fearful. Our immediate emotions frequently influence the way we talk, so it's possible that your initial reaction as a parent or carer could deter a child from speaking openly about what they've seen. Give yourself time to consider the right approach, and perhaps speak with other family members or school staff while you are considering your next steps.

CREATE A 'FAMILY AGREEMENT'

Involving your whole household in coming up with a family agreement about device use can be immensely beneficial. You could discuss when (and for how long) it's OK to use phones, tablets, consoles and so on at home; what parental controls are for and why they're important; and why it's good to talk to each other about things we've seen or experienced online (both good and bad). Explaining your reasoning will help children to understand that, as trusted adults, we want to make sure they are well informed and kept safe. Allowing children to have their say when coming up with your family agreement also makes them far more likely to stick to it in the long term.

Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings of **RACE** (Raising Awareness in Sex Education) has almost 20 years' experience delivering relationships and sex education and training to schools, colleges and other education providers. A published author on the subject, she also advises the Department of Education on the staff-training element of the RSE curriculum.



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