



# NEWSLETTER

## FRIDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2023

### ISSUE NO.9

#### EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING



**EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING-ACHIEVING GREATNESS THAT LASTS A LIFETIME**

## Message from Mr Taylor

Welcome back to the end of our first week of the Autumn 2 term. On Friday this week we held our school act of remembrance together and the Warren Farm team showed their respect with a poem, last post, reveille and a 2 minute silence. Whether you are thinking of a loved one who has served, or dedicated your two minutes to someone you have never met, it is a time to come together to observe a two minute silence on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month to recognise the extraordinary service our armed forces offer to the country both in the past and to the present day.

During our last newsletter I shared some of the comments from parents celebrating all of the great things that the team at Warren do to provide an excellent education for your children. As always, there are areas for improvement and I welcome the challenge and support of our parents. One such comment asked for more opportunities for children to take part in additional after school clubs. We have taken this on board and every half term our committed and dedicated team will be offering a plethora of extra curricular clubs. This half term sees us launch a KS1 and KS2 Christmas choir with Miss Nunan and Mrs Hicklin, Science club with Miss Birch and a 'Buddy' craft club with Miss Hannigan and Miss Kelly for Reception and Years 3 and 4. The team have really taken this feedback on board - looking further ahead we have Yoga, debating, woodwork, survival skills, Gaelic football and parent and child fitness clubs to name but a few.

In addition to our clubs there have been a number of visitors in and visits out of school this week. One thing that continues to fill me with immense pride as Headteacher at Warren Farm is the consistently positive feedback that we receive from all adults who work with our children. A consistent thread of all feedback demonstrates that our children are developing the character to achieve greatness that last a lifetime.

I must end this week's newsletter with a huge congratulations to all the parents/carers and children, working together as a team to exceed our school attendance target of 96%. Well done all, you made it a great week. Now make it a great weekend

Mr Taylor

**THE STRENGTH OF THE TEAM IS EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER. THE STRENGTH OF EACH MEMBER IS THE TEAM.**

## DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Mon 13th November	Anti-bullying week
Mon 13th November	Bikeability begins for 3 weeks 5AG, 5/6NW and 6BP
Tue 14th November	Individual and sibling school photographs
Fri 17th November	Children in Need. Non uniform day
Mon 20th November	Phonics parent workshops all week (times to follow)
Fri 15th December	Christmas Fayre 3:30pm-5:30pm
Tue 19th December	Nursery and Reception Nativity
Friday 22nd December	Break up for Christmas 1:00pm

**COURAGE**

**HONESTY**



**INTEGRITY**

**RESPECT**

**SELF  
DISCIPLINE**



Aylesbury Crescent  
Birmingham B44 ODT  
www.warrenfarm-primary.co.uk  
0121 373 3885

twitter

@warren\_farm\_pri

**Ofsted**  
Good  
Provider



# NEWSLETTER

## FRIDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2023

### ISSUE NO.9

#### EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING



### EARLY YEARS



We've had a fantastic first week back in school. The staff in Early Years are so proud of how everyone has returned with positive attitudes and are ready to learn. In RMH, we have been exploring our new text; The Very Hungry Caterpillar. We have also been recognising numbers 1, 2 and 3 in depth using dice, fingers, number cards and objects. Please continue to practise this at home with your children. In Nursery this week, students have been exploring Diwali and Fireworks. They have made some beautiful Rangoli patterns and glitter rockets, as well as learning all about the importance of poppies for Remembrance Day. Please ensure you sign your child's reading diary every time you read with them; there is a bank of comments at the back of the diary to support you and your child in your shared reading.

### KEY STAGE 1

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable half term. Our first week back has been jam packed with lots of new and exciting learning. We were very fortunate to be visited by our school's PCSO Duncan Long. He shared the importance of internet safety and reminded the children about age restrictions on various apps and games. Please make sure your child is only accessing games that are age appropriate and when accessing the internet they are supervised at all times. Miss Osborn has planned an amazing end of topic 'Tea Party' as part of our Geography unit 'We Are Britain'. Please ensure you sign your child's consent form so that they are able to take part and try some United Kingdom classics.



### ATTENDANCE

I am really pleased to announce that this week, as a school, we have exceeded our ambitious target of 96% attendance. This is really positive and something we should all be proud of. As you can see, there are certain year groups who have performed exceptionally this week and to see so much green on our attendance chart is credit to the children, parents and staff of Warren Farm. Let's use this week as a platform for excellence. Research suggests that it takes about 20 days to create a habit. If this is true, attending school every day for 4 weeks can lead to a lifelong habit of good attendance. This is our ambition for every child in school. I would like to thank parents for all the efforts you are making to ensure that your child is in school to receive the excellent education that we strive for here at Warren Farm. Every day does really count!

NAH	98.7%
RMH	99.4%
1CO	97.3%
1/2YG	85.9%
2HM	99.3%
3AB	96.5%
3/4SK	98.7%
4DN	93.2%
5AG	96%
5/6NW	93.7%
6BP	97%

### SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS TUESDAY 14TH NOVEMBER

The school photographer will be in school on **Tuesday 14th November** next week. If your child has siblings in school they will also have a sibling photograph taken.



### CHILDREN IN NEED FRIDAY 17TH NOVEMBER

On Friday next week, we will be supporting BBC Children in Need by joining in 'Being SPOTacular!'. This will be a non uniform day where children can go spotty with their choice of clothing for the day with a £1 donation.





# NEWSLETTER

## FRIDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2023

### ISSUE NO.9

#### EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING



### SAFEGUARDING

This week's safeguarding focus is criminal exploitation. Criminal exploitation is child abuse where children and young people are manipulated and coerced into committing crimes. Children can find themselves as part of a gang, where through peer pressure illegal activity may take place. County lines is also another example of criminal exploitation, this is when children are used as 'drug runners' to transport drugs for large amounts of money. Some children may feel that being part of a gang or a group of people gives them a sense of belonging or identity that they might be struggling to find. Some signs of criminal exploitation can be; spending time with new friends, wearing expensive clothes, having more than one mobile device. For more information contact [NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk)

### SEND

Information for Parents regarding **Parent Link** service. Recently the SENAR service has been undertaking a redesign process, which went operational on **Monday 6th November**. This has involved a change to restructuring that will not affect the support that SENAR is providing to children, young people and their families. As part of the redesign it has been decided that the support and guidance that has been provided by the **Family Link team** should automatically be incorporated into the work of the case officers assigned to children. This is to ensure that families are receiving consistent support and have a single point of contact. For more information please visit the Local Offer Website.

### CHILD OF THE WEEK

NAH	Amelia Crasmariu
RMH	Ghufran Sharif
1CO	Abbas Ghazi
1/2YG	Ahmad Sharif
2HM	Zara Shahzad
3AB	Ciaran Pyke
3/4SK	Mumeen Balogun
4DN	Oliver Wysocki-Yilmaz
5AG	Cameron Orbell
5/6NW	Corie Jack Firkin
6BP	Hayley Coleman

### LOWER KEY STAGE 2

What a busy first week back we have had in Year 3 and 4! On Wednesday everyone participated in an African Dance workshop to introduce our new PE topic for this half term. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning a new dance style and it was lovely to see everyone completely engaged in the lesson. We have also had an internet safety workshop by PCSO Duncan Long on Thursday, which everyone was very sensible in and asked appropriate questions to help them stay safe online.



### UPPER KEY STAGE 2

We've had a fantastic first week back at school this week: Year 5 have taken part in their first 'Young Leaders' workshop which focused on leadership. The children had to work as part of a team, with some children taking on leadership roles, to complete a variety of tasks. These workshops will take place every week and will focus on a different skill each session. Year 6 have been thoroughly engaged with their new class reader 'She Wolf' and enjoyed sharing their work on Twitter with the author, Dan Smith.





# NEWSLETTER

## FRIDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2023

### ISSUE NO.9

#### EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING



## MPCT YOUNG LEADERS

On Tuesday, children in Year 5 took part in their first 'Young Leaders' session with MPCT. This program enables children to strengthen our school values and develop confidence and compassion as well as equipping them with a strong moral compass. The first session was called 'Introduction to Leadership' and Year 5 showed great potential to be future leaders. Staff Sarah (our instructor) gave some excellent feedback stating that, "All children were fully engaged throughout and I was really impressed with all the leaders." An excellent start on the journey to building our character curriculum. Well done Year 5!



## F2D ITC WORKSHOP

On Tuesday, we were joined by Dan and Marc from F2DITC who delivered their first entrepreneurship workshop - another integral element to our character education offer. Dan and Marc are a great example to our children of what can be achieved through determination, hard work and self discipline. Over the coming weeks children will be working in teams to explore the power of brand identity, marketing and public speaking to deliver design briefs. They will then design their team hoodies which will go into production and they can wear with pride at school. We can't wait to see the finished results.

## EYFS HUB BUILD

Children arrived back to school on Monday this week to the site of our brand new Early Years Hub which was partially installed over the half term break. On Friday, Mr Taylor and Mrs Hicklin met with an education playground design company to begin the exciting project of planning the new Early Years outdoor provision and climbing frame for the lower Key stage 2 playground.



## CHRISTMAS FAYRE

On Friday 15th December, we will be holding our Christmas Fayre. This will take place in the school halls and playgrounds. We will have a number of exciting Christmas themed stalls and activities for children and families to enjoy. We will also be holding a Christmas raffle with lots of fabulous prizes - as the saying goes "You've got to be in it to win it!"

In the run up to the Christmas Fayre, we will hold a number of non uniform days asking for donations of bottles, chocolate, biscuits, sweets and tinned goods for some fantastic prize hampers.





**NEWSLETTER**  
**FRIDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2023**  
**ISSUE NO.9**  
**EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING**



THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD, AS WE THAT ARE LEFT GROW OLD;  
 AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM,  
 NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN.  
 AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING,  
**WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.**  
**LEST WE FORGET.**



**REMEMBRANCE DAY**  
 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

# REMEMBRANCE

On Wednesday this week, a small group of children from Years 5 and 6 visited the National Memorial Arboretum as part of Remembrance week. During the morning, they took part in workshops learning about life in the city during bombings in World War II, allocation of rations and life as an evacuee.

During the afternoon, children from Year 5 and 6 had a tour of the National Memorial Arboretum and visited the Armed Forces Memorial which included over 16000 names of personnel who have given their life while on duty, in operational theatre or in a terrorist attack.

As always, the children demonstrated Excellence in Everything by representing the school, themselves and their parents/carers with their enthusiasm, exemplary behaviour and respect. They were a credit to the school and you all.

At the end of the tour, they laid a wreath to pay respects from Warren Farm for Remembrance Day.

#LestweForget





**NEWSLETTER**  
**FRIDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2023**  
**ISSUE NO.9**  
**EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING**



*My child has developed so much since they started, I would definitely recommend this to another parent! Her confidence has increased so much.*

*This is the most successful school my child has been to.*

*The teaching staff are great and always super supportive of the children.*

*The teachers are doing a fantastic job with my Son, he is now happier to come to school and enjoys reading.*

*My child loves learning and staff support this love of learning and offer challenges to push her further.*

*We have been really happy with all the changes made and the opportunities that the children have been given at school.*

**PARENT VOICE  
SURVEY  
OCTOBER  
2023**

*Staff are extremely supportive and approachable, we are very happy.*

*My children and I really enjoy the school and all the great changes that are happening here.*

*The school is going in a positive direction.*

*The school has worked hard to achieve the good OFSTED rating. Well done to all the staff for the improvement.*

*My child enjoys school and any problems that arise, I know I can approach the teacher and resolve them.*

*There's been great improvement in the school in the last year which as a parent, I am really pleased with. Well done to everyone involved.*





# NEWSLETTER

## FRIDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2023

### ISSUE NO.9

#### EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING



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 [nationalonline.com](http://nationalonline.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# MICROTRANSACTIONS

Microtransactions (often abbreviated as "MTX") are digital purchases made within an app or game to unlock extra features or additional content such as new levels. A popular sub-set of these are loot boxes, which contain a selection (usually random) of virtual items: from character skins to game-changing equipment like better weapons. Microtransactions (and loot boxes in particular) are now widespread in apps and games, but concerns persist that they normalise gambling and can foster addictive behaviours – especially among younger players.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### GATEWAY TO GAMBLING?

Microtransactions have been criticised for promoting gambling-adjacent behaviour in children. Research has also suggested that exposure to the loot box system could affect the likelihood of a young person suffering gambling harms later in life: children who purchased or used loot boxes in the last 12 months were found to be more likely to have gambled during the same period, as well.

#### ADDICTIVE NATURE

Microtransactions (and loot boxes especially) could lead to young people displaying compulsive behaviours. Loot boxes are designed to be addictive, and the sought-after prizes they contain are dispensed at random. This means that young gamers might not get what they want straight away, causing them to spend more money as well as additional time gaming.

#### PAYING TO WIN

In many popular games (the FIFA series being a notable example), microtransactions make it far easier to succeed – which is a concern because children can often find it difficult to keep track of their spending. Once a child starts making in-game purchases, they may continue buying to keep up with their friends and other players – sometimes without recognising the mounting real-world cost.

## EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

#### DATA COLLECTION

To allow a young person to complete microtransactions, many app and game developers collect personal data such as their name, address, email, geolocation information, photos, payment details and so on. Even if this data remains secure (which is by no means guaranteed), there's always the chance that it will be used – and possibly sold on to third parties – for marketing purposes.

#### AFFECTING DAILY ROUTINE

Online games tend to revolve around repeated loops of activity that can affect purchasing decisions and potentially influence children's spending patterns. This could lead to your child not only handing over more money but also adjusting their daily routine to match the game's schedule – potentially impacting more important elements of their day, such as homework and family time.

#### SATELLITE SPENDING

If you've linked a payment method like a debit card or a PayPal account to your child's game or app, it's wise to keep a close eye on their microtransactions to ensure they aren't racking up a large bill. Letting a child have access to your card (if they're still too young to have their own) or other means of payment could also lead to them spending beyond the apps and games they normally use.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

#### DO YOUR RESEARCH

It's important to have a serviceable idea of whether the games your child plays use the loot box system (even if it goes by a different name) or include the option of buying items, equipment and so forth. If so, it's crucial to help your child understand that this costs actual money, and that they shouldn't feel pressured into making any purchases.

#### CHAT ABOUT 'CHANCE'

It may help to explain to your child that many microtransactions involve an element of chance: they could pay money and still not get what they want in return. Emphasise that – while not usually costing much individually – these in-app and in-game purchases can soon add up. Talk to your child about how spending their money in a game or app means they have less to use in the real world.

#### (GIFT) CARDS ON THE TABLE

Investing in an in-game currency gift card can be a useful way of helping your child get to grips with budgeting: if you buy, say, a £10 V-bucks Fortnite gift card, monitor how long it takes them to spend it. When they come to you asking for more, you could make it the starting point for a conversation about how quickly that money went and how they could earn their next gift card.

#### STOP SPENDING AT SOURCE

You might decide that the wisest strategy is to remove the potential for spending money on microtransactions. If so, most games, apps and devices have options in their settings to help you manage what your child can spend – or to disable that function altogether, preventing them from buying additional items for their games or boosted functionality for certain apps.

#### WATCH FOR THE SIGNS

If you're worried that your child's passion for a particular game or app may tempt them into habitual spending on microtransactions, it's important to remember the indicators of addictive behaviour. Irritability, a lack of concentration and prioritising recreational screen time ahead of homework or mealtimes could all be signs that you need to have a conversation about a more balanced routine.

### Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech website The Register, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



#WakeUpWednesday



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety



@national\_online\_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 08.11.2023



Aylesbury Crescent  
Birmingham B44 0DT  
[www.warrenfarm-primary.co.uk](http://www.warrenfarm-primary.co.uk)  
0121 373 3885



@warren\_farm\_pri

Good Provider