



NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2023

ISSUE NO.11

EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING



Ofsted
Good
Provider



EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING-ACHIEVING GREATNESS THAT LASTS A LIFETIME

Message from Mr Taylor

I'd like to start our newsletter this week with a focus on character and character development which will become synonymous with Warren Farm over the coming years. Character all starts with who you are. Who you are is more important than what you do. Not how high you jump or how fast you run. Who you are is your character. Your character is an accumulation of your thoughts, your habits and your priorities on a day to day basis. These three things determine the choices you make and the choices you make, make you who you are - good, bad, hardworking, lazy, responsible or irresponsible. It takes a certain amount of discipline to do what you're supposed to do when you're supposed to do it the way it's supposed to get done. At Warren Farm, it's not about what we do for our children, it's about how we develop them - academically and through their character - to one day take their place as confident adults in society.

This week Mr Davis met with a group of our Year 5 pupils for a pupil voice session to discuss their weekly MPCT sessions as part of our character development and education programme. The feedback from children demonstrates that we are on the right path - "I like the challenge. It puts you out of your comfort zone" "It helps us to understand what it is like to be a leader" "It's a great bonding experience. I feel like the activities bring us together as a group."

On last week's newsletter Miss Gosling our SENDCo shared information regarding Makaton. Makaton is a unique language programme that uses symbols, signs and speech to enable people to communicate. It supports the development of essential communication skills such as attention and listening, comprehension, memory, recall and organisation of language and expression. I have been blown away with how well our children and teachers have taken to recent training. Not a moment goes by without a child greeting me with a friendly signed, good morning, hello, good afternoon or my personal favourite 'Make it a great day!'

This week we have shared our Christmas Fayre flyer in preparation for Friday 15th December which promises to be even bigger and better than last year. Thank you for your continued support and donations to our Fayre which will ensure that this is another excellent event for the children, families and community of Warren Farm. We have a number of further festive treats and experiences planned which our teachers will share with you over the coming weeks.

Make it a great weekend

Mr Taylor

**Character is how you
treat those who can
do nothing for you**

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Mon 27th November	Bikeability week 5AG
Mon 4th December	D & T parent workshops All week Key stage 1
Fri 8th December	Rocksteady Concert 2:00pm
Fri 15th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Fri 15th December	Christmas Fayre 3:30pm-5:30pm
Tue 19th December	Nursery and Reception Nativity
Wed 20th December	Christmas Dinner
Fri 22nd December	Break up for Christmas 1:00pm

COURAGE

HONESTY



INTEGRITY

RESPECT

**SELF
DISCIPLINE**



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EARLY YEARS



We have been exploring Road Safety in Early Years this week. Nursery have been very responsible by practising the Green Cross Code on our playground - we have some incredible Lollypop Officers to help us use the zebra crossing!

In Reception, we have been exploring one more and one less of a given number. Children have been using number lines to become familiar with number sequences. We have also been looking at safe and unsafe behaviours when using the road - the Safety Cat Rap has helped us learn to Stop, Look, Listen and Think before we cross the road.

Please can we remind parents and carers that all grapes and olives (and any other small rounded foods) should always be cut in half to prevent any choking hazard.

KEY STAGE 1

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our 'Parent Phonic Workshops' this week. It was lovely to see so many new faces. Please continue to support your child at home by reading regularly and provide opportunities for writing. This could be writing shopping lists or diaries to explain about their day.

In addition, each child has been provided with a Bug club account. On here you can access online books and play fun and exciting games.

If you are having any difficulties accessing the account please contact your child's class teacher.



ATTENDANCE

Every 2 weeks, the Department for Education release national figures for attendance. The most recent figures outline that state funded primary schools across the country have an average attendance of **95.2%** this academic year. Our current attendance figure for this academic year is **94.6%**. Although this may seem a little disappointing, we have seen a very gradual increase since September. If we continue to make those marginal gains, the future for attendance is very positive.

Here at Warren Farm, 'Excellence in Everything' is not a motto, it is a mantra which we live and breathe in all that we do. Our aspirational target of **96%** is not an unreachable goal. Once again, thank you to all parents who ensure their children are in school the vast majority of the time. Every lesson counts!

NAH	94.8%
RMH	89.2%
1CO	92.8%
1/2YG	92.7%
2HM	95.7%
3AB	94.7%
3/4SK	93%
4DN	99.3%
5AG	94%
5/6NW	98%
6BP	96%

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Thank you to everyone who donated a bottle today ready to be used in our Christmas Fayre. Next **Friday 1st December** it will be another non-school uniform and we will be asking for donations of **sweets and chocolates**.

Yesterday our school councillors went to Tesco's with Mr Taylor and Miss Kelly to collect donations that had kindly been given for the Christmas Fayre. If you know of any businesses that would be willing to donate to this worthy cause then please let the school know.





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SAFEGUARDING

This week's focus is on child poverty. There are many families that due to the current economic climate and the austerity that we find ourselves living in, find it hard to be able to meet a child's basic needs of food, shelter and warmth. If this is the case please reach out and ask for help, there are many different agencies that can support you or signpost if they are unable to help themselves. There are food banks, charities and different community projects that have helped many families whether this be on a short term basis or long term if needed. Children who live in poverty are more likely to commit crimes as it is the lure of money and the sense of being on par with their peers that seems to be the main attraction to them. If you require any support please come in and talk to the school and we will try to help as best we can.

SEND

Birmingham Parent Carer Forum are a voluntary group of Birmingham Parents and Carers whose purpose is to become the bridge between services and families and a collective voice representing young people with additional needs. They are hosting a free face to face SEND Communication and Engagement Event at **Wibbly Wobbly World of soft play** on **Wednesday 29th November** from **9:30am - 2:30pm**. It is a chance for you to meet the team, hear about the latest activities as well as finding out ways to get involved with SEND voluntary services available to you and your family and how they can support you.

CHILD OF THE WEEK

NAH	Jack Foster
RMH	Caden Smith
1CO	Tommy Tabb
1/2YG	Lilly Evans
2HM	Harry Landa
3AB	Justin Li
3/4SK	Arlo Martin
4DN	Oyinade Sangolade
5AG	Abdullateef Ayantola
5/6NW	Aaron Conlon
6BP	Blake Fraser

LOWER KEY STAGE 2

This week, we have had an educational workshop to consolidate our learning from History last half term. We looked at artefacts, participated in demonstrations and learnt lots of interesting information about Stone Age Britain. We even had the opportunity to hold some artefacts and try out different hunting techniques by throwing spears! We were complimented on our outstanding behaviour and our great knowledge. Well done to all the students displaying excellence in everything!



UPPER KEY STAGE 2

This week's Young Leaders' session focused on health and fitness. Children have been encouraged to lead a healthy lifestyle, and consider what it takes to promote a healthy mindset, as well as being physically healthy. This week it was 5/6NW's week for Bikeability - I know that they have thoroughly enjoyed it and the instructors were extremely complimentary of the children's attitude. Next week, 5AG will be taking part so please ensure children come to school with appropriate footwear and clothing for the cold weather.





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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 nationalonline.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Top Tips for Safer Online Shopping on

BLACK FRIDAY AND CYBER MONDAY

Black Friday and Cyber Monday have become established as two of the year's biggest shopping events, giving consumers the opportunity to snap up a stash of stunning bargains. While this is generally good news, of course, the resultant retail frenzy *can* lead to people dropping their guard – especially online. In previous years, a seasonal surge in cyber-crime has seen schemes such as phishing emails and credit card scams being unleashed on unwary buyers. Our guide has some essential pointers on keeping your details – and your money – safe while you shop.

ENSURE A SITE'S SECURE

Before inputting sensitive information (like your card details) into a website, check that the site's secure. The key thing is to look for a padlock symbol in the address bar and check that the URL begins with "https://" – the "s" indicates that the web address has been encrypted with an SSL certificate. Without that, any data entered on the site could be intercepted by criminal third parties.

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

If a deal seems too good to be true, then it probably is. Be especially wary if a site offering unbelievable discounts doesn't look professional (for example, if it's covered with pop-up adverts or it looks particularly outdated) – this often serves as a red flag that the seller might not be entirely trustworthy. Minimise risk by sticking with well-known, reputable retailers instead.

REVIEW BANK STATEMENTS

Even if you've followed all our tips, it's probably worth checking your next bank statement for any unusual transactions. Criminals know that on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, lots of people make numerous purchases online: they're hoping that any stolen money will get lost in the crowd of other transactions. If you see a payment or payee you can't identify, raise it with your bank straight away.

BEWARE OF SUSPICIOUS EMAILS

Black Friday and Cyber Monday often bring a significant spike in phishing emails, as criminals use the events' sense of urgency as cover for stealing personal information. Even if they look legitimate, be wary of emails requiring you to do something unusual or suspicious: providing your personal details in exchange for access to last-minute deals, for example, or clicking on a link to an unfamiliar site.

CHECK IT'S THE REAL DEAL

It's not just cybercriminals you need to be wary of. Research has shown that some online retailers increase the price of certain items in the weeks before Black Friday and Cyber Monday – enabling them to then advertise "discounts" (which, in reality, have simply restored the cost to normal levels). Use an online price comparison tool to verify whether these "reductions" truly equate to a saving.

MINIMISE MICROTRANSACTIONS

Black Friday and Cyber Monday promotions extend to digital items as well as physical ones. Some gaming companies will offer discounts on in-app and in-game microtransactions such as loot boxes. If you're concerned about how much your child might spend on these upgrades, you can restrict their ability to make purchases (via their device's settings) or remove any linked payment methods.

SET STURDY PASSWORDS

A strong, unique password is one of the most straightforward ways to protect yourself from cyber-crime. As most of us have multiple online shopping accounts, it can be tempting to use the same password for them all – but this puts your personal data at greater risk. You could try using a password manager to create a different, robust password for each online retailer that you visit.

DITCH THE DEBIT CARD

Where possible, it's safest to shop online with a credit card (as opposed to a debit card) because it offers additional protection. If a purchase is made fraudulently on your credit card, there's a fair chance of your bank reimbursing you. Should criminals obtain your debit card details, however, they could empty your account in moments – and it can be difficult to recover your money.

RESIST THE INFLUENCE

Recommendations from social media influencers are another thing to remain vigilant for on Black Friday and Cyber Monday. While many of these will be legitimate, remember that influencers are often paid to promote products – and to publicise deals that aren't quite as amazing as they might seem. Don't feel pressured into buying purely on their advice; look at everything with a critical eye.

TAKE CARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media scammers are more active on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, as they know people are hunting for deals online. These scammers tend to concentrate on platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, posting malicious links that can compromise shoppers' personal details. Other scammers, meanwhile, falsely advertise products in an attempt to trick users out of their hard-earned cash.

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 tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



National Online Safety®

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Good Provider