



NEWSLETTER

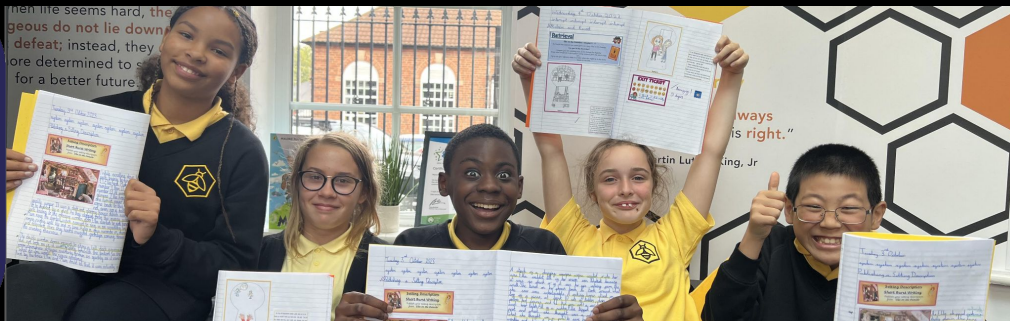
FRIDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2023

ISSUE NO.5

EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING



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EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING-ACHIEVING GREATNESS THAT LASTS A LIFETIME

Message from Mr Taylor

Welcome to another weekly update of *Excellence in Everything* at Warren Farm. This week we launched our Black History month celebrations. The theme this year is 'Saluting our Sisters'. It highlights the crucial role Black women have played in shaping history, inspiring change and building communities. On Friday this week, children explored a wide variety of black poets linked to National Poetry Day.

At the start of the week we were joined by Birmingham City Mission who delivered a whole school assembly as part of our harvest celebrations. Miss Osborn our R.E leader is working hard behind the scenes to extend our excellent curriculum offer, to ensure that during their time at Warren Farm, children visit a wide variety of religious places of worship. Personal development is integral to our curriculum and also supports our work towards embedding the fundamental British values of Democracy, Rule of law, Respect, Tolerance and Individual liberty.

During our staff INSET this week Mr Davis and Mrs Hicklin delivered training around cultural capital and the development of our character education curriculum, to ensure that the personal development of our children goes beyond the academic. This links to our curriculum intent; *"Our values of **Courage, Honesty, Integrity, Respect and Self Discipline** ensure children become active citizens in all aspects of modern society - inspiring them to achieve great things"*. Through the development of our character education children will learn about considering right and wrong, making informed decisions, exercising empathy, and reflecting on their thoughts and actions. These skills will help them to consider: what role they play in their community, how they contribute to society and how they become one of life's participants rather than a mere observer.

Our character is a compilation of our thoughts, our habits and priorities on a day to day basis. These determine the choices we make and the choices we make, determine who we are. Make it a great weekend.

Mr Taylor

PEOPLE WILL FORGET WHAT YOU SAID, PEOPLE WILL FORGET WHAT YOU DID BUT PEOPLE WILL NEVER FORGET THE WAY YOU MADE THEM FEEL

MAYA ANGELOU

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Mon 9th October	Monster 'Kick about' Football week
Tue 10th October	World Mental Health day
Fri 13th October	First Boys Football Match Minworth Away
Tue 17th October	Parents Evening all year groups 3:30pm -6:00pm
Wed 18th October	Parents Evening all year groups 3:30pm -6:00pm
Fri 27th October	Halloween Disco
Fri 27th October	Break up for Half Term
Mon 6th November	Return to school

COURAGE

HONESTY

INTEGRITY

RESPECT

**SELF
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EARLY YEARS



This week, Early Years children have been learning all about Black History Month. In RMH, we have learnt about Marcus Rashford and Mae Jemison, as well exploring African patterns and animals through our stories *Handa's Surprise* and *Handa's Noisy Night*. In NAH, our students have explored important musicians such as Stevie Wonder, Bob Marley and Aretha Franklin. In Maths, RMH students have been exploring different ways of sorting objects; by colour, by size, by purpose. Please continue to practise this at home to strengthen their understanding. Thank you to everyone who has made a Harvest donation to our local charities and community support - there is still time to send in tinned and unopened food items!

KEY STAGE 1

This weeks 'buzz' in KS1 has all been centred around Black History Month. The children have focused on the excellent work of Benjamin Zephaniah. Year 2 looked at the poem, 'People Need People'. The children illustrated the poem and learned the lines to recite. Year 1 have looked at the poem, 'Who's who'. The children have been practising their artistic skills through collaging and painting. At the beginning of the week, Warren Farm had a visitor from Birmingham City Mission. Sarah retold a Bible story related to Harvest Festival. The children reflected and demonstrated gratitude for the food that they have. We are still collecting for the harvest until next Friday. Any donations would be greatly appreciated!



ATTENDANCE

A fantastic week for attendance! Well done. Although our whole school attendance did not quite exceed our target of 96%, some classes were regularly above that figure. We are really happy that attendance figures are going in the right direction. This means that more children are in school and getting the opportunity of a full and varied education.

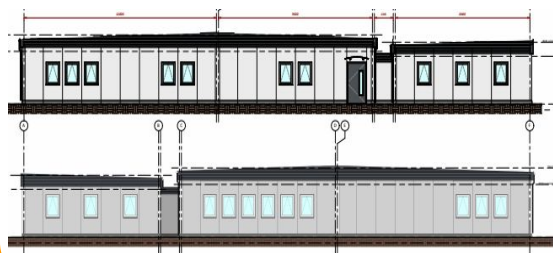
We are approaching the 'coughs and colds' season. It is an unavoidable inevitability that children are going to feel 'under the weather'. Please feel reassured that children are able to attend school when they are not feeling 100%. Staff are very vigilant, and you will be called if they are too unwell to be in school. The following advice from the NHS outlines when you need to keep your child off school:

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/when-to-keep-your-child-off-school/)

NAH	87%
RMH	93.1%
1CO	98.4%
1/2YG	93.9%
2HM	92.5%
3AB	94.6%
3/4SK	94.1%
4DN	94.2%
5AG	95.2%
5/6NW	96%
6BP	97.8%

EARLY YEARS NEW BUILD

On Monday this week, work started on the construction of our brand new Early Years Hub for our Nursery and Reception Children. The completion date for the project is during the Spring term with our current Nursery and Reception children moving across to the new Hub after the Easter Holiday. There are many exciting developments and improvements planned at Warren Farm and this is another example of our commitment to **Excellence in Everything**. There are now only limited places remaining in our Nursery and Reception classes for this academic year, so spread the word to friends and family looking to experience what it means to be part of our journey of **Excellence in Everything** and the Warren Farm team.



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SAFEGUARDING

This week's safeguarding focus is mental health. Mental health is about our feelings, mood and emotions. Every day can be different and sometimes the negative emotions can consume you. It's important that we talk about mental health and normalise this with the children.

Below are some tips to support you with these conversations

- Make conversations about mental health a normal part of life.
- Give it your full attention - make eye contact and listen.
- Take it seriously and explore the feelings together.
- Offer empathy rather than solutions.

For more information contact <https://www.annafreud.org/>

SEND

This week is dyslexia awareness week.

Dyslexia is a specific learning difficulty which primarily affects reading and writing skills. However, it does not only affect these skills. Dyslexia is actually about processing information. Dyslexic people may have difficulty processing and remembering information they see and hear, which can affect their learning and development of literacy skills. Dyslexia can also impact other areas such as organisational skills.

There is some useful information on the Access to Education website for supporting children at home via the link below.

<https://accesstoeducation.birmingham.gov.uk/dyslexia/>

CHILD OF THE WEEK

NAH	Yahya Ghazi
RMH	Reuben Simmonds
1CO	Alec Woodward
1/2YG	Aakifah Ishtiaq
2HM	Pranamy Manjunatha
3AB	Omar Qteishat
3/4SK	Noah Maya
4DN	Netari Mason
5AG	Neveah Maddix
5/6NW	Akintomiwa Songalade
6BP	Evie Gouldingay

LOWER KEY STAGE 2

This Tuesday 3/4SK and 4DN had their first PSHE lesson from students at Bishop Vesey Grammar School. We have formed a great partnership with BVGS and the Year 4 students will be partaking in the Bishop Vesey Grammar School outreach programme. They had their first session all about emergency first aid. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves, participated and learnt lots! We are excited to continue on the programme and learn more. This week in English some Year 3 students have been practising using inverted commas to punctuate speech. 3AB posted an amazing video on their class dojo page with a great idea on how to remember how to punctuate speech! Amazing work keep it up LKS2!



UPPER KEY STAGE 2

This week in Year 5 and 6 we took our learning outdoors to demonstrate how the planets in our solar system move. The children did an excellent job articulating how the planets rotate and orbit around the sun. In our art lessons, we continued to develop our sketching skills by using tone to create highlights and shadows and in history, we looked at Anglo Saxons artefacts excavated at Sutton Hoo. Across the school we have celebrated National Poetry Day with a focus on studying black poets, in support of Black History Month. The poet of choice in UKS2 was children's laureate Joseph Coelho. What a talent!



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WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

We will be joining thousands across the country to stand out and show up for young people's mental health on:

Tuesday 10th October #HelloYellow

We can all struggle with how we're feeling, but sometimes things get tough and it can be difficult to cope. For so many young people, when this happens, they don't get the help they need, when they need it. But together, we can change this. By wearing yellow this World Mental Health Day on 10th October, and donating what you can, you can show young people that you're with them. Show them that they matter and deserve the support they need, when they need it, no matter what.

WEAR YELLOW TO

**STAND
OUT &
SHOW UP**



BISHOP VESSEY'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

On Tuesday this week, children in Year 4 were joined by pupils and staff from Bishop Vessey's Grammar School as part of their PSHE outreach programme. Each week they will visit to deliver lessons to our children to supplement our PSHE curriculum. This week the children learnt all about emergency first aid and the signs and symptoms of someone suffering from a bleeding. Mr Taylor is also exploring opportunities with Sutton Coldfield Grammar school for girls for similar experiences to supplement our excellent curriculum offer and open the door to a world of possibilities for our children.



WARREN FARM PRIMARY SCHOOL



Excellence in Everything - achieving greatness that lasts a lifetime

COURAGE

HONESTY

INTEGRITY

RESPECT

SELF
DISCIPLINE

Reception Open Day

Wednesday 25th October 9:30am and 5:00pm

Warren Farm invites you to our Reception Open Day. We look forward to welcoming you into our environment where you can explore our curriculum, meet our staff and experience a taste of our Warren Farm culture.

Rated **GOOD** in all areas by Ofsted September 2023

"The school's motto, 'excellence in everything', captures the high expectations set for all pupils"

Scan the QR code to book your place now

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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 games 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 **AMONG US**

A multiplayer 'social deduction' game set in outer space, Among Us enjoyed a surge in popularity in 2020, and has since maintained a dedicated fan-base (globally, around 60 million regular players each month) thanks to its unique nature, simple premise and ease of access across numerous platforms. The game's on-screen action revolves around danger, disguise and deception – and there are certain parallels to be drawn with some of the real-life risks that parents and carers of young Among Us players need to be aware of.

AGE RESTRICTION
7
PEGI

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SENSITIVE PREMISE

In Among Us, up to three players are secretly assigned to be alien imposters, tasked with murdering their colleagues while the survivors try to unmask them. While the concept's not far removed from traditional games like Wink Murder or TV shows such as The Traitors, some parents may feel uncomfortable about their child playing a video game in which deception and killing are prioritised.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

The on-screen death of characters may be fundamental to the gameplay of Among Us, but the majority of the animations depicting this are deliberately cartoonish and only appear very briefly. However, it is worth bearing in mind that the game has a PEGI age rating of 7 – meaning that certain elements (however heavily stylised they may be) could still upset some younger players.

CHAT BETWEEN PLAYERS

With up to 15 people participating in each game online, a large part of Among Us' appeal is speculating with fellow players who the imposters might be and making accusations. This dialogue through the in-game text chat can occasionally become heated – and could, of course, involve your child being put into contact with people (including adults) who they don't know in real life.

GOING OFF PLATFORM

While Among Us provides basic ways to communicate, many gamers prefer to use external services such as Discord, a popular app which offers voice and video chat functions. These undeniably make cooperation easier, but also create a potential route for children to hear inappropriate language – or for strangers to message them privately in an environment which isn't regulated by the game itself.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

Among Us is free to download on mobile devices, and costs less than £5 to obtain on console and PC. A related longer-term pitfall, though, is that the game also includes options to pay for upgrades such as removing ads on the mobile version or adding cosmetic touches to characters (such as different costumes). It's certainly possible that a child could spend a significant sum without realising it.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER SOFTER ALTERNATIVES

Although Among Us is hugely popular with young gamers, it's possible that some children might find the murder themes unsettling. If so, plenty of similar social deduction games are available (in both digital and traditional board game formats) which downplay the potentially grislier elements: some centre around undercover spies, for instance, and there's even a Marvel superhero-themed variant.

CHAT ABOUT CHATting

You might feel it's prudent to talk to your child about the risks associated with voice chat while gaming, explaining in particular that strangers online aren't always who they claim to be. Keeping the conversation relaxed will reinforce your child's confidence that they can always come to you with any online concerns – not just about Among Us, but any potential future issues as well.

DISCUSS DISCORD

In general, Discord is an excellent app for keeping online communities together because of its use of dedicated individual servers, which allow comprehensive control over who can join – and who can't. Once you're familiar with the platform, you could set up a secure server for your child and their friends to communicate during games of Among Us, with no access for people they don't know.

AMONG US, AMONG FRIENDS

When your child and their friends get together, they can enjoy a private game of Among Us by choosing a 'local' lobby – that is, only people connected to the same WiFi (your home network, for example) can enter. This prevents any random online users – who may be total strangers – from joining and removes the need for voice chat, as the players are all physically in the same location.

STOP SURPRISE SPENDING

If you're concerned about the possibility of your child racking up an unexpected bill on Among Us' microtransactions, you could consider using a prepaid card with a set limit. Likewise, you could specify in the game's options that adult authorisation is required for every purchase – or you could make sure that no payment methods are enabled on the device that your child plays the game on.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and experts site GoRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

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