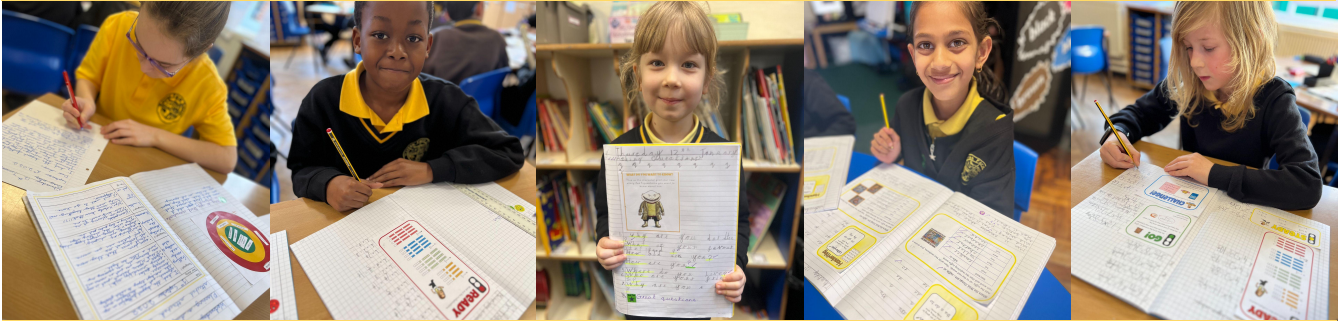




NEWSLETTER

Friday 13th January 2023

Issue No.16



Excellence in Everything-Achieving greatness that lasts a lifetime

Messages from Mr Taylor

It's been another busy week at Warren Farm Primary school but I wouldn't have it any other way. Each and every day we continue on our drive to provide rich and varied educational opportunities and raise standards and outcome for your children through **Excellence in Everything** we do. Last week I shared our new school vision and values with you - these will form the bedrock of everything we do as a school. Over the coming weeks, children will be focusing on each of our new values: **Courage, Honesty, Integrity, Respect** and **Self Discipline** which will ensure children become active citizens in all aspects of modern society.

On Tuesday, Year 6 children took part in a Team building afternoon delivered by Spark Active. By working as a team, children develop important life skills like problem solving, listening, leadership, and creative thinking. Nurturing teamwork skills also develops higher levels of self-confidence, self-esteem, empathy, and compassion. The activities were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Thank you for those parents that have already signed up to the new Class Dojo app. The app is free and there is **NO** requirement for you sign up to any paid extras available. Through Class Dojo you will receive updates on what's happening in school in a much clearer format via your child's whole class story where you will see information and messages from teachers along side the 'School story' where I will post important information and updates. Our goal is to have each and every family connected so that we can continue to improve communication and home school links. If you have not joined yet please request an access code from your child's teacher.

During the week I had a visit from a Headteacher of a local Outstanding primary school. They were very impressed with what they saw on the tour of the school and commented on the exemplary behaviours observed in each and every classroom, the progress in books and the raised high expectations of children's work and presentation. Our Vision is '**Excellence in Everything**' and children and teachers are certainly responding. Well done all.

Other schools are starting to take note and momentum is slowly building about the excellent provision that Warren Farm is offering. However, this is just the beginning and it's up to us all to ensure we are committed to **Excellence in Everything- Achieving greatness that lasts a lifetime.**

Mr Taylor

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Thu 19th Jan	Parents Healthy Lifestyle Workshop
Fri 20th Jan	Swimming 1/2KT 3/4SK and SAG
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

Excellence is

**Doing
Ordinary Things
Extraordinarily Well.**



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Reception places

A reminder that applications are open for primary school entry in September 2023. **The closing date is 15 January 2023 at 11:59pm.** You must apply on time. If you apply late, you are less likely to get offered a place at Warren Farm. There are lots of exciting plans in place for the future that will ensure that Warren Farm becomes the school of choice in Kingstanding. More information can be found here: [Apply online for a primary school place](#)



Lockdown drill

This week we carried out a 'Lockdown Drill' as part of our ongoing safeguarding procedures. This involves ensuring all people on site at the time of the drill- teachers, children and visitors - are in a safe place out of site inside the building, with all doors secure.

Children react to lockdowns as part of the usual school routine, much as they would react to a fire drill. Teachers will have discussed the drill prior it taking place so that children do not respond with real fear or anxiety.

Your child may have discussed this drill with you when they returned home from school. Please take the opportunity to reassure them that it is just another procedure that the school has in place to ensure that they are safe at all times.

During the drill your children continued to demonstrate their exemplary behaviour and followed clear instructions from their teachers to ensure that they were safe at all times. Well done.

Attendance

Improving school attendance remains a key priority at Warren Farm School and forms an integral element of our School improvement plan. We set high expectations of attendance and punctuality across the school. Unfortunately, our current year to date attendance is **91.8%** with a weekly attendance figure of **92.1%**. Nationally, the current attendance figure for primary schools is **94%** so you can see that we still have much work to meet our target. Our aspirational attendance target of 96% will only be achieved with your continued supported. As a parent/carer of a child of statutory school age, you have a legal responsibility to ensure a full time education suitable to your child's age, ability and aptitude and any special educational needs they may have by regular attendance at school.

★	NAH	97.9%
	RSB	91.4%
★	RLM	96.3%
	1CO	91.7%
★	1/2KT	96.8%
	2HM	94.2%
	3CW	91%
	3/4SK	89.6%
	4DN	92%
	5AG	81.4%
★	5/6NW	98.6%
	6EC	91.7%

Photograph Consent

As part of our safeguarding procedures, a polite reminder that if parents, carers or family members are attending workshops or assemblies at school, we request that you do not take photographs and have your mobile phones switched off. Some children may not have photographic consent and we must remain vigilant to ensure their safeguarding. For celebration assemblies, time is allocated at the end of the assembly where you will meet with your child where you can take photographs to celebrate their achievements.

Swimming

A reminder that classes **1/2KT, 3/4SK and 5AG** have started their swimming lessons for the Spring term. Please remember to pack your child's costume and towel **every Friday**.

We are extremely fortunate to have this fantastic facility on our doorstep and offer this valuable life skill to every child from Year 1-6 for a whole term each academic year





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Parent workshop



On Thursday 19th January at 09:00 - 10:00 we will be joined by Spark Active - our after school sports club provider - hosting a parent workshop that aims to identify the key elements of encouraging healthy lifestyles; including physical activity and healthy eating. Activities will allow parents to gain some top tips and activities that they can take away to use at home with the whole family which are easy to implement as well as being fun and engaging for children and parents alike.

Safeguarding

This week's focus for safeguarding is on mental health. A child's mental health is just as important as their physical health. There are lots of reasons why a child may suffer from mental health issues and these can be different for every child. Some signs to look out for can include; sudden mood and behaviour changes, self-harming, sleeping problems and withdrawal from the family. If you are concerned about a child or want to know more information, please use the website below:

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-health-development/child-mental-health#skip-to-content>.



NAH	Lucas Millership
RSB	Cristian Velcea
RLM	Luna- Bella Roberts
1CO	Pixie-Leigh Maddix
1/2KT	Ava Simmonds
2HM	Noah Maya
3CW	Devnaryan Newyadath
3/4SK	Olivia Nottingham
4DN	Cameron Orbell
5AG	Mason Croft
5/6NW	Daniel Pemhenayi
6EC	Amelia Isibor

School Trips

As part of our ongoing commitment to provide equality of opportunity to our children and build their cultural capital, children across the school will be engaging in a wide variety of rich educational visit throughout the academic year. Going on school trips helps children gain real-world experience that cannot be taught in a classroom, opening their minds to different cultures and strengthening their knowledge of the world around them. These may take place through activities on site as well as external school trips. While the school will meet the cost of some of the experiences and workshops internal to school we are asking for contributions towards the costs of trips and activities external to school to ensure the children have the access to a wide range of experiences. Thank you for your support.

New Nursery Children

This week we welcomed our new January intake into Nursery. The children have settled in well and are already making friends. They have enjoyed exploring their new environment and getting stuck into activities. We are really looking forward to what the rest of the new year brings!





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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.

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 entralls 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 rings. 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.



Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-6224935>
<https://www.thesun.com/tech/social-media-6224935>



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